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13-06-14

TITLE: EXEMPT LAKE KEGONSA STATE PARK FROM ACT 168

PROBLEM: The acreage open to hunting and trapping is too small to accommodate the insured safety of all park users, traffic in and around the park, and nearby residents.

Where As: Archery hunters are exempt from the 100 yard rule. Archers are allowed to hunt directly off the trails. The continuous curvature of the trails, the slope variance and dense prairie grasses in excess of six feet tall midway into December, significantly obscure visibility from users in close proximity to one another.

Where As: Hunters in pursuit of wounded deer increase deer movement across busy roadways therefore jeopardizing oncoming traffic on roads which have extremely reduced roadside visibility. School bus routes make several daily runs past the most heavily hunted areas in the park.

Where As: There is very limited staffing of rangers. Wounded pursued deer easily end up in areas closed to hunting or neighbor's yards. Threatening confrontations have transpired between hunter and nonhunter which pose cause for serious concerns of personal safety.

Where As: The heart of the fast paced X-country skate and track skiing trails is shared with hunters. Dragging a kill across a trail or firing a shot pose a risk of collision or injury.

Where As: If more acreage were designated for hunting, the park's structure would still include the same safety concerns due to the close proximity to trails, roads and houses.

Where As: There is a percentage of chance that firearms used to dispatch trapped animals could ricochet causing harm.

~~BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Dane County on April 14th, 2014 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin legislators to exempt Lake Kegonsa State Park from ACT 168 to insure the safety of the state's citizens using the park, driving through and around the perimeter of the park and living across from the park.~~ to exempt the park from ACT 168 for safety reasons.

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