Title: Deer overabundance / underabundance: Private versus Public Land.

RESOLUTION

66-01-09

The Problem:

Deer abundance throughout the state varies considerably according to land usage & local hunting pressure. Private lands with agriculture or young forest or both and limited hunting access have increased deer numbers that negatively impact the land & economy. Liberal bag limits are a must to keep local populations in check. Public land receives heavy pressure during gun season and deer numbers often are lower within public boundaries.

The needs of private & public lands' deer herds vary enough that the DMU's aren't efficient at managing deer equally everywhere problems exist.

The solution is simple: allow private land across the state to be managed as one DMU, where harvest limits are controlled (anterless) by the landowners. The DNR need only manage Federal & State forests, WMA's, & county lands - and each individually. This allows more DNR control where it is needed & less where it isn't. Every Fed or State named land it's own limits & rules, and county land can be stretched by or across the county as one DMU or by size, ex: all lands >500 acres or <500 acres. This will also simplify trials of new laws by providing many experimental hunting area's for new laws such as Antler point restrictions, for example. Management would mirror the state's fisheries.

Be it resolved, that the Conservation Congress at it's anual meeting April 13, 2009 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this State's controversial Deer herds' abundance through thoughtful & meaningful private & public land management.

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