



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

## 2005-06

(session year)

## Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

## Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation...

### 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**

**Senate Natural Resources and Transportation Committee  
Joint Public Hearing  
412 East, State Capitol  
January 23, 2006 10:00**

**Agenda**

- 0. Call of the Role**
- 0. Agenda**

**Clearinghouse Rule 05-086** Relating to deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes.

**Housekeeping Items**

**2. If you wish to speak or register on this rule, be sure to fill out the appropriate slip, located out in the hallway and hand it to the Page. Please print neatly.**

**2. This hearing will be broadcast over the Internet.**

**2. Please turn off any cell phones or pagers while in this hearing room.**

**2. Please refrain from any outbursts during testimony**

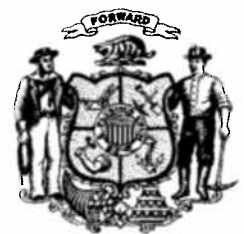
**2. The committee may assess time limits on testimony if necessary.**

**2. Please try to refrain from duplicative testimony.**

**2. Rooms 400 NE and 400 SE have been reserved for any overflow. You will be able to listen to the hearing from those rooms.**



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



1-23-06

Bev Dittmar

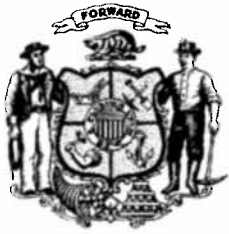
Due to D.N.R. personal <sup>(Dennis Leath)</sup> keeping gates closed on Northern Highland State Forest until after Black Powder Season. Vilas Co. Forestry Dept kept gates to County Forest closed for consistency & safety. This action by the DNR closed Vilas Co for snowmobile until the middle of Dec.

Considerable tourism dollars were lost due to this closer.

At the DNR hearing their figures revealed there was no need for the extended deer season N. of Hwy 8 as the deer #'s do not reflect the need. And the financial impact to the areas north Hwy 8 is considerable.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin  
633 West Main Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

tel 608/251-8140  
fax 608/251-8535  
[nature.org/wisconsin](http://nature.org/wisconsin)

Date: January 23, 2006

To: Members of Senate and Assembly Natural Resource Committees

From: Steve Richter, Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin

Re: **Support** for compromise on Clearing House Rule 05-086

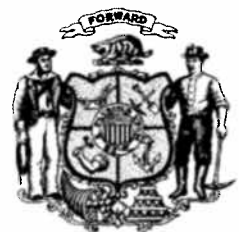
The Nature Conservancy continues to support the use of T-zone hunts as an effective method to manage the size of the state's deer herd. T-zones are essential in preventing the loss of native plants from our forests and prairies caused by excessive deer browse. Natural habitats in our state are being changed, sometimes beyond recognition, as populations of deer are not kept in balance.

The Nature Conservancy welcomes scores of deer hunters and snowmobilers to our conservation lands every year and we are hopeful that a compromise can be reached on this issue that includes an adequate deer harvest and one that addresses all recreational uses.

**In the absence of a compromise on this issue, the Conservancy supports what our science and experience tells us: The October T zone hunts have proven to be the most biologically sound and effective method for controlling the deer herd for the purposes of protecting natural habitats.**



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





January 23, 2006

**Mercury Marine**  
*Marine Products and Services*

W6250 Pioneer Road  
P.O. Box 1939  
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1939 USA  
Phone: 920-929-5000  
[www.mercurymarine.com](http://www.mercurymarine.com)

Senator Carol Roessler  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison WI 53707-7882

Reference: Proposed Brownfield Legislation, Land Use Controls

Dear Senator Roessler:

Mercury Marine has several locations where historic releases have resulted in cleanup measures being implemented. In several instances, cleanup to below state standards was not possible. However, these areas are all covered with some type of cap (i.e., pavement, concrete) to prevent direct contact with impacted soils. To complete closure of these projects, the DNR requires that deed restrictions be placed for each of the individual areas. The purpose of the deed restriction is to require the existing caps be maintained. Obtaining deed restrictions is a very time consuming, costly activity that provides no benefit to Mercury Marine or the local community.

Your proposal to remove the deed restriction requirements and use the existing DNR systems provides benefits to both Mercury Marine and the local community. For Mercury Marine it would:

- Eliminate the time and effort required to obtain deed restrictions
- Reduce costs since Mercury Marine has already paid DNR fees
- Reduce confusion associated with multiple changes to our property deed
- Provide all necessary monitoring and maintenance requirements in one place.

For the community, it would make the information readily available through the DNR website which is accessible to anyone with a computer 24 hours per day. In addition, the DNR system can be linked to Diggers Hotline so that whenever a contractor calls in for a utility locate they would be informed of any land use restrictions in the area.

Therefore, Mercury Marine is in support of the land use controls provisions of your proposed legislation and commends you for working to reduce the environmental burden placed on Wisconsin Brownfield owners.

Sincerely,

Tom Baumgartner  
Director, Environmental Compliance



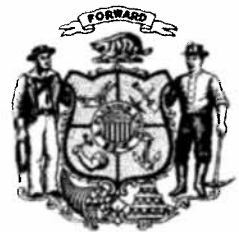
# **Proposed Brownfield Legislation**

## **Land Use Controls**

- **Mercury has several locations where cleanup measures have been implemented.**
- **Currently Mercury has several existing deed restrictions and several pending.**
- **The proposed Brownfield legislation provides the following benefits to Mercury and the Community:**
  - **Eliminate the time and effort required to obtain deed restrictions.**
  - **Reduce costs since Mercury has already paid DNR fees.**
  - **Reduce confusion associated with multiple changes to our property deed.**
  - **Provide all necessary monitoring and maintenance requirements in one place.**
  - **Access to available information 24 hrs. a day.**
  - **An opportunity to be linked to Diggers Hotline that can inform contractors and general public of land use restrictions.**
- **Mercury is in support of the Land Use Controls.**



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Jan 23, 2006

Dear Sen. Neil Kedzie

I'm writing in regards to the Oct T zone hunt, which the bow hunters want to eliminate. What a greedy bunch of hunters these bow hunters are!

Here the DNR has come up with a good way to control the deer population and the bow hunters want to eliminate it. The bow hunters now have a 68 day season and during that long season they harvest 90% of the trophy deer as it is and they still are whining about the Oct T zone hunt. There are many gun hunters that really enjoy this early 4 day hunt in Oct. The weather is nice and one can stay out a long time on a stand in comfort.

I think the Oct T hunt should be expanded to 6 days and if a hunter harvests a antlerless deer, he should be allowed to harvest ~~to have~~ a trophy buck, 8 pts or more during that Oct T hunt. This way we could get more hunters to join in on the Oct T hunt and the DNR would have a greater way to control the deer population.

