

CR 86-181

State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Carroll D. Besadny
Secretary

File Ref:

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES)

RECEIVED

MAY 20 1987
2:15pm
Revisor of Statutes
Bureau

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

I, Bruce B. Braun, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and custodian of the official records of said Department, do hereby certify that the annexed copy of Natural Resources Board Order No. WM-47-B6 was duly approved and adopted by this Department on November 20, 1986. I further certify that said copy has been compared by me with the original on file in this Department and that the same is a true copy thereof, and of the whole of such original.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have here-
unto set my hand and affixed the
official seal of the Department at
the Natural Resources Building in
the City of Madison, this 15th
day of May, 1987.

Bruce B. Braun
Bruce B. Braun, Deputy Secretary

(SEAL)

8-1-87

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AMENDING,
REPEALING AND RECREATING RULES

.....
: :
IN THE MATTER of amending ss. NR 1.15(1)(a) : :
and 1.15(2)(a) to (b), and repealing and : :
recreating s. NR 1.15(1)(b) and (c) : : WM-47-86
pertaining to big game mammal management : :
policy. : :
.....

Analysis Prepared by Department of Natural Resources

The rules are promulgated under the authority of ss. 15.34, 23.09(2)(intro.), 29.02(1), and 227.11(2)(a), Stats., and interpret 23.09(2)(intro.).

Advanced technology (pelletized feed) coupled with intense public interest in providing emergency deer feeding during severe winters necessitates a Natural Resources Board policy modification and adoption of winter feeding criteria to guide agency implementation. The rules identify the proper feed, deer population levels, deer concentration levels, and the Department's role.

SECTION 1. NR 1.15(1)(a) is amended to read:

NR 1.15(1)(a) Forest diversity. A planned program of maintaining forest diversity including shade-intolerant cover types, particularly aspen, oak and forest openings, is required to slow or halt this ~~trend~~ decline in habitat quality and to maintain deer populations at established goal levels.

SECTION 2. NR 1.15(1)(b) and (c) are repealed and recreated to read:

NR 1.15(1)(b) Summer range. Habitat conditions are deteriorating most rapidly on summer deer range. Forest maturation, conversion from sun-loving tree species to shade tolerant species and loss of grassy openings are reducing the quality of summer deer range and with it, the deer carrying capacity in northern Wisconsin. The

1. The department will seek appropriate deer harvest quotas to maintain deer populations at established goals.

2. Habitat management will emphasize maintaining summer range quality which will produce well nourished deer in the fall and enhance their overwinter survival.

3. The department will monitor wintering deer herds by surveying yarding areas and measuring winter severity.

4. The department will implement existing deer yard plans to maximize browse and perpetuate priority cover.

5. The department will provide technical advice and guidance to individuals and groups on where, when, what and how to feed privately acquired food to deer during severe winters.

SECTION 3. NR 1.15(2)(a) and (b) are amended to read:

NR 1.15(2)(a) Population goals. Maintaining a deer herd in balance with its range and at population goals reasonably compatible with agricultural and forest management objectives in each deer management unit. Deer management units are areas of similar habitat bounded by major roads. Population goals in the forested deer range are to be based on long-term average carrying capacity as determined by unit population responses to habitat quality and past winters of varying severity. Goals in the agricultural range are to be based upon hunter demand balanced with an assessment of local human tolerance to deer numbers, particularly as it relates to crop damage and the frequency of deer-vehicle collisions on highways. Annual hunting seasons will harvest deer to maintain goal levels and will include buck, either-sex or buck and quota permit bag limits as the need dictates.

management objective, depending upon the deer population goal, is to provide an adequate mixture of aspen, oak, upland brush, jack pine and sodded openings in connection with regular forest management practices.

(c) Winter range. Winter habitat may be increasing as a result of expanding coniferous cover and implementation of deer yard plans on public lands. However, winter deer survival is largely dependent on fat acquired on the summer range. Deer have evolved physiologically and behaviorally to survive in northern forest habitats under average winter conditions. Occasional severe winters will result in deer mortality. These periodic losses are considered normal for northern deer and will occur irrespective of winter habitat quality. Severe deer losses can be mitigated most effectively by maintaining quality summer habitat. Direct feeding of hay, corn or other agricultural crops is seldom effective and even detrimental if not introduced gradually over time. While browse cutting does provide natural feed, it is largely ineffective. Specially formulated feed in pelletized form has been demonstrated to benefit malnourished deer. However, the cost and logistics of feeding enough deer to produce a measurable result in subsequent years precludes feeding as normal public policy. The department recognizes public concern for malnourished deer, public desire to feed stressed deer regardless of cost or measurable results and the benefits to individual animals which are properly fed. Therefore, the following policy is adopted for wintering deer in the northern forest.

(b) Hunting objectives. Achieving and maintaining opportunities for a quality range of deer hunting experience while still allowing to the extent possible, freedom of choice by hunters. Regulations should provide incentives or disincentives to encourage better distribution of hunting pressure. If hunter numbers continue to increase, control of hunting pressure may become necessary.

The foregoing rules were approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on November 20, 1986. The rules shall take effect as provided in s. 227.22(2)(intro.), Stats.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin

May 14, 1987

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BY

Carroll D. Besadny
Carroll D. Besadny, Secretary

(SEAL)



State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Carroll D. Besadny
Secretary

May 14, 1987

File Ref: 1020

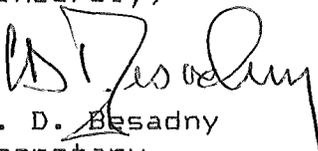
Mr. Orlan L. Prestegard
Revisor of Statutes
Suite 904
30 W. Mifflin Street

Dear Mr. Prestegard:

Enclosed are two copies, including one certified copy, of State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board Order No. WM-47-86. These rules were reviewed by the Assembly Committee on Tourism, Recreation and Forest Productivity and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism and Conservation pursuant to s. 227.19, Stats. A summary of the final regulatory flexibility analysis and comments of the legislative review committees is also enclosed.

You will note that this order takes effect following publication. Kindly publish it in the Administrative Code accordingly.

Sincerely,


C. D. Besadny
Secretary

Enc.