

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Deer and Elk Advisory Committee MEETING MINUTES



ORDER OF BUSINESS	9-11-2021	8:30 AM	Virtual
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Alan Horvath at 8:30
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B. Roll Call

ATTENDEES	Alan Horvath, Eric Wojchik, Mike Riggle, Duane Beyer, Dale Ebert, Mark Noll, Stan Brownell, Larry Gohlke, Doug Seidl, David Breunig, Tony Grabski, Charlie Brown, Ken Risley, Rob Bohmann, Joe Stuchiak, Dave West, Noah Wishau, Larry Bonde, Thomas Ryden, Kevin Smaby. From DNR: Jeff Pritzl, Scott Bowe, Dan Storm, Kari Lee-Zimmermann
EXCUSED	Marlin Laidlaw, Wright Allen, Mike Burkart, Andy Geiger, Robert Lombard, James Morning, Doug Williams, Kieran Kramer, Rick Olson, Lars Loberg
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Resolution Authors: Matt Schultz, Mike Foy, Tom Hauge, Al Peterson

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	No repair made.
ACTION	Horvath/Riggle motion to approve agenda as sent out. Passed unanimously.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Read by Chair Al Horvath
ACTION	Chair declared mission statement accepted.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	None

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

See the actual resolution that I am attaching with these minutes. The number shown under discussion is the agenda item number.

A.

1. Create an antler point restriction for whitetail bucks harvested in the Northern Forest Deer Management Zone (3 resolutions combined) (RES:510121, 020121, 680321) **Motion to advance Failed**

MATT SCHULTZ

DISCUSSION	<p>Matt Schultz from Ashland County spoke at length about antler point restrictions (APR). He stated that hunters would like a more positive experience that APR could provide. Antlerless harvest would need to increase. He wasn't calling for youth being exempt. He didn't think a buck lottery would be accepted as well. He agreed that CWD was not being taken into consideration. Matt explained that even with few hunters, food plots, and a thousand acres to hunt he wasn't able to keep a mature buck on his properties. Jeff Pritzl was asked to comment but hoped he could comment after the congress members had a chance to comment so he wouldn't sway discussion. Committee comments included a need to get rid of group bagging, CWD management, mistake kills, replacing yearling buck harvest with doe harvest. The Pennsylvania experience was used as a model. In PA hunters were allow to shoot does instead of young bucks. This option isn't available in Northern Wisconsin. Jeff explained that buck harvest rate in northern Wisconsin is already lower than what was accomplished in PA. Without a lot of antlerless permits hunters would likely not be satisfied. Chair indicated PA doesn't have the problem with weather that we have, have a one buck limit compared to our 2-buck limit, does not have the amount of predation, and does not allow baiting. A head Wildlife Manager from PA said with those considerations, WI most likely would not see the success PA did. PA also had to go to a 3 point and 4 point per side minimum, not counting brow tines to achieve their success rates of converting yearling buck harvest to an increased 2.5 year old harvests.</p> <p>After this motion failed a second motion was made to have a vote on allowing APR in just their county and have youth hunters included. Two additional attachments are included with these minutes.</p>
ACTION	Riggle/Bonde motion to advance. Vote 5-14 – failed. Bohmann/Beyer motion to advance. Vote 9-11-failed.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2. Antler point restriction trial in Florence County (RES:190121)

NONE

Advanced

DISCUSSION	<p>This resolution was vague which the committee liked. After a motion to reject failed a second motion to advance was made and passed. Committee members liked giving hunters a chance to vote on this for just their county instead of statewide. They wanted very little information on how it might be enacted. APR's requests are increasing and the Committee thought the idea should get a review by the District Leadership Committee.</p>
ACTION	Horvath/Ryden to reject. Vote 6-13 – failed to reject. Grabski/Bohmann motion to advance. Passed.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

3. Reconsider a pilot study of the CWD Payment for Positives reward program for 2022 (RES: 570621) Advanced

TOM HAUGE AND MIKE FOY

DISCUSSION	<p>Tom Hauge (author) provided the committee with a background document and provided a short presentation. Tom presented information on high prevalence levels in SW Sauk County and indicated that Wisconsin does not have a program to reduce CWD prevalence. He was assisted in his presentation to the committee by Mike Foy. Tom shared information on targeted removal from other states showing that the yield of CWD+ deer could be doubled or tripled and indicated that providing incentives to landowners and hunters is comparable to providing financial incentives as is done in the federal Farm Bill. The CWD Payment for Positives pilot proposal components include: 1) offering compelling rewards to landowners and hunters for every CWD+ deer removed, 2) participation is completely voluntary, 3) No special regulations, 4) certifying harvest location by affidavit to prevent fraud, and 5) using probability maps to guide landowner and hunter efforts. Tom indicated he submitted the resolution to restart the process and he was asking for the committee's help in conducting a pilot to test the concept.</p> <p>There was a lot of discussion about funding sources and the difficulty of getting legislative approval. Members reminded the committee that this resolution is only seeking public feedback on the concept of a pilot that could test its feasibility. Some committee members felt that the public concerns about CWD didn't warrant this program. Others felt greater use of food pantry programs should be done. This resolution would not force anyone to shoot more deer but would reward those willing to shoot antlerless deer and have their deer tested. Areas of the state now have up to 50% of tested bucks being positive for CWD and 40% of antlerless testing positive. The resolution calls for only having a pilot program for the 4-day antlerless hunt or for the 9-day holiday hunt. Counties without a holiday hunt would still have hunters and landowners qualifying due to the archery harvest or special CWD landowner permits. Targeted removal of deer does work to prevent the spread and or prevalence of CWD. This trial would show what kind of results could be obtained and might be beneficial in new outbreak areas. Whatever reward is used, must be compelling to work. The goals would be to find out if incentives would increase the harvest, to reduce the 50% and 40% prevalence rates, and be used as a tool in hotspots. Mark Noll commented we are guessing about results until a pilot program can be given a chance to show what could be achieved. WDNR Big Game Ecologist Jeff Pritzl and WDNR Researcher Dan Storm were asked for comments and indicated any increase in harvest rates reduces the amount of time cwd positive deer are on the landscape. Due to computer problems, Committee Secretary Larry Gohlke was unable to enter his vote in favor of count. An attachment is included with these minutes.</p>
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ACTION	Riggle/Smaby to advance. Vote 10-9 - advanced	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

