

Title: Restore early gun season on private lands (companion to #46)

#2
36-02-12

Problem:

The Legislature removed the early gun season from the DNR's set of tools for herd control in part because of the rationale that it conflicted with bow hunting. However, this conflict tends to not exist on private lands since the land owner controls the hunt. Private land owned or used by non-bow hunters receives no hunting pressure at all in that season.

In question #46 the DNR has already identified a problem with low hunting pressure on private lands and is proposing a dual quota solution allocating more tags to private lands. It is generally accepted that gun hunting is more effective at taking deer than bow hunting. Therefore, it stands to reason that a resumption of the early gun hunt at least on private lands would compliment question 46 by promoting more hunting on private lands as well as a higher probability of success.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Manitowoc County on April 9th, 2012 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by requesting the Legislature to repeal its ban of an early gun deer hunt with subsequent adoption by the DNR to **allow an early antlerless gun deer hunt at least on private lands.**

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