

50-03-12

Problem: No way of tracking harvest rates or license sales to Crossbow hunters, No Crossbow Specific license

Currently it is legal to hunt during the Archery season with a Crossbow if you are 65 years old or older or disabled with disabled permit. Currently there is no way of tracking license sales, success rates or hunter safety.

A separate license requiring the person purchasing the license to declare their weapon of choice at the point of sale and creating a requirement of declaring that the animal was harvested with a crossbow at the time of registration. To maintain this delicate balance, hunters would only be able to purchase Archery or Crossbow license, not both.

This solution would offer both sides the things that they want, seasons that can be tailored and adjusted to provide the best opportunity for this rapidly evolving hunting weapon.

The crossbow people would finally have the hunting opportunities they have been requesting, and not just for the handicapped and elderly, but everybody that wants to hunt with a crossbow.

The crossbow season would likely overlap part of the archery deer season as other season already do, at least the bowhunters concerns that crossbows would take over the archery season wouldn't happen with a separate license.

It also addresses concerns of the gun hunters over increased buck harvest before the gun season, because crossbow hunting would be regulated separately from the archery season, so equitable harvest issues could be address.

The new license would provide additional revenue and another harvest tool to the DNR, and another hunting opportunity for all hunters.

BE IT RESOLVED that at its meeting held in Portage County on April 9, 2012 that the Conservation Congress work with the Department and NRB to take action to correct this situation and create a separate Crossbow License for hunters and require the person to declare his or her weapon of choice at the time of license purchase.

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