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### Addressing deer harvest by weapon

In 2014, a statewide crossbow license and deer season that ran concurrent with archery deer season began a trial period to gather data on the effectiveness of the weapon in order to establish a crossbow season length. That trial period is complete.

The crossbow deer harvest data is to be used to adjust the crossbow season length per the conditions set forth. The data shows proportionately, crossbows are far more effective than a bow and arrow. Harvest data shows the buck kill rate per crossbow hunter is greater than not only bowhunters but gun deer hunters as well.

In the stressed Northern Forest region, 2015, crossbow hunters took more bucks than bowhunters, despite the fact that there were less than half as many crossbow hunters. Crossbow usage is only increasing while bow and arrow participation is declining.

The length of the 9 day gun and the archery season are based on effectiveness and success rates. The trial period shows the crossbow is significantly superior to a bow. The crossbow season length for the first two years was only temporary. The season length must be adjusted to address higher proficiency rates.

The trial period has provided the statistics. Crossbow success per hunter for bucks was far higher than it was for either archery or firearms in 2014, and almost as high again in 2015 and the number of crossbow users in only increasing. it's time to act upon the stipulations of the trial and adjust the length of the crossbow season in a manner that is based on data.

*Therefore, be it resolved that the DNR work to correct this issue by establishing a shorter crossbow season structure that adjusts either the start date and/or end date or duration of the crossbow deer season with the goal of reaching an equitable harvest burden on the deer population. During the WCC Hearing, April, 11 meeting Held in Waukesha County, 2016*



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