Why should the bow hunters be the only ones to hunt during the rut?? They won't be satisfied until they harvest 100% of the trophy deer. Its time we level the playing field and give the gun hunters a shot at the trophy deer. After all, the gun hunters are the ones that pay for most of the things the DNR needs during the hunting seasons.

The Dec T zone hunt is not as popular due to bad weather, holidays, and driving conditions. We need to keep the Oct T zone hunt in effect and allow the DNR to do their job and control the deer population.

Sincerely Yours

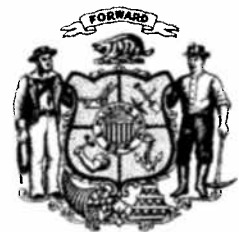
Alfred Kleppek

K

Alfred Kleppek  
402 Roosevelt Ave  
Howards Grove, WI 53083-1007



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**Johnson, Dan (Legislature)**

**From:** OBrien, John  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2006 8:02 AM  
**To:** Phillips, Matt; Johnson, Dan (Legislature)  
**Cc:** Kedzie, Neal  
**Subject:** Today's Hearing

Matt and Dan,

I write to ask for an excused absence for Senator Kapanke from today's hearing.

Dan is travelling back from the CSG Ag Chair Summit meeting in Phoenix.

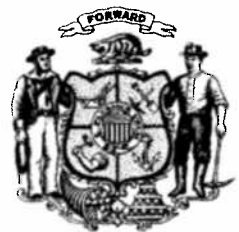
If the Committee holds Executive Session on any matter, I ask that you keep the roll open for Senator Kapanke.

Thanks

John O'Brien, Staff  
Sen. Dan Kapanke  
32nd Senate District  
608 26 6-5490  
800 385 3385  
[john.obrien@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:john.obrien@legis.state.wi.us)



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



2004 2,89,10  
2007 47,89.

1-23-06

10:00 AM

Chairmen Lunderson and Ketzle  
and Committee,

I am Jim Tiefenthaler, former member  
of 11 years on NRP, a deer hunter,  
a snowmobiler (I have 3), ~~and all~~  
~~around~~ ~~and~~ ~~you~~.

I worked with the DNR  
Conservation Congress, Wisconsin Bow  
Hunters, Concerned ~~Deer~~ Hunters of  
Wisconsin, Wisconsin Deer Hunters  
Coalition and many others for the  
last year + years to get us where  
we are today.

There is and has been an  
obstacle in the way - The Wisconsin  
Snowmobile Association (AWSA) + DNR

The deer hunting community is  
doing their damnest to help get the  
deer herd under control by using  
every viable idea that anyone can  
come up with.

It comes down to 4 days  
of herd control and additional hunting  
opportunity in early December  
versus the snowmobilers who claim  
those 4 days will be cataclismic



devastating to their sport and pastime.

Well I beg to differ:

This entire situation is much ado about nothing. This committee signing off on this experimental 2 year December hunt will not destroy the sport of snowmobiling in the State, but not signing off on this hunt will clearly stop the having 650,000 deer hunters from trying this additional <sup>hunting</sup> opportunity and herd control technique.

I have heard that the snowmobilers have two <sup>three</sup> basic concerns:

1 - Safety how many trails will or <sup>be</sup> open. <sup>Severity or not of</sup> on days was <sup>there were</sup> 2 years of marginal conditions in 10 and that was in the Superior snow belt. Mild winters in the last 20 years <sup>is one of the major</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>reasons</sup> why the deer herd is out of control.

This year I hunted on a CWD property 150 yards from the Glacial Drumlin trail in Southern Wis. near Dousman on and off all of December. Snowmobiles were able to use this trail for two weeks of that time Safety was never an issue except for

The 80 MPH + sleds passing me  
as I walked out in the dark.

Deer hunters (~~hunting~~) have hunted  
for years with a 50' buffer from  
the C<sub>1</sub> of a road - "rule". ATV's are  
used extensively during deer season  
in hunting areas with minimal  
safety impact. Snowmobilers should  
be no different from a safety standpoint.

2. Brush cutting and trail maintenance  
is an activity that would be  
compromised. Well - yes this is  
true - that can be done any other  
time than those 4 days. Also  
if trail maintenance is being done  
then... there is usually no snow  
then - right? If there is snow  
the groomers can start up Monday  
morning <sup>or</sup> <sup>at night</sup> during the 4 day  
late season at their option.

3. Landowners who deer hunt will  
close their land to snowmobiling  
during the 4 day hunt. Yes they  
might - it is their land - the  
snowmobiler may tread lightly  
here because I have heard a  
backlash from a number of land  
owners who view this objection

as grounds to deny access to private lands for trails. I wouldn't poke this sleeping giant.

Why should the joint Natural Resource Committees approve this 4 day <sup>experimental</sup> deer season for the next two years?

1. Because it is the right thing to do.

2. The "common good" requires you to weigh the benefits of reducing the burgeoning deer herd by <sup>10's of thousands of</sup> the good hunters of this state to the benefits of a very few, if any, snowmobiling enthusiasts or brush-out trail maintenance folks.

3. Economic Benefits for those ~~hobbyists~~ <sup>hobbyists & gentlemen</sup>

who cater to snowmobiles and trail maintenance people on Dec. 7, 8, 9, and 10. Even in a snowy year wouldn't compare to the 10's of thousands of deer hunters state wide who will participate in this special hunt.

This ~~is~~ is a slam dunk decision. Please don't bend to a group whose seasons <sup>can</sup> run for 3 1/2 months

# Snowmobile Trail Earliest Opening Dates

	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Forest</b>			1/26	12/20	1/16	12/31	12/28	<u>12/15</u>	2/4	2/5	12/19	12/24	12/24
<b>Langlade</b>	12/24	1/20	<u>12/8</u>	1/10	1/5	12/29	12/28	12/18	2/2	2/5	1/16		
<b>Lincoln</b>	1/3	1/27	<u>12/14</u>	1/16	12/31	1/7	12/23	<u>12/15</u>	2/2	2/5	12/24	12/24	12/24
<b>Oneida</b>	12/16	<u>12/15</u>	12/18	12/30	12/23	12/23	12/22	<u>12/15</u>	12/28	1/28	12/18	12/18	12/18
<b>Vilas</b>	<u>12/12</u>	12/16	<u>12/11</u>	<u>12/13</u>	1/6	12/22	variable	<u>12/15</u>	12/26	12/12	12/16	12/16	12/16
<b>Taylor</b>	1/3	1/22	<u>12/8</u>	12/20	1/2	1/5	2/2	2/2	2/2	1/29	1/24	1/24	1/24
<b>Earliest</b>	12/12	<u>12/10</u>	12/16	12/14	12/13	12/23	12/22	12/15	12/26	1/28	12/12	12/12	12/16

