

46-01-16

Equal opportunity for all Wisconsin deer hunters

The crossbow season was established to provide equivalent deer hunting opportunity for those that choose to hunt with a crossbow;

The primary reasons used for adding a long crossbow season were that crossbows:

- Are no more effective than archery equipment
- Crossbows would increase deer hunter numbers

The length of the crossbow season was set by statute for the first two seasons only. Adjustments could then be made;

Data shows that in 2014 crossbow success on bucks was **40%** higher than it was for either archery or firearm equipment

In only the second year of use, in the already stressed 25 county northern forest region, Crossbow hunters harvested more bucks than archers despite archers outnumbering crossbow use more than 2-1.

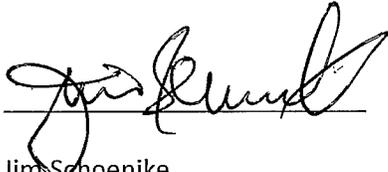
Crossbow hunting did not increase the total number of deer hunters. Deer hunter numbers rose steadily from 2010 to 2013; in 2014, the year the crossbow license was introduced, deer hunter numbers dropped almost 40,000.

The buck harvest success rate with archery equipment vs that of a firearm user has remained nearly identical year after year.

Now that the facts are available, it would only be reasonable to adjust the length of the crossbow season to bring its success rate in line with that of the rest of Wisconsin's deer hunters;

Therefore, be it resolved that the DNR take immediate action to reduce the crossbow season length in order to provide an equitable allocation of the resource to all Wisconsin deer hunters.

signature



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