



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2011-12

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Natural Resources...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Gary, Tim

From: Rep.Mursau
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 10:38 AM
To: Agathen, Alisha; Augustyn, Jessie; Bahr, Dan; Battiato, Kate; Berken, Nathan; Childs, Niccole; Ehm, Katherine; Huesca, Beth; Junck, Linda; Keleher, Marylou; Konopacki, Larry; Letzing, Rachel; Lundgren, Doug; Michalak, Michelle; Mueller, Virginia; Rep.Clark; Rep.Danou; Rep.Hulsey; Rep.Kleefisch; Rep.Mason; Rep.Milroy; Rep.Molepske; Rep.Mursau; Rep.Nerison; Rep.OttJ; Rep.Rivard; Rep.Severson; Rep.Steineke; Rep.Tiffany; Rep.WilliamsM; Rude, Nels; Schoenfeldt, Eileen; Scholz, AJ; Selkove, Vicky; Smith-Loomans, Sandra; Stafford, Beau; Tobias, Ben; Van de Bogert, Abigail; Van de Bogert2, Abigail; Zimmerman, Terri
Subject: FW: AB 99
Attachments: NewPage Comments AB 99.pdf

Tim Gary

Wisconsin State Assembly
Office of **Representative Jeff Mursau**
36th Assembly District, Research Assistant
Committee on Natural Resources, Clerk
Committee on Forestry, Clerk
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952
(608) 266-3780
[Sign Up for E-Updates](#)

From: Souba Jr, Fred [mailto:Fred.SoubaJr@newpagecorp.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 5:17 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Cc: Gary, Tim
Subject: AB 99

Dear Representative Mursau,

I have attached a letter that expresses NewPage Corporation concerns regarding AB 99. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the hearing tomorrow because of previous business commitments.

NewPage appreciates the opportunity to express our concern to you and the Committee.

Best regards,

Fred

Fred Souba, Jr.
VP Wood Supply and Sustainability
NewPage Corporation
Office 715-422-3669
Cell 715-459-8789

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Subject: FW: AB-99
Attachments: Ltr_Rep_Mursau_Deer_Seasons.doc

Tim Gary

Wisconsin State Assembly
Office of **Representative Jeff Mursau**
36th Assembly District, Research Assistant
Committee on Natural Resources, Clerk
Committee on Forestry, Clerk
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From: Jerry VanCleve [mailto:jvancleve@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 3:50 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Cc: tomalbrecht@frontier.com; Buenzow, MaryAnn - DNR; Cooper, Randal J - DNR; david@dcforestryconsulting.com; paul.doruska@uwsp.edu; john.duplissis@uwsp.edu; Gallagher, James M - DNR; rpguries@wisc.edu; haakonh@slstomahawk.com; Held, Kirsten L - DNR; HOUGHTONE@michigan.gov; james.kerkman@us.army.mil; mbkiefer@centurytel.net; jkotar@wisc.edu; alach757@uwsp.edu; Mather, Robert J - DNR; bill.obrion@plumcreek.com; Peltier, Julie M - DNR; fiveperrys@athenet.net; paulpingrey@gmail.com; arahmlow@wisc.edu; a4strinwi@gmail.com; Schneider, Ron A - DNR; wjsmith@fs.fed.us; Spencer, Brian D - DNR; drsforestry@yahoo.com; Vander Wyst, Gary J - DNR; Melinda.Vokoun@uwsp.edu
Subject: AB-99

The Honorable Jeffrey Mursau
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources
Wisconsin State Assembly

RE: AB-99

Please see the attached letter expressing the concerns of the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters about Assembly Bill 99 limiting the DNR's ability to set deer seasons.

4/29/2011

Thank you,

Jerry Van Cleve, CF
Chair, Wisconsin Society of American Foresters
715-362-1346
715-264-2511
jvancleve@fs.fed.us

Gary, Tim

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To: Agathen, Alisha; Augustyn, Jessie; Bahr, Dan; Battiato, Kate; Berken, Nathan; Childs, Nicole; Ehm, Katherine; Huesca, Beth; Junck, Linda; Keleher, Marylou; Konopacki, Larry; Letzing, Rachel; Lundgren, Doug; Michalak, Michelle; Mueller, Virginia; Rep.Clark; Rep.Danou; Rep.Hulsey; Rep.Kleefisch; Rep.Mason; Rep.Milroy; Rep.Molepske; Rep.Mursau; Rep.Nerison; Rep.OttJ; Rep.Rivard; Rep.Severson; Rep.Steineke; Rep.Tiffany; Rep.WilliamsM; Rude, Nels; Schoenfeldt, Eileen; Scholz, AJ; Selkove, Vicky; Smith-Loomans, Sandra; Stafford, Beau; Tobias, Ben; Van de Bogert, Abigail; Van de Bogert2, Abigail; Zimmerman, Terri
Subject: FW: Letter regarding Assembly Bill 99
Attachments: TNCdeerpopulationANRC.docx

Tim Gary

Wisconsin State Assembly
Office of **Representative Jeff Mursau**
36th Assembly District, Research Assistant
Committee on Natural Resources, Clerk
Committee on Forestry, Clerk
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952
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[Sign Up for E-Updates](#)

From: Casey J. Eggleston [mailto:ceggleston@TNC.ORG]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 12:39 PM
To: Rep.Mursau; Gary, Tim
Subject: Letter regarding Assembly Bill 99

Dear Representative,

I am submitting a letter regarding The Nature Conservancy's concerns with AB 99 ahead of your committee meeting on Wednesday. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,
Casey Eggleston

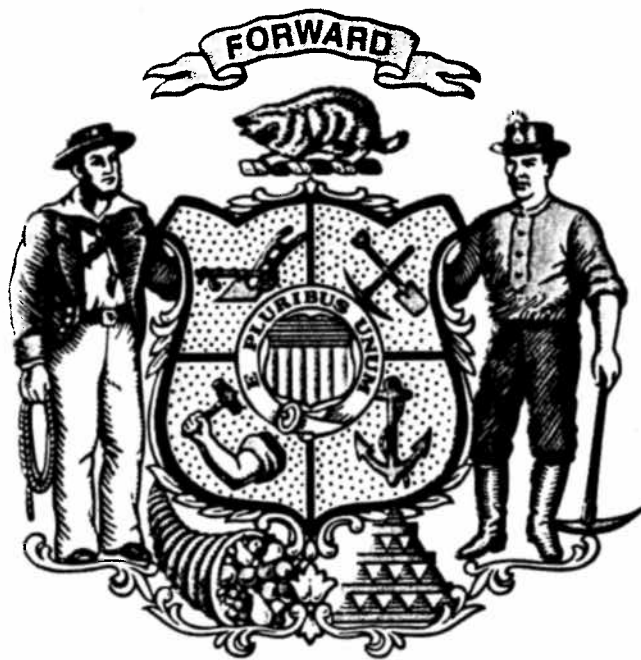
Casey Eggleston
Government Relations Coordinator

ceggleston@tnc.org
(608) 316-6412 (Phone)
(608) 251-8535 (Fax)

The Nature Conservancy
Wisconsin Chapter
633 W. Main St
Madison, WI 53703



nature.org



Gary, Tim

From: Mark Noll [nollfarm@tds.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 10:04 AM
To: Rep.Mursau
Cc: Vinehout, Kathleen; Chris Danou; Rep.Rivard
Subject: AB 99

Honorable Chairman Mursau,

I am unable to make your Natural Resources Committee hearing today on AB 99.

I am a 59 year old dairy farmer and sixth generation land owner from Buffalo County. I started deer hunting when I could walk along with my dad and his brothers. In 1964, I started to carry my own gun. I still actively hunt deer with bow, muzzleloader, and rifle. I have been actively involved in state and local deer management my entire adult life.

I feel there is no reason to use a state-wide statute change to outlaw Earn-A-Buck. Doing so would only cripple the future deer management efforts of the Department of Natural Resources.

EAB is applied on a Unit by Unit basis, not state-wide. I don't love EAB, but it does work. Also, I think that it was over used in the past in some areas of the state. In other areas, (like DMU 61 in Buffalo County), it is the only current, effective tool that has been proven to bring deer populations down as deer hunting methods and sociology change.

