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## Introduce Crossbow Legislation for All Hunters

The Problem; Archery hunting with a crossbow is only available to hunters with medical disabilities or hunters over the age of 65.

Hunter recruitment is on a strong decline in Wisconsin. Hunter participation rates have dropped steadily since the year 2000 (Durkin). The decrease in hunter recruitment has resulted in a significant loss of license revenue and additional spin off from hunting participation. Some hunters under the age of 65 and without medical conditions are not able to pull back the state required 30lbs of a conventional compound bow. In contrast, some hunters over the age of 65 are fully capable of pulling back the state required 30lbs and choose to hunt with a crossbow.

New hunters of either sex and of all ages could be recruited at increased rates by allowing the possibility of hunting with a crossbow during regular archery seasons. By allowing archery hunters to hunt with their choice of archery tackle we can create more opportunities for everyone to hunt and enjoy the experience of hunting outside of the confines of the 9 day rifle season.

Be it Resolved; The Conservation Congress at its annual Spring Hearing in Douglas County on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 recommend expanding the use of crossbows during regular archery season to all hunters.

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Introduced in Douglas County

### Works Cited

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