16-01-11

Title: Closing Fall Turkey Season In Zone 6

The Problem:

The wild turkey population in the extreme northern part of Wisconsin fluctuates greatly because of variable winter severity, and cold and wet conditions during spring hatching time.

Fall harvests over the last three years show an increase in hen turkeys being harvested. 2008 (50%), 2009 (55%), and 2010 (60%). There are reports of turkeys being illegally harvested by bow hunters while deer hunting with bait. The population has decreased by as much as 60% in some northern areas of this zone over the last two years.

The Gitchee Gumme Chapter of the NWTF, took a vote within its membership on March 11th, 2011, and the vast majority supported closing the fall turkey season north of Highway 77 in Zone 6.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting being held in Douglas County on April 11th, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change that would close the Fall Turkey Season north of Highway 77 in Zone 6, until the local wildlife managers feel the population inhabits all available habitat within the zone, and that the population appears large enough to withstand a fall season (at least 5 birds per square mile).

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