Deer Hunting Heritage Bill? I'd give anything to return to those wonderful deer hunting times back in the sixties, seventies, and eighties. It would be wonderful to hunt like we used to, but that is history. We now have to manage for the future. Things are changing in many parts of Wisconsin. For instance, we now have a huge deer hunting business that desires large deer populations.

The case in point is my home unit, DMU 61. It is absolutely the world's best whitetail deer habitat....second to none! Deer here are very prolific, with rich farmland fields intermingled with the hardwood forests of the steep and rolling driftless area. More than 75% of it's total area is considered prime deer habitat. Winter kill and predator kill are nearly non-existent. Although the wonderful habitat in the unit was always privately controlled, that private control has shifted over the last 30 years from totally agricultural to nearly total recreational.

The well known genetics of Buffalo County cause millions of dollars in land-lease money to change hands here yearly. Trophy management is rampant.

4/29/2011

True quality deer management has mostly been swept aside with the thought that more deer make more bucks. More bucks means more dollars! Outfitters are even having a hard time locking up enough acreage for their buck hunting clients. They now compete with very well-healed investors that are still swallowing up whatever hunting land they can get. Real estate prices have not fallen here. Getting these people to shoot antlerless deer is nearly impossible. The effects of a burgeoning deer population here are being felt by farming and forestry interests and will only get worse. Even though we are currently a Herd Control Unit, everyone agrees that populations are on the rise here without EAB. EAB in use, or by threat, is all we currently have to bring the deer population down to acceptable levels!

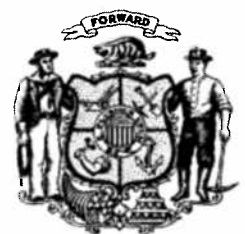
Please consider that there are places in Wisconsin (Like DMU 61) that will definitely need harsh management control very soon. The Wisconsin DNR needs to keep the EAB tool in their toolbox so that they can retain the flexibility to confront whatever deer management challenges arise in various parts of Wisconsin, especially where I live and hunt. Until EAB is replaced with something more effective, it would be foolish to throw this tool away!

Sincerely submitted,

***Mark A. Noll
S-1917 Buena Vista Road
Alma, WI 54610
(608) 685-4580***



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Testimony Before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on AB 99, April 27, 2011

Chairman Mursau and Committee Memers, my name is Michael Arrowood from Oakfield Wisconsin and I am here representing myself, a Wisconsin deer hunter for the past 39 years.

Unlike some here, I believe Earn-a-Buck is the most necessary deer management tool in Wisconsin. It is the truest form of Quality Deer Management that exists as a regulatory tool.

The DNR has attempted to control deer populations with hunters choice permits, herd control permits, T Zone hunts, bonus permits, late season doe only hunts and none have resulted in sufficient harvest of the doe populations to reduce herd size. Only through the use of EAB has true herd control been attained

I live in Unit 68A where EAB has been in existence for ten of years. Even with EAB it has been difficult to manage the deer herd at the statute mandated 25 deer per square mile of winter habitat. I have counted as many as 54 deer out of my dining room window in the picked corn field east of the house. It is impossible for me to plant small trees without having them in a wire cage for the first ten years. This is the case even with EAB in place. Without EAB it will be virtually impossible to control the deer population where I live.

The big question before you is "What next"? What is Your grand plan to maintain deer populations within the statute mandated per square mile level. Simply voting to eliminate Earn-a-Buck via. AB 99 does absolutely nothing constructive.

Do you have an alternative plan or are you simply going to dump on the DNR to come up with another unworkable plan so the Wisconsin Deer Whiners Association can bash the DNR for lack of Quality Deer Management?

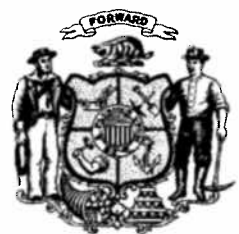
Removing does from the population is the only way deer populations are controlled. EAB is the most successful and uniform method of accomplishing this management goal. Absolutely no other harvest technique has been as successful. I ask you to leave EAB in place.

I personally do not want to go back to the good old days of what I call YoYo deer management where we have 13,000 doe permits this year, 3,000 the next, 15,000 the next and on and on.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify today.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Testimony Before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on Assembly Bill 99---April 27, 2011

Chairman Mursau and Committee Members, my name is Ralph Fritsch from Townsend, Wisconsin and I am Chair of the Wildlife Committee of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The Federation is the state's largest conservation organization representing over 160 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry-related groups.

Our members are normal sportsmen and women who by and large love to deer hunt. No doubt the great majority of us would like to see the woods and fields we hunt have a very large number of deer, preferably big bucks with Boone and Crockett antlers. If we are bowhunters, we too would rather not have anyone else in the woods while we are in our tree stand.

Regardless of these desires, the Wildlife Federation considers itself a responsible deer hunting organization that understands that we can't just have things all our way and that deer management has to be conducted in a manner that takes into account not just deer hunters but the private landowners that provide the habitat for deer and provide the access for us on to their lands to hunt the deer.

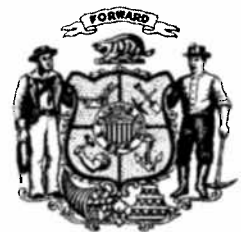
That is why the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is proud to be at this hearing today standing tall with farmers and farm organizations, woodland owners, lumber companies, ecologists, paper companies and land trusts to oppose the PERMANENT removal of important deer management techniques such as Earn-a-Buck and October Herd Control Seasons. Few, if any of our members like Earn-a-Buck, but we also know that without these management tools being available, there is no doubt that sometime in the near future some, if not many, deer management units will have serious over-population of deer and will cause substantial agricultural, silvicultural and ecological damage to landowners in the state. That is not responsible deer management.

Assembly Bill 99 undermines the efforts of the new Administration at DNR that has substantially increased its efforts to reach out to sportsmen and women to work with them closer in fashioning deer hunting regulations. The bill's permanent prohibition on certain deer management techniques also the limits the ability of the deer trustee proposed to be appointed by Governor Walker to come up with new and innovative ways to manage the deer herd.

In conclusion, the Wildlife Federation requests the Committee to allow the 2011 deer season to go forward as adopted by the Natural Resources Board today and to give the new DNR Administration the chance to fulfill its commitment to sportsmen and women to work with us this summer to take a fresh look at future alternatives to deer hunting in Wisconsin. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify here today.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





April 27, 2011

**Wisconsin Consulting Foresters(WCF) Position Statement on
2011 Assembly Bill 99**

Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF) is a 501.c.6 non-profit trade association whose members provide professional forestry services to clients throughout Wisconsin. WCF provides a voice for forestry professions that serve the small woodland owners of Wisconsin. Members of WCF contribute greatly to the continued growth and development of forest management practices and policies throughout the State. We thank the Committee on Natural Resources for the opportunity to comment on 2011 Assembly Bill 99.

Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF), following review of 2011 Assembly Bill 99, find potential for the Bill to have significant negative impacts on the natural and artificial regeneration of the forests of this State. Between 2003 and 2008 the average annual removals of timber from the forests of Wisconsin were 327 million cubic feet. In these years the average net annual growth exceeded harvest and other removals by 259 million cubic feet. In 2008, 65,000 individuals were employed by the forest products industry. Wisconsin's forest products industries comprise 15.2% of all manufacturing sectors and provide \$3 billion per year in wages to the Wisconsin economy. This industry is based on a renewable resource that is becoming non-renewable in parts of this State where deer populations are making our woodlots look like pastures as opposed to diverse, complex ecosystems with variable structure. If these woodlands cannot be regenerated due to excessive deer populations, our economy is going to experience an adverse impact. As Natural Resource professionals we appreciate the need to have as many management tools available to us as possible when managing the forest. We have been seeing natural regeneration and artificial tree planting projects failing due to decimation from deer browsing. As Foresters we have the ability and tools to successfully regenerate the forest in all areas of this State. However, the biggest risk to that success is browsing by a deer herd that is above acceptable levels. WCF does not take a stance on whether the tools that are being used to manage deer herd populations are appropriate. We do believe that the Department of Natural Resources has hired dedicated professionals that have been well trained to manage the natural resources of this State including the deer herd. Using every tool available is absolutely essential as they work to achieve the optimum deer herd that provides a balance for recreational hunting and still allows the forest of Wisconsin to regenerate and grow. This balance will take time and will certainly mean that deer populations will fluctuate. As forester's we are excited that over the last several years we have been able to once again recommend the planting of oak and white pine and have observed natural oak regeneration that actually has terminal buds that will equate into optimum growth this spring. These observations are only possible in areas where the deer population is at target levels, but it is an improvement. These landowners are still hunting and harvesting deer on a regular basis. The problem

is not the tools, it is the learning process involved in using the tools to effectively and efficiently produce the desired product and that can be frustrating and it can take time. Wisconsin can have a viable deer population and a flourishing forest ecosystem, but it may require using methods that are not always popular with all interested parties. The Natural Resource professionals will need every tool available to achieve this very fine balance that must be predicated by science and not by politics.

Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF) respectfully requests that the Committee consider leaving in place for the Natural Resource Professionals of this State all current management tools for managing the white-tailed deer population and recommend to the Legislature that 2011 Assembly Bill 99 be discontinued.

Sincerely,

WB 4-27-11



Kimberly K. Quast, Chair
Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF)



APRIL 27, 2011

ASSEMBLY BILL 99 IN OPPOSITION

TESTIMONY FROM ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Doris Rusch, Vice President

My name is Doris Rusch and I am speaking on behalf of the Association of Retired Conservationists in opposition to AB 99. Members are retired resource managers, people who've spent their lifetime studying, managing and protecting Wisconsin's natural resources and whose passions revolve around sustaining our native ecosystems.

The people of Wisconsin appreciate the diversity of resources in this great state, and are aware that to maintain this diversity it is important to keep ecosystems in a healthy balance.

When ecosystems get out of whack, we lose diversity. When the population of one species grows, other species take a hit. In Wisconsin and many other states, the recent upward trend in deer populations has demonstrated this. Forests and woodlands lose both important tree species and herbaceous species. Deer browse young oak, maple, hemlock, white cedar, dogwood, ect. and graze on the native herbaceous species, trilliums, cupplant, blueberry, violet. In Pennsylvania, high deer populations have forced woodland owners to erect deer fences in order to regenerate the valuable trees in the forest.

Deer have a high reproductive capability. A fawn born in the spring can breed in the fall, and deliver a fawn the following spring. Where food is available in good quantity in winter, most does have twins or triplets. Given that starvation is no longer much of a factor in maintaining deer numbers, there have to be other means to control deer population growth, and those other means involve harvest by human hunters.

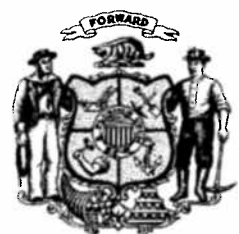
Wildlife managers are charged by law with the duty of maintaining healthy ecosystems. Manipulation of harvest is about the only option, and they thus need the capability to regulate season and bags as to keep numbers in balance with habitat. Although early seasons and Earn-a-buck have been unpopular with some, they have been effective in reducing deer densities.

There are other issues besides healthy ecosystems associated with deer density. Numbers of vehicle-deer collisions growing exponentially as both human density and deer density increase. CWD is a huge issue. A low density of deer slows the spread of the disease. Reducing population in those areas is critical to maintaining the health of our deer herd into the future.

Keeping all options for management on the table is critical. Don't tie the hands of those charged with resource management. Please reject Assembly bill 99.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Wisconsin County Forests Association

Jane Severt, Executive Director
518 W. Somo Ave.
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Elroy Zemke, President
Rothschild, Wisconsin

Paul Lokken, Vice President
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Beverly Larson, Treasurer
Wausau, Wisconsin

Louis Winkler, Director
Gillette, Wisconsin

William Walker, Director
Marinette, Wisconsin

Tom Rudolph, Director
Rhinelander, Wisconsin

Mike Rolger, Director
Medford, Wisconsin

Tom Thompson, Director
Mercer, Wisconsin

Dan Hubin, Director
Shell Lake, Wisconsin

Ed Kelley, Director
Florence, Wisconsin

Graham Rankin, Director
Irma, Wisconsin

Norm Bickford, Director
Webster, Wisconsin

John Robinson, Director
Superior, Wisconsin

Robert Blaszkowski, Director
Ashland, Wisconsin

Paul Streif, Director
Clear Lake, Wisconsin

Robert Ebner
Director at Large
Cameron, Wisconsin

James Barrett
Director at Large
Minong, Wisconsin



WCFA Testimony for April 27, 2011 Public Hearing of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources Re: AB99

Chair Mursau and members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on proposed legislation contained in AB99.

My name is Jane Severt and I currently serve as Executive Director for Wisconsin County Forests Association. For the record, I have been a deer hunter in Wisconsin for over 40 years and I am also a professional forester.

Wisconsin County Forests Association represents the 29 counties in Wisconsin with county forest lands established under state statutes §28.10 and 28.11. Collectively these counties manage nearly 2.4 million acres of forests, the largest public ownership in our state. Our county forests are managed for multiple use; timber, recreation, wildlife, and water protection.

As professional foresters and public land managers we are concerned with the effects an overabundant deer herd has on our forest ecosystems. Natural resource management often times involves trade-offs; we give up certain resources to gain others. We are opposed to maintaining large deer numbers as a trade-off for healthy forest ecosystems. As professional foresters our primary concern is the maintenance of healthy, diverse forest ecosystems. Healthy, diverse forests provide sustainable harvesting opportunities to fuel Wisconsin's \$20 billion timber industry and they also provide abundant recreational opportunities, like hunting, to fuel Wisconsin's \$5 billion tourism industry. Wisconsin's public forests truly are relied on by a wide variety of users.

As professional foresters our position on the management of Wisconsin's deer herd is based on science. We believe it is essential for WDNR wildlife biologists to have all necessary tools available in the management of Wisconsin's deer herd.

Wisconsin's forests are negatively impacted when deer numbers exceed scientifically established population goals. There is simply no denying that high deer populations alter our forests' composition and structure. The seedling, sapling, shrub, and ground layers of our forests are changed when preferred browsing species decline or are eliminated. In many areas elimination of native species of plants by an overabundant deer herd opens the door for introduction of exotic invasive species. Deer browsing by an overabundant herd causes economic losses due to reduced tree survival and growth and often inhibits regeneration both in natural and plantation settings. Several of our member counties have spent tens of thousands of dollars on deer abatement measures such as fencing and bud capping in efforts to regenerate forests.

Wisconsin's county forests are 3rd party certified under both Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification standards. The effects of a large deer herd on forest sustainability have not gone unnoticed by forest certification auditors. As our efforts at regeneration of forests are hampered by large deer numbers our ability to practice sustainable forestry is also questioned by forest certification bodies.

For additional consideration; Wisconsin is currently conducting deer research projects aimed at addressing hunters' concerns relative to deer population numbers. Would it not be good business to hold off on legislative measures until the results of that research are known?

In closing, we would like to restate our position on baiting and feeding of deer. We strongly believe that a statewide ban on baiting and feeding of deer would be in the best interest of both hunters and land managers.

We appreciate the difficult position you are in due to concerns expressed by your constituents but we respectfully request that wildlife management be left to the professional biologists hired to do the job.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Telephone: 715-453-6741

Email: wcfa@frontier.com

Website: www.wisconsincountyforests.com



Assembly Natural Resources Testimony
Assembly Bill 99
Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Good afternoon Chairman Marsau and members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. My name is Kurt Thiede, Administrator for the Division of Lands, with the Department of Natural Resources. I am joined to day, at your request, by Jeff Pritzl, our Acting big Game Ecologist. Forestry Division Administrator, Paul DeLong is also available today to answer your questions.

Deer hunting is a strong tradition in the state and an important economic driver. Deer hunting in Wisconsin creates more than \$1 billion of economic activity annually, and supports 16,000 jobs. Wisconsin has one of the top three deer harvests per square mile of any state in the country, one of the highest buck harvests per square mile, and the highest number of trophy bucks registered with Boone and Crockett (gun) and Pope and Young (archery).

Each year, wildlife managers use data from the past years' hunt – from hunter deer registration stubs, fawn production observations, winter stress reports and more to estimate the size of the deer herd by management unit. The number of deer by unit is compared to deer population goals, and a season structure aimed at keeping deer in line with goals and habitat carrying capacity is recommended to the state Natural Resources Board.

I want to also mention a few extra steps we undertook this year. Secretary Stepp placed a priority on meeting directly with department field staff and external conservation organizations on the work we do. Deer management is a major responsibility for our department, so she asked that Executive Secretary Scott Gunderson and I meet with our regional wildlife field staff and our major deer hunting interest groups this winter to make sure we had a good understanding of the deer management issues before us. Biologist and hunters shared their observations, science, preferences and recommendations.

