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TITLE: Use of blinds on State owned and managed lands

PROBLEM: The removal of blinds and equipment from the property each day at the end of hunting hours.

This Regulation causes many hunters undue hardship. It should be amended to allow leaving ground blinds, chairs, small tarps in the woods if you have your DNR customer number, name, address and phone number in plain view. This should be allowed from the day before the 9 day gun season to the day after it closes. The equipment could be left knocked down in the case of pop-ups, and tarps, tree stands left on the ground.

If the hunter was absent one day it would be easy for the other hunter to tell because the equipment will not be set up. If desired another hunter could call and see if someone would be hunting that day or the next. Only one blind per customer number would be allowed to be left overnight statewide.

These amendments to the Regulation would eliminate packing your gear into and out of the woods twice a day in the dark. It would also make a big difference to elderly and handicapped hunters, allowing them to stay in the woods and hunt longer. It would also help a mentoring adult with a youth hunter.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Oconto County on April 13, 2009 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources to take action to allow leaving properly tagged ground blinds and accessories overnight on state owned and managed properties.

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