

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD MEETING**  
**JANUARY 22, 2014 PUBLIC APPEARANCES**  
**AMENDED (rev. 1/21/14)**

**WEDNESDAY**

**3. Action Items**

**B. Land Management, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife**

1. Request adoption of Board Order FR-20-12, proposed rules affecting NR 45.045(2)(a), (b), (d), and (e) relating to decreasing the distance from which firewood may be brought onto state lands from 25 to 10 miles and allowing wood from out of state to enter state lands if originating within 10 miles
  1. **Harold Norslien**, Black Earth, representing self and Norske Woodworks
2. Request approval of bear harvest quotas for the 2014 season
  1. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair
  2. **Al Lobner**, Milladore, representing Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association
3. Request approval of Wildlife Management's 2014 spring meeting agenda of advisory questions
  1. **Al Lobner**, Milladore, representing Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association
6. Request approval of department recommendation to issue a Stewardship grant that will prohibit at least two (2) nature-based outdoor activities (NBOA) on non-department land: City of Merrill, Lincoln County
  1. **Dan Wendorf**, Merrill, representing City of Merrill as Parks & Recreation Director
8. Request adoption of Emergency Board Order WM-24-13(E) related to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee's Report
  1. **Representative Fred Clark**, Madison, 81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District of Wisconsin **ADDED**
  2. **Rob Bohmann**, Racine, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair
  3. **MaLenna Smith**, Plain, representing self
  4. **Robert Benson**, Lodi, representing Uplands Deer Management Association as Vice-President
  5. **Dr. Anthony Grabski, Ph.D.**, Blue Mounds, representing self
  6. **Ralph Fritsch**, Townsend, representing self
  7. **Mark McCaulley**, McFarland, representing self and landowner in CWD zone
  8. **Amy Sprecher**, North Freedom, representing self
  9. **George Meyer**, Madison, representing Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as Executive Director
  10. **Kelly Maynard**, Madison, representing self
  11. **Casey Fitz Randolph**, Cross Plains, representing Burr Oak Deer Management Co-op (Handout)
  12. **Mike Brust**, Wausau, representing Wisconsin Bowhunters Association (Handout) **ADDED**

**4. Citizen Participation — **NONE****

1. **Patricia Hammel**, Madison, representing Madison Action for Mining Alternatives  
*Topic: Mission of the DNR as it pertains to mining permitting and regulation* **ADDED**

To: NATURAL RESOURCE BOD MTS 1-22-2014

REF FR-20-12

3B1-1

- 25 TO 10 MI RULE PROPOSAL

① P WHY ARE WE HERE AGAIN?  
MORE TIME & RETORIC.

② P WHY IS DNR STILL PROPOSING TO LEGALLY  
ALLOW INFECTED WOOD TO ST PK'S  
From 30 MI TO 25-TO 10 MI

③ P WHAT'S THE BENEFIT OF 10 MI PROPOSAL

④ P WHY NOT ALLOW ONLY CERTIFIED  
WOOD AT ST PARKS. WIDATEP & USDA

⑤ P IS THIS A POLITICAL?

THE EAB (BADBUG) DON'T REALLY CARE  
IN JAN 2007 EAB IN MILWAUKEE, THEN MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN  
ON TO GAN BAY LK Green, LAKE OUSE, .....  
MILWAUKEE, ST P, LONG ST P & NEW MILWAUKEE.

FACT: INFECTED WOOD IS INFECTED WOOD

WHETHER IT COMES FROM WI, OUT OF STATE  
WHETHER 50 MI 150 MI OR 5 MI ITS STILL  
NOT RIGHT TO BRING TO ST PK'S IS IT?

⑥ P WHY DO OVER 80%+ PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS  
ALLOW ONLY CERTIFIED WOOD?  
PRETTY LOGICAL OR COMMON SENSE  
TO HOPEFULLY TRY TO PROTECT LIVE TREES

II

3B1

Now:

Yours & Mine

WHO WILL PROTECT OUR ST PARKS?

Will you as: NATURAL RESOURCES <sup>MEMBERS</sup> BD, & CONCERNED <sup>THE</sup> PEOPLE IN DNR, REJECT THE PROPOSED 9 10 MI RULE.

SHUT THE GATE & ALLOW ONLY CERTIFIED WOOD TO COME INTO ST PARKS.

PLEASE EXPLAIN IF YOU DISAGREE OR ?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

RESPECTFULLY,

NORSKE WOOD WORKS

Harold Nordin

4732 Hwy 78

BRICKMOUTH WI 53515

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SINCE 1969



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382  
Joe Weiss, Secretary  
Lee Fahrney, Public Relations  
Alan Suchla, Historian

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Date: January 22, 2014

To: Chair Cole and members of the Natural Resources Board

From: Rob Bohmann, WCC Chair

Subject: 2014 Wisconsin Bear Harvest Quotas

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress' Bear Study Committee met at the Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center in Milladore on Saturday, December 7, 2013.

A couple of items that were on their agenda that day were the 2013 bear season harvest summary and the proposed 2014 harvest quotas/permits. Dave MacFarland, DNR Carnivore Biologist, did an excellent job in providing the information on both of these items to the committee. The quota levels that Dave presented to the committee were 1100/Zone A, 650/Zone B, 1350/Zone C and 1600/Zone D. These levels were generally well received by the committee. However, some of the committee members felt there were still more than enough bears in some of the areas of Zone B. The permit levels that were presented to the committee were 2100/Zone A, 1010/Zone B, 5100/Zone C and 2250/Zone D. The committee was pleased to see that permit levels were being raised in Zones B, C and D. The Congress Bear Committee supports both the proposed quotas and permit levels for the 2014 season.

The Bear Committee also supported the continuation of another 5 year interval for the tetracycline based bear population study with this study effort to be done again in 2016.

Rob Bohmann, Chair  
Wisconsin Conservation Congress

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As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.



Wisconsin Natural Resources Board Testimony  
January 22, 2014

Good morning Chairman Cole, Board members, and Secretary Stepp.

I want to address the board today regarding the Deer Trustee Report Rules Package.

I represent the 81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District, which includes portions of Sauk, Iowa, Columbia and Dane Counties.

I speak to you this morning as a hunter who represents some of the areas in Wisconsin most severely affected by Chronic Wasting Disease, and also as a practicing forester who has managed forestlands throughout Wisconsin for over 20 years. I've served on the Wisconsin Council on Forestry since 2004.

I fully appreciate the hard work and many thousands of hours that have been devoted by your staff, other wildlife professionals, and by committed members of the public to make recommendations based on the Deer Trustee Report and help develop this rule package. My comments are in no way intended to disparage that hard work – but hopefully to improve on it.