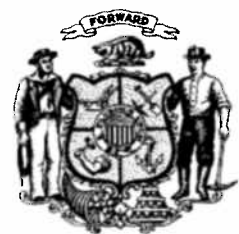
Iron and Price County have opening dates set by code at 12/1 regardless of snow conditions

≤ Dec 12 7/67 2 10% of the opening dates in these counties

≤ Dec 15 15/67 ← 25% of the opening dates in these counties

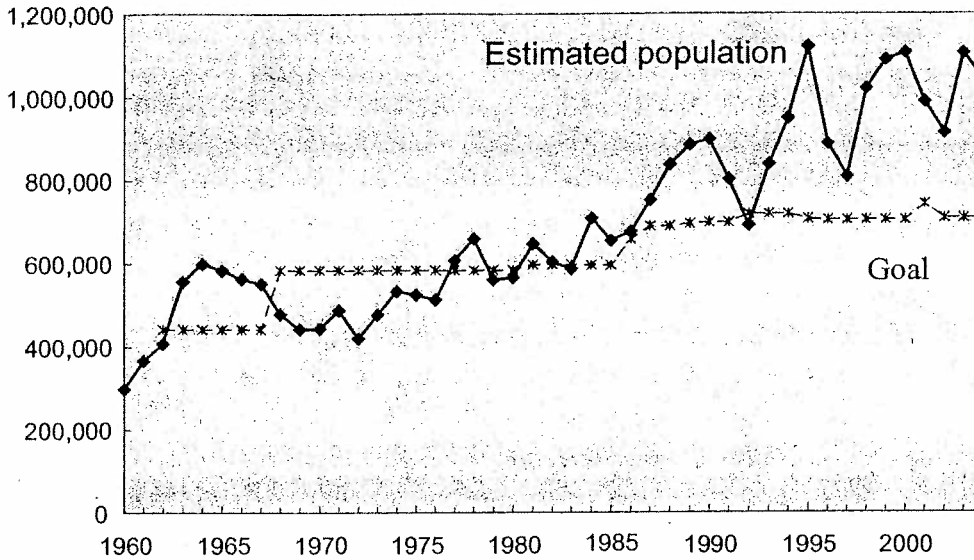


# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



January 23, 2006 – Keith Warnke (WDNR) to Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation and Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.

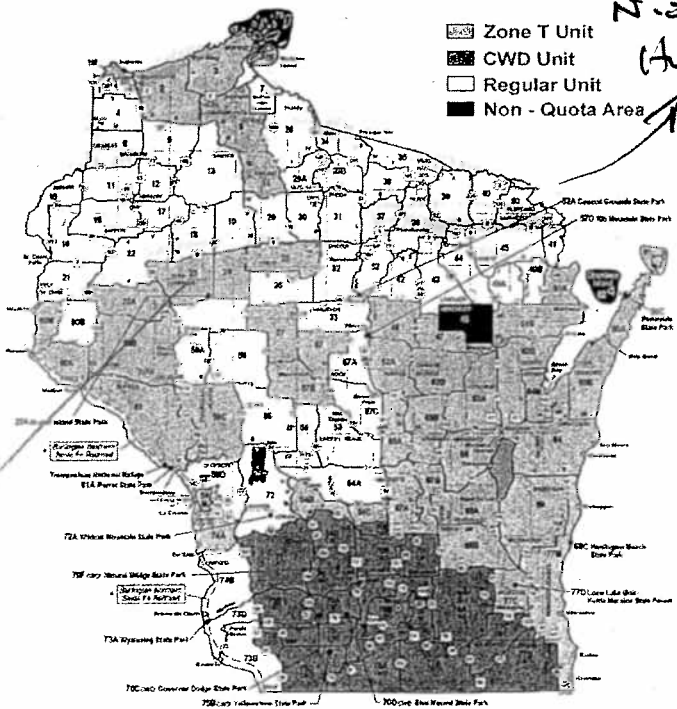
In the 1960's, the "traditional" 9-day deer gun season came about. There were a lot fewer deer then – about half what we have now. As the herd grew throughout the state, it became evident that additional gun hunting opportunity was needed to manage the population. In the 1980's, the first "herd control" hunts were developed. Herd control hunts are commonly referred to as the "October Zone T" and the "December Zone T" hunts. These hunts work, but they must be applied regularly to keep deer populations from rapidly growing. Herd control hunts are a necessary tool in every region of the state.



Currently, there is a regular 9-day gun hunt in late November. That hunt is not sufficient to control deer herds in most years. Therefore, we have a 4-day October gun hunt and (in part of the state) a 4-day December gun hunt. These herd control hunts are open only in specific units where deer populations are well over goal. Under the current system herd control hunts may be open in a deer management unit in one year and not the next and adjacent deer management units can and often do have different gun season structures.

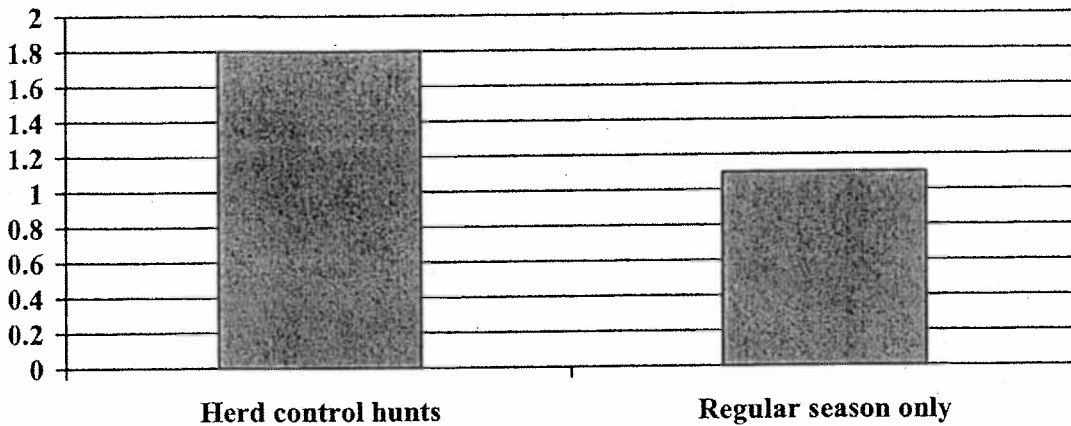
2005 Deer Season Structure

30 units  
N. of Hwy 8



Holcombe unit 23

Average Antlerless:Buck Harvest Ratios in Herd Control Units (2000-2004)



One simple measure of the effectiveness of these herd control hunts is the ratio of antlerless deer to bucks in the harvest. Herd control seasons work by increasing the harvest of antlerless deer. Controversy has long been evident regarding the timing of these hunts.

