

210112

Resolution for Conservation Congress

Title: Deer Harvest Permit Premium for Fully Taxed Large Parcels

The Problem:

It is difficult if not impossible to assess deer damage on unmanaged parcels in Wisconsin. With an average population of 30 deer per section, (Wisconsin DNR annual estimates of 2010 deer abundance and densities.) these properties certainly provide feed and shelter for the deer herd in an amount equal to the parcels managed for forestry or agriculture.

Wisconsin landowners that have contiguous parcels of a $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ section (40 acres) or larger, that are not in any agriculture or managed forest program pay a significantly higher tax rate on those parcels. They are afforded no benefits for remaining outside a state management program or for not qualifying for one.

The Town, County, School and State taxing authorities are greatly benefited by the revenue generated on these non-program parcels. For example, a non-program $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ section in the northern region is taxed at approximately \$1400. An equal size MFL parcel could be as low as \$200 and an agricultural parcel even lower.

Rather than the current disincentives, it is in the State's best interest to support and reward the ownership of parcels that are not in a tax reducing program.

Proposal:

For each parcel with a contiguous area of a $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ section, that does not benefit from any State tax abatement program, upon application, issue one (1) transferable, no fee, deer harvest permit, per year, to one owner or jointly to the owners.

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