I will try to be brief and here are the issues I want to raise with you today:

### Chronic Wasting Disease

I don't want to belabor this point because I know that you all are very familiar with this issue.

I can accept the fact that eradicating CWD in the original outbreak area once it was identified was never realistic – we got there too late. But there are a lot of options that lie between eradication and doing nothing.

In reading the Green Sheet for the rule you just considered for firewood (which I fully support) I noted the following justification: "By minimizing the spread of EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) and other pests and diseases, we buy time for the development of new control tools and delay the day when communities and woodlots become infested and start taking losses from the invading pest."



Clark

The rationale does not just apply to Emerald Ash Borer – it could apply to almost any invasive of pest organism for which control is possible. We know we cannot eradicate CWD, and we may not even know enough today to confidently say we can reliably slow the spread, but it is irresponsible to simply conclude we cannot do anything.

In addition to the loss of effective herd control tools related to CWD that have been made by the legislature, these rules could reduce the ability of wildlife managers to accurately model and assess deer populations or set numerical goals for deer in the CWD zone.

If there was any aspect of this rule package that would warrant consideration as an emergency rule it ought to be the CWD management, but the acceptance of Dr. Kroll's "passive management" approach in this package suggests the Department sees no urgency in managing CWD.

And without the benefit of numerical goals and the most rigorous population model, and with the even further reduced season lengths in this package, its hard to see how even the current herd reduction goals in the CWD zone can be achieved.

I would hope the Department would use all your existing authority to control the spread of CWD in the main outbreak areas, continue to use rigorous, numerical population estimates and goals for CWD affected areas, and act aggressively to control and attempt to eradicate satellite CWD outbreaks where they occur.

#### Protection of White Deer

On a positive note, I want to thank the Secretary and Department staff for including a proposal to extend protection to white and albino deer statewide.

#### Deer Management Assistance Program

As someone who has worked with private landowners for much of my career, I believe there is great opportunity to improve the satisfaction of hunters who have access to private lands. I am optimistic that a Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) could, if structured properly, bring about many benefits.

Having however watched the Division of Forestry work for many years to find the right balance between providing forestry assistance on private lands versus finding the resources and time to properly manage public lands, it is clear these choices always come down to limited staff time and making tradeoffs about priorities.

I would urge you to consider the allocations of new staff time that goes into this potentially valuable program, and evaluate which wildlife-related functions and priorities may not be addressed as a result. I sincerely hope that investing in a DMAP program does not mean we will weaken our commitment to public lands and the many benefits they provide.

I also hope that this program can be structured in a way that does not result in deer management assistance being provided based on ability to pay. It would be unfortunate if as a result of implementing a DMAP, opportunities declined for hunters who cannot afford to own or lease property or who don't have a friend who owns property.

#### Bonus Antlerless Permits

##### Use of Bonus Antlerless Deer Permits

If I understand it, the rule package will prohibit use of bonus tags on public lands, or on private lands open to the public under the Managed Forest Law. This would seem to be another way in which the Department would be tying its own hands in preventing use of appropriate tools for herd reduction where it is warranted.

This proposal also has the potential to increase the disparity that may be creeping into our deer hunting system that creates one set of rules for the haves and another set for the have-nots. So if you have land or have friends who have private lands you can get one set of rules, but if you don't know anyone who owns land or you rely on public lands to hunt, you are going to get another set of rules, and you are going to get less opportunity. I truly hope we are not going down that road, but these rules seem to suggest that door is now open.

#### Deer Management Unit Configuration

Our current Deer Management Units, designed using a combination of roads, rivers and natural features, are the building blocks for one of the most detailed and rigorous statewide wildlife population models in North America.

As recently as 2006, the WDNR's "SAK Report" stated: *"Wisconsin has the most comprehensive and transparent deer management program for comparable states that harvest white-tailed deer. Wisconsin collects more demographic information, on an annual basis, to monitor the deer population than any of the 21 states we surveyed. The WDNR should be commended for its efforts to track deer population dynamics and make those efforts transparent."*

The recommendation to switch to using county boundaries instead of DMU's may be appealing from a simplicity standpoint, but it threatens to confound and complicate the use of 40 years of existing data based on DMU's. Even if the Department uses its authority to continue to develop population estimates using the SAK model, doing so at the county level will be much less meaningful. Nowhere in the rule package did I see a compelling reason offered to justify this loss of such a valuable tool.

Clark

### In-person Registration

Registering your deer is one of the many iconic traditions of deer hunting. Neighbors and strangers share stories and admire each others harvested animals at the registration station. Local businesses sell gas, groceries and beer. And, importantly, the Department has a robust and reasonably accurate means to collect and validate harvest information that drives the SAK model. At a time when some hunters have found it convenient to criticize our population model and its accuracy, why would the Department want to make the model less reliable by eroding the quality of the data that goes into it?

A frequent statement made regarding deer management is that we need to understand and consider social factors and societal acceptance of wildlife policies. Fair enough. Then we should be very careful about policy changes that reduce rather than improve the social acceptance of wildlife management.

Nobody cheers or comes over to admire your hunting license when you buy it; but every hunter around will walk over and admire your buck. It's the one place where most hunters will have their most personal interaction with the Department and the Department's policies – even if it's through a third party agent - when they register that deer. I believe this proposal underestimates how much goodwill that experience generates for the Department and for our system of wildlife management.

Phoning in your registration may be more convenient. What we should really be asking however is whether this change improves or detracts from a quality hunting experience.

The reduced quality of harvest registration data, the reduced supplemental data that would be collected at registration stations, together with the altered DMU boundaries, together are likely to result in SAK model output that is much less accurate and predicative in estimating populations and population trends. And, the Department will now be relieved of the obligation to use the SAK model at all when establishing goals for deer management.

Why would we do this? Do the cost savings really justify the loss of this powerful predictive tool?

Especially in a time when public confidence in the Department needs to be strengthened, rather than improve deer population measurements, this package as a whole appears to represent a choice to discount the value of this measurement.

### Deer Herd Goal Setting

The proposal to incorporate herd health and habitat health measurements into a decision making process for deer management could be very positive. After all, when it's all done we want to be able to support a healthy deer population that does not create excessive damage to natural resources.

Clark

What I and others are unclear about in this proposal however is what specific herd health and habitat health information will be collected, how rigorously will it be collected, how replicable will field measurements be, how comparable data collection will be from one county to the next, and what process will be used to generate recommendations based on that information.

Rather than subject all of Wisconsin to what is essentially a statewide experiment, it would be prudent to proceed more deliberately.