#### Clearinghouse rule 05-086

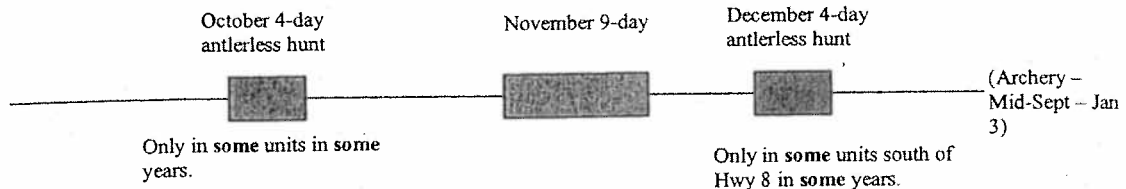
Clearinghouse rule 05-086 is a big rule package. Probably the biggest thing about it is the wide range of groups who helped shape the contents and who are in support of these changes. Every major hunting group in Wisconsin is represented in the support for this package including the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Wisconsin Bowhunters Association, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Wisconsin Deer Hunters Association, and Whitetails Unlimited. A tremendous amount of time and effort were invested in this package by Wisconsin hunters.

Certainly, none of these new rules will be perfect for any one segment of stakeholders. In light of the conflict and controversy that always surround deer management, these changes were developed cooperatively with stakeholders. We believe they reflect careful balance and compromise that will facilitate multiple shared uses and sound conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources.

## Gun deer hunting seasons

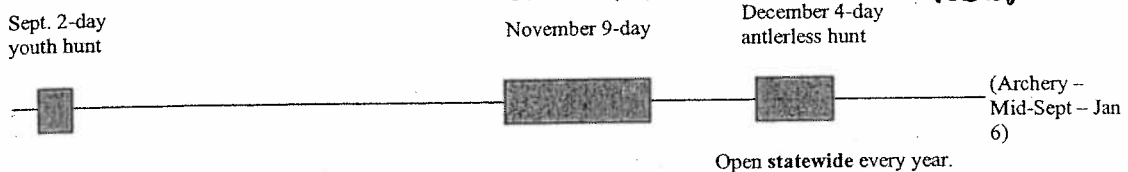
### Current

Antlerless deer harvest managed with hunter's choice tags in regular units, additional antlerless tags in some regular units, and antlerless tags in herd control units. One free antlerless tag for herd control units. All additional antlerless tags are \$12.



### New rules

Antlerless deer harvest managed with antlerless tags and quotas in all units. One free antlerless tag valid in herd control units. Additional antlerless tags are \$2 in herd control units, \$12 in regular units.



There will be no October 4-day antlerless only gun hunt in 2006 and 2007. If this trial is successful for managing the deer herd, we'll stick with this season structure. If its not successful, the 4-day October antlerless deer gun hunt will return in 2008. The outcome of this trial moratorium of the October herd control season (Zone T) is dependent upon the success of the new season structure in effective herd management. To measure herd control effectiveness, the antlerless:antlered harvest ratios will be compared to the results obtained during seasons in which the October hunt was in place.

The Hunter's Choice program has been eliminated along with the administration and confusion that come with hunter's choice. Antlerless tags will be sold on a first come, first served basis. There will be a limited quota of tags available to manage the harvest of antlerless deer in regular units. There will no longer be the need for a HC application, deadline, or additional postcard to carry around.

In short, the new rules contain additional deer hunting opportunities, simplified tagging options, and reduced cost of antlerless tags in herd control units.

These changes are a package for a trial replacement of the October gun hunt in 2006 and 2007. Each piece of this package is important if they are to be successful. The new management tools (reduced cost tags and a statewide December hunt) must prove as (or more) effective as the October hunt has been or the October gun hunt will return. Herd control and managing the deer herd at goal is our top priority.

- Dec. 4 day all units all years - Hunter choice eliminates
- NO Zone T 2006-07 - Antlerless 1st Come, 1st Serve



## Concerns

AWSC

We are well aware of concerns the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs has with the December hunt north of Hwy 8. We've been in close contact about this issue and expended considerable effort trying to resolve the differences.

In response to those concerns and opposition, we believe that adequate snow, not deer hunting, dictates when trails can be open. An example of various users groups having adequate access to winter recreation occurred just last month when early heavy snow in southern Wisconsin opened snowmobile trails, cross county ski trails, and downhill ski hills all during the December gun deer hunt. All without incident.

## Tagging

Tagging options were a point of confusion this fall – we are aware of that. Several of the proposed changes will go a long way to clearing up that confusion. In addition, we will be revamping the wording of the deer tags to further alleviate confusion.

## Summary

We have passed this package of herd control tools as a trial replacement of the October gun hunt. Every piece is critical if this package is to produce effective herd control. All major hunting stakeholder groups in the state support this package. The Natural Resources Board passed these rule changes unanimously on December 8 and hunters are expecting implementation in 2006. We appreciate that these two legislative committees find this rule equally important and have scheduled a timely hearing in response. To implement these season changes this year, timing is critical. Any delays will impact our ability to implement these changes this fall.

Licenses go on sale March 10. This package requires us to redesign and simplify the deer carcass tags that are issued through the ALIS terminals. New tags must be developed, designed and loaded to the terminals prior to the start of license sales. If these rules are not final by mid Feb, we will not be able to implement them this fall. Delays caused by modifications and further review would probably prevent the implementation of these changes this year. That would mean the existing season structure and tagging requirements would be used this fall. (i.e. October hunt)

Finally, you will hear today from many different people and organizations who have worked very hard to develop this package and have a great deal of time and effort invested in it. Support for these changes from the hunting community is widespread and strong. A big part of DNR's mission is to expand recreational opportunities for as many stakeholders as possible, as long as the resource can support it. Together, we all want to implement these changes to improve deer hunting and expand on the cooperative atmosphere in managing this high profile resource.

Jan 23, 2006

Chairmen and committee members,

My name is Todd Zeuske and I am testifying on behalf of the WI Bowhunters Assoc. I want to acknowledge the consensus reached on the 2006-7 deer season rule 05-86 by the Conservation Congress delegates, Conservation Congress, DNR, DNR Board and numerous outdoor groups. A consensus on a subject like deer hunting is not that common. I urge you to give support to the before mentioned groups and pass rule 05-086. Only after this rule is given a chance will it be known if it needs to be tweaked.. Enough people feel it will be effective that it deserves a chance.

