

## ***Trail News – 10/27/09***

### **Your Opportunity to Comment on Hunting Season Proposals**

Listed below is a schedule for public hearings intended to gather input on a deer season proposal that would restructure the deer seasons. The part of the proposal that draws the most media attention is the expansion of the traditional 9-day season around Thanksgiving. This rule proposal is commonly referred to as the "Earn-A-Buck alternative" rule.

Another part of the proposal however concerns the mid-October gun deer season that currently is held on the Thursday through Sunday closest to October 15. The proposal includes eliminating that October 15 deer season in the Kettle Moraine State Forest properties and moving it to the last weekend in October, and moving the October 15 season at *all other properties* to the week *before* October 15.

Some concerns that have been expressed about the October 15 hunt at the Kettles (comments may apply elsewhere):

- Mid-October is a very popular time for users of the forest and its trail facilities. With peak fall colors occurring approximately October 15 and good weather for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and other out door recreational pursuits, thousands of outdoor enthusiasts take advantage of the many activities offered in the forest.
- Non-hunters that use the forest are frequently not aware of hunting seasons. Significant efforts including press releases, numerous signs, and personal contacts, made to inform non-hunters of the hunting seasons and the need to wear bright colored clothing during gun deer seasons – have been largely unsuccessful.
- Because of the lack of knowledge about hunting seasons, large numbers of non-hunters use the wooded areas of the forest during hunting seasons without appropriate colored clothing.
- Numerous non-hunters in an area being hunted for deer can interfere with the hunting experience and success of a gun deer hunter.
- Mid-October is not the preferred time for a gun deer season for hunters (leaves on the trees reduce the visibility of game that they are hunting, etc) or for wildlife managers (deer management would be more effective in late October or early November).

The proposal also includes continuing a muzzleloader gun deer season in early December, a 4-day antlerless season in mid December as well as a gun deer season over the Christmas and New Years Holidays. A complete description of the proposal can be found on-line in the document approved by the DNR's Natural Resources Board in September:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/2009/September/09-09-3B2.pdf>.

This proposal was crafted by a [public panel](#). The public panel included representatives of hunting and conservation groups, agriculture, county forests, university, and woodland owners. Non-hunting recreation groups were not included in the panel, so now is your opportunity to be heard.

The manager of the Kettle Moraine Southern Unit wants to let trail users know: *"I can not over emphasize how critically important it is that the Natural Resources Board receives comments and input from all forest users and all outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Please, please take the time to attend one of the hearings listed below or at the very least send your comments to Keith Warnke of the DNR's Wildlife Management Program."*

The public hearings will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an informational presentation and overview of the proposed rule. Public comments and statements will be accepted beginning at 7 p.m. Remaining public hearings:

**October 27, Racine** - Racine Case High School, 7345 Washington Ave.

**October 28, Pewaukee** - Waukesha County Technical College, Room C051/C057, 800 Main St.

**October 28, Spooner** - Spooner High School Auditorium, 801 County A.

**November 3, Stevens Point** - Portage County Courthouse Annex, Conference Room 1, 1462 Strongs Ave

Or send comments to: Keith Warnke, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S Webster Street, Madison, WI 53703; [keith.warnke@wisconsin.gov](mailto:keith.warnke@wisconsin.gov).

## Want to become a Park Ranger?

The announcement for the DNR Park Ranger exam is posted on Wisc.Jobs at [this](#) link. The exam will be given November 14 in Madison. Applicants must pre-register by November 4. More details are included in the job posting.

## ***END Trail News, 10/27/2009***

---

*This is a subscription service for trail news from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Subscribers to this service will receive e-mails periodically from DNR about upcoming Governor's Wisconsin State Trails Council (STC) meetings and other trail news. For more information about Wisconsin State Trails or the STC, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/index.html>.*

### [Manage Your DNR Subscriptions:](#)

Add new subscriptions, delete subscriptions, and manage your profile.

If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact [support@govdelivery.com](mailto:support@govdelivery.com). Other inquiries can be directed [to the DNR](#).