

52-04-11

Use of Crossbows During the Bear Season

Currently, the bear hunting license allows hunters to use a rifle, shotgun, pistol, muzzleloader or bow to harvest a black bear during the bear 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 black bear.

Crossbows are inferior weapons to rifles, shotguns and pistols that are allowed to be used to harvest a black bear.

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 bear during the bear hunting season
3. Provide hunters with more flexibility and options by allowing the use of crossbows for any hunter with a class A kill tag.

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 rifle, shotgun, pistol, muzzleloader, bow, or crossbow to harvest black bear during the bear hunting season.

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