Before taking questions I wanted to share with you the proposal that we presented to our Natural Resources Board earlier today. We established this proposal understanding the need for the cooperation of our partners, the landowners and the hunters to help manage this deer herd. That is why we've decided to implement herd control tools more acceptable to hunters in 2011. As I review the specifics of this proposal you will notice that there are some similarities between our proposal, and AB 99.

It is no secret that the two things that we heard loud and clear from all hunting groups is to suspend EAB and October gun hunting. The use of October gun seasons and earn-a-buck requirements remain intensely unpopular with significant portions of hunters. Reasons for opposition include: disruption of archery seasons, disagreement on deer herd size and the need for herd control, concern over the inability to shoot a trophy buck should the hunter have the opportunity before earning his tag, and an uneven distribution of deer within units. In making these recommendations to the Board for this year, we are very aware of these concerns. We are also aware that our updated deer population estimates indicate that herd growth has occurred in much of the state. Our recommendations attempt to strike a balance between hunter desires and the need retain some herd control for this year.

Hunters are the backbone of our deer management system. Without their buy-in and participation, any population or management goal is unachievable. We need the cooperation of our partners, the landowners and the hunters to help manage this deer herd. That is why we've decided to implement less aggressive herd control tools in 2011.

For 2011, we have recommended 36 units for regular gun deer seasons and reduced the number of units recommended for a zero antlerless quota from 18 to 8 units. Designated as "zero quota" units meaning that neither gun deer hunters nor archery deer hunters could shoot an antlerless deer. For these 8 units, we want to maximize herd growth to get these units back to established populations goals. In the 12 former zero-quota units, we've recommended quotas that will promote herd growth but do not grow the herd too much... as we don't want high quotas or herd control seasons in 2012. [Units 3, 7, 29B, 34, 35, 39, 44, and 45]

In zero quota and regular Deer Management Units there will be a 9-day deer gun season, a 2-day youth hunt, the early and late archery seasons, 4-day December antlerless hunt, and a 10-day muzzleloader hunt.

In 95 units outside the CWD zone where deer populations are substantially above goals, unlimited \$2 antlerless tags will be available, there will be a 9-day deer gun season, a 2-day youth hunt, the early and late archery seasons, 4-day December antlerless hunt, and a 10-day muzzleloader hunt but **no October firearm season.**

We are recommending a suspension of the October 4-day antlerless season for Herd Control units. These units will have unlimited antlerless harvest permits available at \$2/permit. We are aware that suspending the October season is likely to reduce the anticipated antlerless harvest based upon past experience with the October season moratorium in 2007 and 2008.

In the CWD disease management zone, hunters' **first deer can be either sex**, with Earn-a-buck requirements kicking in after that. In other words, in the CWD management zone archery and gun hunters are allowed to harvest a deer of either sex as their first deer. If hunters wish to pursue additional deer under their archery or gun deer license they would then need to follow the traditional earn-a-buck rules. CWD Management zone buck stickers earned in 2010 will be honored in 2011 and hunters can obtain up to 4 free CWD antlerless tags per day. These tags can only be used in the CWD zone. There **will be** a 2-day Youth Hunt, 4-day October gun hunt, a 4-day December gun hunt, a muzzleloader hunt and the Holiday gun hunts in the CWD zone.

We have tried unlimited either-sex seasons in the past, and we have tired EAB. We've not yet given this option, first deer either sex followed by EAB, an opportunity. We fully recognize that there are trade-offs with this recommendation. History tells us that most hunters will not harvest more than 1 or 2 deer; not wanting to take more than they will consume. As a result, we will likely see a reduction in our total antlerless harvest as more hunters will fill their tags with bucks instead of antlerless deer this year. From a disease perspective, we know that adult males have the highest prevalence of the disease and an increased harvest can help remove more infected deer from the herd.

Hunters within this zone have had EAB since 2007 and, simply put, are growing weary of EAB. Many hunters report that it can be very difficult to harvest an antlerless deer within some areas of this zone. In addition, many hunters within the CWD management zone are not up-to-date on current CWD information and question the rationale for continued EAB seasons. As a department, it's clear that we must work harder at our outreach efforts to hunters and landowners on this disease.

Together, these rules are necessary in order to foster participation by hunters and landowners so they will continue to hunt and cooperate in CWD control and deer herd management. This proposal balances pressing social concerns about the quality of the deer hunt with the need for effective herd control measures such as additional antlerless deer harvest in management units that are more than 20% over population goals or simply over population goals in units that are part of the CWD Management Zone. This rule will increase harvest on bucks which have a higher prevalence of CWD and, because of their greater dispersal distances, have a higher likelihood of spreading CWD. However, the rule retains a herd control tool which requires that antlerless deer be harvested before additional bucks (beyond the initial one) may be taken.

In addition, this fall we will make a major effort to increase our education and outreach on CWD. Our efforts will utilize internet, TV, print and radio media to guide CWD zone hunters and landowners to information on the status of CWD within Wisconsin. Our hope is to raise awareness about the important role they can have in the long-term direction of this disease. I believe this message will have a better chance of success at the same time we are also relaxing our EAB regulations.

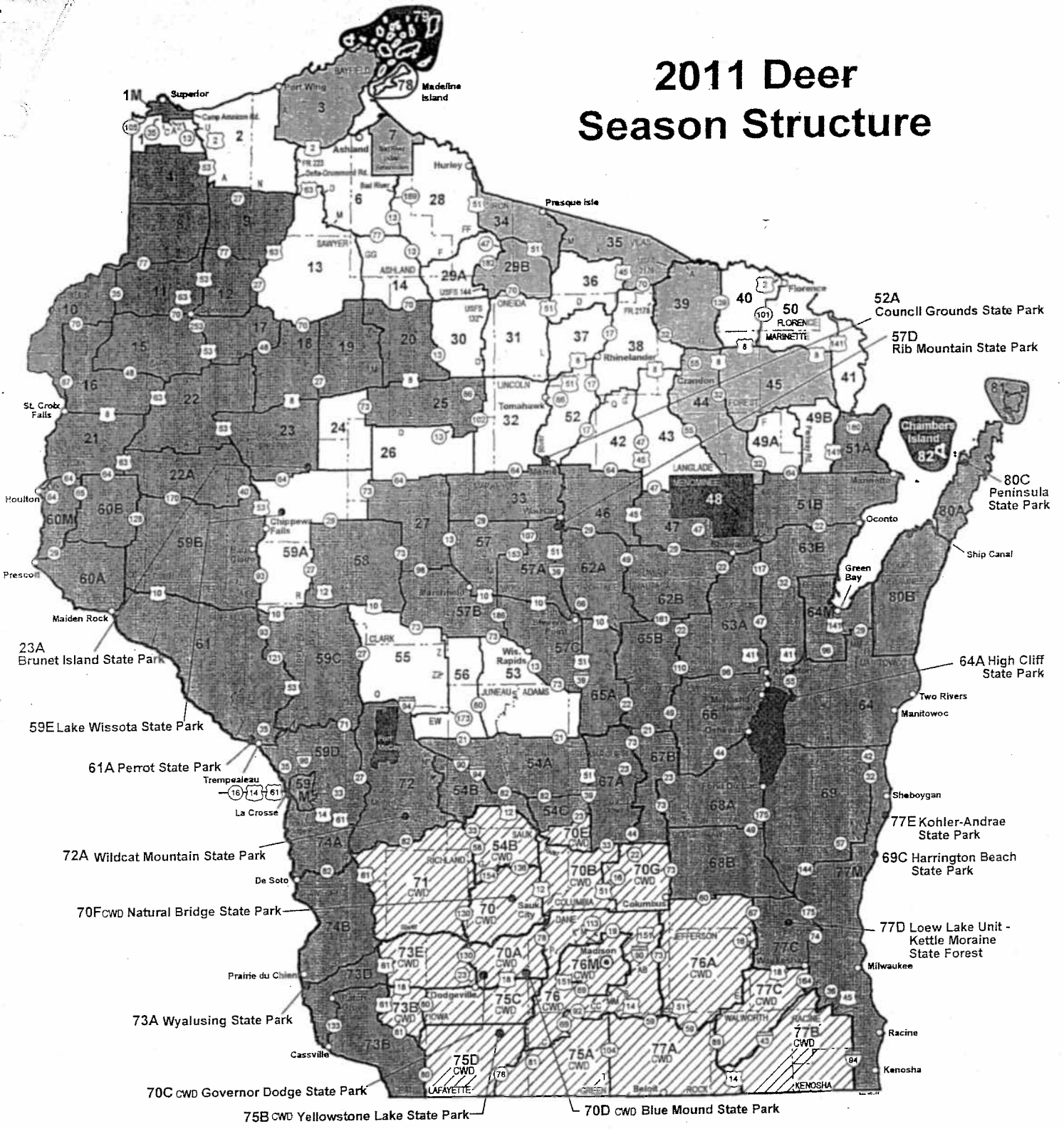
National experts say we have one of the best population estimate systems in the nation – but no system is perfect. We are taking efforts to make our population estimates better and to figure out how the uneven distribution of deer on public versus private land is impacting those numbers. Accordingly, we've initiated deer research in northwest and east-central Wisconsin to answer hunter questions about predators and buck harvest rates to further improve our system. We're just beginning a 5-year study of buck mortality and fawn survival in hopes of improving our population estimating procedures. This is the largest deer research project our department has ever undertaken.