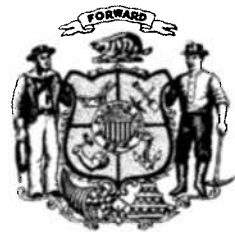
So far the opposition has not presented a valid reason why it should not pass. Nor have they been willing to compromise. Safety concerns used to be raised as a reason not to have a Dec season but nobody bought into it. The one caller I talked who was opposed to the Dec season did not seem to understand that under this rule the number of tags issued for a Dec Tzone season could be zero or would probably be a small number. It is not preset anybody can hunt proposal What is ironic is most of the people that complained about the possibility of a 4 day Dec season were surprised to learn that there already is a black powder season and an archery season in Dec. Testimony at the Dec Natural Resource Board meeting that the bowhunters promised no Dec seasons North of highway 8 is also not valid.

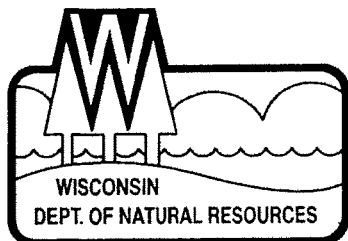
We do not have 4 lobbyists. We would rather spend our Association money supporting conservation projects and youth programs. I suppose we could oppose the youth 2 day hunt as we would have to wear orange but we don't. Or we could oppose it as it makes our season more dangerous but we don't.

I suspect more land has been bought for hunting than any other single sport. Landowners might be opposed to a non-hunting entity telling them when they can use it. We are not trying to tell a non-hunting group how to run their sport and would like them not tell us how and when to hunt.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





# State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

January 24, 2006

Honorable Scott Gunderson, Chair  
Assemble Natural Resources Committee  
Room 7 West  
State Capitol

Honorable Neal Kedzie, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources & Transportation Committee  
Room 313 South  
State Capitol

**SUBJECT:** Recent Natural Resources Board Guidance on Deer Baiting and Feeding

Dear Gentlemen:

Yesterday, your committees reviewed the 2006 deer season rule (Clearinghouse Rule 05-086). This rule is strongly supported by a majority of the state's deer hunting interest groups including the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the Wisconsin Bowhunters' Association. I'm writing to request your help to get companion baiting and feeding legislation enacted in order to improve the herd management capability included in CR 05-086.

When the 2006 deer rule was taken out for public hearings around the state, the Natural Resources Board also sought public input on a proposal (enclosed) to modify deer baiting and feeding regulations in those counties where these activities are not prohibited. The Board proposal would prohibit baiting and feeding of deer statewide 10 days prior to the 9-day deer gun season, and during the 9-day deer gun season. The intent of the proposal was to promote deer movement during shooting hours and more even distribution of deer available to hunters. The Board has heard from many hunters that feel the success of the 2006 Deer Rule Proposal hinges on the introduction and passage of legislation that would enact the proposed statewide prohibition on baiting and feeding. This proposal did receive support during our 10 public hearings held last December (Table 1.), hence we are seeking this legislative change.

Hearing Location	Support	Opposition	Neutral
Green Bay	25	6	1
Eau Claire	17	9	1
Waukesha	9	12	2
La Crosse	7	3	1
Fond du Lac	18	8	0
Stevens Point	12	3	2
Madison	7	6	3
Ashland	10	44	1
Rhineland	15	9	1
Spooner	14	2	2
Written Comments	15	16	0
Total	149	118	14

I understand the temptation to not reopen the legislative discussion over baiting and feeding, but I believe we must. For the record, the Department's position on baiting and feeding remains unchanged. We believe baiting and feeding of deer should be banned. Our reasons include: deer and elk herd health, enforcement and hunter

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD  
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, placing feed for deer results in deer feeding at night and less day time deer movement during the deer hunting season.

WHEREAS, deer feeding concentrates deer on private land deer sanctuaries, reducing the numbers of deer available to hunters on nearby public and private lands.

WHEREAS, the Department is proposing a rule that eliminates the October T zone hunt for two years, in an effort to harvest an adequate number of deer to control the deer herd during the regular 9 day gun deer season and a statewide 4 day December hunt.

WHEREAS, deer feeding before and during the deer gun season can reduce the numbers of deer available to hunters and impact the ability to harvest an adequate number of deer to control the deer herd.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department solicit public input, during rules hearings on the 2006 deer season proposal, on banning deer baiting and feeding statewide 10 days before and during the 9 day gun deer season, to promote deer movement during shooting hours and more even distribution of deer available to deer hunters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that using input received from the public hearings, the Department develop a statutory proposal to authorize banning deer baiting and feeding before and during the deer gun season, and that such proposal be submitted to the State Legislature for their passage in time for the 2006 deer season.

In support

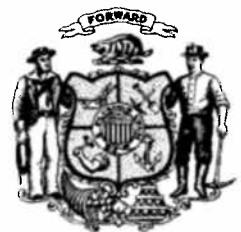
In opposition

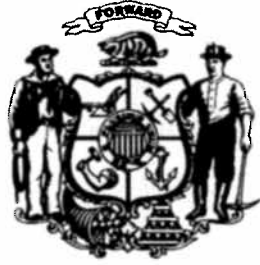
Neutral

Comments:



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**WISCONSIN STATE SENATE**

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

**FAX COVER SHEET**

To:	<b>Morris Nelson</b>	From:	Dan Johnson
		Pages:	17
FAX:	1-608-884-1806	Date:	January 24, 2006
Committee documents on CR 05-086		CC:	

**Morris,**

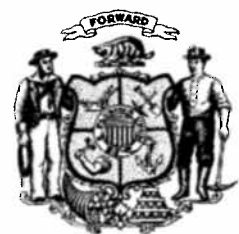
**As per your request.**

Dan Johnson  
Chief of Staff  
**State Senator Neal Kedzie**  
Assistant Majority Leader  
11<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
608-266-2635

---



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE







State Senator  
**Neal J. Kedzie**

11th Senate District

January 26, 2006

Mr. Scott Hassett, Secretary  
Department of Natural Resources  
State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2)  
101 South Webster Street  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Secretary Hassett:

This letter follows up the requests by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation for modifications in Clearinghouse Rule 05-086, relating to deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes. We ask the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to make the following modifications to this rule:

1. Delete the 4-day December antlerless gun hunt and replace with the following:
  - a. **North of Highway 8:** A 4-day antlerless gun hunt beginning the first Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday with a 2 year sunset
  - b. **South of Highway 8:** A 4-day antlerless gun hunt beginning the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday
2. Move the 2 day youth gun hunt from September to the weekend closest to October 8.
3. End the Bow hunt season on the Sunday closest to January 3.

The Committee feels the incorporation of those modifications will result in a workable season that addresses the concerns of many who have taken issue with this rule. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions on those requested modifications.

