

52-03-11

Use of Crossbows During the Fall and Spring Turkey Season

Currently, the turkey hunting license allows hunters to use a shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun or bow to harvest a turkey during the spring and fall turkey hunting season. Resident hunters 65 yrs of age or older and any disabled hunter with a Class A, C, B Crossbow, or crossbow permit may use a crossbow as well to harvest a turkey during these seasons.

Crossbows are inferior weapons to shotguns and muzzleloading shotguns that are allowed to be used to harvest a turkey.

The Department of Natural Resources is currently looking for ways to simplify hunting regulations.

In an effort to:

1. Decrease regulation complexity by creating an any weapon license
2. Increase hunting opportunities by allowing hunters to choose the weapon in which they can harvest a turkey during the spring and fall turkey hunting season
3. Provide hunters with more flexibility and options by allowing the use of a crossbow for any hunter during the spring and fall turkey seasons.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Racine County on April 11, 2011, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources work with the State Legislature to introduce legislation that would provide hunters with the option of using a shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, bow, or crossbow to harvest turkeys during the spring and fall turkey season.

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