We want to work with hunters. We want to come to agreement on numbers and goals and harvest antlerless deer where needed. Secretary Stepp has directed staff to undertake a review of our deer management policies and procedures this year. I believe for our deer program to be successful; we need to ensure our management system (DMUs, population goals, public involvement, disease control, etc.) is as sound as the science we use. This review is an opportunity to step back and look at the overall system and identify opportunities for improvement that we should undertake.

In regards to AB99, there are two points I'd like to make. First, is the issue of permanent removal of two herd control strategies that we've effectively utilized in the past – Earn-a-buck and October antlerless hunts. While unpopular, and while we've suspended their use outside the CWD zone for 2011, the time may come when we would like to have those tools available again. Which leads to my second point, we understand that laws could be written to bring these options back if they are absolutely needed, but a key to managing wildlife populations is the ability to assess current needs, make recommendations and quickly have them in place, through our Board, and through the legislative review process. We are concerned that if these tools are taken away, and we need them back, we will have to wait for a bill, and we don't foresee reinstating either of these issues as a popular bill to sponsor or pass in the future.

Thank you for your time. We would be happy to answer your questions.

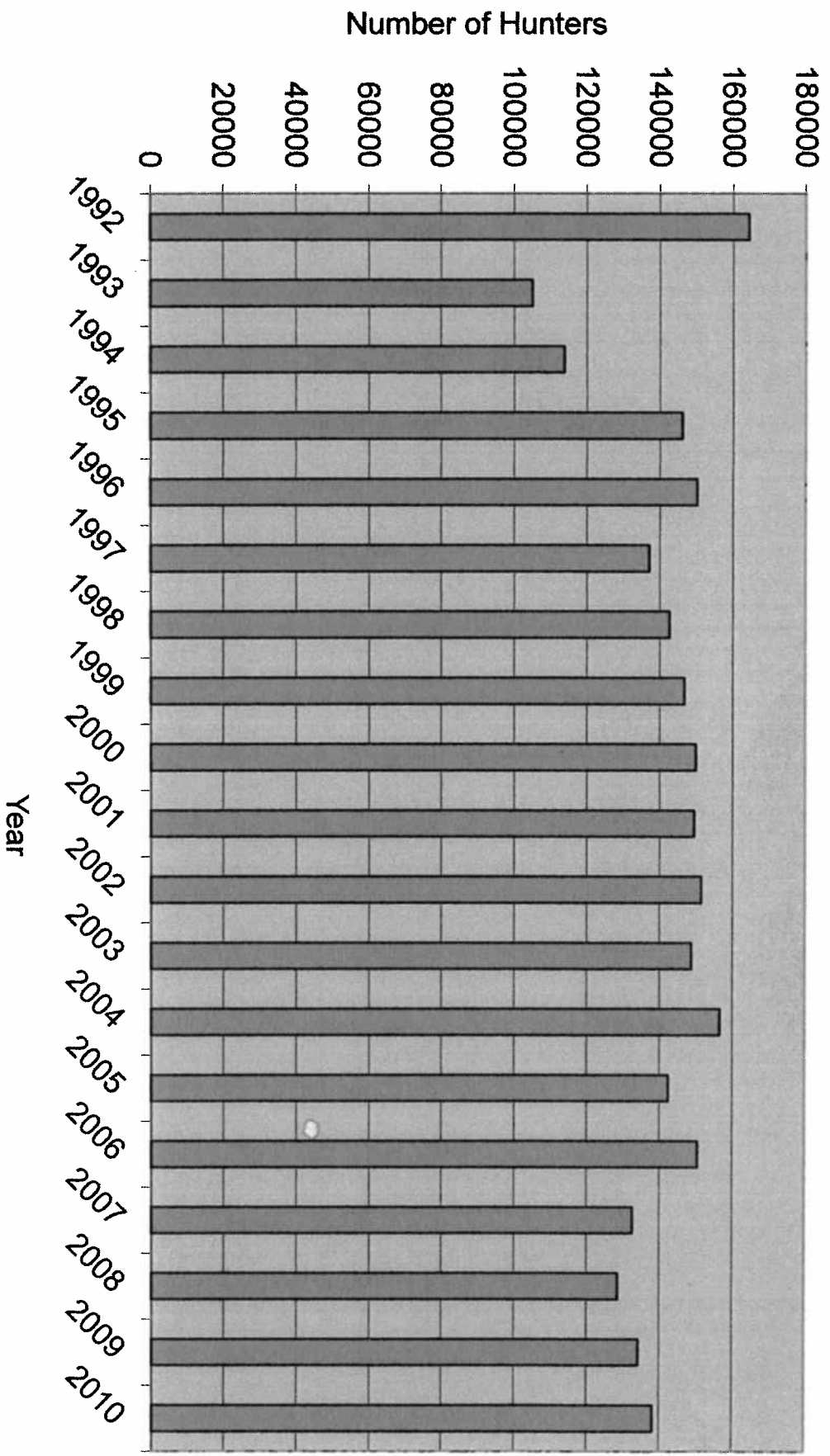
2011 Deer Season Structure



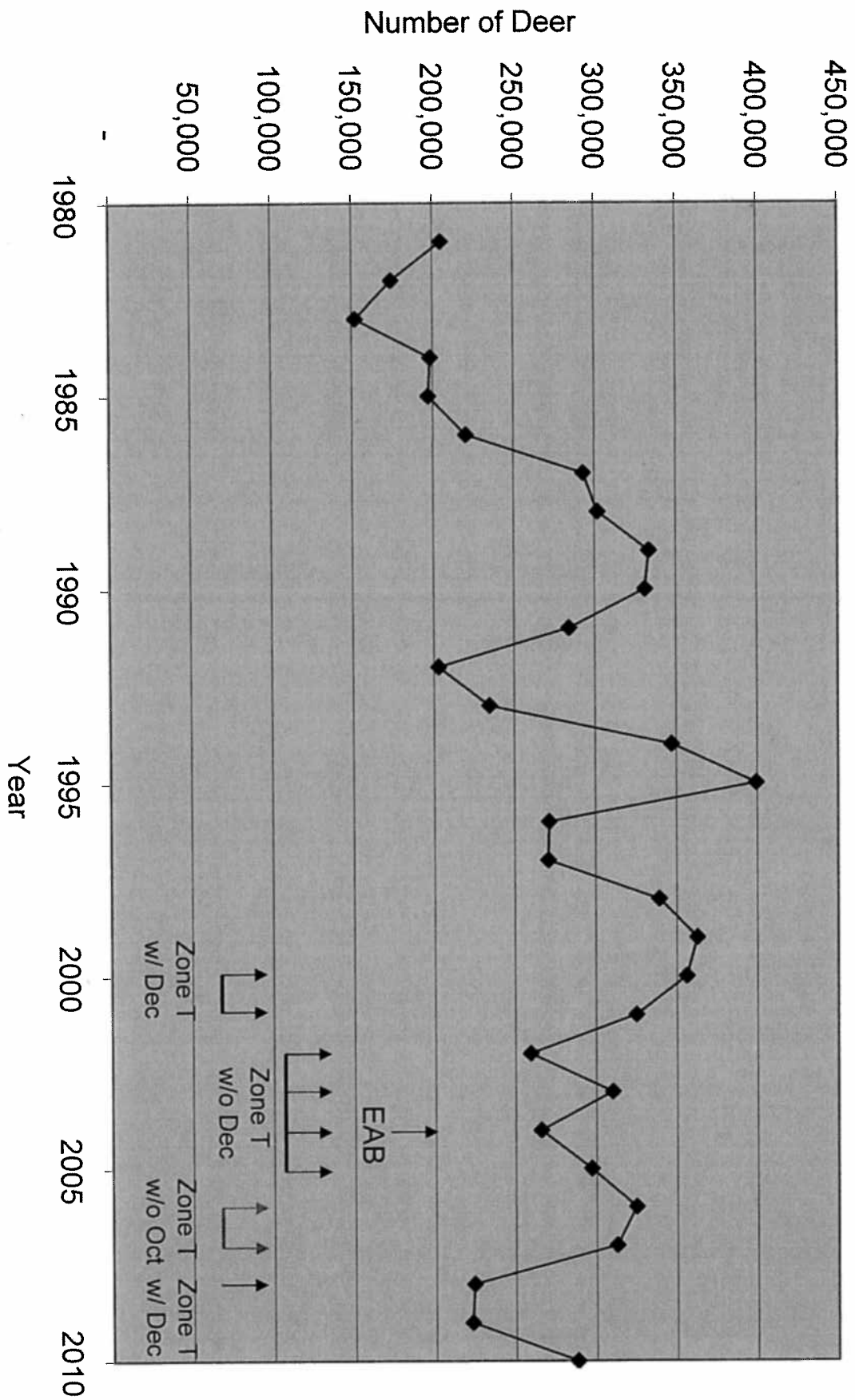
-  Regular Unit
-  Regular Unit - Buck Only
-  Herd Control Unit - Unlimited Antlerless Permits
-  CWD Unit - 1st deer either-sex, EAB for all subsequent deer
-  Non - Quota Area

- Oct. 13-16 - Antlerless only gun hunt* in CWD units only
- Dec. 8-11 Antlerless only gun hunt* in all units statewide, except non-quota areas
- * Antlerless only restrictions apply to both gun and archery hunters

Estimated number of hunters on opening day of the 9 day gun season in DMUs north of Hwy 8, 1993-2010

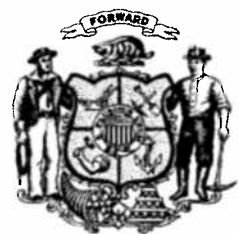


Posthunt Deer Population Estimates in DMUs North of Hwy 8, 1981-2010





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Wisconsin Society of American Foresters



April 27, 2011

The Honorable Jeffrey Mursau
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources
Wisconsin State Assembly
Capitol 18 North
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Public hearing on Assembly Bill 99 relating to firearm deer seasons. AB-99 would prohibit the DNR from establishing "Earn-a-Buck" seasons, and would also restrict the ability of the DNR to establish early gun doe ("Zone T" or "Herd Control") seasons.

Dear Representative Mursau:

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the largest organization of professional foresters in the world, with about 400 members in Wisconsin including industry foresters, public foresters (state, federal, county, tribal), private consulting foresters, and professors. The mission of SAF is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry to ensure the health and availability of forest resources for current and future generations.

Over 86,000 Wisconsin jobs rely on our \$28 billion/year forest industry. Forest industries and related companies are the #1 employer in 23 Wisconsin counties. Wisconsin produces more paper than any other state in the Union.

Over-abundant deer cause serious negative impacts to biodiversity, forest ecosystems, and sustainable forestry by selectively browsing on understory plants and tree seedlings. White pine, hemlock, and oak, for example, cannot be successfully regenerated in many parts of Wisconsin unless costly measures are undertaken such as putting up fences to keep deer out, or spraying trees annually for several years with a deer repellent. Most private forest owners cannot afford such measures.

The Department of Natural Resources sets deer population goals to balance hunter success with other factors including carrying capacity of the land, ecological and economic impacts to forestry, deer-vehicle collisions, and tolerable levels of crop damage. Years of liberal doe seasons and earn-a-buck requirements have had the desired effect of reducing the deer population to the goal in many deer management units. In fact, the deer population is too low in many northeast Wisconsin units. Herd control



Society of American Foresters
Growing better all the time