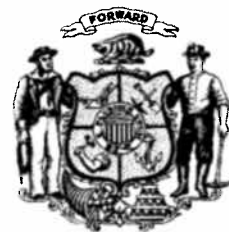
Sincerely,

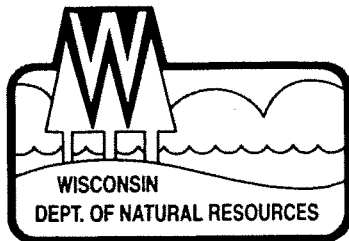
**Neal Kedzie**  
State Senator  
Senate Natural Resources and Transportation, Chair  
11<sup>th</sup> Senate District

NJK: dj



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

January 27, 2006

Honorable Neal Kedzie, Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation  
Room 313 South  
State Capitol

Re: Clearinghouse Rule No. 05-086  
Deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes

Dear Senator Kedzie:

In response to your letter dated January 23, 2006, the Department of Natural Resources agrees to consider modifications to Clearinghouse Rule No. 05-086 relating to deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes.

As required by s. 227.19(4)(b), Stats., the Department will notify your Committee when a decision has been made on proposed modifications.

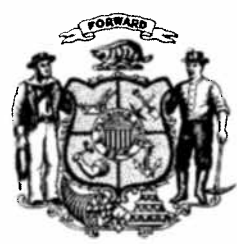
Sincerely,

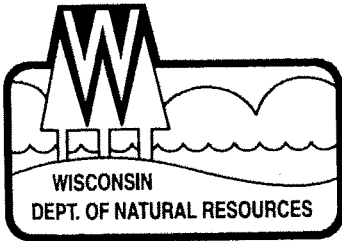
Scott Hassett  
Secretary

cc: Kurt Thiede – WM/6  
Tim Andryk – LS/5  
Carol Turner – LS/5



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

January 31, 2006

Honorable Neal Kedzie, Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation  
Room 313 South  
State Capitol

Honorable Scott Gunderson, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources  
Room 7 West  
State Capitol

Re: Clearinghouse Rule No. 05-086  
Deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes

Gentlemen:

On January 23, 2006, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation requested the Department to modify Clearinghouse Rule No. 05-086 relating to deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes. On January 26, 2006, the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources also requested modifications. At a meeting on January 31, 2006, the Natural Resources Board adopted the following modifications:

1. Move the 2-day youth hunt from its start date of 7 days following the start of the bow season to a start date of the Saturday closest to October 8.
2. Modify the 4-day antlerless hunt north of Highway 8 to be held only in Herd Control Units starting the second Thursday after the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Natural Resources Board declined to move the antlerless hunt to the first weekend in December north of Highway 8, add a two-year sunset of the antlerless hunt north of Highway 8, and to move the last day of bow hunting to the Sunday closest to January 3.

Under s. 227.19(4)(b)2., Stats., the Department of Natural Resources refers this action to your Committees for an additional 10 working day review. If the Department does not hear from you within 10 working days of receipt of this letter, the Department will continue processing this rule.

Attached is a copy of the modifications adopted by the Natural Resources Board and a copy of Natural Resources Board Order WM-29-05 (Clearinghouse Rule No. 05-086) incorporating the modifications.

Sincerely,

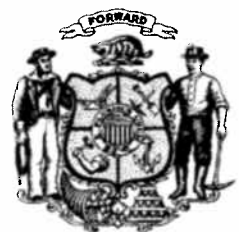
Scott Hassett  
Secretary

cc: Kurt Thiede - WM/6  
Tim Andryk - LS/5  
Carol Turner - LS/5

Attach.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



## **Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land**

Mail: 330 Court Street  
1881 Highway 45 North  
Eagle River, WI 54521  
Tel: (715)479-5160  
Fax:(715)479-5573  
email:vcfor@co.vilas.wi.us



Lawrence L. Stevens  
Forest Administrator



2 February 2006

Senator Neal Kedzie, Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Transportation  
Room 313 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Kedzie:

The Vilas County Board of Supervisors Committee on Forestry, Recreation, & Land, at their 1 February 2006 meeting, unanimously moved to express to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Transportation their concerns and position regarding the 2006 Deer Hunting Season Rule as proposed by WDNR Secretary Scott Hassett.

Enclosed is Vilas County Board Resolution 2005-113 passed 8 November 2005 by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors. Although this Resolution pertains to Vilas County, the effects of an additional antlerless deer hunting season in December transcends county lines and property ownership.


Most of the State Funded Snowmobile Trail System is on roads and trails that are gated closed, except for the snowmobile season. This is true for both private and public lands. Private landowners as well as public land managers will not open gates until after gun (including muzzle loader) deer hunting season for the obvious reasons of trespass and damaging trails. Opening the trails excluding deer management units where the antlerless season will take place simply will not work. We have tried this. The snowmobile trails are a system linking communities and businesses. The system needs to open concurrently throughout the County. The result is the delay of the opening of the

snowmobile trail system and the loss of business for the tourism industry on what is normally the opening weekend of the snowmobile season.

Considering the timing of the proposed antlerless season, December 7 – 10, we question whether it will produce the desired effect on the deer herd. On the Vilas County Forest we have re-planted some timber harvest areas up to 3 times because of deer eating seedling trees. This proposed season will come at a time after deer have been actively pursued for over a month by bow and gun hunters. The proposed time is between Thanksgiving and Christmas when people are working and time away from work is centered on family gatherings, not deer hunting. Weather at this proposed time can be, and usually is, extremely cold which makes deer hunting more of a cold survival challenge than an enjoyable time in the field—subsequently affecting success. This is the time when snowmobile trails over wetlands are packed and allowed to freeze.

It is our sincere hope that the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Transportation will join with the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and direct Secretary Hassett to conduct the needed antlerless deer hunt earlier in November or October when goals can more certainly be achieved. Businesses in the north are supportive of hunting and continue to support the muzzle loader season following the regular gun deer season. Please do not infringe upon what the tourism industry views as the opening of the winter tourism season.

