

71-03-14

Citizen Resolution # _____

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Important Proposal to Increase Health & Number of Wisconsin's Whitetail Deer Population

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

Over the last several seasons Wisconsin has encountered a steady decrease in healthy deer population numbers. According to hunters, this decline is due to many reasons including mismanagement of antlerless hunts, potentially flawed data regarding population health & numbers, and a series of extreme winters that have significantly affected the size and health of deer herds. Per the WI DNR ecologists & state wildlife officials, the 2012-13 winter had significant snows and cold temperatures late in the season resulting in direct losses of deer and lower than average fawn production. The 2013-14 winter has proven to be just as detrimental with the Winter Severity Index (WSI) already well into the severe category for many counties, especially those to the north. To help combat this decline in population, wildlife management professionals must take action to provide habitat & rules that ensure deer population growth & success, by protecting and restoring natural habitat, and by crafting population management rules that can be closely monitored by state wildlife professionals.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the WI DNR should temporarily close WI State Park lands to whitetail deer hunting to provide essential habitat where herds can be reestablished in health and numbers, to be evaluated as per established benchmarks every 2-5 years. This can be done by listing all park lands as "designated use". Furthermore, to establish a special "Whitetail Deer Management Fund" to assist in the cost of monitoring populations in state park lands, to protect and restore habitat in these areas, and to draft future population management plans that benefit animals and hunters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Signature: _____