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Allowing Counties to Implement Antler Point Restrictions (APR)

Currently, whether hunting the archery, crossbow, gun or muzzleloader deer seasons; a legal buck deer is defined as a deer with at least one antler which is three inches or longer in length.

Every year there are citizen resolutions asking the Conservation Congress to work with the DNR in implementing an antler point restriction (APR) in their particular county.

APR's are a tool used to protect an age class of bucks from being harvested in order to graduate them to the next age class by only allowing hunters to harvest bucks with a certain number of antler points on a side. Registration data could be used to determine the minimum number of antler points necessary to protect at least half of the yearling (1-1/2 year old) bucks for a proposed county.

There is no overwhelming evidence indicating a herd managed with APRs is any better off, there is also no overwhelming evidence indicating any serious harm may result from APR's. The implementation of an APR's would be for the general purpose of improving hunter satisfaction.

With deer management now being handled at county level, the creation of county DMU's and county deer management committees, counties wanting to implement APR's should have the opportunity to do so.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Racine County on April 14, 2014, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources in allowing counties to implement APR's with the support of citizens within their county.

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