My strongest suggestion today is that before committing the whole state to changes that will be very difficult to undo, that you consider evaluating the changes to management units, registration procedures, use of the SAK model, and the herd goal setting process through a limited pilot program – perhaps in two or three counties.

Then have a third party, perhaps UW-Extension, evaluate the results of the program after a three- year trial period. And with that assessment, determine whether to make these changes statewide.

Thank you for your consideration this morning. And thank you for your service to Wisconsin and our natural resources.

- Fred Clark



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388-2  
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## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

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Date: January 22, 2014

To: Chair Cole and members of the Natural Resources Board

From: Rob Bohmann, WCC Chair

Subject: Emergency Board Order WM-24-13(E) adoption request: related to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee's Report

From the beginning, the Congress has worked with Dr. Kroll and his team, Dr.'s Guynn and Alt, on their task of reviewing Wisconsin's deer management program. The leadership of the Congress met with Dr. Kroll and his team on numerous occasions and many of our delegates assisted in facilitating the six town hall meetings that were held throughout the state.

Dr. Kroll and his team did an outstanding job of involving the citizens of the state and listening to their concerns. We were honored that Dr.'s Kroll, Guynn, and Alt specifically noted as a recommendation that the Conservation Congress must have a more active role in deer management at the local level, and we have been ready to take on that challenge. We are prepared to work with the Department of Natural Resources to implement the recommendations in the Deer Trustee Report (DTR).

Quite a few of our delegates were involved with the DTR implementation process that began last March. Some attended as Congress representatives, while others attended simply as concerned citizens, dedicated to conservation. There were a total of 62 specific recommendations for modifying the future of deer management in Wisconsin. The Action Teams were to review each of the DTR's recommendations and assist in developing specific actions that were needed to enact each one.

In August of 2012, the Congress took a position in support of the Deer Trustee Report, in its entirety. The Congress continues to maintain that position of support of the DTR, but we do not have a position on the specific DTR rule package (as a whole) that is before you today. Tom Hauge and Kurt Thiede discussed this rule package with the Congress' Executive Council at our meeting in Wausau on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and council members did have some questions and concerns regarding this rule package.

Who appoints the members of the Deer Management Advisory Committees in each county, and is it possible that the congress delegation in each county facilitate these committees? Some counties have multiple municipalities, some that may not allow hunting of any sort. Will they have a seat on these committees? Furthermore, what is the actual role of these county committees, they are advisory, but to whom? It's also unclear as to how these county committees will interact with the public.

Bohman n

There was a concern about the bonus buck as well. Under this proposal, a person may potentially harvest three antlered deer while only harvesting one antler-less deer. The bonus buck should be an incentive to reduce the deer herd by harvesting additional antler-less deer. The ability to harvest 3 antlered deer to one antlerless deer will not achieve any type of herd reduction.

Do we have to include a free antlerless tag with all license purchases? Or, can we issue just a buck tag at time of purchase and make all antlerless tags available in August when the former bonus tags would go on sale?

Regarding the restoration of a statewide restriction on the harvest of white/albino deer; the Deer Trustee Report never mentioned anything about the harvest of white/albino deer. This is an entirely separate issue and should not be a part of this rule package. If anything, the harvest or prohibition of the harvest of white/albino deer should be a county option and not imposed state or region wide.

There were also some concerns raised about automated deer registration. However, this was a recommendation in the DTR, and the Congress position continues to be in support of the DTR. The Congress will be asking an advisory question at the 2014 Spring Hearings regarding this issue to compile additional citizen input.

The Congress supports consolidating the number of DMUs using county boundaries as DMU boundaries. We support the switch of DMU population goals from a specific overwinter population goal of deer per square mile to an objective of increase, stabilize or decrease. We support the fee increase for antlerless tags in the former CWD and Herd Control areas along with the separation of antlerless tags for public versus private land. We support the creation of a DMAP program.

While we do not currently have a position on the proposed standard season structure in this rule package or the proposed season dates for 2014, the Congress' Deer & Elk Committee will be meeting March 22 and I'm sure the Department will be presenting both of these items to the committee at that time.

~~LAURIE~~

Smith

3B8-3

**What:** Wisconsin Natural Resources Board Meeting

**Where:** GEF 2, Madison, Wisconsin

**When:** January 22, 2014

**Agenda Item:** 3.B.8, regarding the proposal to reinstate protection of white and albino deer in CWD zones.

**Speaker:** MaLenna Smith (608) 544-3801 (Leland, Wisconsin)

**Position:** In favor of reinstating protection for white and albino deer in CWD zones.

**Argument:** The white and albino deer in the Leland and Plain area and in adjacent communities are a treasured community, county, and state resource. They are valued by an overwhelming majority of residents, both hunters and non-hunters, for their uniqueness, their rarity, and their striking beauty. Since their removal as protected animals in CWD zones in 2008, at least four white bucks (and possibly more) have been killed by hunters--always with the argument that it was legal, so it was okay. By protecting these deer, they can remain alive for many more years and for many more people to enjoy and photograph.

**Talking Points:**

- 1) Introduction
- 2) The white deer website
- 3) How rare the white deer are
- 4) Addressing the inferior image
- 5) Albinism
- 6) Recessive genes
- 7) White deer and CWD
- 8) The need to reinstate protection

Smith  
#3

## NRB Talk

My name is MaLenna Smith and I live near Leland, Wisconsin. I have a biology degree and a teaching degree, and I've had a semester of college genetics. I also have the great fortune to live where where the astronomically improbable can be a daily sight--I have seen the white deer.

Like others in our small community, I have also been devastated by the ~~senseless~~ loss to hunters of several white deer that were so unique, so beautiful, and enjoyed by so many. This motivated me to get involved in efforts to protect the deer and to construct a website, [protectthewhitedeer.com](http://protectthewhitedeer.com). This website represents hundreds of hours of research into every aspect of white deer.

The color of white deer is the result of lack of the pigment melanin which can affect just the coat, or all parts of the body, including the eyes. The general nomenclature is, if the deer has pink eyes, it is referred to as albino. If it has colored eyes, it is called a "white deer."

White deer have for centuries and in virtually all cultures been special. Seeing one is an incredible experience--both for their striking color and the extreme rarity of even seeing one. It is estimated that only 1 in 20,000 deer are white or albino.

If there are 1.8 million deer in Wisconsin, an often quoted number, then only 90 of those would be white. The actual number is probably a little higher, but, as one person told me, there are more eagles at the Prairie du Sac dam than white deer in the entire state!

White deer have suffered much bad press in modern times. They are generally regarded as inferior to brown deer, but this is not necessarily the case.