4. Re-establish in-person deer registration stations, back tags, and tagging procedures (RES: 720321) Advanced

AL PETERSON

DISCUSSION	Al Peterson discussed his resolution at length. Some committee members focused on how these changes would work. Other committee members were more interested in how the public feels about going back to in person registration, wearing back tags, placing tags on deer after harvest, and displaying portions of the deer when transporting them. Having this vote might put this issue to rest.	
ACTION	Bohmann/Brown motion to reject. Vote 9-9 – failed to reject. Gohlke/Smaby motion to advance. Vote 10-8 – advanced.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

5. Antlerless option included with archery license (RES:660621) Rejected

NONE

DISCUSSION	This option would make setting quotas more difficult for CDACs, particularly in the Northern counties where deer populations are still limiting antlerless harvest. Youth, tribal, and misc. antlerless harvests can exceed the CDAC quotas, and this proposed antlerless harvest addition would be problematic to a number of county antlerless harvest numbers.	
ACTION	Riggle/Stuchiak motion to reject. Motion to reject Passed unanimously- reject.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

6. Deer antlerless permits (RES:570221) Rejected

NONE

DISCUSSION	Few hunters would benefit from this change compared to the extra trouble it would cause. This failed in 2016 as a DNR advisory question. The small number of counties where this would be needed would add complexity and confusion to the process, and further fragment hunting processes.	
ACTION	Horvath/Noll to reject. Passed to reject.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

7. Deer management tool – Replace either sex tag for CWD positive deer (RES:530221) Advanced

NONE

DISCUSSION	Initially this resolution was going to be rejected. Discussion about it being a FREE payment for positives caused the vote to advance pass. In fighting CWD more pressure on the buck herd is a positive. Some hunters might prefer an additional buck tag instead of cash.	
ACTION	Bohmann/Grabski motion to reject. Vote 7-10-failed to reject. Wishau/Smaby motion to advance. Vote 11-7 – advanced.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

8. Extend the 9-day gun deer registration deadline (RES:690121) Advanced

NONE

DISCUSSION	This would make the time for registration similar to what it was during in person registration.	
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ACTION	Beyer/Riggle motion to advance. Passed unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

9. Forest-Farmland boundary change (Res:720921) Rejected

NONE

DISCUSSION	After motion to advance was made discussion included the process that is now going on to make some changes that were proposed during the correct time frame.. This change can be considered with the next review. The description uses many "legs" of state, county, and local roads.	
ACTION	Horvath/Brown to advance. Motion unanimously failed to advance. Horvath/Wishau to reject. Passed unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

10. Legitimacy of shining for deer and proposal for banning shining

NONE

(RES:600221) Rejected

DISCUSSION	Resolutions 10 and 11 were quite similar so motion was made to combine. Arguments on below resolution 510321 apply to this resolution too.	
ACTION	Grabski/Horvath motion to combine 10 and 11. Motion passed unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

11. Reduce poaching by banning shining (RES:510321) Rejected

NONE

DISCUSSION	Counties have the ability to limit deer shining. It has worked in other counties and should be tried in these counties instead of going to a state rule. There are already laws preventing the use or possession of a weapon (gun or bow) while using a light or headlights. You can't use or possess a light or headlights between 10 pm and 7 am from Sept 15 th to Dec. 31. Can't hunt from a roadway, or within 50' of a center line or shoot within 100 yards of a building.	
ACTION	Noll/Bonde to reject. Motion passed to reject.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

12. Urban archery antlerless tag deer uniformity (RES:370221) Rejected

NONE

DISCUSSION	This situation should be addressed with the CDAC if more public land permits are needed. There is no metro zone in the county. Permits are issued on private and public property, so if there are not sufficient public property, issuing more tags is not practical. Using DMAP in the county may be the best solution.	
ACTION	Gohlke/Riegell to reject. Motion to reject passed unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

13. YOUTH STATEWIDE ANTLERLESS PERMITS (RES:570121) ADVANCED

NONE

DISCUSSION	This was how the permits had originally been proposed and used. Why not allow this?	
ACTION	Riggle/Bohmann to advance. Passed unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

B. Reallocate funding to establish a statewide dumpster program, by eliminating free antlerless tags to provide for that funding **Advanced**

ROB BOHMANN

DISCUSSION	Rob Bohmann proposed that a resolution be written to charge for antlerless tags with the proceeds being used for CWD research and CWD dumpsters statewide. Many of those funds from antlerless tag sales are used for LTE's, dumpster programs. The extra costs may be perceived as negatives, and others said the overall antlerless kill may be reduced when people need to shoot more antlerless in many areas. Could offer an advisory question to offer: Free antlerless tags, \$5.00 tags, or \$10.00 tags, to determine if people would support eliminating free tags, and charging \$10.00 for tags rather than the current \$12.00.	
ACTION	Bonde/Smaby to advance. Passed unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. Provide for Universal antlerless tags for use in any Farmland Area

MIKE RIGGLE

DISCUSSION	Committee members came up with many possible disadvantages to what seemed like a simple fix for hunters that hunted in multiple units. Issuing three tags, 2 public and 1 private was suggested. Another suggestion was to get rid of the public/private tags. Dan Storm commented that tag fill success rates were: 0-1 tag produces a large increase in harvest, 1-2 tags produces an increase, 2-3 tags produces a smaller increase, and 3-4 tags produces no significant increase in harvest.	
ACTION	No action.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

II Part D

1. Department Information and Updates.

Jeff Pritzl gave updates on Wildlife and OAS Programs.

In the North there are 330 elk with 80 calves still alive. The 330 is up from 300 last year.

In the Central Elk herd there are 115 elk compared to 100 last year with 25 calves still alive.

The elk quota last year was 10 and this year it will be 8. Last year the tribes did not participate in filling their 5 tags but they plan to fill their 4 tags this year.

A hunt in Jackson County is still 2-3 years away.

The Elk Plan is being amended after going to the Natural Resources Board twice.

Deer – Bob Nack is moving to a position with R3 in the DNR. Bow season is a week away. No major rule changes. Similar CWD sampling opportunities.

Dan Storm reported on SW Project. Dan mentioned the new CWD skin test (RT QuIC)

2. No Forestry update.

3. Scott Bowe gave a Law Enforcement update. Scott said the 2020 class of new hires was at 14. The 2021 class included 15 wardens and 2-3 investigators. Coverage of rec property has gone very well this year. The September 1 baiting and feeding ban map will be updated about October 1 to include Outagamie and Calumet Counties.

4. Continued: Dan Storm gave an update on composting trial. The first trial was a failure as it didn't actually compost. Second trial will be completed near the end of the year. A new project award from USDA will test landfill leach age for DNR prions.

E. Future committee meetings. There are plans to bring people present information which will increase our knowledge and understanding of wildlife management techniques and insure we are adept with our metric information utilization. Present new information, update research projects, and allow time to explore areas where the Committee should be presenting ideas for beneficial change that represents our constituents interests.

II. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Kenneth Risley would like more tools for Green County. An earlier gun season would be a suggestion.
ACTION	None.

D. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	1:50 Samby/Breunig motion to adjourn passed unanimously without quorum.
SUBMITTED BY	Larry Gohlke, Secretary
DATE	September 11, 2021

APR Northern Forest

~~70-39~~
70-41

Citizen Resolution # 510121

(For Hearing Officer completion)



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

Whereas, Since 2007, on average, the majority of the whitetail bucks harvested in both Northern Wisconsin and the remainder of the State are yearlings (1.5 years old).

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

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

Research in Pennsylvania has shown hunter success has changed very little in the decades APR's have been in place. The majority of Pennsylvania hunters favor APR's. APR's have successfully increased buck survival and age structure in Pennsylvania. Be it Resolved, On April 12th, 2021 at the Conservation Congress annual meeting, Price County.

Do you support the Conservation Congress 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?

Matthew Schultz
W4957 Aspen Lane
PARK FALLS, WI 54552
715492-4130
fishnn_@hotmail.com
Price County

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**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Deer & Elk Advisory Committee
Saturday, September 11, 2021**

Citizen Resolution:

Create an antler point restriction for whitetail bucks harvested in the Northern Forest Deer Management Zone (020121, 510121, 680321)

Primary Author – Matt Schultz

Resolution Basis:


Many hunters in Northern Wisconsin feel that the buck population is over harvested and lacks mature bucks, creating an unsatisfying hunting experience.

As a current Ashland County CDAC committee member for 7 years the two most widely voiced public comments I hear related to the lack of bucks or lack of mature bucks are; 1. Implement a one buck per year season structure or 2. Implement an antler point restriction. After discussions with DNR staff and examination of harvest statistics having a one buck season structure only amounts to a small almost irrelevant reduction in buck harvest and is not a viable option to develop more bucks as well as an older age class of bucks.

Antler or horn restrictions (APR's) have been a commonly applied management strategy in some of our Country's most highly sought after and sensitive species such as bighorn sheep, moose, elk and white tailed deer for decades. In 2002 the Pennsylvania Game Commission started using APR's to managed their buck harvest with a specific goal to increase the number of mature (2.5 years of age or older) bucks in the population. Since implementation they are considered a success by both Pennsylvania hunters and the Game Commission, they have increased buck survival, age structure and maintained the same levels of harvest success.

The citizen resolution that was passed in three Counties at the 2021 Spring Meeting shows Wisconsin residents are also favorable to APR's. Myself and other hunters feel the positive outcomes seen in Pennsylvania can also occur in Northern Wisconsin. This resolution was drafted in a manner to allow the Department flexibility in determining what is an appropriate APR for the Northern Forest Deer Management Zone and does not contain a specific point restriction, but rather an objective of promoting the harvest of bucks 2.5 years of age or older. I envision that it will be the Departments responsibility, working with stake holder groups to determine the exact APR to achieve this objective.

More information regarding Pennsylvania APR's can be found at:

 <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeSpecies/White-tailedDeer/Pages/AntlerRestrictionsAreTheyWorking.aspx>

Antler Restrictions in Pennsylvania Are they working?

Antlers! Nothing captures the attention of a deer hunter more. Antlered bucks star in the dreams of many a hunter on the night before deer season. However, for years, most Pennsylvania deer hunters could only dream of harvesting a large antlered buck. Typically, bucks taken by hunters only had a chance to grow one set of antlers. Few had the larger antlers of an adult buck. One way to change this situation was implementation of antler restrictions.

In 2002, the Pennsylvania Game Commission changed the antler restriction to harvest an antlered deer. Prior to 2002, the antler restriction was 2 points to an antler or a spike at least 3 inches in length. From 2002 to 2010, the antler point restrictions (APR) were 3 or 4 points-to-an-antler depending on area of the state. Starting in 2011, the 4-point area changed to 3 points to an antler, not including the brow tine. The 3 points-to-an – antler area did not change. Since APRs began a swirling of myth and reality has followed. Here are the facts about Pennsylvania's antler point restrictions.

The primary goal of APRs was to increase the number of adult bucks (2.5 years of age or older) in the population. By doing so, benefits of a more natural breeding ecology, an older buck age structure, and greater hunter satisfaction might be realized. To achieve this goal, APRs needed to protect most yearling bucks (1.5 years of age) from harvest. This required two different APRs: a 4-points-to-an-antler restriction in western Pennsylvania and a 3-points-to-an-antler over the rest of the state (excluding junior hunters).

To assess biological and social aspects of APRs, the Game Commission initiated a multi-year study with the U.S. Geological Survey's Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State. This study included the capture of more than 2,000 white-tailed deer and the surveying of more than 8,000 hunters. Additional information came from the Game Commission's annual collection of deer harvest data.

BIOLOGY: Why Antler Points?

When defining antler restrictions, antler points and spread can be used. Although hunters can judge both criteria in the field, we chose antler points.

APRs can be defined by any number of points; however, spread restrictions are usually judged on the distance between ear tips. In many areas of Pennsylvania, a spread restriction of 15" (a common ear tip width estimate) would have protected nearly all yearling bucks as well as most adult bucks. Although this level of protection would attain our goal, it would also make many adult bucks ineligible for harvest. Antler points were chosen to protect most yearling bucks and allow most adult bucks to be harvested.

BIOLOGY: Buck Survival

Prior to APRs about 80 percent of bucks (a majority of which were yearlings) were harvested by hunters each year. This led to buck survival rates of less than 20 percent. Protecting most yearling bucks would increase buck survival thereby increasing adult bucks in the population, the goal of APRs.

Based on survival rates of hundreds of radio-collared bucks, yearling buck survival increased from less than 20 percent to 64 percent after APRs. Adult buck survival increased as well to 36 percent.

BIOLOGY: Breeding Changes

With 80 percent of bucks being harvested each year prior to APRs, most bucks survived through only one breeding season. Few older bucks were present in the population. Could APRs change the breeding ecology in Pennsylvania's deer herd?

Although yearling bucks are capable breeders, the dominance-based breeding hierarchy to which white-tailed deer were thought to conform was absent in Pennsylvania due to the high buck harvest rate. This low number of older bucks and "unstructured" breeding could have extended the breeding season. Would APRs and more adult bucks lead to changes in breeding behavior, in particular conception dates?

From 2000 to 2007, data on breeding dates from more than 2,500 females were collected. Average date of conception prior to APRs was November 17. Following APRs, average date of conception was November 16.

In Pennsylvania, most adult does are bred in mid-November and sexually mature female fawns tend to peak about two weeks later. Other aspects of breeding ecology, such as pregnancy rates and embryo counts, have also remained at stable and healthy levels.

Based on these data, it does not appear APRs significantly changed timing of breeding in Pennsylvania.

BIOLOGY: Genetic Impacts

Concerns over genetic impacts of selective harvest are common.

Would selecting bucks based on the number of antler points they carried be enough to alter future antler development?

Current research is clearly mounting evidence to the contrary.

First, yearling antler points are poor predictors of future antler development. Research indicates little relationship between a buck's first set of antlers and those he carries at 4.5 years of age and older. So, using yearling antler points as a harvest criterion should not influence future antler development in the population as a yearling spike buck and a yearling 6-point can have similar sized antlers by age 4.5 years.

Second, most of Pennsylvania's antlered males are harvested after the breeding season. About 75 percent of Pennsylvania's antlered deer harvest occurs during the firearms season in late November and early December. The peak of breeding is mid-November. As a result, most antlered males harvested in Pennsylvania have already passed their genes onto future generations.

Third, a few mature males are not dominating breeding. In two different studies, yearling males successfully sired fawns in populations with high percentages of older males. In fact, most males, regardless of age, only sired one litter.

Fourth, does are regularly being bred by multiple bucks. Initially studied in captive deer, multiple paternity has been documented in every free-ranging white-tailed deer study in which researchers have looked. Populations with different male age structures in different states have seen litters with two or more offspring having different fathers at rates of 20-24 percent.

Finally, a buck's mother contributes half of his genetic characteristics, but nobody can tell what a doe's contribution to her son's antlers will be. There is no way to visually evaluate the genetic antler potential of a doe. As a result, 50 percent of the genetic contribution to future antler development is randomly selected in Pennsylvania.

Given the complexity of the white-tailed deer's breeding ecology and high genetic variation, large-scale alteration to Pennsylvania's deer herd genetics is unlikely.

HUNTING: Hunter Success Rates

Increasing the standard for the harvest of a legal buck with APRs could have reduced the number of hunters that were successful. Tracking hunter success rates over the last 3 decades has shown little change in the percentage of successful hunters. Today, licensed Pennsylvania hunters are as successful harvesting a buck under APRs as their predecessors were 20 years ago under the old antler restriction.

HUNTING: Age Structure of Antlered Harvest

Age structure of the antlered harvest before APRs 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.

The increased harvest of adult bucks does not necessarily mean more "record book" bucks. Although age structure and number of adult bucks in the harvest has increased, about 75 percent of them are only 2.5 yearsof- age. In other words, most of Pennsylvania's bucks are still being harvested prior to growing their largest antlers.

HUNTING: Hunter Support

Prior to changing to APRs, surveys showed a majority of hunters favored them. Many hunter surveys have been conducted since APRs started in 2002. Would hunter support wane after APRs became reality? Not hardly! In fact, hunter support of APRs has remained steady since their implementation.

CONCLUSION

After 6 years, APRs are a success. They have increased buck survival and the buck age structure. They have maintained strong support from hunters. And Pennsylvania hunters are experiencing the same levels of success to which they are accustomed.

APR

Northern Forest

51-12

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.

Mike
Petroski
Glidden, WI 54527
715663-1056
Ashland County

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Please print typed resolution on 8 1/2 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.

APR Northern Forest

178-120

Citizen Resolution # 680321

(For Hearing Officer completion)



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

Whereas, Since 2007, on average, the majority of the whitetail bucks harvested in both Northern Wisconsin and the remainder of the State are yearlings (1.5 years old).

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

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. Research in Pennsylvania has shown that APR's do not lead to long term genetic impacts to the deer herd. Research in Pennsylvania has shown hunter success has changed very little in the decades APR's have been in place. The majority of Pennsylvania hunters favor APR's. APR's have successfully increased buck survival and age structure in Pennsylvania.

Be it Resolved, On April 12th, 2021 at the Conservation Congress annual meeting. Do you support the Conservation Congress 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?

Jordan Meka
W332 N5515 Solveson Dr.
Nashotah, WI 53058
262894-2175
Waukesha County

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Contact one of your local WCC delegates with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.

APR Florence County

12-10

Citizen Resolution # 190121

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Antler Point Restriction Trial in Florence County

The Problem: Historically, the percentage of yearling bucks killed in Florence County is significantly greater than other areas of Wisconsin. Per conversations with people who hunt in Florence County, few large bucks are seen or harvested and this has contributed to lackluster enthusiasm for the sport, fewer days afield, less economic benefit to the local area, and hunter exodus from the County. The deer hunting culture is changing. Many hunters currently desire a quality experience which equates to sighting and potentially harvesting a buck of elevated age and size. They will travel to other states or provinces to have such an experience. Florence County hunters have indicated their support for a chance to harvest larger bucks by passing resolutions for antler point restrictions at past spring hearings. Public input collected during the recent CDAC three year objective recommendation process included many comments in favor of antler point restrictions. **The Solution:** This proposal is to trial an antler point restriction of 3 points or greater (on one side) for bucks harvested in Florence County for hunters aged 18 and over, excluding disabled and military service hunters. The Florence County trial would continue for three years with a follow-up resolution after the trial period to determine if the public accepts it. **Do you support implementing an antler point restriction for deer in Florence County as described?**

Chase C. Erickson
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906396-5428
Florence County

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Contact one of your local WCC delegates with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.

CWD payments

79-39

Citizen Resolution # 570621

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Reconsider a pilot study of the CWD Payment for Positives reward program for 2022.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is spreading and the incurable disease is negatively impacting deer populations and hunting in the southwestern Wisconsin. Action is needed. Over 10% of all deer sampled in Columbia (14%), Dane (18%), Grant (11%), Green (17%), Iowa (29%), Lafayette (16%), Richland (20%), and Sauk (26%) counties during the 2020-21 deer season were positive for CWD, and prevalence appears to be steadily increasing.

In April 2019, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting included the following statewide Question 52: Do you favor conducting a pilot CWD Payment for Positives program to test if CWD testing rates and removal of CWD-positive deer can be increased from infected areas, Yes or No? The question received a favorable response from 4,408 (57%) of the 7,673 respondents, versus 3,265 (43%) opposed; and it also carried 39 (54%) counties in favor, against 29 (40%) counties opposed, with 4 (6%) counties tied. Yet at the subsequent Conservation Congress Annual Meeting, the congress delegates voted against the pilot in an unrecorded paddle vote. In later summarizing the situation in his report to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, former Congress Chair Larry Bonde said the Congress very, very seldom goes against the popular vote, but citing various concerns, he encouraged the DNR and the Board to hold off for 2019, and keep looking at the research, and hopefully find ways to address public concerns about CWD with more value in the future.

Consequently we are starting over at the Conservation Congress county resolution level, hoping that with your support, we can do a better job of making our case to the Congress delegates and committees, and once again get a pilot study for CWD Payment for Positives on the statewide Congress questionnaire for 2022. Thank-you for your consideration.

Tom Hauge
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Sauk County

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Background on Sauk County Resolution #570621
“Reconsider a pilot study of the CWD Payment for Positives reward program for 2022”
for consideration by the WCC Deer & Elk Committee – September 11, 2021
Tom Hauge (resolution author) and Mike Foy

I. Summary of proposal:

- Conduct a pilot of the CWD Payment for Positives reward program in 2022.
- Participation will be completely voluntary.
- Pilot designed to determine if hunters and landowners and small business sample collectors, guided by CWD prevalence maps and other predictive tools, will respond to a significant cash reward by increasing harvest effort and deer harvest, increasing the proportion of harvested animals sampled for CWD, and increasing the proportion of samples testing positive for CWD.
- Pilot to be limited to a short season such as the 4-day December antlerless or 9-day Holiday hunt, and/or limited areas of the state to control costs.
- Pilot to include human dimensions component to determine hunter, landowner and small business satisfaction and participation/non-participation rates.

II. History of proposal:

Apr 2003 – Alan Crossley, former DNR wildlife biologist, proposes the *Focus on Positives* program to reward hunters (\$200) and landowners (\$200) who harvest CWD positive deer. The program was implemented for the 2003 hunting season in cooperation with Whitetails Unlimited. The program was discontinued after the 2005 season, in response to a DNR opinion survey (Petchenik 2006) that concluded the modest reward did not positively influence hunter effort or landowner cooperation. Six Wisconsin counties were known to have CWD in wild or captive deer as 2003 began—by the end of 2005 there were 15 counties with infected herds.

Dec 2007 – Mike Foy, former DNR wildlife biologist, presented a poster at the 68th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Madison, proposing to revive the *Focus on Positives* concept with a larger reward for taking CWD positive deer, and the use of sophisticated prevalence maps to better focus harvest in areas with the highest probability of harboring sick deer. The poster received little attention within the conference or elsewhere. 2007 ended with CWD found in 16 Wisconsin counties.

Jan 2018 – Recently retired from DNR, Foy gave a talk at the 78th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Milwaukee, warning that CWD was becoming a serious threat to Wisconsin and Midwest deer herds, as well as our deer hunting culture and economy. Foy again proposed that a reward be paid to hunters and landowners for each CWD positive deer harvested to help control the rapid increase in prevalence and distribution of the disease. This time, the presentation was widely reported in the media.

Apr 2018 – Mr. Edward C. James of Darlington, apparently responding to media reports, submitted Lafayette County resolution #330118, entitled “Bounty on whitetail deer testing positive for CWD,” which passed at the Lafayette County Spring Conservation Meeting 34 (71%) to 14 (29%).

Summer 2018 – Foy and former DNR Wildlife Management program director Tom Hauge take the reward proposal (now dubbed *CWD Payment for Positives*) on the road, giving media interviews and presentations to conservation groups throughout the state.

Aug 2018 – Lafayette County resolution #330118 was assigned to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Deer &

Elk Committee for consideration. A motion to reject the proposal passed 14-7, on justifications that “The word ‘bounty’ in this resolution doomed it to failure,” [and] “The author was not present to work on wording changes.” CWD had been detected in wild or captive herds in 33 counties by the end of the year.

Jan 2019 – Reportedly in response to a request from Governor Evers transition team, former WCC Chair Larry Bonde invited Hauge to give a presentation on *CWD Payment for Positives* to the WCC District Leadership Council. Hauge did so, and proposed that resolution #330118 be rephrased to read “Do you favor conducting a pilot CWD Payment for Positives program to test if CWD testing rates and removal of CWD-positive animals can be increased from infected zones, Yes or No?” After considerable discussion, the DLC approved the revised resolution by unrecorded vote for the 2019 Spring County Conservation Meeting statewide questionnaire, where ultimately it was presented as Question 52.

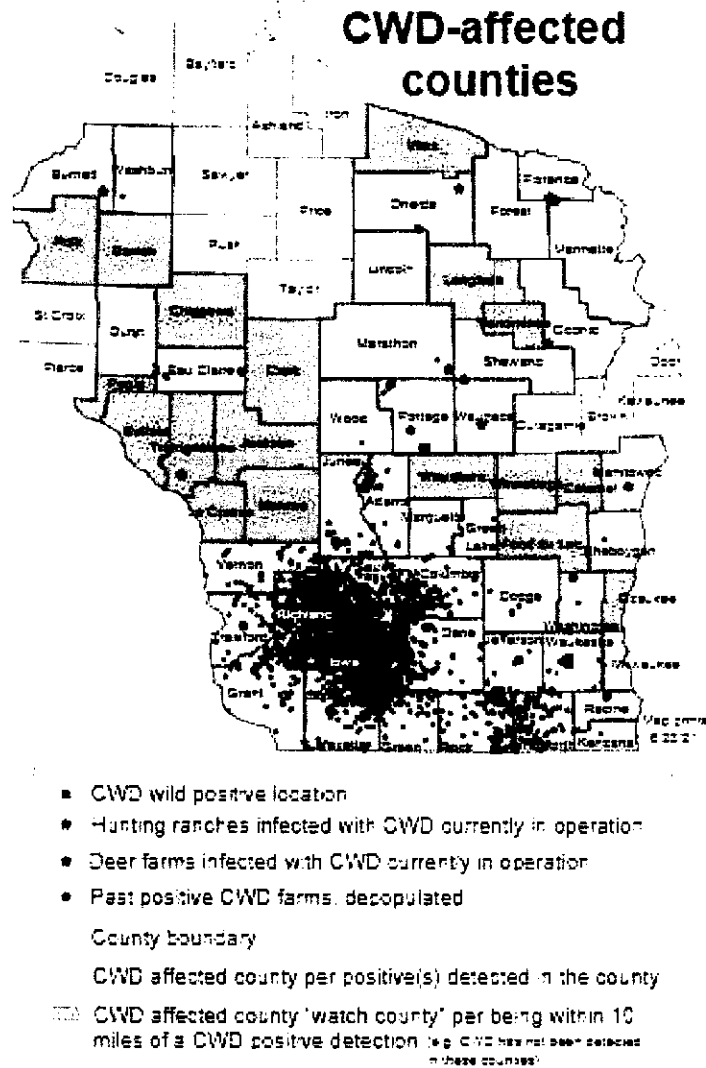
Apr 2019 – Spring County

Conservation Meeting respondents

approved Q. 52 with 4,408 (57%) of the 7,673 respondents voting Yes, versus 3,265 (43%) No; and it also carried 39 (54%) counties in favor, against 29 (40%) counties opposed, with 4 (6%) counties tied.

May 2019 – Delegates at the Conservation Congress Annual Meeting voted against the pilot in an unrecorded paddle vote. In his report on the Spring Meeting to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, Chair Bonde said the Congress very, very seldom goes against the popular vote, but citing various concerns (see III.), he encouraged the DNR and the Board to hold off for 2019, and keep looking at the research, and hopefully find ways to address public concerns about CWD with more value in the future. 2019 ends with CWD detected in 38 counties.

Apr 2021 – Hauge reintroduces the proposal at the Sauk County Spring Conservation Meeting as resolution #570621, with 81 participants responding Yes (52%), 40 No (25%), and 36 no opinion (23%). The resolution was assigned to the Congress Deer & Elk Committee for further consideration at their on Sep 11, 2021 meeting. As of Sep 2021, CWD has been detected in wild or captive deer herds in 43 Wisconsin counties (33 counties have wild detects, 24 have captive detects, 14 have both wild and captive, 19 have only wild, and 10 counties have only captive detects).



III. Response to previous WCC concerns as expressed by Chair Bonde at May 2019 NRB meeting:

- Creating a bounty system on deer. We are not advocating for a bounty on deer. We do believe a “reward” paid to landowners and hunters only on deer that test positive for CWD, that is *sick deer*, will create an incentive to remove CWD+ deer at rates sufficient to prevent the steady increase of CWD prevalence and distribution throughout Wisconsin.
- Cost too high. This is why we are proposing a limited pilot rather than a season-long program at this time. To the extent that the 2003-2005 *Focus on Positives* failed, it is very possible, given the low CWD prevalence at the time, that the offered \$200 rewards did not adequately compensate hunters and landowners for the effort and sacrifice entailed with harvesting a CWD positive deer. That is why we are proposing a higher reward to help determine program participation rates. If the pilot proves successful, we can fine-tune the reward levels to produce a management response necessary to effect CWD control.
- Need to see more value. The Wisconsin deer resource annually produces over \$20 million in license revenue to the DNR (75% of the Wildlife Management program budget, including WCC funding), supports over 15,000 jobs, and contributes over \$1 billion in total multiplier effect to the Wisconsin economy. The cultural value to the Wisconsin way of life is priceless. And yet Wisconsin does not have a proven management strategy to control increasing CWD prevalence and distribution, and after 20 years, the potential costs of no action increase with each passing year. A successful pilot may demonstrate an additional tool to help control CWD, at a cost that is just a small fraction of the value of our healthy deer resource.

