

110307

c11-03

PORTABLE TREE STANDS

The Problem:

Not being legally able to put up a portable tree stand on public land prior to opening morning of gun deer hunting season . This discriminates against those who need help with a tree stand and are unable to put it up alone such as older and youth hunters and those physically unable to perform this feat in the dark. Each day that you want to hunt from a tree stand, you have to repeat the process, which for some is difficult, if not impossible, to do even once safely.

Because putting up a stand in the dark can be dangerous and because it is legal to hunt from ground blinds constructed prior to the hunting season, we ask that the same consideration be given to those who hunt from a tree stand. Safety is the main concern.

We feel that it would be safer to put up the stand ~~up~~ only once, prior to the season, and in some cases, with help. This would result in a safer and more successful hunt for everyone.

This proposal isn't mine alone as I read in the Wisconsin Outdoor newspaper, hunters from different parts of Wisconsin feel the need for this rule change, according to their letters to the editor. The present rule endangers hunters by putting them at a higher risk of falling twice each hunting day.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Columbia County on April 16, 2007 recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes allowing hunters to put up a portable stand the day before gun deer season opens and leave it up until the day after the season closes.

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County Vote: YES 19 NO 24