I have talked to both Jeff Richter and John Bates who co-authored a book on the white deer of Boulder Junction called: *White Deer; Ghosts of the Forest*. Jeff said that in over 1000 hours of viewing time in the woods, he had never once seen a defective animal. The Leland white deer also show no defects. In fact, it is the white deer in both locations that are dominant over the brown deer, and the original white doe in the Leland area lived to be a healthy 18 years old!

White color of any sort is caused by a recessive gene, but recessive doesn't mean inferior. It just means that the trait is not expressed unless the animal receives a recessive gene from both parents. Brown deer can carry the albino gene, and many combinations of parent-offspring color are possible.

Despite the seriousness of Chronic Wasting Disease, the extremely small number of white and albino deer in the Leland area is not statistically significant enough to affect any management program. Removing white deer in CWD zones from the protection that they had since 1940 was drastic and unnecessary.

Reinstating statewide protection for all white and albino deer is a logical move for both the deer and the many people who enjoy watching and photographing them.

3B8 - #4

## HOLIDAY HUNT

Background: Robert Benson

Former State Director of Quality Deer Manage Assoc.

Former member of national advisory of QDMA

Current VP of Uplands Deer Management Assoc. of Central WI.  
(basically an education assoc. for Sportsman) 100/500 mailing

Currently hunt in west central WI and south central WI

Also a snowmobiler

Please remember that the **only manager** of the deer herd is the **sportsman**...therefore we must create a meaningful experience for him to enjoy!

**All stake holders win** with easier to understand regulations and hunting areas...zones, counties and elimination of CWD, and more consistent rules statewide.

**DNR wins** more antlerless deer are harvested in over populated areas.

**Southern Farmland Gun Hunters win** by receiving a second "opening weekend". They can hunt with family and friends to put meat in the freezer and better manage the herd by taking antlerless deer if they desire.

**Southern Farmland Bow Hunters win** because Holiday Hunt is not taking the "big" bucks and is only 9 days.

**Snowmobilers win** especially in more populated areas because the season is reduced to 9 days. Less populated snowmobile areas will not see the pressure from the Holiday Hunt, and many of the hardcore the snowmobilers go north to enjoy the better snow conditions and trails.

## **Proposed Changes to WI Deer Management from the Deer Trustee's Recommendations and Implementation Process**

Anthony C. Grabski, Ph.D. Scientist, hunter, and landowner, Blue Mounds, WI.

January 22, 2014

I would like to thank Chairman Cole and members of the Board for this opportunity to speak today. Over the past 12 years I have made numerous statements to the Natural Resources Board primarily in opposition to DNR proposed changes to deer management, especially in relation to CWD. Today I am happy to state my support for the majority of the proposed changes to deer management and season structures resulting from Dr. Kroll's Deer Trustee report recommendations, Action Team efforts, public input and the DNR's synthesis of these components with their current strategies. I especially thank Dr. Kroll and his Team, Eric Lobner, Secretary Stepp, Scott Gunderson, and the DNR staff for including Me and other citizens in development of these historic changes to deer management in WI.

Regarding the policies proposed today I have a few specific comments based on my participation on the Herd Health CWD Action Team and personal communications with other hunters and landowners. The holiday hunt is one of the most contentious proposals. However, limiting it to the harvest of antlerless deer and shortening its duration makes it much more palatable to hunters, at least, in the CWD affected area. My personal opinion is that the length of the holiday hunt could have remained unchanged with minimal objection from CWD zone hunters. An antlerless only holiday hunt is exactly what was originally proposed back in 2007 by the CWD Stakeholder Advisory Group of which I was a member.

The bonus buck rule of harvesting only one antlerless deer to obtain a bonus buck permit was not recommended by any Action Team or by Dr. Kroll. Instead, Dr. Kroll and two of the Action Team's recommended the harvest of **two** antlerless deer in order to obtain a bonus buck permit. This would promote a higher antlerless deer harvest in CWD and herd control areas. Otherwise a hunter could essentially harvest three bucks (1 archery, 1 gun, 1 bonus) while only harvesting one antlerless deer. I was told by DNR staff that the two antlerless deer requirement was "logistically difficult", but there must be some creative means to make this biologically sensible herd control tool possible?

Finally, the 10 day muzzleloader season is not very popular in its present form. Starting that hunt immediately after the 9 day gun season extremely limits hunter participation for several obvious reasons. The 9 day gun season has just ended, most hunters must return to work or home from hunting camp, and deer are scarce from 9 days of hunting pressure and harvest. The most favorably received muzzle loader season I have discussed with hunters is a 9 day season that opens the Saturday following the close of the traditional 9 day Thanksgiving week gun season. Please consider this alternative as it gives hunters and deer a break between seasons, likely increases participation by including two weekends, and probably increases harvest success since deer have not been as constantly pursued.

Thank you!

Dr. Anthony C. Grabski

5180 Ridge View Road, Blue Mounds, WI 53517

358- #6

Good morning, I am Ralph Fritsch from Townsend, Oconto County, Wisconsin. I am here today as an avid deer hunter and forested land owner in the county. I am testifying opposed to many of the proposed changes to the 2014 deer management season. I was a member of the DMAP Committee of the Kroll Report Implementation Committee.

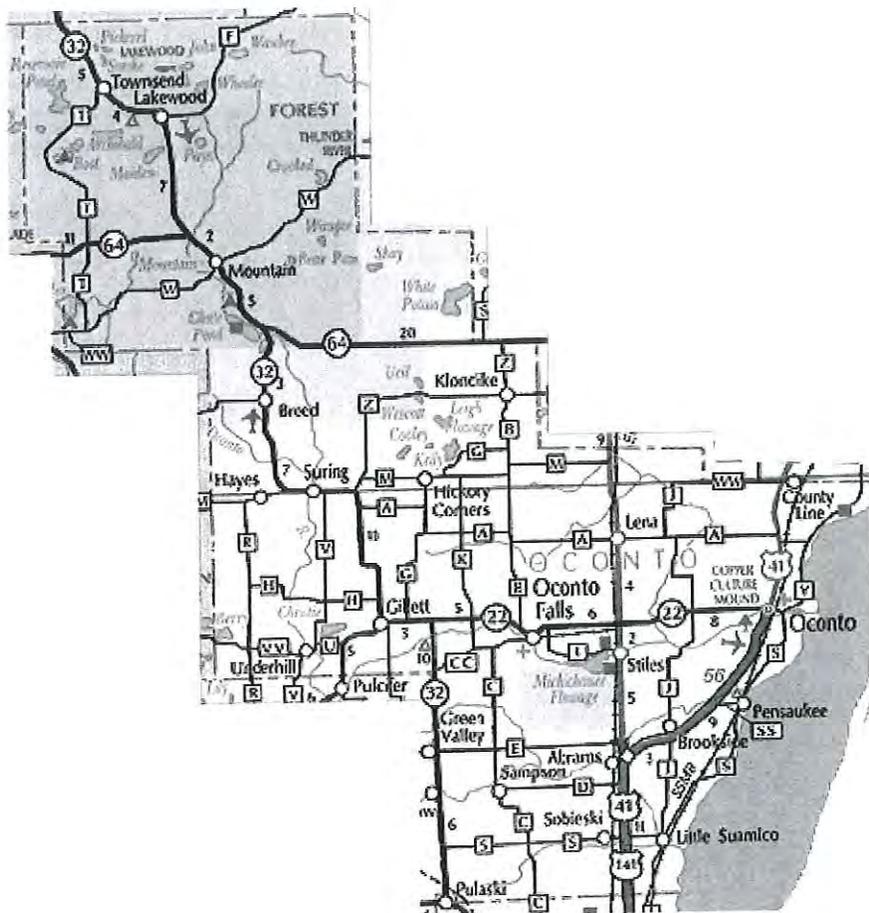
First, while the Department staff held 35 public hearings and did an on-line survey, the total hunters reached by that process was less than one percent of the deer hunters in the state. The Department should have used the standard process for getting hunter input into the deer season rule changes, that is, the Conservation Congress Spring Hearings. That is the process that they are familiar with and know the date and place well in advance. There would have been a significantly larger turnout at the hearings because of the interest of hunters in deer hunting. This would have been good for Board public input and for the Conservation Congress. There is no true emergency that these rules have to be adopted now---take time to get more input into the process.

