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350506

Title: Deer Season

The Problem:

Since the 1996 deer season, hunters, land owners, and other user groups have expressed dissatisfaction with our state's current deer management policy. Zone-T and Earn-a-Buck policies are two of the most contentious and controversial deer management tools utilized by the DNR. These policies have negatively impacted many hunting traditions and alienated many hunters to the point that they no longer hunt. The results of these policies pose grave challenges to the future ability of the declining number of hunters to manage Wisconsin's deer herd. Also, the resulting loss of revenue from license purchases is having a negative impact on all wildlife management in the state.

Whereas, the DNR already has the tools and method to manage Wisconsin's deer herd by issuing adequate antlerless tags.

Whereas, the DNR proposal has failed to eliminate Zone-T and Earn-a-Buck, issue adequate antler-less tags, and balance the conflicts with other user groups.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in LINCOLN County on April 10, 2006, recommends action be taken to provide hunters a two year test by establishing the following:

1. Eliminate Earn-A-Buck statewide with the exception of CWD Eradication Zones if necessary.
2. Eliminate Early Zone-T hunts from Oct. 1 through the Friday before Thanksgiving except for a youth hunt and a concurrent muzzle-loader hunt, the Apostle Island hunt, the disabled hunt, hunts in units established for the purpose of controlling the spread of disease, and other currently established special hunts.
3. Issue 2 free antlerless tags with the purchase of any deer license. These tags may be used in any Herd Control Unit.
4. Move earlier and establish a 2-day Youth Hunt for antlerless deer the second full weekend in October.
5. Establish a 4-day Muzzleloader Hunt for antlerless deer only, starting on Thursday through the second full weekend in Oct. The Dec. ten-day muzzleloader hunt remains intact and archery hunters may shoot bucks during the early and late muzzleloader hunt.
6. Establish a Muzzleloader License with its own buck tag and two antlerless only tags.
7. Allow hunting with bows during the regular 9-day gun season with the purchase of a regular deer license.
8. Allows antlerless only Dec. firearm hunts in herd control units under the current established administrative rule.

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Signature: