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Title: Deer Over Harvesting

The Problem:

The average whitetail deer has a home range of less than 1 mile, with most deer requiring about 600 acres or less of and to satisfy their habitat needs. Some hunters can and have over harvested deer. Some hunters have harvested from 8 to 24 plus deer by purchasing bonus harvest permits. The over harvesting of deer by one hunter in a small area, has an impact on the hunting opportunities for many others that hunt the same area later in the season. This over harvesting of deer by a hunter, before the firearm season opens, can create a situation that effects the hunting conditions for many other hunters who will not see any deer. Unsuccessful firearm hunters can see this as poor DNR management of the deer heard, or that we have too many predators (wolves, coyotes, bears or bobcats). Most of these unsuccessful hunters do not connect this problem could be an over enthusiastic hunter during the archery season. (This is not to state that we do not have these predator or management issues in Wisconsin).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) at its annual meeting held in Oneida County on April 09, 2012, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change(s) to allow only 1 or 2 bonus permits (based on WCC Committee consensus) to a hunter outside of the CWD zone.

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