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CONSERVATION CONGRESS COUNTY MEETING RESOLUTION

Monday, April 13, 2009

Title: Rifle hunting for Waupaca County

The Problem:

Currently all of Waupaca County is closed to Rifle hunting during the gun deer season. There is no biological or safety reason for this current restriction.

It has never been established that shotguns are safer than rifles. The DNR facts from the 2008 deer season clearly show that rifle hunting counties were far safer than shotgun only counties. According to the D.N.R., 76% of hunters used rifles during the 2008 gun deer season. However, shotguns were involved in 67% of the accidents, rifles in 22% and handguns in 11%.

Many hunters hunt from "elevated stands" and are therefore shooting down into the ground. Also, deer drives, which can be a dangerous hunting tactic, are not as popular as they once were.

Waupaca County is bordered on 3 sides by rifle legal counties; Waushara, Portage, Marathon and portions of Shawano counties all allow the use of rifles during the gun deer season.

This change would give the local wardens one less enforcement problem. Waupaca County Wardens and the Regional Safety Warden as well as our area DNR Wildlife Biologist all support this resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Waupaca County on April 13, 2009 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change allowing the use of rifles to hunt deer in all of Waupaca County during the gun deer season.



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Resolution introduced in Waupaca County

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