measures are no longer needed in these areas, at least not now. However, deer populations are very dynamic and can swing from being low to being excessive in just a few years. In addition, many DMUs south of the tension zone remain above goal.

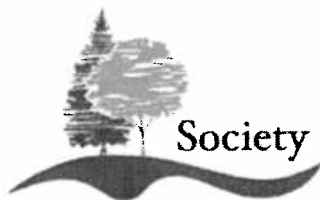
The DNR needs to have the tools available to maintain the deer herd at the goals, including October doe hunts and yes, even Earn-a-Buck when needed. The health of our forests and forest-based economy depend on it. Don't let a minority of dissatisfied hunters impede one of our leading industries by raising the costs of growing timber.

We foresters are deer hunters, too! Deer hunting is a valuable and important part of Wisconsin's economy and culture. But the interests of a few vocal hunters accustomed to decades of deer over-abundance should not be allowed to threaten the viability of Wisconsin's premier forest industry.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerry R. Van Cleve, CF

Jerry R. Van Cleve, Certified Forester
Chair, Wisconsin Society of American Foresters
jvanclave@fs.fed.us
715-362-1346 (Rhineland)er)
715-264-2511 (Glidden)



Society of American Foresters
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Testimony before Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Pertaining to Assembly Bill 99 restricting the DNR's use of certain deer regulations

Weds April 27, 2011 – 17 North – GAR Hall
Don Waller, Prof. of Botany & Environmental Studies, Univ. of Wisconsin – Madison

The legislature and your committee face a simple question here, namely:
Who sets deer policy in Wisconsin?

Assembly Bill 99 proposes to remove this authority from the Wisc DNR and vest it instead in the State Legislature.

While we've had many approaches to deer management in the past which I'll review in a moment, this is a wholly unprecedented move and one that deserves careful public review.

Personally, I think it's a terrible idea – for 3 different reasons:

1. It removes key tools in the DNR's quiver for managing deer populations
2. It ignores the lasting damage that deer are having on forests, crops, and wildlife
3. But mainly because it sets a terrible precedent. It completely transforms the legal and administrative basis for managing wildlife in our state by placing the authority for deer management directly in the hands of state legislators. Ask yourselves: Do you really want that obligation?

But who am I?

Professor at your state's premier university,
Scientist with 20 yrs research experience and expertise on how deer affect forests,
Professional consultant to Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maine, British Columbia, &
Quebec on deer management and deer impact issues,
And a bowhunter.

I also edited & helped author this book on Wisconsin's lands, waters, and wildlife.
This is your homework assignment -- be sure to read the chapters on deer and forests before voting on this bill.

Let's back up now and ask who has managed deer populations in the past?
We first tried having no rules or authority.
This resulted in deer going extinct in S Wisconsin and becoming rare in the N

So we then passed Game Protection Laws – to stop the carnage. We vested trust in game wardens to enforce the Rules.

This worked – deer came back (though we were too late to save the elk, woodland caribou, woodland bison, & wolverine)

With the pioneering leadership of Aldo Leopold, we learned how to manipulate habitats and adjust hunting regulations dynamically in response to changing conditions on the landscape.

He founded the field of Game Management and literally wrote the book on it.

This worked, too. In fact, it worked too well – we had an excess of success.

We saw deer herds multiply to unprecedented levels, with unprecedented impacts

- On forests
- On understory wildflowers
- On the number of accidents with deer on our highways and the injuries and deaths associated with those accidents
- On the damage deer do to crops and ornamental plantings
- And on the emergence and spread of novel epidemic diseases, including Lyme disease and CWD. We now fear the spread of bovine tuberculosis and other tick-borne diseases moving in from neighboring states.

My own research has documented the ecological impacts of overabundant deer.

We face serious problems here in our inability to reliably regenerate Hemlock, N white cedar, Red Oak, Yellow Birch, Red & White Pine, & other species.

Forest understories today are missing a substantial fraction of the plant diversity they once sustained. Two state Parks have lost more than ½ of the plant diversity they had 50 years ago.

