

19 02 16
yes - 19
no - 8

Title: Increase Deer Population Objective

The Problem

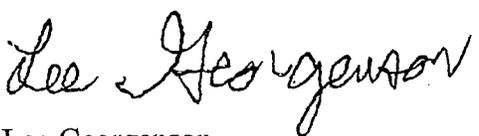
Most counties that have had their County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) adopt an "increase" objective for their deer herd have done a good job of regulating the amount of antlerless permits issued to the general public. However DNR data has shown that regulating antlerless permits alone is not enough to actually achieve the goal to "increase" and may not even move the herd in the "increase" direction. This fact is especially evident in the Northern Forest Zone (example being Florence County in 2015). Working against the "increase" objective is the annual overharvest of the 1.5 year old (yearling) bucks. History shows that yearling bucks can make up as much as 2/3's of the annual buck harvest in many Wisconsin counties. The allowance to harvest a yearling buck is clearly counterproductive to the goal established by every CDAC that has voted to attempt to "increase" the deer herd in their county.

The Solution

While the best solution is to regulate antlerless permits in combination with the protection of all yearling bucks, it is also admittedly difficult to identify all yearling bucks due to the difference in racks that can range from legal spikes to a small 6-pointer or more under ideal growing conditions. Thus a good compromise is to protect all spike bucks from being harvested. Spike bucks are easy to recognize and the protection of only the spike bucks versus all of the yearling bucks takes the complexity out of trying to count points on the head of a buck. The protection of spike bucks, especially in the Northern Forest Zone, then aligns with the "increase" objective.

The Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Florence County, WI on April 11, 2016 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department Of Natural Resources to take action to assist the "increase" objective by preventing the harvest of any spike buck located in any county designated by its CDAC to have an "increase" objective. Youth hunters (those less than 18 years of age) and also senior hunters (65 years of age and older) would be exempt from this requirement.



Lee Georgenson
5525 Sampe Road
Manitowoc, WI 54220-9493
Phone: 920-901-5656
County Introduced In: Florence