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Resolution

Modified Earn-A-Buck Season

The Problem:

The use of the Earn-a-Buck deer season in Wisconsin has been controversial, unpopular, and seemingly unfair to many hunters since its inception. Yet, EAB has proven to be effective at reducing high deer populations. Unfortunately, deer hunters who were unable to prequalify the previous year and occasional deer hunters that hunt on a limited basis are losing interest in hunting because of the restriction on buck harvest.

In DMUs with high deer populations that require the use of EAB, the EAB season could have an EAB-free portion at the start of both the archery and the firearm season to provide an opportunity to harvest an antlerless deer while preserving the opportunity to harvest a buck. An example: The first thirty days of the archery season and the first weekend of the firearm season could be EAB-free. The remainder of each season would then be Earn-A-Buck.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Buffalo County on April 13, 2009 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources to develop the concept of modifying the EAB season with EAB-free season segments for use as a deer population management tool.

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