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Problem: Improve data gathering for weapons and seasons

Currently the DNR is able to track participation rates and harvest rates for seasons where hunters are required to register harvested game allowing DNR to understand the numbers of those hunting deer, bear, turkey, etc and the success rates for those that hunt with firearm, muzzleloader, bow and arrow. Capturing this data is valuable in setting season structure, quotas, participation and trends.

It's legal to hunt deer during the archery season with a crossbow for persons 65 and older or with a disabled permit. With passage of AB-384, all hunters will now be allowed to use a crossbow to hunt bear, turkey and deer (during certain deer seasons) without regards to age or disability which will increase crossbow usage. Currently there is no way of tracking participation rates of crossbow usage or success rates of crossbow users in the archery season or any other season.

Creating a free crossbow stamp issued to all hunters that use a crossbow such as they issue in Michigan and creating a requirement that the registration stubs capture the weapon used would allow participation rates and harvest data to be gathered.

BE IT RESOLVED that at its meeting held in Waukesha County on April 9, 2012 that the Conservation Congress work with the DNR and NRB to create a free crossbow stamp and modify the registration stub to capture the weapon used to harvest game.

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