Secondly, the local process that is being set up to get input for deer management changes is overly complicated, very bureaucratic and will be very difficult to implement. The annual Conservation Congress Spring Hearing process, if scheduled appropriately would be a far better place to get input from the public on deer management changes in an area. The ballots could be coded for different groups such as hunters, farmers, forest land owners and other key groups. This would be a far simpler process and a far less drain on limited DNR staff resources. There is no true emergency that these rules have to be adopted now---take time to get more input into the process.

Thirdly, the Board should stay with current Deer Management Unit boundaries with the possibility of combing DMUs of like land cover. I come from Oconto County and I have attached for your review a map of the county showing the forested area of the map which is totally different from the urbanizing area of the south and eastern coastal area of the county. In between is a large geographic area of agricultural land. The distance, as the crow flies from the southeastern area of the county to the northwestern corner where I live is over 50 miles. The deer population is vastly different in this large geographic area, the land types are extremely different and public land is largely concentrated in the northwest part of the county. The issues are far different and no seven people in the county can adequately represent the vastly different issues. Oconto County currently has four Deer Management Units: 44, 49A 51B and 63B, (map attached). The DMUS were set up the way they are because the issues in each are substantially different.

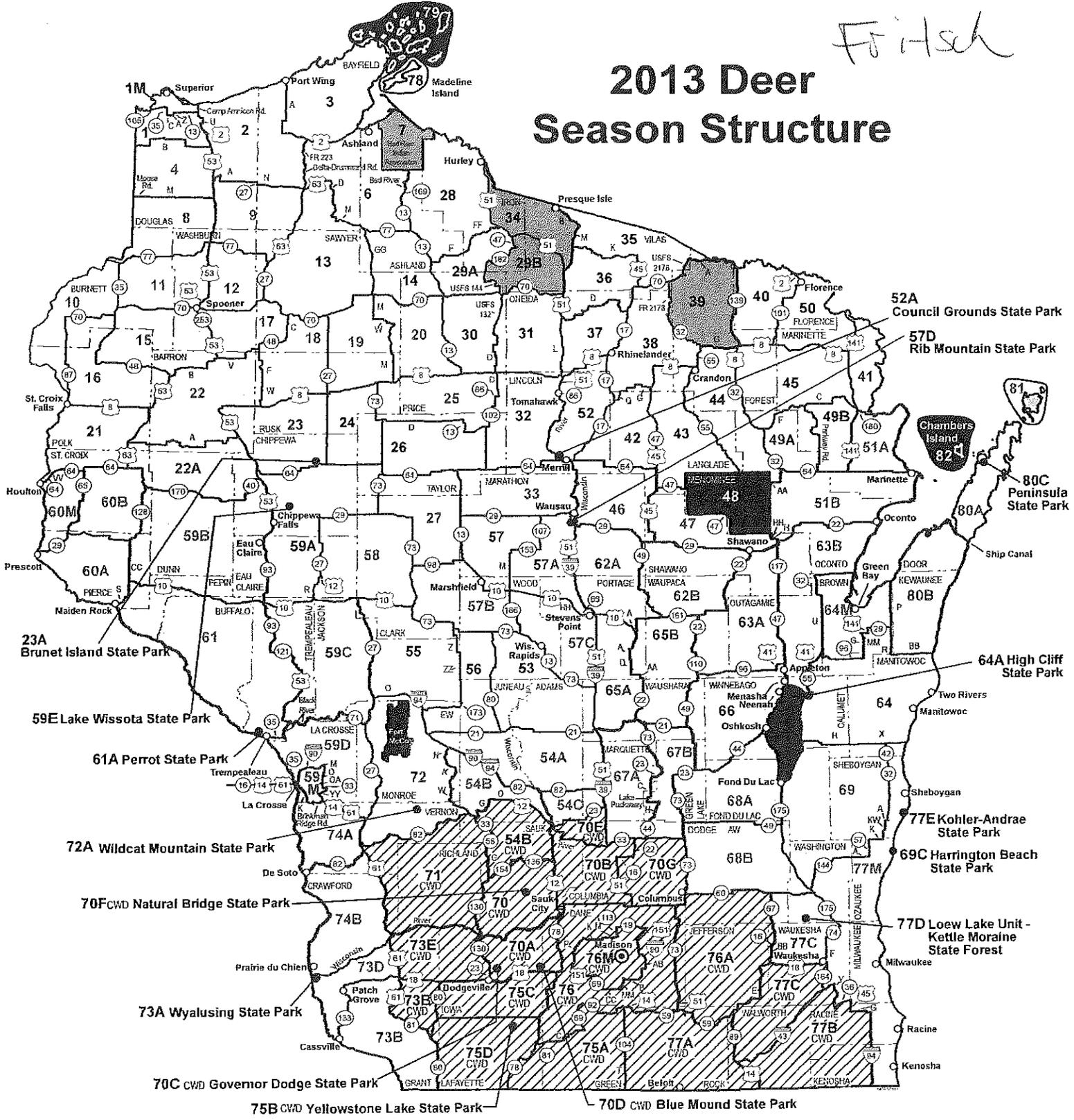
Thank you very much for allowing me this opportunity to testify before you today.

Fritsch



FoHsch

# 2013 Deer Season Structure



- Regular Unit - Bucks plus \$12 bonus antlerless permits
- Herd Control Unit - Bucks plus \$2 antlerless permits
- Bucks Only - (DMUs 7, 29B, 34, & 39)
- Non-Quota Area - No permits issued by DNR
- CWD Unit - 1 archery buck, 1 gun buck, plus antlerless permits. Bonus Buck rules apply.

358-8

Amy Sprecher  
608-544-2054

January 22, 2014 Board Meeting  
Agenda Item .3.B.8 specifically protection of white and albino deer – I support protection

### Speech

Albino and white deer have been protected in the State of Wisconsin since 1942. In 2008 Clearinghouse Rule 08-013 removed their protection in CWD areas. In 2012 a magnificent 12 point buck was shot (the 3<sup>rd</sup> since 2008). A hunter who had watched him develop over the years was not going to stand for anymore shooting and contacted Channel 3. The story went national and even reached England. Channel 3 received approximately 1500 comments to their website with the majority of the comments in support of their protection. A Baraboo News Republic website poll had 200 people in favor of their protection to 38 opposed. In a three month period we received 2000 signatures from all over the state in favor of their protection.

Both hunters and non-hunters support protection. The consistent comment from hunters is that because they are so rare the ethical thing to do is not shoot them – enjoy their uniqueness. We are aware in two cases (most recently from the Chetek area) that the white bucks are being sold for a profit, clearly not the intent of hunting. A protection proposal passed 71 to 37 at the Sauk County Conservation Congress in April. The proposal passed 100% at the next step of the Conservation Congress, the Deer and Elk Study Committee.

State Representatives Fred Clark and Ed Brooks have been very involved in restoring protection due to the number of calls from citizens. Representative Clark contacted Secretary Stepp's office asking for the rule repeal in April. Secretary Stepp forwarded the request to the Deer Trustee Herd Health/CWD citizen action team. In May they recommended restoring protection state-wide because their numbers are so few that impact on CWD would be insignificant. Based upon all of the above, there is overwhelming support for protection.

Not only are they rare, but they also have a positive economic impact to the state and local areas where they can be found. Boulder Junction is a prime example of the economic impact – daily calls are received and numerous residents and nonresidents visit the area just to see them. Locally, the white deer have always been a big draw with families picnicking by the state park just to catch a glimpse of the first buck that was shot. Hundreds of others continue to drive the back roads weekly in search of the white deer. Since the Channel 3 story, more people from hours away are coming in hopes of catching a glimpse. The assisted living facility 15 miles away brings 12 ladies on a white deer hunt.

The DNR's Mission Statement charges them with protection of wildlife; ensuring the right of all people to enjoy them; and to consider the future and generations to follow. By restoring protection the Department will have completed their responsibility and the white and albino deer will be there for generations to enjoy. And the ladies from the assisted living facility will be able to continue their white deer hunts.

## Talking Points

388-#8

Amy Sprecher  
608-544-2054

January 22, 2014 Board Meeting  
Agenda Item .3.B.8 specifically protection of white and albino deer – I support protection

### Summary

These rare animals (1 in 20,000) need to be protected for all of the citizens of Wisconsin and out-of-state visitors for everyone's enjoyment. Not only are they rare, but they also have a positive economic impact to the state and local areas where they can be found. Boulder Junction is a prime example of the economic impact – daily calls are received for inquiries and numerous residents and nonresidents visit the area just to see them. There is support for protection from both the hunter and non-hunter. Hunters are a very large support group - this topic was brought to the TV media's attention by a hunter; has passed at the Conservation Congress Sauk County level and the 2<sup>nd</sup> step, the Deer and Elk Study Committee 100%. The DNR's Mission Statement charges the Department with protection of wildlife, ensuring the right of all people to enjoy them, and to consider the future and generations to follow. By restoring their protection throughout the CWD areas the Department will have completed their responsibility and the white and albino deer will be there for generations to enjoy.

368-#9

## Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Chairman Cole, Members of the Natural Resources Board, Secretary Stepp, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The Federation has been very active in participating in the implementation of the Kroll Report.

First, we would like to make the observation that hunters' satisfaction in the last two deer seasons, except in Northern Wisconsin, has resulted in two of the least controversial and most satisfying deer seasons in recent memory for deer hunters in the state. The great credit should go to the elimination of Earn-a-Buck and the very positive public outreach activity of Secretary Stepp and her staff to return the fun back into deer hunting in this state. We make this observation to give credit where credit is due but also to raise the point that since these were highly successful seasons for deer hunters, why is the Department proposing these far reaching changes to deer management in Wisconsin. The problems that resulted in the Kroll Report being undertaken have been solved without these regulation changes.

The Federation opposes several of the proposed changes and specifically recommends that the Natural Resources Board make the following changes to the proposed rules:

1. Retain the use of the current Deer Management Unit boundaries. This is important to assure more accuracy in deer population estimates, the allocation of permits to similar habitat type and to avoid accidental hunting violations by hunters knowing which unit they are hunting in;
2. Keep in-person deer registration. This is important from an economic standpoint and to maintain some semblance of hunter confidence in deer herd population estimates;
3. Restore some level of active management of Chronic Wasting Disease in the state. Chronic Wasting Disease is spreading at an alarming level in Wisconsin. In the last 18 months, CWD has spread to seven new counties and the frequency of the disease in the core CWD deer population is greatly intensifying. **As the legal trustee for the Wisconsin deer herd, the Department has the affirmative obligation to build public support for a more active system of controlling the disease, even in light of difficult political and social push-back.** This is critically important to the economy, the future possibility of effectively vaccinating the deer population and the future of deer hunting in the state for our children and our grandchildren.

On behalf of the Federation, thank you very much for this opportunity to testify before you today.

Submitted by George Meyer, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation  
January 22, 2013

3B8 → #10

**Ross, Laurie J - DNR**

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**From:** Kelly Maynard <kelly.r.maynard@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 9:56 AM  
**To:** Ross, Laurie J - DNR  
**Subject:** Re: 3B8 Confirmation - Maynard

PA  
Laurie  
Bink

Dear Laurie,

I look forward to participating in the hearing tomorrow. As stated on the phone, I will be giving testimony in support of the proposed deer hunting season framework. A summary of my testimony is as follows:

I am a new Wisconsin deer hunter, and new to the practice, culture and tradition of hunting. I am one of many new adult hunters that I know who are eagerly learning both because we care deeply about the environment and its proper management, and also about sustainably sourcing our food. 2013 was my second deer season, after participating in a Learn-to-Hunt event and mentored hunts in the fall of 2012. I am in support of the deer season framework proposed for 2014, which includes the December antlerless hunt and the holiday hunt, in addition to the 9-day regular gun deer season. These additional opportunities have been incredibly important to me as someone who is learning, in part because they are simply more time in the woods, more time to practice what I am constantly learning, and perhaps most importantly because they give me time with experienced mentors who are often very busy hunting themselves and celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday during the November 9-day season. For someone not raised in the deer hunting tradition, the lack of a mentor can be the most significant barrier to entry in participation. Having a mentor, and sufficient hunting time with that mentor, is the best way to ensure that I, and new adult hunters like myself, gain the skills and confidence to become safe regular hunters instead of one-timers, and potentially go on to teach others as I hope to do.

Thank you, and see you tomorrow morning.  
Kelly Maynard

On Fri, Jan 17, 2014 at 11:03 AM, Ross, Laurie J - DNR <[Laurie.Ross@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Laurie.Ross@wisconsin.gov)> wrote:

Kelly Maynard, Madison, representing self:

This email is to notify you that your name has been added to the Wednesday, January 22, 2014 Natural Resources Board meeting's public appearance listing under agenda item 3.B.8. – Request adoption of Emergency Board Order WM-24-13(E) related to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee's Report.

Corrected green sheet package is located at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/about/nrb/2014/Jan/01-14-3B8.pdf>

3B8-11 Casey  
Fitz Randolph

### Bur Oak Deer Management Background Information

- 5500+ acres practicing some type of organized Quality Deer Management (Four Cornerstones: Herd Management, Habitat Management, Hunter Management and Herd Monitoring)
- Formed in 2003 after being severely disappointed with CWD management and the year-round slaughter of whitetails
- We hold educational events for area landowners and hunters each year
- We have been able to successfully reduce our herd while participating only in the traditional seasons
- There have been no deer tested positive for CWD in our cooperative
- Landowners and hunters strive to produce high quality native habitat and food
- We are not afraid to harvest antlerless deer (many properties harvesting 10 antlerless deer for each antlered buck over this period)
- Many other QDMA members and deer hunters in the state share similar thoughts
- Quality Deer Management should not be confused with Trophy Deer Management

### Deer Trustee Implantation

- We strongly support the Deer Season date proposals on the DNR green sheet. In 2007, we had members donate many hours to be on the CWD stakeholder's group. These stakeholder members also reached out to other hunters at the advice of the DNR to collect more hunter input. During one of these gatherings, it was suggested that an antlerless only holiday hunt be added as a tool to increase harvest in the cwd zones similar to a hunt that the state of Iowa had at the time to help reduce the herd. The group agreed that it was a good idea that night and the idea was taken back to the CWD stakeholder's group. This antlerless only hunt between the holidays was sent back to the rest of the stakeholder's group. It passed at the stakeholder's meeting and made it on to the DNR's green sheet for the NRB. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the NRB went against the DNR, the CWD Stakeholder's group and the public input that was collected. They created the holiday hunt, but decided to make it an either sex hunt and add days to it. Again this past year, we had different members donate time to be on the Deer Trustee team. Once again, the Deer Trustee Herd Health group came to the agreement that the holiday hunt should be antlerless only and shorter. After two stakeholder's groups and numerous meetings and other public input, it's time to work with landowners and hunters in southern Wisconsin and enact this shorter antlerless only hunt. The DNR even states in this green sheet that "It has been a low pressure event, but for some, a greatly appreciated opportunity for the additional deer hunt". This "low pressure event" has been widely opposed by many hunters and landowners and it has created many hunting and non-hunting land use conflicts (snowmobiling, snowshoeing, wood cutting, cross country skiing, sled riding and other outdoor property use etc). We would prefer that the holiday hunt is completely removed, but we can compromise with the shorter antlerless only season.
- Bonus Buck Privileges: We can support the bonus buck privilege on the green sheet as long as a maximum of three bucks could be harvest in a given year. Ideally, we would like to see this cap

be lower, but understand the compromise. We are concerned that the DNR is now charging for bonus antlerless tags, but the DNR has chosen to de-value one of our most valuable resources and give away these buck tags for free! Under this rule, it would be possible to harvest 4 bucks (antlered buck with bow tag, antlered buck with gun tag, buck fawn with antlerless tag and another antlered buck under the bonus buck tag). Who needs to harvest 3 or 4 bucks per a year? Is this fair to other hunters in the state still looking for their first deer or buck of the year? Our deer management cooperative members have agreed to only harvest one buck per year no matter how many weapons they hunt with or how many tags they have for this reason. Hunters in Wisconsin don't want more opportunities. Hunters want better opportunities. They want a quality hunt with the chance to see a deer or even a buck. Indiana recently made a rule change only allowing one buck per year no matter how many weapons an individual hunts with. We feel this is a great step toward proper science based deer management. Additional antlerless deer are harvested and age structure is returned to the herd which has positive biological impacts (shorter, more intense rut creating better fawn recruitment and less post rut buck mortality). Encouraging a hunter to harvest two bucks and only one antlerless deer does not make biological sense and will lead to good hunting for a year or two until the bucks in the herd are severely reduced. This does not seem to make any biological or scientific sense.

- We strongly support Earn-A-Buck if EAB stickers can be used the year they are earned OR the year after they were earned. We believe that Earn-A-Buck would work in other parts of the state if pre-season population estimates were more accurate or the trigger for the use of earn-a-buck was better or there was a limit in the number of years that earn-a-buck could be used in back to back seasons.
- We strongly support a change to the uncased gun law. The law that came into play after conceal carry was passed led to the worst road hunting that we've ever seen. We brought this up to the DNR after the 2012 season, but we were told that it was not an issue. Low and behold, it was a 100% increase this year! Wardens can't be expected to protect deer from law bending gun hunters for over 3 months a year.) This newer law makes it too easy for poachers and trespassers. Uncased guns should not be allowed on any public roadway. It is not necessary or safe.
- We strongly OPPOSE the late landowner season.
- We strongly support additional CWD testing statewide
- We strongly support additional CWD research
- We strongly support additional hunter, non-hunter and landowner education on CWD along with heard management and DMAP

Casey Fitz Randolph

388-12

Brust

Wisconsin Bowhunters Association  
Testimony to the Board of Natural Resources  
January 22, 2014

Thank you Chairman Cole, members of the Board and Secretary Stepp for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Mike Brust. I'm President of Wisconsin Bowhunters Association, the country's oldest and largest state bowhunting organization. We are about to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and with our 5,800 active members we have been a strong advocate for deer hunting in Wisconsin for generations.

We have supported the Deer Trustee's efforts and have participated in the process from the start, but like you, we are disappointed with the serious lack of public participation. And despite the Department's best efforts, many deer hunters still have no idea major changes are coming.

We appreciate the Department's efforts to shape the recommendations into the format you have before you, and applaud them for all the work they have done to come up with workable recommendations. We believe they have tried to capture the intent of the Trustee, but we do have some concerns with this final draft.

Specifically:

- Although we support the concept of local input, we have grave concerns over the make-up, selection and authority of the county advisory committees. While we understand the details have yet to be worked out, we are concerned that, as written, hunters could have no or little say in local deer management. We find that incredible. Because deer hunters are perhaps most affected by County DMU decisions, we request that a majority of these committees be made up of holders of current deer licenses. Also, because each county could come up with different recommendations, we are concerned that it could lead to a checkerboard of regulations that will do anything but simplify hunting.
- An omission that I understand has recently been recognized and corrected in this rule package is the regulations for the crossbow seasons. We, and others, have gone to a great deal of effort to insure that crossbow hunters have their own identity, which has finally been accomplished; so we were a little surprised when this distinction was missed.
- Finally, we respectfully request you consider a change that will have a significant impact on our members. An antlerless or either-sex permit has been a part of every Wisconsin archery license almost since Wisconsin established the first archery deer season in the nation in 1930. This has never been a problem and has been part of the hunting tradition that Dr. Kroll is trying to maintain and restore.

In DMU's where there is a serious population problem, and no antlerless permits are issued for other seasons, we have always supported the regulation that archery antlerless tags are not valid in those units. Again, this has worked just fine in the limited areas where it has been necessary.

Brust

The proposal before you would eliminate the antlerless portion of the archery license across the whole northern tier of the state and the Central Forest – whether there is a deer problem or not. We are concerned that it unnecessarily removes hunting opportunity, which is certainly not Dr. Kroll's intent, and is counterproductive, at best, to apply it across such a large part of the state.

Besides changing part of our bowhunting heritage and taking away hunting opportunity, this new restriction is unnecessary in most cases, considering that the archery antlerless harvest has rarely been a significant factor in herd management.

Some of the discussion over adding this restriction was a consideration of the upcoming crossbow season, and a possible dramatic increase in harvest, including the antlerless harvest. Given that this is exactly why we separated the two seasons, we suggest that after the two year legislative restriction is satisfied, the data be analyzed and if warranted, the crossbow season be regulated accordingly - without penalizing archery hunters.

Another consideration in this issue that is harder to quantify, but is certainly significant, especially to gun hunters, is the long-held belief that the archery antlerless permits "saves bucks". The reality is that many archers are less inclined to return to the woods to pursue a second deer after they harvest their first with a bow. I believe DNR surveys have also shown this.

Which brings up perhaps our greatest concern with this change: the damage it will do to our (and your) efforts to recruit and retain hunters (bowhunters). Again, the reality is that many experienced bowhunters will pass on opportunities for legal antlerless deer. However, that's rarely the case for first-time, occasional and youth bowhunters, who are also less likely to invest in additional tags. Unnecessarily restricting opportunities or adding expense for these hunters only hurts our efforts to recruit and retain them.

Given all these considerations, we respectfully request that you make a minor adjustment to this rule package to retain the archery antlerless tag across the state - as has been the case in the past - and retain the existing rule where archery antlerless tags would not be valid in any unit where no antlerless tags are available for deer gun hunters.

Thank you.

Mike Brust  
President,  
Wisconsin Bowhunters Association

4A-1  
Hammel

MAMA

*MADISON ACTION FOR MINING ALTERNATIVES*

~~~~~ WATER IS LIFE ~~~~~

January 22, 2014

Madison Action for Mining Alternatives

Contact: Patricia Hammel (608) 279-4136; [patricia@herricklaw.net](mailto:patricia@herricklaw.net)

Or: Carl Sack (608) 712-8335; [northlandiguana@gmail.com](mailto:northlandiguana@gmail.com)

A Call to the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources to Carry Out Your Mission and Responsibility to Protect Our Natural Resources. A similar call was submitted to DNR staff in Ashland County.

We are Wisconsin citizens, worried about the direction we see the DNR Secretary and management going when mining companies come to our state to extract resources without regard for our water, air and communities. We do not trust Gogebic Taconite, Preferred Sands or the local version of Freedom Industries (polluters of the Elk River in West Virginia) to protect our interests. That should be the DNR's job.

Yet, although GTac's president is facing charges for injecting arsenic into an aquifer in Seville, Spain, the DNR cannot consider that information to stop them from bulk sampling in the Penokee Hills. GTac denies the existence of asbestos at the proposed mine site and attacks any scientist or agency that dares to tell the truth.

Frac sand mining companies operate without regulation of ultra fine silica sand particles, leaving local communities to monitor the dust and try to protect themselves from respiratory disease and polluted water.

We respectfully remind the Wisconsin DNR that it is your job to:

Protect and enhance our natural resources:

our air, land and water;

our wildlife, fish and forests

and the ecosystems that sustain all life.

To provide a healthy, sustainable environment

and a full range of outdoor opportunities.

To ensure the right of all people  
to use and enjoy these resources  
in their work and leisure.

To work with people

to understand each other's views

and to carry out the public will.

And in this partnership

consider the future  
and generations to follow. (From the Mission Statement of the Wisconsin DNR)

- 1) We ask that NO stormwater or air permits, and certainly no mining permit should be issued to GTac without full disclosure of the composition of the rocks they are drilling and blasting.
- 2) We call on you to exercise independent scientific judgment to carry out your mission to serve the public interests rather than the private interests of metallic and sand mining companies. Do not be intimidated or silenced by the mining companies' lobbyists or corporate-funded disinformation.
- 3) We remind you that we share the northern part of our state with indigenous people who never surrendered their rights to hunt, fish, gather and their usual privileges of occupancy under treaties negotiated with the United States, and ask you to respect them.
- 4) We ask you to embrace the Mission of the department and stand with us in defense of our land, our water, and our local communities that the DNR has to protect our home from polluters.

We call on you to recognize the insanity of a fragmented approach that sees bulk sampling and mining as separate activities requiring different levels of review. The only purpose of bulk sampling in the Penokees is to prepare for using massive amounts of explosives to destroy the Penokee Range and contaminate our air, land and water. It should not be allowed to progress without a full environmental review of the mining project as a whole.

Stand up to the assault on sanity and real science. Embrace the Mission of the department for which we employ you and return the DNR to the role for which it was created –“ To protect and enhance our natural resources: our air, land and water; our wildlife, fish and forests and the ecosystems that sustain all life.”

Thank you for your kind attention.