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Redefine lights allowed for predator hunting

Wisconsin state statute 29.314 restricts the use of a light for hunting coyotes, fox, raccoons, and other non-protected species to a battery operated flashlight that is "hand held and hand carried". A battery operated light mounted atop of a scope or a headlamp light worn on one's head is illegal. Lights must be held in the hand.

The DNR advises that wardens typically do not enforce this law and that hunters should contact the warden in the hunt area for confirmation. This requires knowledgeable wardens to spend time addressing a non-issue. Furthermore, some wardens and other field personnel are not aware of the official interpretation of this law resulting in more follow-up on their part and delayed response to the hunter or providing erroneous information.

Scope mounted and headlamp lights are sold at several retail establishments which typically are also unaware that these lights are illegal for hunting.

Hunters Safety instructors do not recommend discharging a firearm one-handed. To do so is unsafe since you have very poor control of the firearm. It also enlists an unethical hunting practice by reducing accuracy and the probability of a clean kill.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Douglas County on April 9, 2012 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department and legislature to revise statute 29.314 to allow the use of scope mounted, headlamp, and similar lights carried by or on the person and producing ordinary light.

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