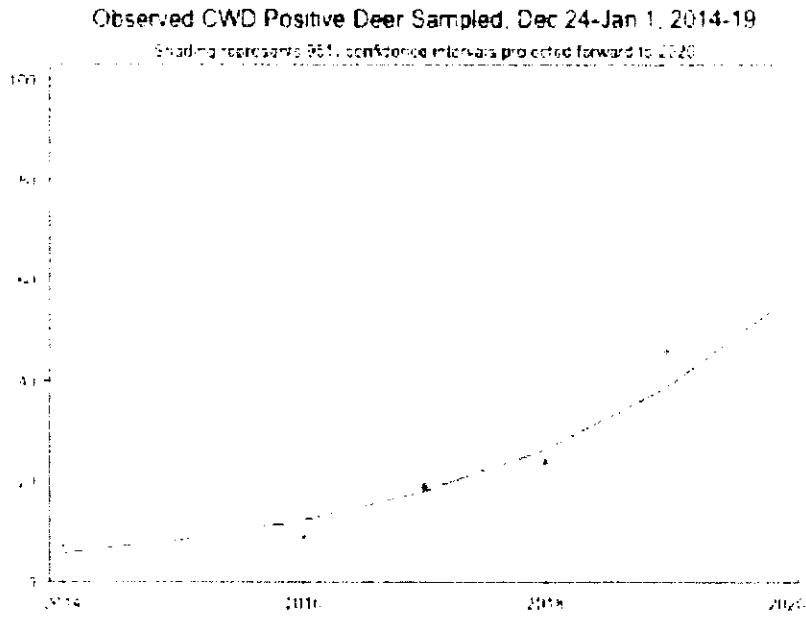
IV. Additional resources:

- Petchenik, J. 2006. Landowner response to chronic wasting disease and its management in Wisconsin's southwest disease eradication zone. Wis Dept Natural Resources SS1022.pdf

Year	Harvest	Sampled	Positive	Frequency (%)
2014	4231	117	7	6.0
2015	1844	22	1	4.5
2016	6277	129	9	7.0
2017	4882	152	19	12.5
2018	5294	346	24	6.9
2019	5878	509	46	9.0
2020	5877 HH + ? non-HH archery	563	67	11.9

Adapted from Wisconsin DNR deer harvest and CWD sampling data, <https://dnr.wi.gov>

Figure 2.



In person Reg.

109-64

Citizen Resolution # 720321

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Re-establish In-Person Deer Registration Stations, Back Tags, and Tagging Procedures

RESOLUTION: Currently, harvested deer are registered digitally on an honor system. This registration system increases the potential for improper, inaccurate, or missing registrations. It is suspected that all harvested deer are not being registered. Not having registration stations has substantially affected the funding to participating bars, gas stations, and other stores, which depended upon such revenues for existence.

Previous tagging procedures mandated back tags, which allowed for easy reference of trespassing parties on private lands and for law abiding hunters to report illegal activities on public lands. Harvested deer are not displayed when traveling via vehicle from the point of harvest, making poaching easier. All of the above can make law enforcement more difficult than when the hunter wore a back tag, had to tag and register the animal at the time of harvest, and display a portion of the harvested animal from the vehicle while transporting.

Be it resolved: Re-establish in-person registration stations for harvested deer. Such registration stations would also allow for the taking of samples for CWD infected deer. Re-establish tagging and back tagging procedures. Re-establish a portion of the animal being displayed while traveling from the point of harvest. Provide for the sale of heritage hunt tags (metal tags used in previous decades). Such sales would not be mandatory, but show support for the heritage of deer hunting in Wisconsin and offset costs.

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Wood County

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Archery doe option

49-22

Citizen Resolution # 660621

(For Hearing Officer completion)



antlerless option included with archery license

In the past, when purchasing an archery license, the option for harvest was either a buck or a doe. For some reason this option was deleted in the past and the archery license was only good for harvesting one buck. With the current emphasis on harvesting antlerless deer, it only makes sense to go back to the previous option of an either sex archery license.

Be it resolved that the WCC work with the DNR and NRB to establish an option for harvest of either sex deer with the purchase of an archery deer license.

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Washburn County

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Antlerless Lottery

34-12

Citizen Resolution # 570221

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Deer Antlerless Permits

In some counties, antlerless permits are not issued with the purchase of a gun or archery license, but sold on a first come, first served basis. Whereas, not everyone can be on a computer or at a license center at a specific time or date to purchase a permit, a more equitable system for all hunters would be the antlerless drawing. The DNR already has a system in place for turkeys that could be used for antlerless permits. Would you be supportive of changing the first come, first serve procedure to a drawing for antlerless permits for counties that do not issue antlerless permits with the purchase of a gun or archery license?

**Craig Boehlke
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Sauk County**

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CWD pos replace tag

37-12

Citizen Resolution # 530221

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Deer Management Tool - Replacement Either Sex Tag for CWD positive deer

In some counties of the State, Deer Populations are above population goals. As a result, forest regeneration is suffering, understory plants are over browsed, agricultural damage is a concern and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is spreading rapidly and growing in prevalence.

This proposal seeks to increase antlerless deer harvest by issuing an "Either Sex Tag" to a hunter who harvests an antlerless deer that comes back CWD positive. This will increase antlerless deer harvests. There would be a limit of 1 replacement tag per hunter and the Replacement tag could be used in the year the deer was harvested or the following year, would be weapon specific and would only be available in counties where the CDAC requested as part of their Deer Management Recommendations. These tags would be in addition to the Buck tags issued with each license.