Leopold saw the dangers of having too many deer.

He saw this in Germany, he saw it in Arizona on the Kaibab plateau, and he saw it in Wisconsin.

He made films of decimated forests and starving fawns.

And he never stopped working to professionalize game management and to base that management on **science**.

He worked hard to give the professionals he was training not only the expertise they needed to do their jobs well, but also the freedom to apply their best professional judgment to do their jobs.

In particular, he worked to help establish the Conservation Congress to provide input from hunters and the public.

He also worked to make sure that science would guide them in making decisions. Finally, he worked to protect the conservation agencies from direct political influence, as by establishing the Nat. Resources Board to oversee and direct policy.

The idea here was to give agency professionals input, advice and general direction, but not to micro-manage them or stand over them at their daily job and tell them what to do.

Managing deer has never been easy.

We have tried other methods to limit deer herd growth and they have not always worked.

More land is in private hands and more of it is posted.

EAB was a tool of last resort that only kicked in after several other steps – after deer herds have exceeded goal densities, and not just a little, or briefly, but greatly and for a sustained period of years.

Passing Assembly Bill 99 would ignore this history, ignore the threats deer pose to our forests, ignore the threats deer pose to public health and safety, and tie the hands of wildlife managers.

Let's let them do the job they were trained for and the one we pay them for.

Let's

So do you, as state legislators, really want the obligation to decide just how to manage the deer herd? Is that what you were trained and hired to do?

And if you feel it is the right thing to do, ask yourself this: What's next?

Are you ready to set harvest goals and size limits for fishing?

Do you want to decide on dates for turkey & waterfowl hunts?

Is it time this committee and your fellow legislators set burn schedules for our prairies?

Are you ready to legislate how timber harvests should be done? Whether to use selective or even-aged harvests in different forest types? What basal areas thresholds to set? What Best Management Practices to insist on?

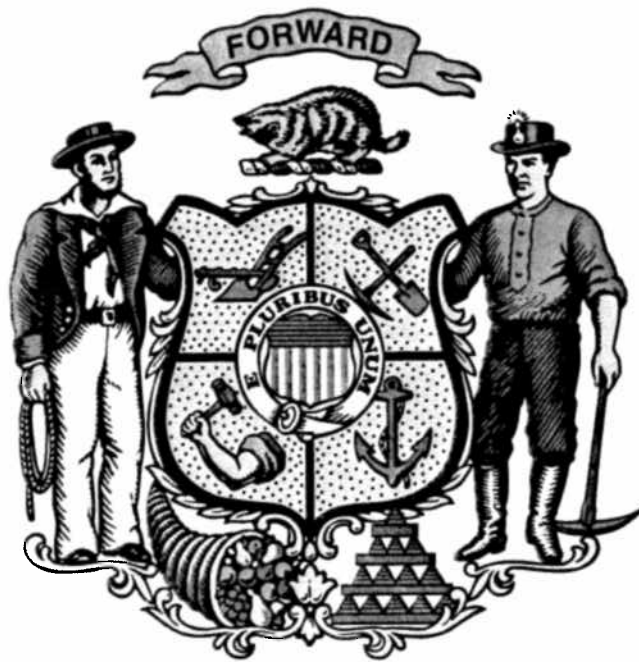
And ask yourselves this:

Should we have referenda on public ballots to set the details of wildlife and forest management?

Will citizens injured or made sick by deer threaten to sue the State for violating basic standards of public health and safety?

You are taking a big step with AB 99 – is it a step that makes sense?

Thank you for your time and attention.



**Testimony on Assembly Bill 99
From The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society
27 April 2011**

The Wildlife Society is the premier professional society for professional wildlife biologists working in private and public sector agencies and in education in North America. The Wisconsin chapter represents over 200 professionals working in Wisconsin. This testimony was reviewed and authorized by the Executive Board of the Wisconsin Chapter.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society opposes Assembly Bill 99 for the following reasons.

1. Despite popular complaints of not seeing deer during recent gun deer seasons, the WI deer population remains at near record levels and vastly exceeds community established goals in most units in the western and southern two-thirds of WI (cf. R.E. Rolley, WDNR).
2. Proven techniques for herd reduction include supplemental antlerless gun seasons and earn-a-buck (Van Deelen, et al. 2010). Moreover, gun season openers that include mid-November experience higher deer sighting rates and harvests. The proposed bill would remove these options from the tool chest without proposing alternatives.
3. A recent stakeholder group commissioned by the NRB to find alternative harvest strategies that would be as effective or more effective than those listed above failed to achieve consensus on any technique; proof of the value of the proven methods and the difficulty of finding acceptable alternatives (Special Advisory Committee 2009).
4. The October antlerless firearm season is the second most popular season offered by the DNR based on number of participants (cf. D.K. Warnke, B.J. Dhuey, WDNR). Many gun hunters favor the milder weather more typical of October than late-November.
5. Supplemental antlerless seasons and EAB have also had the effect of increased harvests on private land compared to "traditional" buck-plus-quota regulations. Harvests in supplemental seasons also tend to be additive to what is taken in November as some hunters dislike processing multiple deer in the same week.
6. The proposed bill orders that a modified EAB would be allowed only in disease (CWD) zones whereby an antlered buck could be shot prior to shooting an antlerless deer but that an antlerless deer would have to be shot before "earning" a second buck. Clearly, this would defeat the effectiveness of EAB as hunters could group bag bucks without ever shooting an antlerless deer.
7. Failure to embrace consistent use of the original EAB (without pre-qualification) is one of the major reasons greater herd reduction has not occurred in the CWD zone. The proposed legislation would further compromise the effectiveness of EAB.

8. Criteria for the application of aggressive harvest strategies have already been established in consultation with hunters (cf. *Deer 2000 and Beyond*). Hunters and their organizations have a tradition of being deeply involved with the deer management process in WI. Outside reviewers stated that "Wisconsin has the most comprehensive and transparent deer management program for comparable states that harvest white-tailed deer" (*An evaluation of the SAK model as applied in WI 2007*). Legislative intrusion into this process is unwarranted.

9. Deer populations are highly dynamic and respond quickly to changing environmental conditions. Harvest systems have to be equally dynamic if herds are to be maintained at responsible levels and hunting opportunities are to be maximized. Legislative mandates remove necessary flexibility in rule-making.

10. Wisconsin has a tradition of minimal legislative involvement with annual deer management decisions in part because of ample public involvement through DNR Wildlife Management public hearings, the Conservation Congress, and Natural Resources Board. The existing process is cumbersome, but preferable to legislation.

Respectfully submitted,
The Wildlife Society, Wisconsin Chapter

How to Join:

Fill out the form below and mail it along with a check (made payable to WCTWS) to:

Wisconsin Chapter of
The Wildlife Society
P.O. Box 863
Madison, WI 53701-0863

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail (preferred): _____

Affiliation: _____

Annual Membership: _____ \$10.00

I would like to make an additional contribution to the WCTWS.

_____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50

Other _____ Total: _____

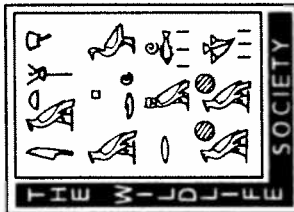
Additional Information:

WCTWS website:
<http://joomla.wildlife.org/wisconsin>
Contains information on current officers, committees, position statements, awards, upcoming events, and more.

Please consider joining The Wildlife Society (national), the North Central Section, or a Working Group if you are not currently a member.

The Wildlife Society website:
<http://joomla.wildlife.org>

The Wildlife Society, founded in 1937, is an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education.



- TWS Members:
- are dedicated to sustainable management of wildlife resources and their habitats.
 - embrace the interactions of all organisms with their natural environments.
 - believe that wildlife, in its myriad forms, is basic to the maintenance of a human culture that provides quality living.

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Founded in 1972

Dedicated to excellence in
wildlife stewardship

*"To keep every cog and wheel is the
first precaution of intelligent
tinkering" - Aldo Leopold*

Who We Are:

The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society (WCTWS) is a scientific and educational organization composed of over 200 wildlife professionals, students, and retirees who are interested in the conservation of Wisconsin's wildlife resource.

TWS Mission:

To enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society.

