

Citizen Resolution # 670622

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Reduced daily bag limit for Ruffed Grouse in Zone A ("Northern Zone")

Concern for declines in both hunter harvest and observations of ruffed grouse in 2017 prompted the WNRB to approve an emergency rule to shorten the grouse hunting season. In 2019, WNRB approved the first-ever statewide 10 year ruffed grouse management plan (RGMP). Nearly every current index of grouse abundance and habitat health in the RGMP shows a several decades decline in grouse numbers and available habitat. In addition, the RGMP documented a similar pattern of decline in acreage of early-succession forest habitat vital to grouse survival. Actions taken to date to reverse these trends in population decline have been a commitment to a slightly shorter hunting season and long-term planning to create young forest habitat. Nearly half of all hunters surveyed (RGMP) felt human harvest of ruffed grouse impacts grouse numbers at the population level. Some studies (RGMP) indicate concentrated hunting pressure on isolated pockets of suitable grouse habitat acts as additive mortality in terms of grouse survival. The daily bag limit in Zone A (the "northern" zone) has remained at 5 birds for the last 50 years, while 73% of hunters surveyed (RGMP) favored a 3 bird bag limit for ruffed grouse. Many hunters fail to harvest 5 birds daily, so hunter opportunity would not be greatly impacted by a 3 bird limit, but the reduced bag limit would error on the side of caution in protecting against excessive harvest when opportunities to do so present themselves.

In light of the recent concern for ruffed grouse population levels in Wisconsin, would you favor a reduction in the ruffed grouse daily bag limit from 5 birds to 3 birds in Zone A?

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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.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.