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Resolution:

Title: Separate Traditional Bow and Arrow hunting Season

The Problem: The possibility of a much shorter or restricted archery season based on the perceived or real idea that high tech modern archery equipment like the compound bow and crossbow, for those who can legally use it, have greatly increased the ability of the average hunter to harvest a deer with minimal or little effort. Archery harvest totals have increased dramatically since the compound was introduced and there is evidence that archery hunters often concentrate their efforts on mature bucks. As a matter of fact T-zone hunts, gun youth hunts, and muzzle loader hunts now share time during the current archery season. With the real or perceived gap between guns and modern archery equipment getting closer it would be reasonable to think that a shorter or more restricted archery season might be on the horizon. If deer numbers continue to fall it could soon be a reality.

The historical reason for the longer archery season was the fact that traditional archery equipment,(longbows, recurves, and selfbows), were inherently harder to master and a archer needed that much uninterrupted quality time a field to harvest a deer. The fact is there are only a tiny minority of traditional archers in Wisconsin compared to high tech shooters. Another fact would be that we probably have little if any impact on deer numbers.

With all this in mind I would like to introduce the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in 2009 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by creating a separate Traditional Archery season to take place from the second Saturday in September through December 31st each year. The traditional hunter would have his regular archery tags along with an additional buck tag with the additional tag to be used only during the traditional gun deer time and would be restricted to the use of their bow and arrows only. (Note: we are not asking for more or taking anything away from other hunting seasons but only for the opportunity to protect our historically long season.)

NAME: Ron Lang

ADDRESS: 2010 Highview Rd. Ellison Bay, WI 54210

COUNTY: Door

PHONE: (920)-854-5204

Ron Lang