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Richland County

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Contact one of your local WCC delegates with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.

Extend registration

85-25

Citizen Resolution # 690121

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Extend the 9 day gun deer registration deadline

Currently a deer must be registered by 5:00 pm the day after recovery. Compliance can be questionable due to several reasons. Some hunters don't have phone service, some don't have access to do it online, and some hunters just forget. The DNR in the past has made announcements during the gun season to hunters that did NOT register their deer to still go ahead and register the deer. Some hunters will and others will not. The ones that do that after the deadline wonder if they will get a citation for late registration.

This is very confusing and not very professional. To simplify this and get better compliance and a more accurate harvest count extend the registration deadline to 5:00 pm the day after the gun season closes. This was how it was done years ago. Would you support the WCC working with the DNR and legislature to extend the gun deer registration deadline to 5:00 pm the day after season closes?

Arlyn Splitt
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asplitt55@gmail.com
Waupaca County

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Contact one of your local WCC delegates with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.

Boundary change

85-34

Citizen Resolution # 720921

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Forest - Farmland Boundary Change

Last year 86% of the Wood county voters voted in favor of a boundary change between the Forest and Farmland zones. Unfortunately that change was deemed unusable because of the small amount of land left in the Forest Zone. There are a few areas in the Forest Zone that should be incorporated into the Farmland Zone due to herd size and land use.

Therefore I propose the following boundary change that will meet the size requirement and also move those trouble spots into the Farmland Zone. From the county line east on Hwy 73 to Hwy V. Hwy V south to Hwy E. Hwy E south to Hwy 54. Hwy 54 east to Hwy 80 Hwy 80 north to Lincoln Road. Lincoln Road east to Hemlock Trail. Hemlock Trail south and east to Hwy Q. Hwy Q east to Ridge Road. Ridge Road south to Marsh Road. Marsh Road east to George Road. George Road south to Seneca Road. Seneca Road west to Swanson Road. Swanson Road south to Hwy 54. Hwy 54 west to Hwy GG. Hwy GG south to Hwy G. Hwy G south to the County Line.

JAMES WINKLER
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Nekoosa, WI 54457-1364
7155704577
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Wood County

16 roads
firming?
State County town
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(4) (5) 11
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73 V Lincoln Rd
54 E Hemlock Trail
80 Q Ridge Road
54 GG Marsh Road
G George Road
Seneca Road
Swanson Road

Ban Shining

87-57

Citizen Resolution # 600221

(For Hearing Officer completion):



Legitimacy of Shining for Deer and Proposal for Banning

Whereas, every year me and many others work very hard on planting grain crops along with other forages and bedding cover to not only enhance our personal land but to enhance the overall deer herd. This benefits all neighboring landowners and public lands nearby. Animals gather on properties such as these, and are left alone to act naturally and feed. However, it is generally very easy for others to notice a properly set up wildlife sanctuary, and if it has roadside property many show up to shine and harass these animals.

There is no benefit for them to be able to shine animals on someone else's land. The lights illuminate the animal and unfortunately it seems many poachers are now taking advantage of crossbows to steal these wonderful and precious natural resources from everyone. This matter should not be taken lightly and if not corrected will impact the desire of land owners and managers to enhance properties.

Be it resolved, On April 12th, 2021 that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting: Would you support the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources and state legislators, if required, to ban shining statewide?

Michael Jones
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Waldo, WI 53093
920838-0716
mjones2575@hotmail.com
Sheboygan County

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Ban Shining

79-39

Citizen Resolution # 510321

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Reduce Poaching by Banning Shining

I work very hard every year helping my boyfriend plant grain crops and manage property for the enhancement of local deer herds for all to legitimately enjoy. I enjoy just viewing the wild animals in their natural, uninterrupted state. It has become very apparent in the Price County location as a whole there are many poachers that take advantage of shining laws to steal deer from law abiding sportsman and landowners alike who have proudly dedicated untold time and monetary resources to their properties to benefit every neighboring landowner and public land hunter alike.

Fair chase is an amazing natural approach to the hunting of deer, however nefarious individuals with their spotlights, crossbows and guns are stealing this precious resource and making many property owners and managers disappointed to the point of exhaustion. If we lose land managers on the private lands which provide quality year round food sources for the animals, we will in turn lose animal population and license sales will fall. Lets work together to reign in the actions of the few who are working hard to ruin it for us all.

Consider the benefits of a Shining ban, something that truly has no positive impact on the end goal of herd management to begin with. Sincerely, Natalie Loudon

Natalie Loudon
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Kennan, WI 54537
920838-2265
Price County

Any local restrictions?

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Contact one of your local WCC delegates with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.

Urban tags

184-38

Citizen Resolution # 370221

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Urban Archery antlerless tag Deer Uniformity

Urban archery hunters should be able to have the same opportunity as private landowners have when purchasing additional antlerless tags. Example: City of Wausau West Industrial Park, when hunting this property, a hunter is not allowed to purchase additional antlerless tags, but landowners adjacent to the city property can purchase as many as they want as long as they are available. Normally urban properties have high populations of antlerless deer that browse heavily on the urban residential shrubbery and having antlerless tags available to all hunters in the area can reduce problems in these residential areas.

Does city regulate or DNR?

Steve Radtke
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715297-3323
Marathon County

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Youth tags

96-43

Citizen Resolution # 570121

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Youth Statewide Antlerless Permits

Whereas, youth antlerless permits are given to every hunter under 17 and valid statewide but must be specific to the land type such a public or private. Allowing a youth under 17 to harvest a doe on either public or private land increases their opportunity to harvest and deer, providing success, and recruiting new hunters. Land type data for youth harvest can be gained thru the registration process, if required by DNR.

Would you support making youth antlerless permits valid on any land type (public or private)?

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Sauk County

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