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2016 Spring WCC/DNR Hearing - Dane County

Title: Disabled Hunters Needing Assistance to Kill Legally Hunted Wounded Animal

The Problem: At present, should a person with a physical disability having a Class A hunting permit and legal license, hunting with a mentor/assistant wound an animal and not be able to get to the wounded animal to kill it, they have to allow the animal to suffer.

Their mentor may not legally kill the wounded animal even if the disabled hunter is not able to nor if the disabled hunter asks their mentor to do so for them.

A rule change such as Wisconsin Act 225 is needed which allows a mentor of a youth/mentee to kill a wounded animal when asked to do so.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Dane County on April 11, 2016, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change to authorize a mentor of a disabled hunter to kill an animal shot and wounded by the disabled hunter.

In a small percent of disabled mentored hunts, the disabled hunter is not able to pursue and kill the injured animal. A change to the current law would prevent the suffering and loss of game.

This authorization only applies if the animal was wounded while the person with a disability and mentor were hunting together and the disabled person, after learning the animal is wounded, requests the mentor to kill the animal and the mentor uses the same type of firearm to kill the animal that was used by the disabled hunter during the hunt.

Under this rule, any animal killed under this authorization is treated as being killed by the disabled hunter, not the mentor/assistant for the purposes of applying bag, possession and size limits.

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