

# Citizen Resolution # 670822

(For Hearing Officer completion)



## Shorten the length of the Ruffed Grouse hunting season in Zone A ("Northern" Zone)

Most of the indices of ruffed grouse abundance and habitat health contained in the 2020-2030 WDNR Ruffed Grouse Management Plan (RGMP) show a several decades decline in grouse numbers and available early-succession forest habitat. The ruffed grouse season in zone A has varied from 13-20 weeks over the last 5 decades, a period of time that featured many of the longest grouse seasons in the last 90 years. In 2017, in response to growing concern for lower numbers of ruffed grouse in the state, the WDNR moved the season closure in zone A from January 31 to December 31 by emergency order. The current season closure is the Sunday nearest January 6. The current season closure extends the hunting season well into the winter, where remaining grouse are likely to have completed dispersal and occupy territories. These birds are the surviving breeding pool for the following spring. At this time, birds are vulnerable as they spend more time perching, roosting, and feeding in trees, their tracks in snow alert hunters to their presence, and their cryptic camouflage is less effective on ground more likely to be snow-covered. 67% of hunters survey favored an earlier season closure (RGMP). Closing the grouse season on the third Sunday after the end of the 9 day gun deer season would close the season on December 16 at the earliest and December 22 at the latest, preserving adequate hunting opportunities while affording greater protection to the breeding stock vital to the following spring's natality.

**In light of the recent concern for ruffed grouse population levels in Wisconsin, would you favor an earlier season closure for ruffed grouse in Zone A, closing the season on the third Sunday after the end of the 9 day gun deer season?**

Additional Information provided by author:

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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.