

06-01-12

Resolution

Title: Create a non-quota bear harvest zone South of U.S. Hwy 10

The Problem:

Black Bear populations continue to grow in Central and Southern Wisconsin. Currently those levels are relatively low and present the animals as more of a curiosity than a nuisance. This will soon change.

Unlike Northern Wisconsin, land ownership South of Hwy 10 is mostly private, agricultural, or urban. This is not traditional bear range and most residents of this area have no desire to see the spread and increase of the bear population into this area. Yet, bear harvest tags that could be used within this area are difficult to obtain due to the current quota system. Most hunters that are successful in drawing a harvest tag choose to hunt in the more northern areas of the state. This leaves the area South of Hwy 10 with only a small, token harvest that allows the bear population there to grow and expand unabated.

The Solution:

Bear harvest tags South of U.S. Hwy 10 should be unlimited and available over the counter to any hunter that can find a place to bait and hunt in this area.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Buffalo County on April 9th, 2012 recommends that the WCC works with the Wisconsin DNR and the State Legislature if necessary, to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change creating a non-quota bear harvest zone in Wisconsin South of U.S. Hwy 10.

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