Submitted with best regards by the Vilas County Forestry, Recreation , & Land Committee,



Lawrence L. Stevens, CF  
Vilas County Forest Administrator

LLS:cv

cc: Senator Roger Breske	Representative Dan Meyer
Governor James Doyle	Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance
Vilas Co. Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee	Iron County Forestry Department
Oneida County Forestry Department	Colette Matthews, Exec. Director, WCFA
Price County Forestry Department	Forest County Forestry Department
	Langlade County Forestry Department



**Re: Oppose 4 Day Antlerless Deer Hunting Season Beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday after Thanksgiving, 2006**

1           WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is considering revisions to  
2 ch. NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation  
3 changes; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, one of the proposed changes would create a 4 day antlerless gun hunt in  
6 2006 beginning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday after Thanksgiving, said hunt to be open in all units to anyone  
7 with a valid antlerless deer hunting permit; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, the proposed 4 day antlerless gun hunt would cause the gates on the  
10 snowmobile trails on the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest (NHAL) to remain  
11 closed to all vehicle traffic during this hunting season; and  
12

13           WHEREAS, the NHAL State Forest contains the central part of the Vilas County State  
14 Funded Snowmobile Trail System; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, although the Vilas County Board of Supervisors recognizes the need to  
17 reduce the high deer population because of its destructive effect on the environment, the time  
18 frame of this proposed 4 day antlerless gun hunt would have a dramatic impact on the beginning  
19 of the snowmobiling season in Vilas County by delaying the initial trail grooming and opening of  
20 the snowmobile trail system; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, the businesses of Vilas County have been supportive of the muzzleloader  
23 season. However, this proposed 4 day antlerless gun hunt would negatively impact the local  
24 economy by eliminating an additional weekend in December that is normally the opening of the  
25 snowmobiling season; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, the timing of the proposed 4 day antlerless deer hunting season would have  
28 little impact on the deer population, as it is a time between holidays during which hunters are  
29 unable to go afield due to workloads and adverse weather coupled with a deer population that has  
30 been disturbed by deer hunting for over 2 weeks.  
31

32           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors in  
33 session this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2005 that the Board is in opposition to the proposed 4 day  
34 antlerless gun hunt beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday after Thanksgiving.  
35

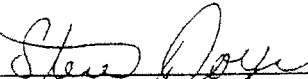
36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Department of Natural Resources considers it  
37 necessary to create additional deer hunting seasons to reduce the deer population, it should  
38 consider an alternative time slot so as not to interfere with the snowmobiling season.  
39

40           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to DNR Secretary

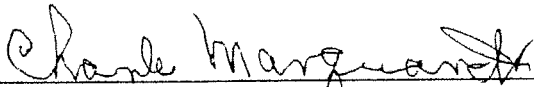
1 Scott Hasset, Governor Jim Doyle, Senator Roger Breske, and Representative Dan Meyer.

2  
3 SUBMITTED BY:

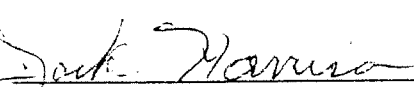
4  
5 VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY, RECREATION, & LAND COMMITTEE

6  
7 

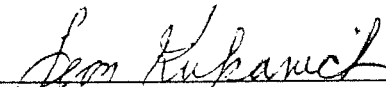
8  
9 Steve Doyen, Chairman

10  
11 

12  
13 Charles Marquardt, Vice Chairman

14  
15 

16  
17 Jack Harrison

18  
19 

20  
21 Leon Kukanich

22  
23 

24  
25 David Alleman

26  
27 Fiscal Impact:  Yes

28  No

29  
30 Approved as to form:

31  
32 

33 Corporation Counsel

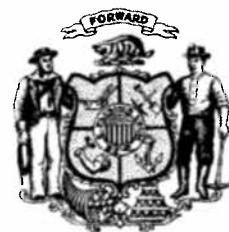
I, James A. Sanborn, Clerk of Vilas County, Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the attached resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution which was approved by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2005.

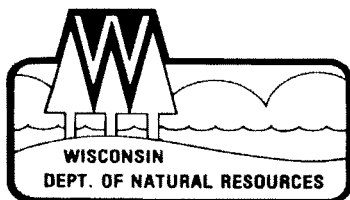


James A. Sanborn  
Vilas County Clerk



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





## NEWS RELEASE

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**  
101 S Webster, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707  
Phone: (608) 266-6790 TDD: (608) 267-6897  
dnr.wi.gov www.wisconsin.gov

**DATE:** February 10, 2006  
**CONTACT:** Tom Hauge - (608) 266-2193 or  
Keith Warnke - (608) 264-6023  
**SUBJECT:** Deer hunting rules not to change for 2006 Wisconsin seasons

MADISON –Hunting rules and season options for the 2006 Wisconsin deer hunt will remain the same as 2005 as result of a second legislative request for modifications to a new set of rules and seasons that the state Natural Resources Board had approved to improve deer hunting in the state.

In a conference call today, the state Natural Resources Board unanimously decided not to make any additional changes to a rule package that they originally approved last December. As a result, the state Department of Natural Resources will move ahead with plans for this fall's hunt under current rules. The hunter's choice program will continue, the October and December antlerless deer gun hunts will be open in certain Deer Management Units (DMUs), and Earn-a-buck requirements are a possibility in some DMUs.

The original rule package approved by the board had been developed over many months by hunters, conservation groups and DNR staff and "had rare, broad support among the hunting community," said DNR Secretary Scott Hassett. The new rule would have eliminated the October antlerless hunt, which is unpopular with some hunters, and replaced it with a statewide December antlerless hunt.

In response to a first legislative request, the board modified the rule package at a special Jan. 31 meeting, moving a two-day youth hunt and limiting the December antlerless hunt to those DMUs north of Highway 8 in which the deer population is higher than established goals.

On Feb. 8 the legislative committees met again and requested the same modification that the board had already considered -- with the exception of the youth hunt date change -- including moving the December hunt north of Highway 8 up to just three days after the regular season.

"Natural Resources Board members recognize the good work DNR staff did in close cooperation with hunting groups to develop a broadly-supported, sound rule package that would help manage the herd and improve deer hunting in Wisconsin this year," said Board chair Gerald O'Brien. "The board already accepted an earlier DNR compromise on the rule based on the first legislative request for rule changes, and we do not feel further changes are warranted."

(more)

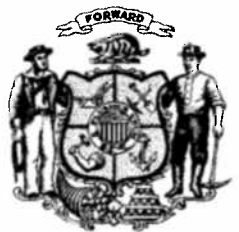
Board members agreed with a department analyses that there was no longer time to implement any additional changes in time for this fall's hunt. Deer hunting licenses go on sale March 10, and contractors and vendors who manage the license sales system should already have begun working on the process, according to Tom Hauge, director of the DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management.

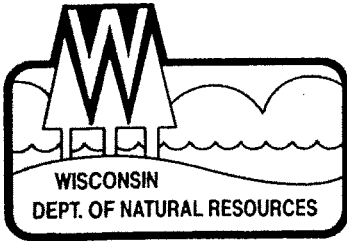
"The clock has run out" on making any additional changes, Hauge told the board. DNR wildlife staff will continue to work on revisions to the deer hunting season framework and hope to have the changes in place for the 2007 deer hunting season, he said.

