

210309

Conservation Congress Meeting Resolution 2009

The Problem:

In 2008, the annual gun deer season saw a dramatic drop in gun deer harvest over the entire state. We believe this was mostly caused by the late opening date in 2008. By the opening the "rut" was over in most areas and the deer were lying low and resting.

It is our belief that the "traditional season framework" that has been offered to the 620,000 gun hunters should be reworked to provide more hunting opportunity during the later stage of the rut every year by starting the gun deer season the Saturday closest to the 15th of November and running the season for 16 days. Michigan starts their season on November 15th and runs it for 16 days and Minnesota starts their season on the first Saturday of November and runs it for 3 weeks. There is no effect on their deer populations by providing this additional hunting opportunity.

This season framework would not affect the "traditional" Thanksgiving Holiday because it would include Thanksgiving every year anyway. It would also not disturb the muzzle loader season in its current framework. Some people have objected to this proposal in the past by stating that opening "gun deer season" on the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving is traditional. But in Wisconsin deer hunting evolves every year with changes by the DNR and state legislature. How traditional are "Earn a Buck", "Youth Hunts", "T-zones", "CWD Zone" and "Herd Reduction Zones"? Also, bow hunters have approximately 105 days to hunt annually and would only give up a few days with this proposal.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Forest County on April 13, 2009, recommends that the DNR take action to establish the gun deer season to start on the Saturday nearest November 15th and to run for 16 consecutive days annually to provide more hunting opportunity to gun hunters in Wisconsin. We ask that this new season framework be put to a vote at the 2010 Conservation Congress hearings.

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COUNTY VOTE: YES _____ NO _____