

Citizen Resolution # 020121

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Create an Antler Point Restriction for Whitetail Bucks Harvested in the Northern Forest Deer Management Zone

Whereas, The majority of the whitetail bucks harvested in Wisconsin are yearlings (1.5 years old), therefore reducing the buck herds ability to produce mature adult bucks (2.5+ years old), creating poor hunter satisfaction and age structure.

Whereas, Other States have successfully implemented antler point restrictions that have led to greater hunter satisfaction and population management for decades.

Whereas, The State of Pennsylvania implemented an antler point restriction (APR) since 2002 with the primary goal to increase the number of adult bucks, to produce an older buck age structure, to provide greater hunter satisfaction and more natural breeding ecology.

Whereas, Age structure of the antlered harvest before APRs in Pennsylvania was about 80 percent yearling bucks and 20 percent adult bucks. With the increase in survival of yearling bucks under APRs, the age structure of the antlered harvest changed to about 55 percent yearling bucks and 45 percent adult bucks. This increase in adult buck harvest has occurred during a time when overall deer populations have declined.

Whereas, Research in Pennsylvania has shown that APR's do not lead to long term genetic impacts to the deer herd.

Whereas, Research in Pennsylvania has shown hunter success has changed very little in the decades APR's have been in place. Whereas, The majority of Pennsylvania hunters favor APR's. Whereas, APR's have successfully increased buck survival and age structure in Pennsylvania.

Be it Resolved, On April 12th, 2021 that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting, Ashland County work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to implement an antler point restriction that will promote the harvesting of adult bucks 2.5 years old or greater in the northern forest deer management zone.

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.