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Title: Use of Handheld Artificial Lights to "Scan" While Predator Hunting

Coyotes, foxes, and raccoons are predator species that have serious impacts on other species. Coyotes, in particular, have been noted as the most serious predator of the Whitetail Deer in Wisconsin. One of the most effective times to hunt coyotes is during the darkness, however the influx of wolves makes this practice risky and less efficient without the ability to use an artificial light to "scan" the area to locate, and verify the target. Current Wisconsin law, in place for several years allows the use of an artificial light while hunting predators at the point of kill, and has not resulted in any notable safety incidents, but does not allow "scanning".

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in LaCrosse County on April 11, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change allowing an individual engaged in hunting coyotes, foxes, and raccoons to use handheld artificial lights to "scan" under the following stipulations:

1. The hunter must be a minimum of 200 feet from their vehicle and in compliance with state firearms discharge laws and/or local ordinances regarding firearms discharge or use of lights.
2. The hunter must be stationary and not changing their location while scanning.
3. The hunter must be clearly using a predator call and engaged in predator hunting.
4. "Scanning" may only be used during times and areas that there are no gun deer seasons in effect at the time.

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