

35-01-14

Citizen Resolution # 1



**Resident Preference for Bear Harvest Permits**

The present preference point lottery system fails to provide an advantage for Wisconsin residents to receive a bear harvest permit. This severely limits residents opportunities to hunt bears. The number of permit applicants has increased each year requiring a greater number of preference points to receive a harvest permit.

The Wisconsin DNR regulates the harvest of several species including bear through a special permitting system. Harvest permits, or kill tags, are awarded through a "preference point lottery system." The permits are awarded based solely on cumulative preference points; residents and nonresidents are given the same consideration for a limited number of permits.

We feel Wisconsin Residents should have a distinct advantage to be selected for bear harvest permits. Residents should be afforded increased opportunities to hunt bears in their own state and/or on their own land. Wisconsin law should be consistent with other states that provide greater hunting opportunities to residents such as Michigan that awards ninety-eight percent (98%) of bear harvest permits to residents.

Wisconsin resident bear hunters are suffering from limited hunting opportunities during their lifetimes due to nonresidents being considered on an equal basis.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Lincoln county on April 14, 2014 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change that provides a significant advantage to residents in being selected for bear harvest permits.

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