DNR wildlife staff are in the process of reviewing DMU population estimates and will make recommendations on which units need heard reduction and could be identified as Zone T units or be in need of Earn-A-Buck designations. The Natural Resources Board is scheduled to review those recommendations and set the season structure at its March meeting.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

ATTN: JOHN STOLZENBERG  
LEG. COUNCIL  
266-3830

RESCIND ACTION FROM  
2/8/06 MOTION

February 13, 2006

Honorable Scott Gunderson, Chair  
Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Room 7 West  
State Capitol

Honorable Neal Kedzie, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources & Transportation Committee  
Room 313 South  
State Capitol

Re: Clearinghouse Rule No. 05-086  
Deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes

Senator Neal Kedzie and Representative Scott Gunderson:

On February 8, 2006, the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources requested the Department of Natural Resources to consider modifications to Clearinghouse Rule No. 05-086 relating to the deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes.

This letter is to inform you that on February 10, 2006, the Natural Resources Board declined to make any modifications or take any further action on the proposed rule. Consequently, the Department does not agree to consider further modifications to the proposed rule on the December antlerless gun hunt for the following reasons:

On Tuesday, January 31, 2006, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board adopted modifications to CR 05-086 (the 2006 Deer Season Rule) in a good faith effort to restore the work of the state's hunting groups for the 2006 deer hunting season. These modifications were in response to requests by your committees.

1. Move the antlerless hunt to the first weekend in December north of Highway 8.

In response to this request, a modification was made in attempt to compromise by conducting the 4-day antlerless hunt north of Hwy 8 only in Herd Control Units starting the second Thursday after the Thanksgiving Holiday. These compromises were the product of continuing efforts by hunting groups and the Department to find common ground with the many stakeholders we serve. These modifications represented the Board's final position.

The Department's and Natural Resource Board's analysis have not changed. Moving the December antlerless deer hunt in Deer Management Units north of highway 8 up to the first week of December would start that hunt only 3 days after the close of the 9-day regular gun season. History tells us that this is simply too close to the close of the traditional 9-day season and the antlerless deer harvest will be reduced through decreased hunter participation which could lead to more frequent need for earn-a-buck regulations.

In 1990 and 1991, DNR extended the 9-day gun season by 7 days in an attempt to increase antlerless kill. In 2000 there was a 4-day gun hunt north of Highway 8 in the second week of December. That year, at least 30% more antlerless deer were harvested in 4 days compared to 7 days in 1990 and 1991. We believe that is in large part due to the larger separation between the two seasons.

Further, the 10-day muzzle loading season begins the day after the close of the regular 9-day hunt and this time frame would overlap with that hunt. This presents issues of concern. First, throughout the development of this rule, muzzle loading deer hunters understood that no changes were being proposed for their seasons. They have worked for years to develop a separate hunting period outside of the traditional gun deer hunts. The lateness of this request leaves little opportunity for this important stakeholder group to have input. Second, overlapping the two seasons would create law enforcement concerns and hunter confusion because hunters in the muzzle loading season can harvest a buck if they have a regular gun deer tag. The 4-day antlerless only herd control season would put rifle hunters (with authorization for antlerless deer only) in the field at the same time as muzzle loading hunters who could legally harvest a buck.

2. Add a two-year sunset of the antlerless hunt north of Highway 8.

In response to adding a two-year sunset of the antlerless hunt north of Highway 8, the Natural Resources Board indicated that deer herd control is an every-year necessity. An antlerless deer hunt separate from the regular gun season in northern Wisconsin is essential to herd control there. If we add a sunset clause to the rule, we will be in this same position two years from now. That would not be a prudent decision for the Natural Resources Board. The real world experience we gain through implementation of this rule is a better indicator of when we might need any future rule-making rather than using an arbitrary 2-year sunset.

3. Move the last day of bow hunting to the Sunday closest to January 3.

We heard strong concerns that the Sunday closest to January 3<sup>rd</sup> framework results in seasons that close in some years before New Year's Day or before the New Year's Day long weekend. The January 6<sup>th</sup> date was chosen to avoid these situations. The rule package was developed with a wide range of stakeholders and they chose this time frame. The Department empowered the stakeholders group to make this decision and we respect their decision and recommend it not be changed.

As we stated from the beginning of this rule process, in order for these rules to be in effect for 2006, the Legislature needed to approve acceptable rules by February 15, 2006. Without your approval, the Department has no choice but to implement the framework that was in place for 2005 again in 2006. We understand that under s. 227.19(4)(b)2., Stats., this letter automatically gives your committees an additional 10 working days to review on the Natural Resources Board decision. Ten additional days will push the Legislative Review timetable well beyond the February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for implementation. As you know 2006 license sales are scheduled to begin on March 10<sup>th</sup>. In any event, the Department will continue to work toward an agreement on these regulations.

Sincerely,



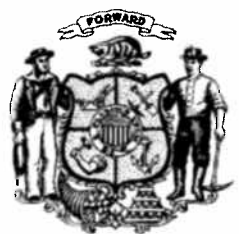
Scott Hassett  
Secretary

cc: Kurt Thiede – WM/6  
Tim Andryk - LS/5  
Carol Turner – LS/5  
Tom Hauge – WM/6  
Keith Warnke – WM/6  
Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources  
Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation





# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Assistant Majority Leader

**Neal J. Kedzie**

11<sup>th</sup> Senate District

February 15, 2006  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Sen. Neal Kedzie  
(608) 266-2635

## **2006 Deer Hunt Rules Advances**

*Senate Natural Resources Committee Approves New Rules Package*

**Madison** – The Department of Natural Resources will be able to implement changes for a new deer hunt season now that the Senate Natural Resources and Transportation has completed its review of the much-anticipated rule package. Committee Chairman Senator Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn) said the comprehensive rules have been approved by the Committee with only one modification, in an effort to find a compromise position on the rules.

On a unanimous vote, the Committee modified the 4-day antlerless deer hunt north of Highway 8 originally scheduled for the second week of December by moving it up by one week. The 4-day antlerless deer hunt south of Highway 8 in the second week of December remains intact, and Kedzie believes this is a workable and reasonable compromise for the department and all user groups involved.

“Committee members worked diligently to achieve consensus on this rule. In the spirit of compromise, the committee twice asked the department to make this change, but the DNR chose a different path,” Kedzie said. “Thus, we were left with no other option but to make the change. In the end, the DNR will get most of what it wanted in the timeframe it requested.”

The major components of the approved rule package are:

- A 4-day antlerless hunt north of Highway 8 beginning the Thursday after Thanksgiving
- A 4-day antlerless hunt south of Highway 8 beginning the second Thursday after Thanksgiving
- A 2-day youth either sex gun hunt beginning the Saturday closest to October 8.
- The late archery season will close the Sunday nearest January 6th.
- No October 4-day antlerless-only hunt outside CWD zones in 2006 and 2007.

“The DNR asked the committee to advance this rule by February 15, and that is exactly what we have done today,” Kedzie said. “The agency was prepared to abandon it altogether last week, but I hope they realize there is still an opportunity to get this on the books.”

###