Chapter Logo:



Wisconsin is blessed with a rich history of conservationists including Aldo Leopold, widely recognized as the father of our profession. The

"shack" is a depiction of the old chicken coop Leopold and his family purchased in Baraboo. It was here where Leopold developed and put into action his land ethic. The WCTWS strives to "follow in Leopold's footsteps".



Photo: The Aldo Leopold Foundation

Chapter Goals:

- Develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and their habitats.
- Advocate the use of sound biological information for wildlife policy decisions.
- Increase public awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- Promote the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.



Photo: USFWS

Chapter Activities:

- We host and sponsor conferences, workshops, and meetings featuring scientific presentations and discussions involving wildlife.
- We publish a quarterly newsletter, "Intelligent Tinkering".



Photo: USFWS

- We evaluate and respond to proposed or enacted societal actions that affect wildlife and their habitats.
- We have active committees that develop science-based position statements.
- We recognize outstanding achievement among wildlife professionals and students.
- We express Chapter opinions at local, regional, and national meetings.

Membership Benefits:

- A forum for interaction and communication among researchers, managers, educators, students, and others interested in Wisconsin's wildlife.
- An opportunity to bring science to wildlife policy decisions.
- A source of information on research findings, management issues, legislative activity, and professional news.
- An opportunity for professional growth of members through annual conferences and trainings.
- Intelligent Tinkering newsletter.



Photo: USFWS



Gary, Tim

From: Gardner, Karen [k.gardner@huber.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 12:41 PM
To: Rep.Mursau
Subject: FW: Assembly Bill 99

I've included my email address and telephone number

Thank-you!

From: Gardner, Karen
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 12:36 PM
To: 'Rep.mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov'
Subject: Assembly Bill 99

Honorable Rep. Mursau,

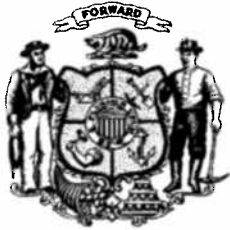
I am a forester managing the Wild Rivers Legacy Forest owned by CF/FIA LLC and located in Forest, Florence and Marinette counties. I spoke with you briefly when you attended the legislative tour of the property we held in 2006. I am very concerned by the direction Assembly Bill 99 is taking by limiting the DNR's ability to do their job. I have confidence in the fact that they do their best to manage Wisconsin's resources by balancing the concerns of resource managers and hunters. Unfortunately their hands are tied by such legislative actions as this bill. My concern is that by not controlling deer numbers our northern forests will no longer be sustainable due to overbrowsing. We are seeing this in our forest already and are documenting our lack of regeneration and sharing this with DNR wildlife biologists. There will be a ripple effect as our forests can no longer be sustained and logging, manufacturing and other jobs utilizing forest products are forced to move from our Northwoods. I feel these jobs are more important than keeping hunters from Green Bay or Milwaukee happy because they saw a few more deer. I know there are many other resource managers that feel the way I do. I will follow this email up with a letter but felt I needed to contact you quickly to have my concerns heard.

Thank-you,

Karen Gardner
Senior Operations Forester
Huber Resources Corp.
PO Box 352
Goodman, WI 54125
email: k.gardner@huber.com
phone # (715) 336-2290



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Gary, Tim

From: Pat and Carol Kaiser [pckaiser@madtown.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:55 AM
To: 'Pat and Carol Kaiser'; Rep.Ripp
Cc: Rep.Tiffany; Rep.Mursau; Rep.Bernier; Rep.Endsley; Sen.Miller; Sen.Fitzgerald; Sen.Galloway; Sen.Harsdorf; Sen.Lasee; Sen.Cullen; Rep.Schultz@legis.wisconsin.gov
Subject: RE: AB99

This did not go thru the first time, hopefully the email will process properly now.
 Pat Kaiser

From: Pat and Carol Kaiser [mailto:pckaiser@madtown.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:46 AM
To: 'Rep.Ripp@legis.wisconsin.gov'
Cc: 'Rep.Tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov'; 'Rep.Mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov'; 'Rep.Bernier@legis.wisconsin.gov'; 'Rep.Endsley@legis.wisconsin.gov'; 'Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov'; 'Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov'; 'Sen.Galloway@legis.wisconsin.gov'; 'Sen.Harsdorf@legis.wisconsin.gov'; 'Sen.Lasee@legis.wisconsin.gov'; 'Sen.Cullen@legis.wisconsin.gov'; 'Rep.Schultz@legis.wisconsin.gov'
Subject: AB99

Dear Men and Women of the Wisconsin Legislature;

Yesterday, April 27, 2011 a legislative hearing was scheduled regarding AB99 regarding management aspects for deer hunting in Wisconsin. I assume the hearing took place, unfortunately I was unable to attend and possibly testify with my comments and concerns. Hopefully these few words will resonate and make you think about the probable consequences of this bill should it eventually become law. Personally, I hope it does not !

The way I understand this proposed legislation, the bill would prohibit the Wisconsin DNR from using 'Earn A Buck' on a statewide basis , and would prohibit the use of the October Herd Reduction Hunts outside of the CWD zones and make it more difficult to adopt in the existing CWD area.

Now all of you, I'm sure are involved with the current problem of budget deficits. You have many options and tools for dealing with the deficit and ALL Of THEM should be on the table for consideration. You know them better than I and I won't mention any of them.

Regarding the management of the deer herd in Wisconsin, unlike budget issues, deer populations are always a moving target via the biological nature of the species. In many of the past 20 years, over population or very high deer populations have been the concern for agricultural farmers, motorists, apple orchard growers, home gardner's, and natural woodland / forest reproduction, etc. . I have witnessed and seen all of these ! Obviously deer create damage by eating and also by getting in the way of motorists. Reality of this is that there will always be some of this occurring, however the damages and losses increase significantly when the deer population gets above the deer population goals that have been established by the Wisconsin DNR.

Hunting by gun and bow hunting is the most efficient man controlled tool for reducing deer populations. So, WHY do you want to take away the "two tools" of Earn A Buck and October Herd Reduction Hunts. Please don't remove these two management options for use on a statewide basis.

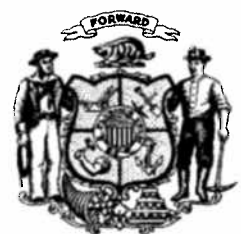
Those of you that have co-sponsored this AB99 I suppose have heard from hunter's that don't like

restrictions (ie. Earn A Buck meaning the need to kill and antlerless deer before an antlered buck; and/or probably bow hunters that feel the October herd Reduction Hunt takes away 'four days, yes – only four days of their approximately 100+ days of bow hunting). Well I'd bet there are just as many hunters that like Earn A Buck and the October Hunt.... So don't take away these two hunting season options !
Thank You for listening .

Patrick Kaiser, N2735 Smith Rd., Lodi, WI. 53555



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

June 21, 2011

To: Assembly Natural Resources Committee
From: Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Subject: AB 99 and SB 75 Wrong Approaches to Deer Management

The authors of AB 99 and SB 75 are correct in indicating that over the past few years, DNR has not had a proper balance of science and public support for deer management in Wisconsin. DNR relied too heavily on pure science by overusing Earn a Buck and October Herd Control seasons to reduce the deer herd in certain units in order to keep the deer herd under control.

However AB 99 and SB 75 make just the opposite mistake and totally ignore science by statutorily removing Earn a Buck and Herd Control Seasons from being used as deer management tools in a major portion of the state. Not a single wildlife biologist has indicated that this approach is sound deer management. DNR Land Administrator Kurt Thiede cautioned both Senate and Assembly committees to keep Earn a Buck and Herd Control seasons available as deer management tools.

Wisconsin's deer herd has a high reproduction rate and has virtually ideal food and shelter conditions. Without Earn a Buck and/or Herd Control Seasons within two or three years there will be several deer management units in the state that will be significantly overpopulated with deer that will result in substantial agricultural and forest damage.

That is why the following groups and individuals have joined the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation in opposing the bill: the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, the Wisconsin Paper Council, the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, the Wisconsin Farmers Union, Nicolet Hardwoods, New Page Paper Corporation, Lake States Lumber Company, the Wisconsin County Forests Association, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, the Wisconsin Consulting Foresters, the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters, the Nature Conservancy, the Association of Retired Conservationists and many individual sportsmen and women, woodland owners and farmers.

An alternative to AB 99 and SB 75 would be to sunset the bill in two years and make an evaluation of the state of deer management at that time.

Submitted by:
George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation