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

The statement of scope for this permanent rule, SS 024-13, was approved by the Governor on March 13, 2013, published in Register No. 687, on March 31, 2013, and approved by the Natural Resources Board on April 24, 2013. This permanent rule was approved by the Governor on April 14, 2015.

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to repeal Ch. NR, 10.001 (2e), 10.01 (3) (ed), (es) 2, 3., and (et), 10.07 (3), 10.09 (1) (c) 1. e. and (note) and (2), 10.24 (2) (b), 10.28 (3), 12.06 (4) (b), 13.38 (2) (b) (note), 45.09 (9), to amend NR 1.15 (1) (a), (b), (c) 1. and (2) (a) (title) and (intro.), (at) and (3), 10.001 (6p), (19e), 10.01 (2) (b) 1., 10.01 (3) (es) 1., (ev), 10.01 (4) (dm), 10.02 (3), 10.06 (5), (8) (a), (b) and (note), 10.07 (1) (b) 3., (2m) (b) 1. and (g) 2., 10.09 (1) (c), 10.09 (3), 10.10 (2), 10.102 (1) (e) 4., 10.103 (1), 10.105 (1), (2), (4) (title) (intro.) and (a), and (7) (intro.) (a) and (b), 10.106 (1) (Intro) (a), (b) and (c) (intro.) 1. and 3., 10.11 (5) (a), 10.12 (5) (c), 10.15 (1) (a), 10.15 (6), 10.16 (Intro.) and (2), 10.22 (1), 10.23 (2) (a), 10.24 (2) (a) and (c), 10.25 (4) (a), 10.40 (3) (f) and (Note), 11.042 (Intro.), 11.043 (Intro.), 11.11 (Intro.), 12.06 (title) (1) and (2), 12.16 (4), 13.38 (2) (b), 15.01 (Intro.), 15.015 (Intro.), 15.10 (1) (Intro.), 15.12 (Intro.), 19.60 (2) (b) 1., 45.09 (1), 45.13 (18), 45.13 (21) and (24), to repeal and recreate NR 1.15 (2) (a) 8., 10.01 (3) (e) and (em), 10.104, 10.106 (2), 10.28 (1) and (2), 10.28 (4), 10.41, and to create NR 10 (Title.), 10.001(1k), 10.001 (23a) and (23b), 10.01 (3) (ep), 10.01 (3) (ex), and (4) (dm) (Note), 10.106 (1) (c) 4., 10.15 (3m), 10.16 (2m), 10.285, and NR 10 Subchapter II relating deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee Report.

WM-11-13

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

Statutory Authority and Explanation of Agency Authority: Department authority to conduct a variety of habitat and wildlife management activities is established in ss. 23.09(2)(b), (d), (h), (k), (km), and (p), Stats. These sections authorize rulemaking related to deer and deer habitat management and: plans and priorities for conservation, game refuges, cooperative forest protection, research, resources inventory, and disease control. These sections authorize many existing provisions of Ch. NR's 1 (Natural Resources Board Policy), 11 (closed areas), 15 (game refuges), and 45 (use of department properties), Wis. Adm. Code.

The primary authority to establish hunting regulations for deer and other species is established in s. 29.014, Stats. This section directs the department to establish and maintain open and closed seasons, bag limits, size limits, rest days, and other conditions for the taking of game that conserves the game supply and provides citizens with good hunting opportunities. This section authorizes many of the existing provisions of Ch. NR's 8 (license and permit procedures), 10 (game and hunting) and 19 (Miscellaneous Fur, Fish, Game and Outdoor Recreation), Wis. Adm. Code.

The wildlife damage and nuisance program and rulemaking authority are established in s. 29.889 (2) (b), Stats., which directs the department to establish rules for program eligibility and funding, methods of abating damage, forms and procedures, prorating claims, and record keeping, audits and inspections. This

is the authorizing legislation for much of Ch. NR 12, Wis. Adm. Code, related to wildlife damage. Rules related to Chippewa treaty rights (Ch. NR 13) are promulgated under general authority to establish hunting regulations in s. 29.014, Stats., and these rules are the department's interpretation of how laws must be interpreted or limited in order to comply with the general limitations on state regulatory authority expressed in Lac Courte Oreilles v. State of Wisconsin, 668 F. Supp. 1233 (W.D. Wis. 1987) and the specific limitations expressed in the regulatory phase of the Voigt litigation. (See e.g., Lac Courte Oreilles v. State of Wisconsin, 707 F. Supp. 1034 (W.D. Wis. 1989)).

Additional specific rule making authority was established by 2013 ACT 20, the biennial state budget. The deer management assistance program is created in s. 29.020, Stats., and the department is directed to promulgate rules and establish fees. In s. 29.040, Stats., the department is authorized to promulgate rules that implement recommendations of the 2012 deer trustee's report. Under s. 29.181 (4), Stats., the department is authorized to establish by rule the fee for a bonus deer hunting permit that is issued for use in a county or deer management area where CWD has been identified.

Authority related specifically to the issuance of hunting permits is found in s. 29.024 (2) (d) Stats. This statute establishes that it is illegal to transfer an approval or permit or allow its use by any other person. The law establishes limited exceptions and that the department can, by rule, allow the transfer of permits or approvals. These rules will allow certain transfers of bonus permits issued under the deer management assistance program.

Statutes Interpreted and Explanation: Statutes interpreted or explained in this rule order include ss. 23.09 (2), 29.014, 29.020, 29.040, 29.181 (4), 29.889 (2) (b), and 227.11, Stats. In particular, s. 29.014, Stats., grants rule making authority to the department to establish open and closed seasons for hunting and trapping and to establish other regulations. All rules promulgated under this authority are subject to review under Ch. 227, Stats.

Related Statute or Rule: Board Order WM-24-13(E) [SS 098-13] relating deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee Report and Board Order WM-08-14(E) [SS 056-14] related to implementation of the Deer Management Assistance Program and County Deer Management Advisory Councils are the emergency rule companions to this permanent rule. The emergency rules remain in effect until June 30, 2015, or the date on which this permanent rule takes effect, whichever is sooner.

Emergency rules related to establishing a season for hunting deer with crossbows, Board Order WM-05-14(E) [SS 018-14] are currently in effect. The scope statement for a companion permanent rule, which will establish the crossbow season for hunting deer beginning in 2016, will also be promulgated as Board Order WM-06-14 [SS 017-14]. This rule order modifies numerous sections current permanent rule which have already been modified by the emergency rule and those modification are incorporated in this order. The season for hunting deer with a crossbow is established in this rule only for 2014 and 2015.

Board Order WM-04-13, related to remedial and housekeeping updates, is currently being promulgated and may affect some of the same sections as this board order. Where possible, the department has chosen only one board order to make needed updates.

Plain Language Rule Analysis: Gubernatorial candidate Scott Walker made a promise to appoint a "Deer Trustee" to review white-tailed deer management programs and hunting in Wisconsin. In October of 2011 Dr. James C. Kroll, officially known as Wisconsin's white-tailed deer trustee, entered into a contract with the State of Wisconsin to conduct an independent, objective and scientifically-based review of Wisconsin's deer management practices. The White-tailed Deer Trustee's report was released to the public in July, 2012.

The objective of these proposed rules is to implement ideas and solutions from the Deer Trustee's report to forge a new age for deer management.

SECTIONS 1 to 3 update Natural Resources Board policy so that the term "population objective" and "goal" are used consistently and for concise wording.

SECTION 4 creates introductory material that organizes the current contents of Ch. NR 10 as Subchapter 1 and prepares for the creation of another subchapter related to the deer management assistance program.

SECTION 5 creates a definition of "afield" for the purpose of establishing that a deer cannot be possessed by someone other than the person who tagged it if the person who tagged the deer is not also present with the deer while afield, similar to current rules.

SECTION 6 eliminates the definition of an "archery hunt" because it is no longer consistent with current law or a necessary provision in this chapter.

SECTIONS 7, 53, 57 and 66 establish that CWD management zones will be identified as CWD-affected areas and are based on counties, consistent with proposed deer management unit boundaries.

SECTIONS 8 establishes definitions of "private" and "public-access lands" so that bonus deer hunting permits can be issued as valid only for use on land not open to public hunting or as valid only for use on lands which are open to hunting by members of the public, but not valid on both types of land. Lands which are privately owned but open to public hunting under the managed forest law program and other government agreements are considered public access lands for purposes of this provision.

SECTIONS 9, 18 and 28 update cross references related to sharp-tailed grouse, fisher, and bear management zones or subzones so that the deer management unit map in effect in 2013, and which is renamed "Game management zones" continues to be the one cross referenced.

SECTIONS 10 to 16 of this proposal establish the deer hunting season dates for gun, archery, muzzleloader, and deer hunting by youth hunters. The standard deer hunting season framework established in these sections is:

Bow & Arrow/Archery	Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6. Hunting is for antlerless deer only at times when a firearm season for antlerless deer only is also open.
Crossbow	Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6. Hunting is for antlerless deer only at times when a firearm season for antlerless deer only is also open.
Youth	Two consecutive days beginning on the Saturday nearest October 8.
Traditional 9-day November firearm deer season	Saturday before Thanksgiving Day Holiday and continuing for 9 days.
Muzzleloader only	Beginning on the day after the traditional November firearm deer season and continuing for 10 days.
December 4-day antlerless season.	Beginning on the second Thursday following the

	Thanksgiving Day holiday.
Additional non-standard season framework options are described in SECTION 17 below.	

This section eliminates references to state park hunting seasons which are no longer needed because state statute has established that deer hunting is generally allowed in state parks. This section retains language which establishes the seasons for certain state parks when it is still needed because the existing seasons are different than the general statewide seasons. Muzzleloader only seasons are an example of the type season variations that have existed at some state parks. Finally, this section eliminates state park deer management unit designations and limited entry state park deer hunts.

These sections establish a general bag limit of one buck during firearm deer seasons and one buck during the archery seasons, plus additional antlerless deer where permits are available.

SECTION 17 establishes additional season framework options which the department could implement upon the recommendation of the county deer management advisory council in a unit. The options include an antlerless deer only season framework for all archery, crossbow, or firearm seasons. These sections establish that a season commonly referred to as the December, antlerless-only holiday firearm season could be recommended to the department and would begin on December 24 and continue through January 1. The holiday hunt option is available only in units that are in a farmland zone.

SECTION 19 restores the protected status of white deer in a CWD-affected area so that they will again be protected statewide.

SECTIONS 20 and 21 update provisions related to hunting hours to include references to crossbows and maintain cross-references related to hunting hours for species that have no hunting hour restrictions except at times when a firearm deer season is open.

SECTIONS 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, 35 to 46 and to add the word “crossbow” to provisions where appropriate because firearms, bows, or handguns are currently listed. These sections also add a description or cross-reference to a crossbow license or season as appropriate in locations where archer or firearm licenses or seasons are already listed or cross-referenced.

SECTION 23 repeals a cross-reference related to blaze orange requirements during deer seasons in CWD zones which is not necessary because blaze orange requirements are already established in statute.

SECTION 25 and 59 repeal a historic prohibition of the possession of firearms in the field on the day before the traditional 9-day firearm deer season.

SECTION 30 revises population goals so that they will be expressed as management objectives to increase, maintain, or decrease the deer population density in a management unit. Deer management units will generally be the same as counties with exceptions for metropolitan subunits and areas within the exterior boundaries of the Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Menominee, and Red Cliff reservations. This section establishes county deer management councils which will be advisory to the department. This section also establishes antlerless permits and their allowable uses and methods of distribution. This section establishes a $12.00 fee for bonus permits which are issued for a CWD-affected area and a $6.00 fee for bonus permits issued under the deer management assistance program. In units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish by an order of the secretary that antlerless tags issued to junior deer hunting license buyers are not valid. Finally, this section eliminates additional buck harvest opportunities commonly referred to as “earn-a-buck” and “bonus buck”.

SECTION 31 modifies the tagging procedures so that a deer possessed in the field must be accompanied by the person who tagged it, even if the deer has already been registered. Deer which have been registered may be possessed and transported on roadways or possessed at a home or established businesses (taxidermist, butcher shop, etc.) by someone other than the person who tagged it, consistent with current rules. This section also updates language to reflect elimination of "earn-a-buck" and "bonus buck" regulations.

SECTIONS 32 and 33 establish that a harvest registration confirmation number must be legibly printed on the carcass tag to show proof that a deer has been registered with the department under an electronic or telephone registration system. This section also maintains the current prohibition of processing a deer while in the field, except that it may be divided into as many as 5 parts to help with removing it from the field.

SECTION 34 modifies deer registration procedures to allow telephone or electronic recording of harvest. The ability to require in-person registration in areas is retained if the department determines that is necessary for research, collecting tissue samples, or during transition periods. Deer and bear harvest must be registered with the department by 5:00 p.m. of the day after the deer or bear is taken into possession. Registration requirements will be the same statewide for both firearm and bow-and-arrow harvested deer. This section also clarifies that an antlerless deer may not be possessed in the field outside of the unit of harvest except on a public highway or at a dwelling or established business such as a butcher shop or taxidermist's place of business, and then only after first being registered. This is similar to current restrictions which prohibit transportation of a deer outside the unit of harvest prior to registration but is amended so the rule remains effective to enforce restrictions on illegal use of tags when electronic harvest registration is allowed.

SECTION 47 establishes deer management units which will generally be based on counties and establishes metropolitan deer management subunits and identifies tribal units. This section preserves the current metropolitan deer management units as subunits within county units.

SECTION 48 repeals the CWD management zone map which is no longer needed. CWD-affected areas under this rule proposal are comparable. CWD-affected areas can be modified by the department based upon where CWD is identified without administrative rule changes.

SECTION 49 repeals the existing deer management regions map and replaces it with a comparable but simplified zone map that is more aligned along county boundaries. This map also identifies where certain antlerless tags can be used and to describe deer season frameworks.

Section 50 renames the deer management unit map that was in effect in 2013 because those boundaries continue to be used for other purposes such as the basis for the fisher management zone map. The map is now called "Game management zones".

SECTION 51 establishes that buck tags may only be used to tag bucks and southern farmland zone antlerless deer tags, which are available to all firearm and archery license buyers, may be used statewide by participants in firearm deer hunts for hunters with disabilities. In the past, buck tags could be used for deer of either sex during these hunts. This provision is intended to reduce confusion about how tags can be used by disabled permit holders during the variety of deer seasons. This section also modifies the note for consistency with new rules allowing the use of rifles statewide during firearm deer seasons.

SECTION 53 establishes the deer management assistance program to assist with specialized management of deer in localized areas and for specific purposes. This section establishes fees and other conditions for participation in the program.

SECTIONS 54 to 55 establish crossbow hunting seasons which are consistent with archery deer hunting seasons at a number of waterfowl hunting closed areas where some archery deer hunting is currently allowed.

SECTION 56 establishes that crossbow deer hunting is not allowed at times when archery deer hunting is not allowed under current rules at the Buckhorn wildlife area.

Section 58 updates cross-references and modifies language to reflect that earn-a-buck regulations have been repealed.

SECTION 60 and 61 update a cross-reference related to establishing the harvest quota for tribal members in the ceded territories.

SECTIONS 62 to 65 add "crossbow" to provisions which already restrict possession of bows and firearms at 37 game refuges and notes that possession of loaded, uncased handguns is allowed by people who are licensed to possess a concealed handgun.

SECTIONS 67 and 69 to 71 update language to include crossbows in various provisions where it is currently only required that bows and arrows be unstrung or enclosed in a carrying case on certain department managed lands.

SECTION 68 repeals the requirement to obtain a special permit before hunting deer in a state park in the CWD management zone.

Federal Regulatory Analysis: These state rules and statutes do not relieve individuals from the restrictions, requirements and conditions of federal statutes and regulations. Regulating the hunting and trapping of native species falls within the purview of state fish and wildlife agencies.

Comparison with rules in Adjacent States: All of Wisconsin's surrounding states use hunting seasons to provide hunting opportunities and to manage white-tailed deer herds. All of the surrounding states utilize a range of hunting seasons and allow the use of archery equipment, firearms and muzzleloading firearms at certain times. The seasons proposed in this rule order do not vary significantly from the hunting opportunities that are available in other states.

<u>Illinois</u>
The Illinois archery season runs from October 1, 2013 - January 19, 2014 except that it is closed during the firearm deer season in those portions of the state that hold a firearm deer season. Illinois has two periods for firearm deer hunting, a muzzleloader season, and special CWD and antlerless-only seasons. The first firearm season in 2013 is November 22 - 24 and the second season is December 5 - 8. The muzzleloader season is Dec. 13 - 15. The special CWD and antlerless-only seasons occur on December 26 - 29 and January 17 - 19, 2014. A youth firearm deer hunt is open on October 12 - 14. All firearm hunting permits are distributed first through a tiered drawing system where residents have a higher chance of being selected for a permit than non-residents, then through a random daily drawing, and finally they are offered over-the-counter on a first-come first-served basis until the unit's quota is reached. Hunters who are eligible to purchase a hunting permit receive an either-sex permit and one bonus antlerless-only permit. There is no limit on the number of resident archery licenses that will be issued, and each resident archery license includes an antlerless-only and an either sex permit. Non-resident archery licenses also include an either sex permit and an antlerless-only permit, but are allocated through a lottery system.

Iowa
In Iowa, there are two archery seasons, two muzzleloader seasons, and two shotgun seasons. There is also an antlerless-only season, a youth hunt for residents, and a holiday season for nonresidents. The archery season runs from October 1 – December 6 and December 23 – January 10, 2014. The muzzleloader seasons run from October 12 – 20 (residents only) and December 23 – January 10, 2014. The shotgun seasons run from December 7 – 11 and December 14 – 22. The antlerless-only season runs from January 11 – 19, 2014, the youth hunt runs from September 21 – October 6, and the holiday season runs from December 24 – January 2, 2014. When a hunter purchases an 'Any Deer License', they are entitled to harvest either a buck or an antlerless deer statewide. Hunters also have the option to purchase an 'Antlerless-only License' which is valid for a specific zone in the state. The number of antlerless licenses available in any particular zone is determined by a quota system, and hunters are able to purchase these licenses on a first-come first-served basis until the quota is reached.

Michigan
Michigan has one firearm season, two archery seasons, and one muzzleloader season, as well as two antlerless-only seasons and a youth hunt. The firearm season run November 15 – 30. The archery seasons runs October 1 – November 14 and December 1 – January 1, 2014. Michigan's muzzleloader-only season is split into three zones with each zone's season occurring in December and lasting for either 10 or 17 days. The antlerless-only seasons run from September 21-22 and December 23 – January 1, 2014 and the youth hunt occurs on Sept 21-22. Hunters interested in harvesting an antlerless deer must purchase an antlerless license that is valid within a specific DMU for use on either public access lands or private land. In some DMUs, these licenses may only be purchased over the counter, whereas in others there is an application process and drawing.

Minnesota
Minnesota has one archery season, one firearm season that is divided into four separate zones, and one muzzleloader season. There is also a special archery season on Camp Ripley (a military base) and a youth season. The archery season runs from September 14 – December 31. The firearm season runs November 9 – 17, November 9 – 24, or November 23 – December 1 depending on the zone. The muzzleloader season runs November 30 – December 15. The special archery hunt on Camp Ripley occurs on October 26 – 27 and November 2-3. The youth hunt runs from October 17 – 20. Antlerless permits are distributed through a license lottery in "lottery" areas of the state. In "Hunter Choice", "Managed", or "Intensive" areas licenses are either-sex. Bonus permits for antlerless deer are available over the counter for use in managed and intensive areas.

Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies: Implementation of the deer trustee's report will result in establishing a number of new policies for deer management and hunting management compared to current rules. The primary policy alternatives evaluated in development of these rules are ones recommended in the report. Throughout this rulemaking process, the department and its partners did evaluate other policy alternatives as they were identified.

The full report is located on the department's website at:
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/documents/DTR/FinalReportAndRecommendations.pdf

Revisions to Ch. NR 1 are minor and consist of an update to Natural Resources Board policy so that the term "population objective" and "goal" are used consistently throughout the board order and for concise wording. This rule order favors the term "objective" to describe the deer population level that management activities are designed to achieve. The terms "objective" and "goal" are very similar and "objective" is favored in this rulemaking because it was a recommendation of the trustee's report.

Chapter NR 10 establishes most of the deer population management policy, practices and hunting regulations that are in place today. Currently, Ch. NR 10 establishes the Sex-Age-Kill model for estimating deer populations, deer population goals, and deer management units. These rules establish a process by which the department can elect to use alternative methods of estimating deer populations. These rules will replace the current population goals by eliminating numeric goals and replacing them with a simplified statement of objectives to "increase, stabilize, or decrease the deer population." These rules establish a set of metrics to monitor progress towards the objective. These rules significantly reduce the number of deer management units and establish that they are generally the same as the county boundaries with exceptions for metropolitan subunits and tribal lands. These rules do not change the department's current requirement to evaluate deer management unit boundaries and population goals or objectives on a recurring three year basis.

Under these rules the department will be able to modify antlerless harvest quotas and permit levels on an annual basis. These rules establish that the department will seek input from groups or representatives for certain deer related interests in establishing quotas by creating *county deer management advisory councils*. Through these councils, the department will seek comment from members of the public on the status of the deer herd. The councils will usually be chaired by the chairperson for the county delegation of the Conservation Congress. Other members of the council can also include a representative of Wisconsin's Chippewa bands if in ceded territories and a representative for; agriculture, forestry, tourism, transportation, a local organization representing hunting interests, and local government. Membership on a county deer management advisory council may also include a participant in the deer management assistance program. The department will establish guidance for the operation of county deer management advisory councils and background checks of volunteer council members may be conducted.

The county deer management advisory councils will have the ability to recommend a number of deer hunting season framework modifications which may be implemented by the department by an order of the secretary. Modifications could be made in individual units and could be in place for as little as one season. The options include an antlerless deer only season framework for all archery, crossbow, or firearm seasons. A season commonly referred to as the December, antlerless-only holiday firearm season could be recommended to the department and would begin on December 24 and continue through January 1. The holiday hunt option is available only in units that are in a farmland zone. Additionally, councils could make recommendations on the number of farmland zone antlerless deer permits which are included with the purchase of a license.

Under this proposal, hunters in most of the state will continue to receive an antlerless deer tag with the purchase of a firearm or archery license. This tag will be comparable to the current "herd control unit" tag which is issued in units that are 20% or more over the established population goal. In 2015 these antlerless tags are not weapon-specific but, beginning in 2016, these tags could only be used under the authority of the license they are issued with and would not be transferable among seasons. Under the proposal, these tags will be valid in many but potentially not all farmland units. Beginning in 2016, the antlerless tag issued with an archery license would be valid statewide except in units without a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer. There is flexibility to establish that antlerless tags issued automatically with deer hunting licenses are not valid in farmland units that have a population objective to increase or stabilize the deer population. The department would establish this after natural resources board approval of a secretary's order, and following evaluation and a recommendation from county deer management advisory councils and the department. The department currently issues additional herd control tags for the cost of a $2.00 issuance fee but those tags will be discontinued by this rule. Under this proposal, the standard fee of $12.00, also the current fee for a bonus permit, will apply for most antlerless permits which are in addition to the one that was issued with hunting licenses. These rules also establish a $12.00 fee for additional antlerless tags which allow harvest of deer in the CWD-affected area. Under statute, $5.00 of the fee for bonus permits issued for use in a CWD-affected area will be credited to

an account for management and testing of chronic wasting disease. Through the deer management assistance program, these rules allow establishing separate fees and unique antlerless deer permits that are specific for use on properties enrolled in the deer management assistance program and those are explained where that program is described. In units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish by an order of the secretary that antlerless tags issued to junior deer hunting license buyers are not valid.

An important change in the allowable use of most antlerless deer permits is that, under this proposal, they will be valid for harvesting antlerless deer only on private land or only on lands open to public access for hunting. Historically, bonus permits had been valid for hunting on any type of land in the correct management unit. This rule change is intended to address hunter concerns about harvest and hunting pressure on publicly accessible lands. This regulation may reduce the level of antlerless deer harvest on lands open to public hunting. Under the proposal, public access lands are defined as land owned, under easement to, or lease by federal, state or county government if that land is open to public access for hunting and includes private lands enrolled in the managed forest or forest crop program, or which is otherwise open to hunting by members of the general public.

A variety of related hunting regulations changes are proposed in these rules. Some of them are simplifications to current rules. Changes include the names for permits and the allowable use of various deer permits. Deer carcass tags, tagging, and transportation requirements are modified where possible in order to simplify regulations or where needed in anticipation of a new automated licensing system. The current requirement to register deer is replaced in these rules with a more customer-friendly harvest reporting procedure using telephone or internet. Black bear are another species for which in-person registration of harvested animals is required. These rules will modify bear harvest recording requirements because deer and bear registration occur at the same locations and through the same process under current rules. These rules will eliminate deadlines to register deer and bear that currently vary by season, harvest method, and location. Instead, a simple statewide requirement to register deer and bear harvest by 5:00 p.m. of the day after harvest is established. The department can make exceptions where in-person registration may still be required for sampling purposes. This allows fewer hours to register an animal than under current law but electronic registration will be significantly more convenient. Faster registration of deer will provide the department, and others who may be interested, with very timely harvest information. The shorter deadline may also help with enforcing bag limit, tagging, transportation, and possession restrictions. The option to require in-person registration of deer carcasses is preserved in areas that are part of a CWD-affected area or where necessary for deer population and herd health monitoring purposes. The department could take advantage of this authority in order to collect tissue specimens for sampling for a wide variety of diseases or biometrics associated with deer populations. Finally, in order to assure hunter accountability and compliance with group bagging restrictions, these rules establish that a deer carcass possessed in the field must be accompanied by the person who tagged it. These rules maintain the restriction that deer and bear can only be “quartered” while in the field, even if they have already been registered. Both of these regulations essentially maintain current requirements because in-the-field registration of harvested deer was not possible previously. Now that deer could be registered while in the field by using a cellular phone or other electronic means, these rules will continue to require that the person who tagged the carcass accompany it during dragging or other field transport or possession by others. Deer that have been registered could be possessed and transported by other people on public highways or possessed at a residence or business, such as a taxidermist or butcher shop. These requirements will also assure sex or size of deer or bear are identifiable in the field.

Season date modifications may have the impact of opening a small number of refuges, which are established in NR 11 and 15, to additional deer hunting during the late firearm season that begins on December 24. These refuges are located primarily on department managed lands and most of them were

established to provide undisturbed resting areas for migrating waterfowl. This deer hunt will occur very late in fall migration and will normally be after all waterfowl seasons are closed.

The department is recommending deer hunting season date modifications as a result of this rulemaking. The report generally recommended, "keeping seasons and bag limits consistent for longer periods of time to allow better assessment of management progress". The season date modifications in the proposal may lead to more long term stability of seasons. These rules will maintain the current season for hunting deer by archery methods. This proposal maintains the traditional Wisconsin firearm deer season opener on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and 9 day structure. The current 10 day muzzleloader season is maintained under this proposal. These rules retain a statewide four day antlerless-only firearm season beginning on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving Day holiday. This antlerless-only season is the same as the one held statewide from 2006 through 2013 but which was suspended in 2014 only. This proposal modifies the "holiday hunt" which has been held in the CWD management zone so that it is no longer a standard part of the deer hunting season framework and, in counties where it is held, it would end on January 1 instead of the Sunday nearest January 6. The holiday hunt could be expanded geographically to include entire counties where previously the hunt was held only in a portion of the county. This holiday deer hunt occurs under current rules in the CWD management zone. It has been a low-pressure event but, for some, a greatly appreciated opportunity for additional deer hunting at a time when families are together and around which some new deer hunting traditions are developing. The late firearm season, or holiday hunt, is similar to seasons offered in other adjacent states and will occur during a time of the year when more residents are traditionally taking vacation or home for the holidays as in the case of veterans. Finally, only in areas that are part of the CWD season under current rules, archery deer hunting has been allowed on the day before the traditional 9-day firearm season opens. Under this proposal, the archery deer season will be open statewide on the day before the traditional 9-day firearm season for statewide consistency.

In metropolitan deer management subunits a 19-day firearm deer hunting season has been in place and is maintained by this rule proposal.

Under current rule, numerous state parks are listed in the table that establishes deer seasons because the department was required to establish hunting seasons in state parks by administrative rule. Under 2011 ACT 168, hunting is allowed at state parks except where, or at times when, the Natural Resources Board has prohibited the activity in order to protect public safety or a unique plant or animal community. Because the old presumption that state parks are closed unless opened by rule has been replaced by a presumption that state parks are open unless board action has been taken to close them, most state park names have been removed from the table. Those parks will be open to deer hunting under normal statewide regulations at times when hunting has not been prohibited for safety related purposes by natural resources board order. A number of parks, which had deer hunting seasons or regulations which are not the same as the ones that apply statewide are still found in the season table in order to preserve those unique seasons or regulations. All state park deer management unit number designations have been repealed and state parks are simply referred to by their name. Current rules require that deer hunters in state parks in the CWD management zone obtain a free access permit to a park. The number of access permits is not restricted. This rule repeals that requirement because it is no longer needed considering that access to other parks will not be monitored to this extent. Finally, the deer hunt at the Loew Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, which had been a limited entry/draw hunt, will now be open to participation by any licensed hunter. However, this season will continue to be muzzleloader only. These changes are made for consistency with other changes made at state parks which previously had limited entry hunts.

These rules establish additional season framework options which the department could implement upon the recommendation of two-thirds of the county deer management advisory councils in a management zone. Those options include an antlerless deer only season framework for all archery, crossbow, or firearm seasons. The second option in the holiday antlerless-only firearm season in farmland zones, as described earlier in this summary.

The trustee's report generally recommends a more passive approach than current department policy to the management of chronic wasting disease. This approach is reflected by the establishment of deer seasons in CWD-affected areas that are similar to other areas of the state. Management of CWD in the state's deer herd is still important under these rules. These rules retain an option to hold a firearm deer season occurring over the Christmas holiday, although it will now end on January 1. These rules modify the current CWD zone management system by designating it as the CWD-affected area using county boundaries to describe the zone instead of the previous DMU configuration based on roads and natural features such as rivers. A process for efficiently adding new counties as CWD-affected areas when the disease is discovered in new areas is created. The department currently establishes numeric population goals for deer units that are in a CWD zone. Those goals are modified by these rules so that they are consistent with the manner in which objectives for other units are expressed.

This rulemaking establishes a deer management assistance program that will allow landowners and hunters to work together with the department to manage deer on a site-specific basis. The program will actively involve members of the public in the collection, analysis, and reporting of deer harvest information and improve management of the deer herd at the local level. The rule establishes enrollment fees for participation in the program and statute has established that revenue will be credited back to implementation of the program. This proposal establishes a separate half-price fee of $6.00 for antlerless deer hunting permits obtained through participation in the program. The lower fee is intended to be an incentive for participation. These rules allow the sales of antlerless deer hunting permits to a landowner or primary contact who is enrolled in the deer management assistance program or their authorized representative. The permits could then be transferred, for no more than the actual cost, to hunters who would be able to use the tags on the enrolled property. The program is a central feature of the report which recommended that the department establish: a) applicability to private and publically accessible lands, b) initial areas eligible to participate, c) administration of DMAP, d) funding, e) personnel and training, f) minimum property size to participate, g) fees, h) participation requirements, i) data collection requirements, j) registration of deer harvested on DMAP properties, k) data analysis and reporting, and l) assessment of DMAP effectiveness.

Chapter NR 13 is intended to regulate off-reservation treaty rights of treaty rights participants recognized by Lac Courte Oreilles Band v. Voigt, 700 F. 2d 341 (7th Cir. 1983). Modifications to Ch. NR 13 update a cross reference with Ch. NR 10. Other out-of-date cross-references exist in this chapter but are not revised here as that might be more appropriate as a stand-alone, more thorough review. The report did not recommend changes to this chapter of administrative code.

A significant portion of this board order is dedicated to updating administrative code so that it is consistent with 2013 ACT 61 which establishes deer hunting seasons in 2014 and 2015 where the use of crossbows is allowed. Under the Act, the crossbow season must be identical to the archery season. Other substantiative provisons of this rule related to the use of crossbows, such as the allowable uses of carcass tags, are also written as directed by the ACT. The department has limited discretion in rulemaking for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. Beginning in 2016, the department will have much greater statutory authority and more decision making ability. This board order does make numerous remedial revisions to reflect the new status of crossbows as generally allowed for hunting. Throughout the rule, references to "archery" and "crossbow" are intended to reflect statutory language which creates an "archer hunting" license and a "crossbow hunting" license.

Additional remedial revisions reflect that statutes now allow the possession of loaded, uncased handguns by people who are licensed to possess a concealed handgun, including in department closed areas and game refuges where possession of other weapons is restricted.

Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of an economic impact analysis: The department estimates that the economic impact of these rules will be none or minimal and, pursuant to 2011 Executive Order 50, facilitated a 14 day period for comment on a draft economic impact analysis. The comment period began on October 7 and ended on October 21, 2013. Although s. Ch. 227.14 Stats., does not require an economic impact analysis for emergency rules, an analysis was prepared for companion emergency rules as well as for this board order.

This proposal modifies rules that establish the department's habitat and deer harvest management strategies. Examples of the new management efforts include: increased emphasis of habitat management on private land through the deer management assistance program, eliminating the requirement to use a specific method of measuring and estimating deer populations even though that model may still be used and considered, and new ways to describe desired deer population levels. These rules will result in moderate revisions to regulations that apply to individual deer hunters. Examples of the types of changes proposed include adjustments to deer management unit boundaries, simplified harvest registration procedures, different deer hunting regulations on private versus public access lands, and different uses and changes in the availability of antlerless deer harvest permits.

Deer population, harvest, and habitat management affect many entities in this state. A broad description of affected industries includes agriculture, forestry, tourism, and retail. Governments may be impacted by these rules because many do have programs to manage nuisance deer locally. Many non-profit groups are focused on natural resource conservation, wildlife resources, or deer in particular, and may be affected by these rules.

The department anticipates there will be no or a minimal effect on the financial health of industries, governments, and groups. The department anticipates there will be no economic effects of these regulations for individual hunters and landowners.

Affected entities are likely to base their evaluations of economic impact on their opinions of whether or not the rules will result in deer population changes. For instance, agriculture and forest-products interests may benefit from low deer populations and resulting low levels of crop and tree damage. The tourism and retail industries may benefit from high deer populations that result in greater enthusiasm and participation in deer hunting. This rule package will be designed to balance competing interests with a different approach than current rules.

It is important to note that the department is statutorily prohibited from managing deer populations with regulations that require a hunter to first harvest an antlerless deer before harvesting a buck. The department also lacks rulemaking authority for certain deer hunting season frameworks. These changes to the department's regulatory authority result from previously enacted statutes and they were not considered as part of an economic analysis prepared for these rules. While deer may have significant positive or negative impacts to different entities, removal of these harvest regulations likely moderates the economic impact of this rule package.

The department anticipates that there will be no or very few implementation and compliance costs for the affected entities. These rules will not establish reporting or compliance requirements or other regulations for small business. A possible outcome of these rules is the elimination of deer registration stations at local businesses throughout the state. The department has summarized the value of registration fees paid

by the department to businesses, and related impacts of this voluntary program, in the economic impact analysis.

This is not a complete estimate of economic impacts but, rather, a summary which indicates that these rules will have no or minimal economic effects. The final economic analysis for these rules includes a description of the specific impacts of deer and deer hunting in this state based on surveys and research done by the department and other state and federal agencies. However, even though significant research exists, the impact of wild deer on the environment and to people under various conditions cannot be anticipated with exact precision. The final analysis includes significant narrative descriptions of anticipated economic impacts.

Anticipated Private Sector Costs: These rules, and the legislation which grants the department rule making authority, do not have a significant fiscal effect on the private sector. Additionally, no costs are associated with compliance to these rules.

Effects on Small Business: These rules are applicable to individual sportspersons and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses, and no design or operational standards are contained in the rule. Because this rule does not add any regulatory requirements for small businesses, the proposed rules will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses under 227.114(6) or 227.14(2g).

Comment period: The comment period for these rules ended on January 31, 2015.

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SECTION 1. NR 1.15 (1) (a), (b), (c) 1., and (2) (a) (title) and (intro.) are 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 decline in habitat quality and to maintain deer populations at established~~ goal levels~~ population objectives.

(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 habitat 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) 1. The department will seek appropriate deer harvest quotas to ~~maintain~~ move deer populations ~~at established goals~~ in the direction specified by deer population objectives.

(2) (a) *Deer population ~~goals~~ objectives.* The department shall seek to maintain a deer herd in balance with its range and ~~at deer population goals~~ with deer population and sustainable harvest objectives that are reasonably compatible with social, economic and ecosystem management objectives for each deer management unit. Deer population objectives are to be based on:

SECTION 2. NR 1.15 (2) (a) 8. is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 1.15 (2) (a) 8. Ability to manage the deer herd in a management unit towards an established population objective.

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

NR 1.15 (2) (at) If crop damage in a deer management unit with an objective to maintain or increase the population is above the tolerable limit in 2 years out of a 3 year period prior to a ~~current~~ unit review under s. NR 10.104 (3), the department shall consider ~~reducing the goal if intolerable levels of damage are likely when the herd is at goal. If damage in a deer management unit exceeds tolerable levels when the herd is at goal in 2 years out of a 3 year period prior to a current unit review under s. NR 10.104 (3), the department shall reduce the population goal in that unit, unless an objective is selected which would result in a herd size goal reduction is not expected to alleviate intolerable levels of deer damage.~~ establishing an objective to reduce or maintain the deer population.

(3) RESEARCH AND SURVEYS. Surveys, investigations and research shall be conducted to provide technical information necessary to evaluate population objectives and establish population ~~estimates~~ trends, harvest recommendations, population ~~goals~~ objectives and habitat management needs and guidelines.

SECTION 4. NR 10 Subchapter I (title) (precedes NR 10.001) is created to read:

SUBCHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 5. NR 10.001 (1k) is created to read:

NR 10.001 (1k) "Afield" means an area where hunting can legally occur, such as fields, forests or similar areas.

SECTION 6. NR 10.001 (2e) is repealed.

SECTION 7. NR 10.001 (6p), (19e) are amended to read:

NR 10.001 (6P) "CWD ~~management zone~~ affected area" means a zone established in ~~s. NR 10.28 (3)~~ s. NR 10.41 for the control~~,~~ and management ~~and eradication~~ of chronic wasting disease and is considered the chronic wasting disease ~~eradication zone and chronic wasting disease~~ control zone ~~only~~ for purposes of ss. 29.063 (5) and ~~167.31 (4) (bg) 1., Stats.~~ 29.336, Stats.

(19e) "Notice and information to the public that is adequate" under s. 29.063 (2), Stats., means a department press release to the local news media and the official state newspaper and may also include the following: public meetings, telephone contacts, internet postings, brochure distribution, first class mailings and meetings with landowners in the CWD ~~management zone~~ affected area.

Section 8. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b) are created to read:

NR 10.001 (23a) "Private land" for purposes of s. NR 10.104 (8) and (9) means land that is not public-access land under sub. (23b). Private land includes lands that are enrolled in the wildlife damage abatement and claims program under ch. NR 12 Subchapter II except if they qualify as public access lands under sub. (23b) because of government ownership, leases, or easements, or under sub. (23b) (a) to (c).

(23b) "Public access lands" for purposes of s. NR 10.104 (8) and (9) means land owned, under easement to, or lease by federal, state, county, or municipal government if that land is open to public hunting. Public access land also includes the following private lands provided they are open to the public for deer hunting:

(a) Enrolled in the managed forest land or forest croplands program under ch.77, Stats.

(b) Acquired in whole or in part with funding from the stewardship program pursuant to s. 23.0916, Stats.,

(c) Owned by a public utility or cooperative for the production, transmission, delivery or furnishing of heat, light, water, telecommunications service or power.

SECTION 9. NR 10.01 (2) (b) 1. is amended to read:

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
NR 10.01 (2) *(b) Sharp-tailed grouse.*		
1. All ~~deer~~ game management units as described in ~~s. NR 10.28~~ s. NR 10.285 for which a sharp−tailed grouse harvest quota has been established under s. NR 10.26.	Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continuing for 23 consecutive days.	One sharp−tailed grouse per carcass tag issued. The possession limit corresponds to the number of carcass tags issued.

SECTION 10. NR 10.01 (3) (e) is repealed and recreated to read:

Kind of animal and locality except when modified by the department under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ex)	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit except when modified by the department under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ex)
NR 10.01 (3) *(e) Gun deer season except as established in s. 10.01 (3) (ex).*		
1. a. All that part of the state not otherwise listed in subds. 2. to 5.	Firearm season beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving Day holiday and continuing for 9 consecutive days.	One buck deer with a gun buck deer carcass tag and one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104.
b. All that part of the state not otherwise listed in subds. 2. to 4.	Firearm season beginning on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving Day holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days.	One antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104.

2. State parks, trails and forests. State parks, trails, and forests are open during the seasons and subject to the same bag limit listed in subd. 1 except as established in subd. par. a. to c., and except that no person may hunt deer on the state−owned portions of state parks, trails and recreation areas in locations and at times when the department has determined that prohibiting hunting is necessary pursuant to s. 29.089 (1m) (b), Stats. Portions of state properties may also be posted as closed to hunting. No person may use a firearm, other than a muzzleloading firearm, to hunt deer within the boundaries of Perrot, High Cliff, Peninsula, Rib Mountain, Harrington Beach, Kohler-Andrae, and Wildcat Mountain state parks, and the Loew Lake Unit – Kettle Moraine state forest		
a. Perrot, High Cliff and Peninsula state parks and the Loew Lake Unit − Kettle Moraine state forest.	Muzzleloading firearm season beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving Day holiday and continuing for 9 consecutive days.	One buck deer with a gun buck deer carcass tag and one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104.
b. Rib Mountain, Harrington Beach, Kohler-Andrae and Wildcat Mountain state parks.	Muzzleloading firearm season beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving Day holiday and continuing for 19 consecutive days.	One buck deer with a gun buck deer carcass tag and one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104.
c. Buckhorn state park in the area east of 19th avenue, north of county HWY G, and north of 31st street.	Firearm seasons listed in subd. 1, the muzzleloader season established in subd. (es) 1., and the youth hunt in par. (ev).	One buck deer with a gun buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer as authorized by antlerless deer permits or tags issued under s. NR 10.104.
d. Loew Lake Unit − Kettle Moraine state forest.	Muzzleloading firearm season reopening on December 24 and continuing through January 1.	One antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104.
3. Federal properties		
a. Fort McCoy military reservation in Monroe county and Volk Field military facility in Juneau county.	Firearm season type as established by military permit and approved by the department by August 1 annually.	Sex and type of deer is as specified on permit issued by military facility.
Note: The department does not issue deer hunting permits for the Fort McCoy and Volk Field military facilities. Hunters must apply directly to these facilities for a deer hunting permit and are limited to the type of deer specified on the permit.		
b. Nuisance deer removal on the federally owned portions of the Apostle Islands using muzzleloaders only.	Muzzleloading firearm season October 1−31.	One deer per permit issued under Ch. NR 12.
4. Menominee county	Firearm season type as established by the Menominee tribe for tribal members only.	As established by the Menominee tribe.

5. Metropolitan deer management subunits LaCrosse, Hudson, Superior, Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Madison as described under s. NR 10.28 (2).	Firearm season beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 19 consecutive days.	One buck deer with a gun buck deer carcass tag and one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104.

SECTION 11. NR 10.01 (3) (ed) is repealed.

SECTION 12. NR 10.01 (3) (em) is repealed and recreated to read:

10.01 (3) (em) *Archery deer season except as established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (ex).*		
1. All that part of the state not otherwise listed in subds. 2. to 4.	Beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104, except that no person may harvest a buck in an area of the state where an antlerless only firearm deer hunting season established under NR10.01(3)(e) or (ex) is open.
2. Federal properties.		
a. Fort McCoy military reservation in Monroe county and Volk Field military facility in Juneau county.	As established by military permit and approved by the department by August 1 annually.	Sex and type of deer is as specified on permit issued by military facility.
Note: The department does not issue deer hunting permits for the Fort McCoy and Volk Field military facilities. Hunters must apply directly to these facilities for a deer hunting permit and are limited to the type of deer specified on the permit.		
b. Federally owned portions of the Apostle Islands.	Beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through September 30 and November 1 through the Sunday nearest January 6.	One deer per deer carcass tag as described under s. NR 10.104 (15) (a) and (b). Additional deer may be taken pursuant to s. NR 10.104 (15) (d).
3. Metropolitan deer management subunits		
a. Metropolitan deer management subunits LaCrosse, Hudson, Superior, Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Madison as described under s. NR 10.28 (2).	Beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through January 31.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104, except that no person may harvest a buck in an area of the state where an antlerless only firearm deer hunting season established under NR10.01(3)(e) is open.
4. State parks, trails, forests and recreation areas. State parks, trails and forests are open during the seasons and subject to the same bag limit listed in subd. 1. except as established in subd. par. a. to c., and except that no person may hunt deer on the state−owned portions of state parks,		

trails, forests and recreation areas in locations and at times when the department has determined that prohibiting hunting is necessary pursuant to s. 29.089 (1m) (b), Stats. Portions of properties may also be posted closed to hunting.		
a. Buckhorn state park	During the archery deer season described in subd. 1.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer as authorized by antlerless permits or tags issued under s. NR 10.104.
b. Big Bay, Blue Mound, Governor Dodge, and Tower Hill state parks.	Beginning on Oct. 15 and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104, except that no person may harvest a buck in an area of the state where an antlerless only firearm deer hunting season established under NR10.01(3)(e) is open.
Note: When purchasing an archer license, a person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a crossbow will not receive the archery buck deer carcass tag described in this subsection or an antlerless deer carcass tag valid in farmland zones. A person may use any carcass tag issued with a license authorizing hunting deer with a crossbow during the crossbow deer season established in sub. (ep) under the authority of a valid archer license during the archery season established in this subsection.		

SECTION 13. NR 10.01 (3) (ep) is created to read:

NR 10.01 (3) (ep) *Crossbow deer season except as established in s 10.01 (3) (ex).*		
1. Portions of the state located within the northern forest zone, except as established under subds. 2. to 4.	Beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104, except that no person may harvest a buck in an area of the state where an antlerless only firearm deer hunting season established under NR10.01(3)(e) or (ex) is open.
2. Federal properties.		
a. Fort McCoy military reservation in Monroe county and Volk Field military facility in Juneau	As established by military permit and approved by the department by August 1 annually.	Sex and type of deer is as specified on permit issued by military facility.

county.		
Note: The department does not issue deer hunting permits for the Fort McCoy and Volk Field military facilities. Hunters must apply directly to these facilities for a deer hunting permit and are limited to the type of deer specified on the permit.		
b. Federally owned portions of the Apostle Islands.	Beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through September 30 and November 1 through the Sunday nearest January 6.	One deer per deer carcass tag as described under s. NR 10.104 (15) (a) and (b). Additional deer may be taken pursuant to s. NR 10.104 (15) (d).
3. Metropolitan deer management subunits		
a. Superior Metropolitan deer management subunit described under s. NR 10.28 (2).	Beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through January 31.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer as authorized by antlerless permits or tags issued under s. NR 10.104.
b. Hudson, LaCrosse, and Green Bay area metropolitan deer management subunits as described under s. NR 10.28 (2).	Beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the second Wednesday following the Thanksgiving Day holiday.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer as authorized by antlerless permits or tags issued under s. NR 10.104.
	Beginning on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving Day holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days.	One antlerless deer for each antlerless permit or tags issued under s. NR 10.104.
	Beginning on the Monday following the 4 day season in this subdivision and continuing through January 31.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer as authorized by antlerless permits or tags issued under s. NR 10.104.
c. Madison and Milwaukee area metropolitan deer management subunits as described under s. NR 10.28 (2).	Beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through January 31.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer as authorized by antlerless permits or tags issued under s. NR 10.104.
4. State parks, trails, forests and recreation areas. State parks, trails and forests are open during the seasons and subject to the same bag limit listed in subd. 1. except as established in subd. par. a. to c., and except that no person may hunt deer on the state–owned portions of state parks, trails, forests and recreation areas in locations and at times when the department has determined that prohibiting hunting is necessary pursuant to s. 29.089 (1m) (b), Stats. Portions of properties may also be posted as closed to hunting.		

a. Buckhorn state park	During the archery deer season described in subd. 1.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer as authorized by antlerless permits or tags issued under s. NR 10.104.
b. Big Bay, Blue Mound, Governor Dodge, and Tower Hill state parks.	Beginning on Oct. 15 and continuing for the remainder of the archery deer season described in subd. 1.	One buck deer with an archery buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer as authorized by antlerless permits or tags issued under s. NR 10.104.
Note: When purchasing a crossbow license, a person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a bow and arrow will not receive the buck deer carcass tag described in this subsection or an antlerless deer carcass tag valid in farmland zones. A person may use any carcass tag issued with a license authorizing hunting deer with a bow and arrow during the season established in par. (em) under the authority of a valid crossbow license during the crossbow season established in this subsection.		

SECTION 14. NR 10.01 (3) (es) 1. is amended to read:

NR 10.01 (3) *(es) Muzzleloader deer season* *except as established in s 10.01 (3) (ex).*		
1. Entire state, except for ~~the areas described in subd. 2., par. (et), deer management units 1M, 59M, 60M, 64M, and 77M, and state parks~~ metropolitan deer management subunits established in s. NR 10.28 (2).	Beginning on the Monday immediately following the Thanksgiving Day holiday and continuing for 10 consecutive days.	One buck deer with a gun buck deer carcass tag and one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104.

SECTION 15. NR 10.01 (3) (es) 2., 3. and (et) are repealed.

SECTION 16. NR 10.01 (3) (ev) is amended to read:

NR 10.01 (3) (ev) *Special youth gun deer hunt event.*
Persons under 16 years of age may hunt deer with a firearm for 2 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday nearest October 8 in all deer management units, except state ~~park units and deer management unit 48.~~ parks other than Buckhorn State Park. No person may hunt deer with any firearm other than a muzzleloading firearm at the Loew Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine state forest. The bag limit is ~~one buck deer per valid gun deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer per valid antlerless deer carcass tags issued under par. (ed) or s. NR 10.104 (8)~~ one buck deer with a gun buck deer carcass tag and one antlerless deer for each antlerless tag issued under s. NR 10.104. ~~Hunters shall be~~ No person may hunt unless accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older and ~~be~~ in compliance with s. 29.592, Stats. ~~One adult may not~~ No parent

or guardian may knowingly permit a person under 16 years of age to hunt unless accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. ~~One adult may not~~ No adult may accompany more than 2 hunters and pursuant to s. 29.592, Stats., not more than one of the 2 hunters may be age 10 or 11, or be a person who does not possess a certificate of accomplishment under s. 29.591, Stats., or its equivalent from another state, country or province. All other hunting regulations apply. Blaze orange requirements under s. 29.301 (2), Stats., apply to all hunters on these days except waterfowl hunters. ~~Earn-a-buck requirements do not apply to youth hunters hunting in CWD zones identified in s. NR 10.28 (3) or non-CWD earn-a-buck units when using their regular gun buck deer carcass tag. Youth hunters may harvest and tag bucks or antlerless deer in CWD zones as authorized by CWD tags under s. NR 10.104 (11) or CWD landowner permit tags issued pursuant to s. NR 10.41 (3).~~

SECTION 17. NR 10.01 (3) (ex) and (4) (dm) are created to read:

NR 10.01 (3) (ex) *Deer season framework modifications*. The department may modify the deer hunting seasons and bag limits established in s. NR 10.01 (3) upon approval of the board and the issuance of an order of the secretary and publication in the official state newspaper.

1. The department may modify the bag limits for a deer season in the following ways:

a. The bag limit shall be one antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit issued under s. NR 10.104 for all archery, crossbow, or firearm deer seasons. No person may harvest any buck deer except as authorized by ss. 29.173 (2) (b) and 29.193 (2) (cr) 1. and 4.

2. The department may modify the deer hunting season dates and bag limit in a farmland zone by establishing that the firearm season reopens on December 24 and continues through January 1. Only antlerless deer may be harvested.

Section 18. NR 10.01 (4) (dm) is amended to read:

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
NR 10.01 (4) *(dm) Fisher trapping.*		
1. Management zone A — ~~Deer~~ game management units 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 78 and 79 as described in ~~s. NR 10.28~~ s. NR 10.285	Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continuing through December 31.	The possession limit corresponds to the number of pelt tags issued.
2. Management zone B — ~~Deer~~ game management units 6, 7, 13, 14, 18,19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29A and 30 as described in ~~s. NR 10.28~~ s. NR 10.285	Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continuing through December 31.	The possession limit corresponds to the number of pelt tags issued.
3. Management zone C — ~~Deer~~ game management units 29B, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35,	Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continuing through December	The possession limit corresponds to the number of pelt tags issued.

36, 37 and 52 as described in ~~s. NR 10.28~~ s. NR 10.285	31.	
4. Management zone D — ~~Deer~~ game management units 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49A, 49B, 50, 51A and 51B as described in ~~s. NR 10.28~~ s. NR 10.285	Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continuing through December 31.	The possession limit corresponds to the number of pelt tags issued.
5. Management zone E — ~~Deer~~ game management units 27, 53, 55, 56, 57, 57A, 57B, 57C, 58 and 59A as described in ~~s. NR 10.28~~ s. NR 10.285	Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continuing through December 31.	The possession limit corresponds to the number of pelt tags issued.
6. Management zone F — Remainder of the state	Beginning on the Saturday nearest October 17 and continuing through December 31.	The possession limit corresponds to the number of pelt tags issued.

SECTION 19. NR 10.02 (3) is amended to read:

NR 10.02 (3) Albino ~~or~~ and white deer which ~~are~~ have a coat of all white hair except that the hair on the tarsal glands, head or parts of the head may be a color other than white ~~Albino or white deer are not protected in the CWD management zone established in s. NR 10.28 (3).~~ For the purposes of this paragraph, white hair that has been discolored or stained by blood, soil or similar materials shall continue to be considered white hair.

SECTION 20. NR 10.06 (5) is amended to read:

NR 10.06 (5) HUNTING HOURS. Hunting hours for bear, archery ~~bow~~ deer, crossbow deer, deer with firearms, elk and small game are 30 minutes before sunrise through 20 minutes after sunset. Hunting hours for migratory game birds are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. All waterfowl hunting starts at 9:00 a.m. on the first day of the duck hunting season established in s. NR 10.01 (1) (b). The department shall establish the specific opening and closing times annually in the hunting regulations pamphlets. Opening and closing times for zone A southern and northern areas shall be based on astronomical data collected by the U.S. naval observatory, Washington D.C., 20392-5420 for Sheboygan, Wisconsin and Powers, Michigan, respectively. The hunting hours for the other zones shall be obtained by adding minutes to the Zone A a.m. and p.m. columns as follows:

Zone	Adjustment
B - - - - -	Add 4 minutes
C - - - - -	Add 8 minutes
D - - - - -	Add 12 minutes
E - - - - -	Add 16 minutes
F - - - - -	Add 20 minutes

SECTION 21. NR 10.06 (8) (a), (b) and (note) are amended to read:

NR 10.06 (8) (a) ~~*Bow bear*~~ *Bear, deer and elk seasons.* Hunting hours established in sub. (5) shall apply to archers and crossbow hunters pursuing any species during the ~~bow~~ black bear season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (g), during the ~~bow deer season~~ archery and crossbow deer seasons established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) and (ep), ~~the archery hunts established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (et)~~ and during the elk season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (i).

(b) *Gun deer season.* Hunting hours established in sub. (5) shall apply statewide to ~~bow~~ archer, crossbow and gun hunters pursuing any species, except migratory game birds listed in s. NR 10.01 (1), during the ~~season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) 1. a. and b.~~ period beginning on the Saturday preceding the Thanksgiving day holiday and continuing for 9 consecutive days in the central farmland and forest deer management zones established in s. NR 10.28 (4).

Note: The deer hunting with firearms hours do not apply to persons hunting coyote, fox, raccoon or other wild animals for which no closed season has been established during the muzzle-loader season, an extended gun deer season or the extended gun season dates following the 9-day deer gun season in a metro deer management unit or in the southern farmland deer management zone.

SECTION 22. NR 10.07 (1) (b) 3. and (2m) (b) 1. and (g) 2. are is amended to read:

NR 10.07 (1) (b) 3. While hunting with a firearm, ~~or~~ bow, or crossbow, possess or accompany a person possessing~~,~~ any turkey decoy or device which may be used to call or attract wild turkeys during the spring hunting season for wild turkeys described in s. NR 10.01 (2) (f) unless that person possesses a valid, unused turkey hunting permit and carcass tag.

(2m) (b) 1. A CWD ~~management zone~~ affected area has been established in the county or a portion of the county, or

(g) 2. Deer without possessing an appropriate valid unused ~~archery~~ archer, crossbow or gun deer license and carcass tag.

SECTION 23. NR 10.07 (3) (3) is repealed.

SECTION 24. NR 10.09 (1) (c) is amended to read:

NR 10.09 (1) (c) 1. "Type." Hunt with any means other than the use of a gun designed to be fired from the shoulder utilizing the energy of gun powder or compressed air, bow and arrow, crossbow, or by falconry except:

SECTION 25. NR 10.09 (1) (c) 1. e. and (note) and (2) are repealed.

SECTION 26. NR 10.09 (3) is amended to read:

NR 10.09 (3) BOWS, CROSSBOWS, BOLTS AND ARROWS. No person may:

(b) *Special restrictions.* Use, possess or have under control while hunting, any ~~poisoned or drugged arrow, arrow with explosive tips or any crossbow unless the crossbow is authorized under sub. (1) (c) 1. e.~~ arrow or bolt that is designed or modified to explode or deliver poisons or drugs.

(c) *Arrow standards.* Use, possess or have under control while deer or bear hunting, any arrow or bolt unless tipped with a ~~metal~~ well sharpened broad-head blade no less than ~~seven-eights~~ seven-eighths of an inch in width. ~~Such broad-head blades must be well-sharpened.~~ Expandable tips shall be measured in a deployed state.

(d) *Bow and crossbow size*. Hunt deer or bear with a bow having a pull of less than 30 pounds or a crossbow having a pull of less than 100 pounds. A compound bow equipped with a device that holds the bow at full draw but that is not constructed with a stock and designed to be shot from the shoulder with one hand is a crossbow that shall have a pull of not less than 30 pounds.

SECTION 27. NR 10.10 (2) is amended to read:

NR 10.10 (2) ILLEGAL GAME. Any deer killed during the open season for hunting deer with bow and arrow or crossbow only or that is killed under the authority of an archer or crossbow license and showing evidence that it was shot with a firearm shall be an illegal game animal and no person may have such animal in possession**.**

SECTION 28. NR 10.10 (1) (e) 4. is amended to read:

NR 10.102 (1) (e) 4. Temporary subzone boundaries shall follow ~~deer~~ game management unit boundaries as identified in ~~s. NR 10.28~~ s. NR 10.285.

SECTION 29. NR 10.103 (1) is amended to read:

NR 10.103 (1) TAGS. A ~~back and~~ carcass tag shall be issued with each hunting license except when an archer license is issued to a person who has already been issued a crossbow license or when a crossbow license issued to a person who has already been issued an archer license. While hunting, no person may possess a validated carcass tag including bonus and special carcass tags unless it is attached to a legally killed deer.

SECTION 30. NR 10.104 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 10.104 Deer Population Management. (1) DEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. The department shall manage the state deer population by all of the following:

(a) Establishing deer management unit boundaries within the state.

(b) Establishing deer population objectives for each deer management unit.

(c) Monitoring the performance of the deer populations within each deer management unit.

(d) Establishing deer hunting seasons and quotas with the appropriate antlerless deer permit levels to move the deer population in the direction of the established deer population objective for each deer management unit.

(2) DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS; WHERE ESTABLISHED. The deer management unit boundaries are the county boundaries as established in ch. 2 Wis. Stats., and s. NR 10.28 (1) except for areas that are subdivided as:

(a) Metropolitan deer management subunits,

(b) Islands of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore,

(c) Madeline Island in Ashland County,

(d) Being within the exterior boundaries of the Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Menominee, and Red Cliff reservations.

(3) THREE YEAR REVIEWS. The department shall review, and seek public comment, regarding the need to modify the boundaries and population objectives for all deer management units every 3 years. For deer management units in the ceded territory as defined by s. NR 13.02 (1), the department shall also provide the Wisconsin Chippewa bands those opportunities for tribal input described in and required by the parties' stipulations in the case of Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Indians, et al., v. State

of Wisconsin, et al., Case No. 74-C-313-C in the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin.

(4) DEER POPULATION OBJECTIVES. A deer population objective shall be established for each management unit except for tribal reservation units identified in s. NR 10.28 (1). The department may establish a separate deer population objective and issue unique antlerless permits for areas which are subdivided into metropolitan deer management subunits and lands within the tribal reservation units identified in s. NR 10.28 (1) which are not owned by Indian tribal members or held in trust for the Indian tribe or for members of an Indian tribe. Deer population objectives will be expressed as a goal statement to do one of the following:

(a) Increase the deer population.

(b) Maintain the current deer population.

(c) Decrease the deer population.

(5) DEER POPULATION MONITORING. (a) *Metrics*. The department shall monitor progress towards each management unit's objective of increasing, maintaining, or decreasing the deer population. The department shall consider all of the following:

1. Deer health.
2. Deer impacts on natural resources.
3. Deer impacts on society.
4. Deer hunter success.
5. Car killed deer information.
6. Deer population trends and public perception of population trends.

a. In 2014 and continuing until the department determines that evaluation of the metrics are providing information that is comparable, the department shall utilize the sex-age-kill method for calculating deer densities. The sex-age-kill method uses the following quantitative data for each deer management unit: proportion of yearling bucks in the harvest, proportion of yearling does in the harvest, proportion of males and females at birth, the number of fawns seen per doe during the summer, the proportion of total buck mortality due to hunting harvest, and the harvest by sex as registered during the hunting seasons.

b. The department may make a determination that alternative methods of population evaluation are comparable, which shall become effective in lieu of or in addition to the sex-age-kill method after approval by the Natural Resources Board, and upon issuance of an order and publication in the official state newspaper.

Note: A determination under this paragraph does not prevent continued utilization of the sex-age-kill method as the department determines is valuable or necessary.

(b) *County deer management advisory councils*. The department shall establish county deer management advisory councils for the purpose of seeking comment from members of the public on the status of the deer herd at the county level. The council shall be chaired by the chairperson for the county delegation of the Conservation Congress established under s. 15.348, Stats., or a designee who shall be approved by the department. At least 3 members shall be individuals who held an annual license authorizing deer hunting in this state or another state in at least 7 of the 10 years previous to the year in which the individual is nominated, except if the individual served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or national guard during the 10 years previous to the year in which the individual is nominated. If the individual served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard, the number of years in which he or she is required to have held a deer hunting license equals 7 minus the number of years of active duty served during those 10 years. The advisory council may also be comprised of a representative of any of the following entities:

1. For deer management units in the ceded territory as defined by s. NR 13.02 (1), the department shall provide the Wisconsin Chippewa bands those opportunities for tribal input into the department's deer management decisions described in and required by the parties' stipulations in the case of *Lac*

2. Agriculture.
3. Forestry.
4. Tourism.
5. Transportation.
6. Local government.
7. A local organization representing hunting interests.
8. A person who is enrolled as a participant in the Deer Management Assistance Program as established under subch. II

(c) *Deer management functions*. County deer management advisory councils will:

1. Gather public input on deer population objectives, antlerless deer harvest quotas, and hunting season framework options.

2. Review and consider metrics on deer herd trends, impacts, and human interactions.

3. Make recommendations to the department for deer population objectives every three years and will annually recommend antlerless deer permit quotas and hunting season framework options necessary to maintain the deer herd in balance with its range, population objective and sustainable harvest objectives. The recommendations of county deer management councils shall be presented to the board by the chair of the Conservation Congress.

(d) *Operation of county deer management advisory councils.* 1. The department shall establish guidance for the operation of county deer management advisory councils. Guidance may include, but is not limited to, any conditions which are necessary for the operation of meetings, selecting members, and establishing terms of service for members.

2. Whenever application is made to the department by a person interested in becoming a member of a council, the bureau of law enforcement may conduct a criminal history, character, and background check on the applicant. Upon becoming aware of information indicating prior illegal activity, the department shall make appropriate inquiry into criminal history and character of applicants for council membership and determine their suitability for the proposed activity.

(e) *Effective term of season framework modifications recommended by deer management advisory councils*. Modifications to the deer hunting season framework in a unit shall be effective for one year of annual deer hunting seasons.

(6) ANTLERLESS DEER TAGS. The department may issue deer carcass tags that are valid for the harvest of antlerless deer that are in addition to those established in sub. (7). If the department issues antlerless deer carcass tags, the department shall issue antlerless deer hunting permits and tags in sufficient numbers to achieve the population objective established in sub. (4), after evaluating the results of population monitoring required under sub. (5).

(7) DEER CARCASS TAGS. (a) *Archer license deer carcass tags.*

1. Except as established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (ex), each license that authorizes the hunting of deer with a bow and arrow, and not with a firearm or crossbow, shall include one deer carcass tag that is valid for taking one buck deer in any unit or subunit statewide with a bow and arrow. When purchasing an archer hunting license, a person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a crossbow during a crossbow-only season established under s. 29.014 (1m) (b), Wis. Stats., or s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep) will not receive the carcass tag established in this subdivision. A person may use a carcass tag issued with a license authorizing hunting with a crossbow during a crossbow-only season established under s. NR 10.01(3)(ep) under the authority of an archer license during the archery deer season established under s. NR 10.01(3)(em).

2. During hunting seasons that open in 2015, licenses that authorize the hunting of deer with a bow and arrow, and not with a firearm or crossbow, may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for the taking of one antlerless deer in a management zone, unit, or portion of a unit specified on the tag

that is in a farmland zone or a metropolitan deer management subunit established in ss. NR 10.28 (2) and (4) except that, where the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tags under this subdivision are not valid. This antlerless deer carcass tag is not weapon or season specific, but the holder must possess the correct license for the method of harvest and season. This tag is valid statewide for a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the permit only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b). A person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a crossbow during a season established under s. 29.014 (1m) (b), or Wis. Stats., s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep) will not receive the carcass tag established in this subdivision. A person may use any carcass tags issued with a license authorizing hunting with a crossbow during a crossbow deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep) under the authority of an archer hunting license during the archery deer season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (em).

2m. Beginning with hunting seasons that open in 2016, licenses that authorize the hunting of deer with a bow and arrow, and not with a firearm or crossbow, may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for the taking of one antlerless deer with a bow and arrow statewide except that, where the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tags under this subdivision are not valid and these tags are not valid in units where the department has not established a quota for the harvest of antlerless deer. This tag is valid statewide for a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the permit only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b). A person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a crossbow during a season established under s. 29.014 (1m) (b), or Wis. Stats., s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep) will not receive the carcass tag established in this subdivision. A person may use any carcass tags issued with a license authorizing hunting with a crossbow during a crossbow deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep) under the authority of an archer hunting license during the archery deer season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (em).

3. Modifications by the department under subd. 2. and 2m. shall become effective upon issuance of an order of the secretary and publication in the official state newspaper.

(b) *Firearm deer license carcass tags.*

1. Except as established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (ex), each license that authorizes the hunting of deer with a firearm shall include one carcass tag that is valid for taking one buck deer in any unit statewide with a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow during a season open to hunting bucks with a firearm.

2. During hunting seasons that open in 2015, licenses that authorize the hunting of deer with a firearm may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for taking one antlerless deer in a management zone, unit, or portion of a unit specified on the tag that is in a farmland zone or in a metropolitan deer management subunit established in s. NR 10.28 (2) and (4) except that, where the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tag under this subdivision is not valid. This antlerless deer carcass tag is not weapon or season specific, but the holder must possess the correct license for the method of harvest and season. This carcass tag is valid for the taking of one antlerless deer in any unit statewide by a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags

obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the tag only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b).

2m. Beginning with hunting seasons that open in 2016, licenses that authorize the hunting of deer with a firearm may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for taking one antlerless deer during a firearm season in a management zone, unit, or portion of a unit specified on the tag that is in a farmland zone or in a metropolitan deer management subunit established in s. NR 10.28 (2) and (4) except that, where the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tag under this subdivision is not valid. This carcass tag is valid for the taking of one antlerless deer in any unit statewide by a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the tag only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b).

3. Modifications by the department under subd. 2. and 2m. shall become effective upon issuance of an order and publication in the official state newspaper.

(c) *Crossbow license deer carcass tags.*

1. Except as established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (ex), each license that authorizes the hunting of deer with a crossbow, and not with a firearm or bow and arrow, shall include one deer carcass tag that is valid for taking one buck deer in any unit or subunit statewide with a crossbow. When purchasing a crossbow hunting license, a person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a bow and arrow during an archery-only deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) will not receive the carcass tag established in this subdivision. A person may use a carcass tag issued with a license authorizing hunting with a bow and arrow during an archery-only deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) under the authority of a crossbow license during a deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep).

During hunting seasons that open in 2015, licenses that authorize the hunting of deer with a crossbow, and not with a firearm or bow and arrow, may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for the taking of one antlerless deer in a management zone, unit, or portion of a unit specified on the tag that is in a farmland zones or a metropolitan deer management subunit established in s. NR 10.28 (2) and (4) except that, when the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may establish that the antlerless tags under this subdivision are not valid. This antlerless deer carcass tag is not weapon or season specific, but the holder must possess the correct license for the method of harvest and season. This tag is valid statewide for a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the tag only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b). A person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a bow and arrow during an archery-only deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) will not receive the carcass tag established in this subdivision. A person may use any antlerless deer carcass tag issued with a license authorizing hunting with a bow and arrow during an archery-only deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) under the authority of a crossbow hunting license during the crossbow deer season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep).

2m. Beginning with hunting seasons that open in 2016, licenses that authorize the hunting of deer with a crossbow, and not with a firearm or bow and arrow, may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for the taking of one antlerless deer statewide except that, when the department has established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population under s. NR 10.104 (4), the department may

establish that the antlerless tags under this subdivision are not valid and these tags are not valid in units where the department has not established a quota for the harvest of antlerless deer. This tag is valid statewide for a person holding a Class A or Class C disabled permit issued under s. 29.193 (2) (b), Stats., or a person who obtains the tag while under 18 years of age except that, in units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of antlerless deer, the department may establish that tags obtained under this subdivision by people who are under 18 years of age are not valid. These carcass tags are valid as indicated on the tag only for harvesting antlerless deer on public access lands or only for harvesting antlerless deer on private land as defined in ss. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b). A person who has already been issued a license authorizing deer hunting with a bow and arrow during an archery-only deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) will not receive the carcass tag established in this subdivision. A person may use any antlerless deer carcass tag issued with a license authorizing hunting with a bow and arrow during an archery-only deer season established under s. NR 10.01 (3) (em) under the authority of a crossbow hunting license during the crossbow deer season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep).

3. Modifications by the department under subd. 2. and 2m. shall become effective upon issuance of an order and publication in the official state newspaper.

(8) BONUS ANTLERLESS TAG ISSUANCE. The department may issue bonus antlerless deer carcass tags valid for harvesting antlerless deer only on public access lands and bonus antlerless deer carcass tags valid for harvesting antlerless deer only on private land as defined in s. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b). Bonus antlerless tags shall be issued in the following manner:

(a) *General issuance*. The department may issue bonus antlerless deer tags on a first-come, first-served basis to individuals who possess a valid deer hunting license. No person may purchase or obtain more than 1 bonus antlerless deer carcass tag per day except as established in subs. (9m) and (15) (d).

Note: The department conducts extensive publicity on the day when the bonus antlerless deer carcass tags are first available for sale beginning several months prior to the purchase date. Bonus tag sale dates are published in news releases, license outlet handouts, and pertinent regulation pamphlets. Bonus antlerless deer carcass tags are available from department license agents, on-line through the department's website, or by telephone.

(b) *Bonus antlerless tags for farm owners*. Eligible resident farm owners under s. 29.181, Stats., will receive one free bonus antlerless deer carcass tag/permit for each bonus antlerless deer carcass tag/permit they purchase if requested at the time of purchase. When there are joint owners or vendee names under a land contract, only one of the owners or vendees is eligible for the free bonus tags. The free tag shall be valid for the same type of land, either public access or private as defined in s. NR 10.001 (23a) and (23b) as the one that was purchased. To be an eligible farmer under this section, a majority of the land shall be used on a commercial agricultural basis, to produce income.

(c) *Bonus tags in a CWD affected area*. The fee for bonus tags issued in a CWD affected area shall be the same as the fee established in ss. 29.563 (2) (c.) 1. and (d.) 1. Stats. If the department allows the use of bonus permits both in areas where CWD has been identified and in areas where CWD has not been identified, the department shall use deer harvest registration information to establish a number of permits that are issued for CWD areas for purposes of s. 29.181 (3), Stats.

Note: Under s. 29.181 (3) Stats., the department is required to credit an amount equal to $5 times the number of those bonus deer hunting permits issued to an appropriation that is established for management of, and testing for, chronic wasting disease.

(9) TAG AUTHORITY. No person may hunt antlerless deer unless the hunter possesses a current valid antlerless deer carcass tag or bonus antlerless deer permit for the deer management unit or subunit or a portion thereof in that the person is hunting, or as authorized when group hunting with a firearm as established in s. 29.324, Stats. No person may hunt antlerless deer under the authority of an antlerless

deer carcass tag or bonus antlerless deer carcass tag or permit on public access lands or on private lands unless the hunter possesses a current valid bonus antlerless deer permit that is valid for the type of land, either public access lands or private land, upon which the person is hunting.

Note: Section 29.324, Stats., Group deer hunting. (1) In this section:

(a) "Contact" means visual or voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device other than a hearing aid.

(b) "Group deer hunting party" means 2 or more hunters hunting in a group all using firearms, each of whom holds an individual license to hunt deer.

(2) Any member of a group deer hunting party may kill a deer for another member of the group deer hunting party if both of the following conditions exist:

(a) At the time and place of the kill, the person who kills the deer is in contact with the person for whom the deer is killed.

(b) The person for whom the deer is killed possesses a current unused deer carcass tag which is authorized for use on the deer killed.

(3) A person who kills a deer under sub. (2) shall ensure that a member of their group deer hunting party without delay attaches a current validated deer carcass tag to the deer in the manner specified under s. 29.347 (2). The person who kills the deer may not leave the deer unattended until after it is tagged.

(9m) BONUS TAGS UNDER THE DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. The department may issue antlerless tags to level 2 and level 3 participants in the deer management assistance program established under Subchapter II. All of the following apply to the issuance and use of bonus tags under this section:

(a) *Issuance*. Permits shall be issued in the number prescribed by the department or its agents following evaluation and harvest recommendations under s. NR 10.72 (2) (b) 2.

(b) *Fee*. The fee for bonus tags issued under this subsection shall be $6.00.

(c) *Bonus tag distribution.* A landowner or his or her authorized representative for an individually enrolled property may distribute the carcass tags to persons who are authorized to hunt on the enrolled property or portion of the property or may retain the carcass tags for their own use. The primary contact or authorized representative for a cooperative or an individually enrolled property with multiple owners may distribute the carcass tags to persons who are authorized to hunt on the enrolled property or portion of the property and may retain a portion of the allotted carcass tags for their own use. No person may charge any form of a fee for bonus tags issued under the deer management assistance program except that the primary contact or authorized representative under subchapter II who is transferring a bonus tag to other hunters for use on an enrolled property may collect no more than $6.00 for each tag in order to recover actual cost of the tags and when there is no monetary benefit to the transferrer.

(d) *Locations and times when valid*. Tags are valid for use only on the property or group of properties authorized by the department during any firearm, archery or crossbow deer season.

(e) *Carcass tag reporting.* Every landowner, primary contact, or authorized representative who receives or distributes carcass tags issued under this subsection shall keep a current, correct and complete record of all such bonus carcass tags as required by the department on electronic or paper forms made available by the department. Records of bonus tag distribution shall be provided to the department by required deadlines or upon request. A violation of this paragraph shall be treated as a violation of s. 29.961 (2), Stats.

Note: The number of carcass tags distributed will be determined by the department following a site visit by a wildlife biologist and a forester. Bonus antlerless deer carcass tags issued under this subsection are available only to level 2 and level 3 participants in the Deer Management Assistance Program established in s. NR 10.72. Deer Management Assistance Program enrollees are exempt from the restriction against purchasing no more than one bonus permit daily on a first-come-first-served basis that is established in s. NR 10.104 (8) (a).

(10) BAG LIMIT. The bag limit is equal to the number of valid deer carcass tags a person is issued.

(12) SPECIAL DISEASED DEER REPLACEMENT PERMITS. The department may provide a free replacement tag issued under s. 29.177, Stats., to hunters who harvest deer that are suspected of being diseased, provided that the entire deer is surrendered to the department or is disposed of as directed by the department. Each special permit shall be all of the following:

(a) Issued by a department employee or a designated agent.

(b) Issued to the hunter harvesting and tagging the suspect deer.

(c) Issued for the type of deer authorized on the approval used to harvest and tag the suspect deer.

(14) DEER CARCASS TAG REPLACEMENT PERMITS. The department may provide free replacement tags issued under s. 29.177, Stats., to hunters who legally harvest deer and validate and place the incorrect tag on the deer in any season or hunt established in s. NR 10.01 (3), provided the hunter is in possession of the correct tag for the type of deer harvested. The incorrectly used tag shall be turned over to the department employee or agent issuing the replacement tag. Each replacement tag shall be:

(a) Issued by a department employee or a designated agent.

(b) Issued to the hunter harvesting and tagging the deer with an incorrect tag.

(c) Issued for the type of deer authorized on the approval used to harvest and tag the incorrect deer.

(15)APOSTLE ISLANDS. The following carcass tags are valid for the taking and tagging of deer in islands of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore:

(a) Archery buck deer carcass tag.

(b) Archery antlerless deer carcass tag.

(d) Special permits for the islands of the Apostle Island National Lakeshore deer permit. These special permits shall be issued free of charge at a rate of up to 2 permits per day per hunter. Each tag may be used to tag any of the following:

1. An antlerless deer.

2. A buck deer if the hunter possesses an antlerless deer registration verification earned in the federally owned portion of the Apostle Islands in the previous year or in the current year.

3. A buck deer if the hunter possesses an antlerless deer that has been legally harvested in the federally owned portion of the Apostle Islands and is tagged prior to the harvest of the buck deer and the antlerless deer accompanies the buck deer until each is registered.

Note: All of the land in this unit is owned and managed by the National Park Service's Apostle Island National Lakeshore. The National Park Service may require an access permit for the purposes of deer hunting which may limit the dates an individual may hunt and the island or islands on which hunting may occur.

SECTION 31. NR 10.105 (1), (2) (title), (4) (title) (intro.) and (a), and (7) (intro.), (a) and (b) are amended to read:

NR 10.105 (1) POSSESSION. ~~No~~ While afield, no person may possess or transport a carcass of a deer or bear ~~from the time the deer or bear is killed to the time it is registered under s. NR 10.106,~~ that is tagged with ~~the~~ or possessed under the authority of a validated carcass tag of another person unless accompanied by the person issued the carcass tag. After a deer or bear is registered it may be transported by vehicle on a public roadway or possessed at a dwelling or business establishment by a person who is not hunting without the need to be accompanied by the person who tagged and registered the deer or bear. A dwelling for the purposes of this subsection includes permanent residences as well as temporary residences, such as an established hunting cabin or camp site.

(2) ~~BONUS BUCKS~~ TRANSPORTATION. ~~In deer management units with deer seasons modified under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ed) 1. b. or (et) 2., no person may transport a buck deer from the time it is killed to the time it is registered under s. NR 10.106 unless accompanied by the antlerless deer or antlerless deer registration verification which authorized the taking of the buck deer. An antlerless~~

~~deer may be used only by the hunter who tagged it to secure authorization for that hunter to tag one buck deer. in the unit or units modified under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ed) 1. b. or (et) 2.~~ No person may transport deer ~~Deer~~ outside of the unit of kill or adjoining unit unless they have been registered in compliance with s. NR 10.106 (2).

(4) TRANSPORTATION OF ~~DEER~~ CERVID ANIMALS FROM A CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE ~~MANAGEMENT ZONE~~ AFFECTED AREA. Unless otherwise authorized by the department, the carcasses of deer harvested in a chronic wasting disease ~~management zone~~ affected area ~~identified in s. NR 10.28 (3)~~ identified by the department may not be transported outside of that ~~zone~~ area except for any of the following, or as provided under sub. (7):

(a) Carcasses transported into deer management units adjacent to the chronic wasting disease ~~management zone~~ affected area.

(7) CERVID CARCASSES WITH ANY PORTION OF THE SPINAL COLUMN OR HEAD ATTACHED. Notwithstanding sub. (4) or (6), carcasses which have any part of the spinal column or head attached may be transported from the chronic wasting disease ~~management zone~~ affected area to other parts of this state, or into this state if such carcass is submitted to a meat processor licensed under s. 97.42 (2) (a), Stats., or a taxidermist permitted under s. 29.506 (2), Stats., for processing and the person who possesses the carcass complies with the following:

(a) That part of the carcass which includes the head and spinal column shall be submitted to a licensed meat processor or permitted taxidermist within 72 hours of entering this state if the carcass originated from out of state, or within 72 hours from the time of registration if the carcass originated from the chronic wasting disease ~~management zone~~ affected area in this state.

(b) The person submitting a carcass to a licensed meat processor or permitted taxidermist as required under this subsection shall inform the meat processor or taxidermist that the carcass originated from the chronic wasting disease ~~management zone~~ affected area or from another state, province or country where CWD has been verified to be present.

SECTION 32. NR 10.106 (1) (intro.), (a), (b), and (c) (intro.), 1. and 3. are amended to read:

NR 10.106 Recording deer and bear. (1) CARCASS CONDITION AND TRANSPORTATION. Deer and bear shall be intact and may not be removed from the area specified in this section unless ~~exhibited, registered and tagged~~ the harvest has been reported in the manner required by the department and a registration tag has been affixed by the department or its agents, or the validated deer carcass tag displays the harvest registration verification number provided by the department and the number is legible and discernible on the tag except that:

(a) The entrails may be removed and disposed of while afield by field dressing.

(b) Deer and bear may be skinned, and the lower legs of a deer from the hooves up to the tarsus joint on the hind legs and from the hooves up to the carpus joint on the front legs may be removed. The hide and lower legs must be removed from the field along with the deer and exhibited at the time of registration when in-person registration is required, and disposed of in a manner in compliance with s. 287.81(2), Stats., after the deer or bear is registered.

(c) A deer or bear may be divided into not more than 5 parts, not including the hide and the lower legs of a deer, only to facilitate removal from the field. The head and neck shall remain attached to one of the other parts of the animal, not including the hide. A person who divides a deer or bear while afield prior to or after registration:

1. May not allow the deer or bear to be stored or transported with any other deer or bear that has been divided prior to registration or while afield.

3. Must remove all parts from the field except the entrails and ~~exhibit all parts at the time of registration~~ dispose of all parts not retained in a manner that is in compliance with s. 287.81(2), Stats.

SECTION 33. NR 10.106 (1) (c) 4. is created to read:

NR 10.106 (1) (c) 4. Shall exhibit all parts except the entrails at the time of registration when in-person registration is required by the department.

SECTION 34. NR 10.106 (2) is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 10.106 (2) REGISTRATION. Each person who has killed a deer or if s. 29.324 Stats., related to group deer hunting applies, the person who has tagged the deer during the open seasons for hunting deer with a firearm, or who has killed a bear during the open seasons for hunting bear shall register that kill using a telephone, internet, or other harvest registration system established by the department as follows:

(a) *Deer and bear*.

1. 'Time line.' Each deer or bear killed during the open season for hunting deer or bear shall be registered before being transported from the deer management unit of kill or an adjoining unit no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day after the animal is recovered.

2. 'Registration verification.' At the time a deer or bear is registered as required under this section, the person who tagged and registered it shall legibly print the registration verification number provided by the department or its agents on the validated carcass tag. The carcass tag shall then accompany the carcass at all times while the carcass is afield, while being transported, and when left unattended by the person who the validated carcass tag was issued to. The validated carcass tag shall be retained by the person who possesses the carcass until it is consumed.

3. 'Tags; display.' No person may possess or transport the carcass of a deer or bear unless in possession of the originally validated carcass tag and registration verification number particular to the carcass. No person may refuse or fail to display a validated carcass tag or registration verification number to the department or its wardens upon request.

4. 'Research.' Any part of a harvested deer or bear may be collected or sampled by the department for research purposes. No person may refuse to allow a part to be collected or a sample to be taken prior to or during registration.

5. 'Transportation.' No person may possess a deer while afield outside the deer management unit or subunit of kill or adjoining unit or subunit, except that deer that are lawfully killed, tagged and registered may be possessed on a public highway for purposes of transportation to and possession at the person's residence or a business establishment located outside the unit or subunit of kill.

(b) *Disease sampling and research*. The department may require that any deer or bear harvested in an area affected by CWD, tuberculosis, or where there are other serious infections disease threats, or area where samples are needed for department research purposes, shall be exhibited and registered at registration stations designated by the department no later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day after it was killed, or by 5:00 p.m. on the day after the close of the season during which it was killed, as described in s. NR 10.01 (3), whichever is earlier, unless otherwise authorized by the department.

(c) *Exhibition*. No person shall fail to exhibit the carcass of a deer or bear at a registration location specified by the department when required under this paragraph.

Note: Section 29.324, Stats., Group deer hunting. (1) In this section:

(a) "Contact" means visual or voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device other than a hearing aid.

(b) "Group deer hunting party" means 2 or more hunters hunting in a group all using firearms, each of whom holds an individual license to hunt deer.

(2) Any member of a group deer hunting party may kill a deer for another member of the group deer hunting party if both of the following conditions exist:

(a) At the time and place of the kill, the person who kills the deer is in contact with the person for whom the deer is killed.

(b) The person for whom the deer is killed possesses a current unused deer carcass tag which is authorized for use on the deer killed.

(3) A person who kills a deer under sub. (2) shall ensure that a member of his or her group deer hunting party without delay attaches a current validated deer carcass tag to the deer in the manner specified under s. 29.347 (2). Stats. The person who kills the deer may not leave the deer unattended until after it is tagged.

SECTION 35. NR 10.11 (5) (a) is amended to read:

NR 10.11(5) (a) *Exhibition*. Each person who has killed an elk during the open seasons for hunting elk with a gun, ~~or~~ bow, or crossbow shall exhibit and register the elk with the elk carcass tag attached as required by s. 29.347 (2), Stats., at an authorized registration station. If the elk is skinned and the carcass divided into 5 or fewer parts, all parts, other than the entrails removed by field dressing, shall be exhibited when registering the elk.

SECTION 35M. NR 10.12 (5) (c) is amended to read:

NR 10.12 (5) (c) Legal means. By any means other than a shotgun fired from the shoulder, bow and arrow, crossbow, or by falconry.

SECTION 36. NR 10.15 (1) (a) is amended to read:

NR 10.15 (1) PROHIBITED METHODS. **(a)** *Firearm, crossbow and bow possession.* Except as provided in this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt or trap any wild animal or have in possession or under control any firearm unless the same is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a case, or any bow and arrow unless the same is unstrung or enclosed in a carrying case, upon the area known as the Horicon national wildlife refuge. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this paragraph does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

SECTION 37. NR 10.15 (3m) is created to read:

NR 10.15 (3m) CROSSBOW SEASON. An open season for hunting deer with a crossbow in areas designated by posted notice shall be established pursuant to s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep).

SECTION 38. NR 10.15 (6) is amended to read:

NR 10.15 (6) WATERFOWL SEASON. No person may hunt waterfowl within 75 yards of the Horicon national wildlife refuge boundary during the open season for hunting waterfowl. For purposes of this section, the placement of decoys or shooting at waterfowl which are located within the 75-yard zone immediately outside of the refuge are allowed as long as the hunter does not discharge a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow from within that area when shooting at waterfowl.

SECTION 39. NR 10.16 (intro.) and (2) are amended to read:

NR 10.16 Necedah national wildlife refuge, Juneau county. Except as provided in subs. (1), (2), (3) and (4), it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, kill, hunt, trap or pursue any species of wild animal or bird at any time, or have in possession or under control any firearm unless the same is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a case, or any bow and arrow unless the same is unstrung or enclosed in a carrying case, upon that area known as the Necedah national wildlife refuge, Juneau county, Wisconsin. Nothing in this section shall prohibit, prevent or interfere with the U.S. fish and wildlife service, its deputies, agents or employees in the destruction of unprotected wild animals as listed in s. NR 10.04. The loaded uncased firearm restriction

of this paragraph does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

(2) ~~BOW~~ ARCHERY SEASON. An open season for hunting deer, and unprotected wild animals as listed in s. NR 10.04, with bow and arrow shall be established on the Necedah national wildlife refuge and said season shall be concurrent with the state-wide season for bow and arrow established in ~~s. NR 10.01 (3) (e)~~ s. NR 10.01 (3) (em). Such open season shall be effective only in those areas on the Necedah national wildlife refuge designated by posted notices of the U.S. fish and wildlife service. No special permits shall be required, but hunting licenses and deer ~~tag~~ tags as required by statutes and this chapter are necessary.

SECTION 40. NR 10.16 (2m) is created to read:

NR 10.16 **(2m)** CROSSBOW SEASON. An open season for hunting deer, and unprotected wild animals as listed in s. NR 10.04, with a crossbow shall be established on the Necedah national wildlife refuge and said season shall be concurrent with the state-wide crossbow deer season established s. NR 10.01 (3) (ep). Such open season shall be effective only in those areas on the Necedah national wildlife refuge designated by posted notices of the U.S. fish and wildlife service. No special permits shall be required, but hunting licenses and deer tags as required by statutes and this chapter are necessary.

SECTION 41. NR 10.22 (1) is amended to read:

NR 10.22 (1) PROHIBITED METHODS. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, kill, hunt, trap or pursue any species of wild animal or bird at any time, or have in possession or under control any firearm unless the same is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless the same is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow and arrow unless the same is unstrung or enclosed in a carrying case upon that area known as the Sandhill wildlife demonstration area in Wood county, Wisconsin, except as provided in this section. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this paragraph does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

SECTION 42. NR 10.23 (2) (a) is amended to read:

NR 10.23 (2) RESTRICTIONS. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, kill, hunt, trap or pursue any species of wild animal or bird at any time, or have in possession or under control any firearm unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung or enclosed in a carrying case upon that area known as the Grand River experimental hunting area except as provided in this section. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this paragraph does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

SECTION 43. NR 10.24 (2) (a) is amended to read:

(a) *General prohibition.* No person may take, catch, kill, hunt, trap or pursue any species of wild animal at any time, or have in possession or under control any firearm unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case in the hunting zone except as provided in this section. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this paragraph does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

SECTION 44. NR 10.24 (2) (b) is repealed.

SECTION 45. NR 10.24 (2) (c) is amended to read:

NR 10.24 (2) (c) *Other hunting methods.* Methods of hunting ~~other than by use of rifles and pistols~~ shall comply with those established in this chapter.

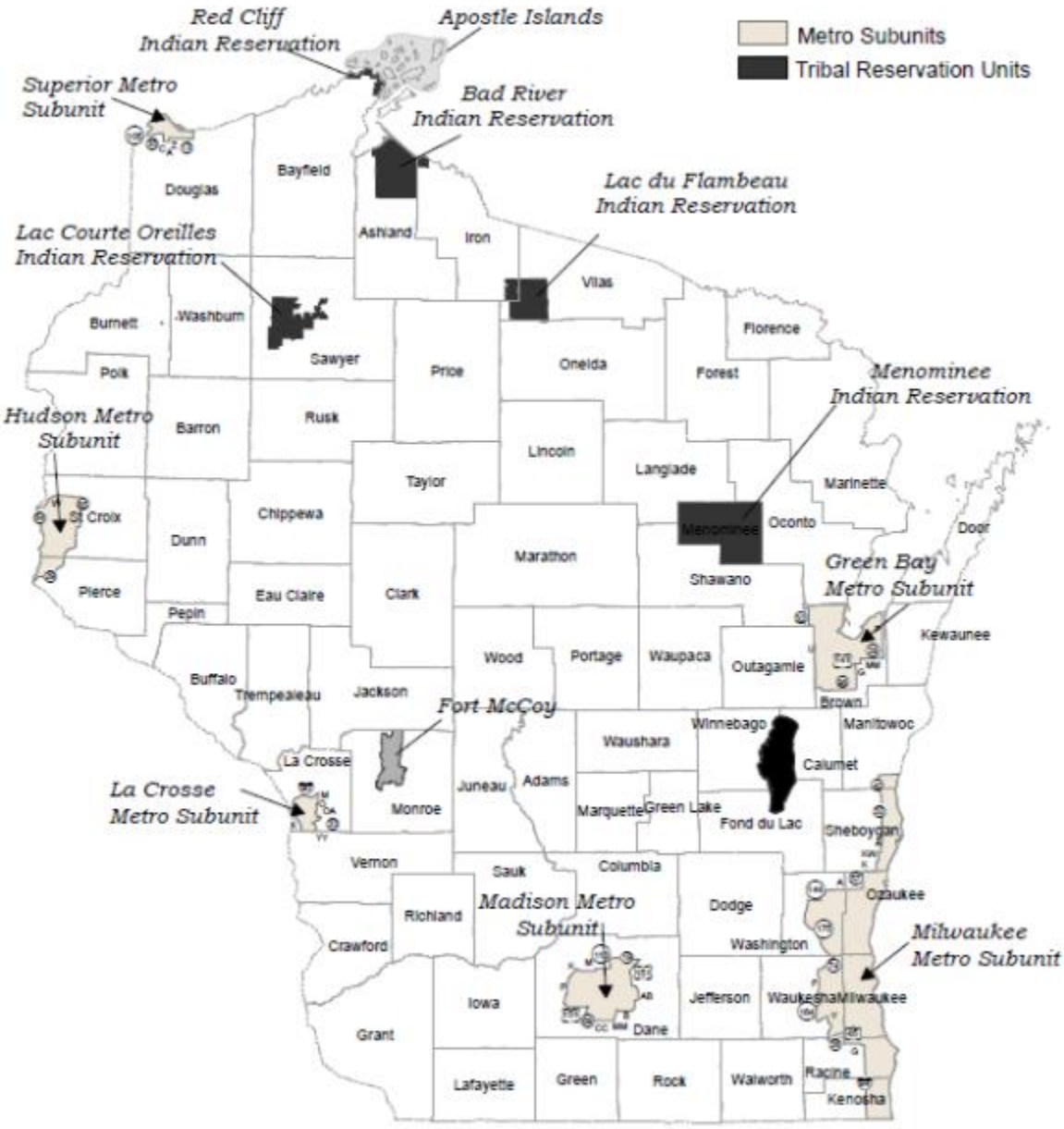
SECTION 46. NR 10.25 (4) (a) is amended to read:

NR 10.25(4) (a) By any means other than a shotgun or muzzle-loading shotgun fired from the shoulder, a crossbow, or a bow and arrow.

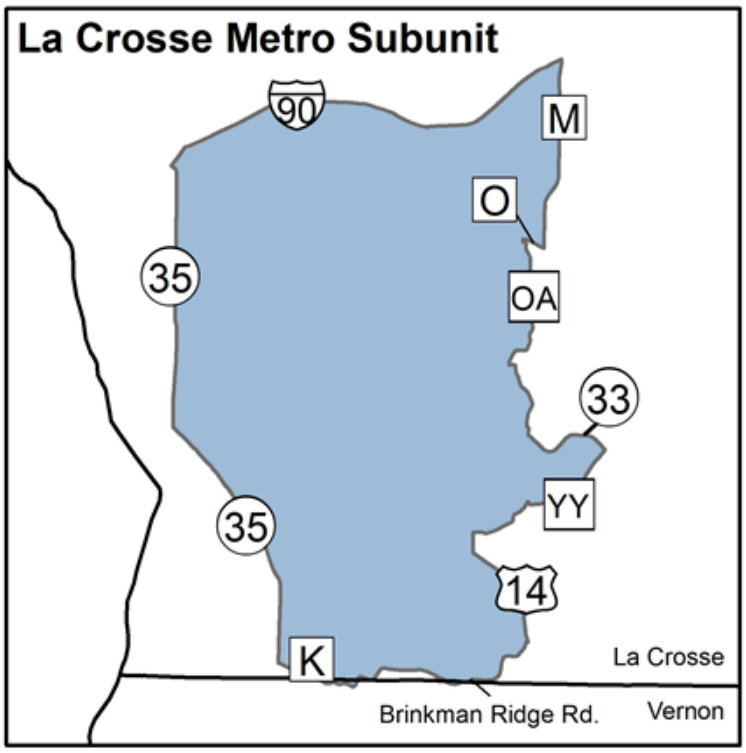
SECTION 47. NR 10.28 (1) and (2) are repealed and recreated to read:

NR 10.28 Deer population management units. Deer population management units are established as designated on the following maps:

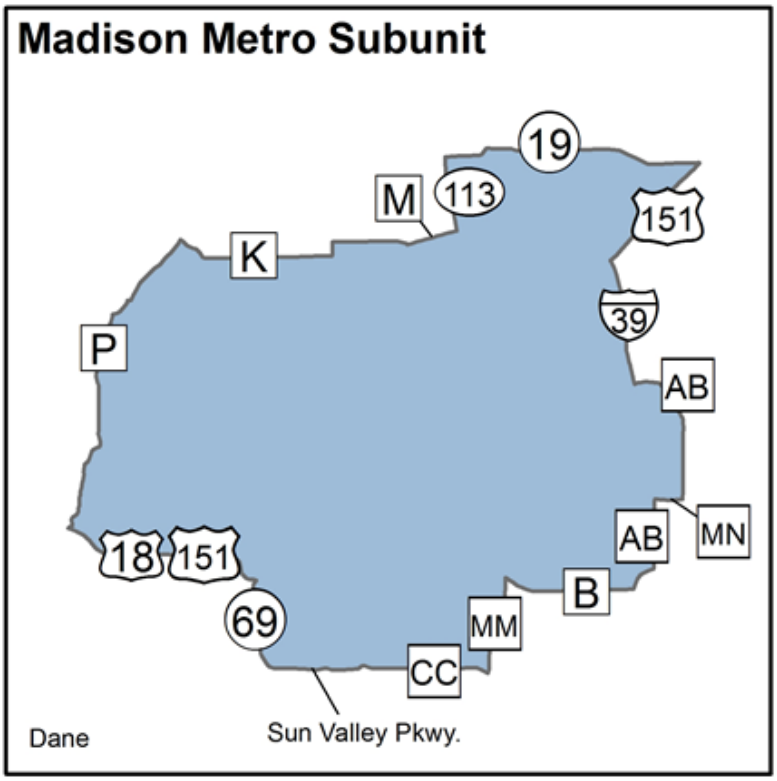
(1) STATEWIDE DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS:



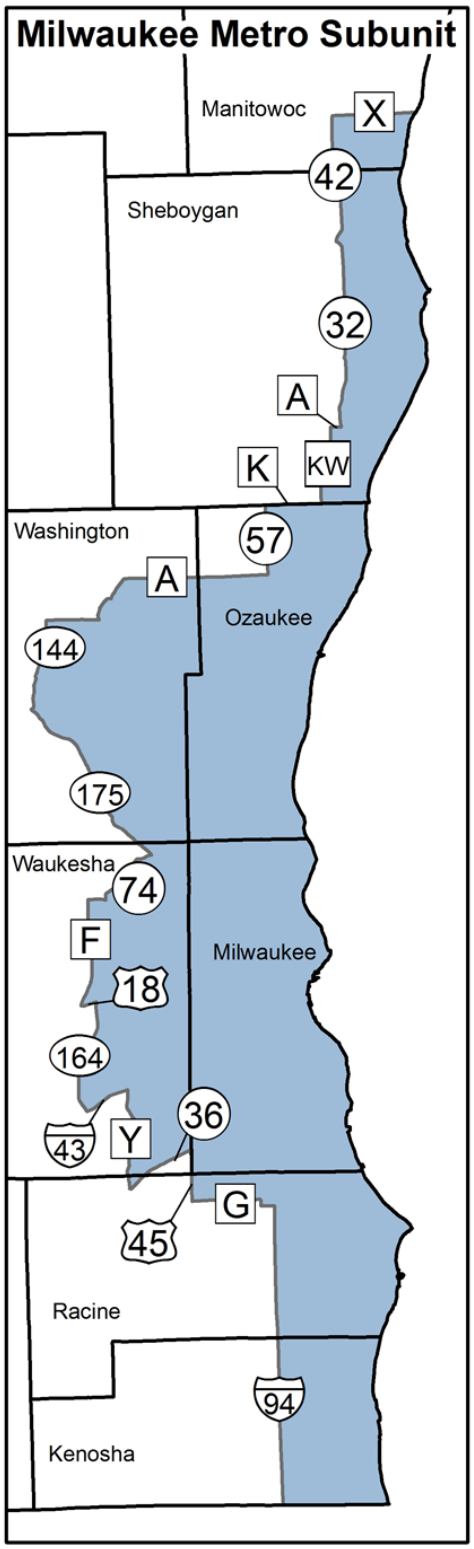
(2) METROPOLITAN DEER MANAGEMENT SUBUNITS. (a) *La Crosse area*.



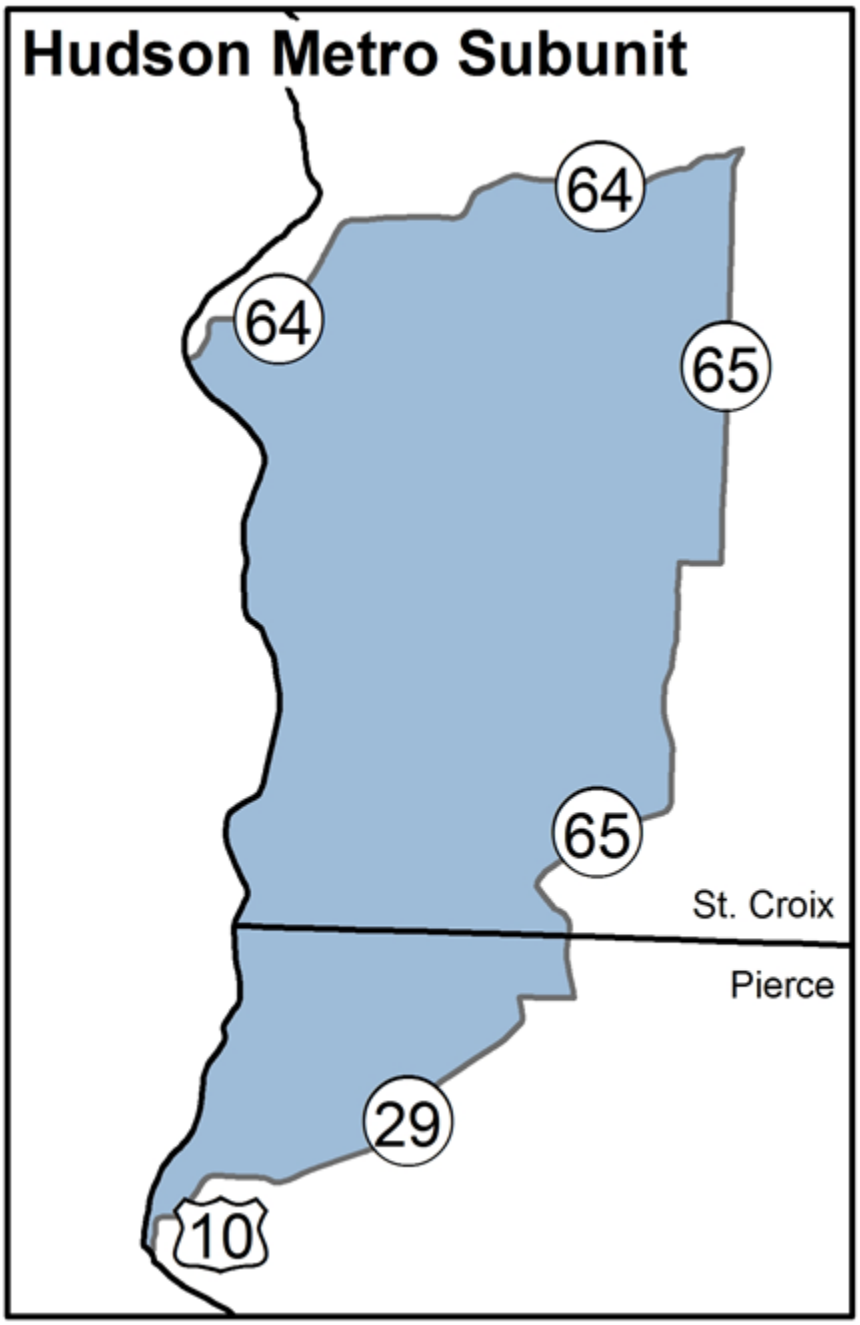
(b) *Madison area*.



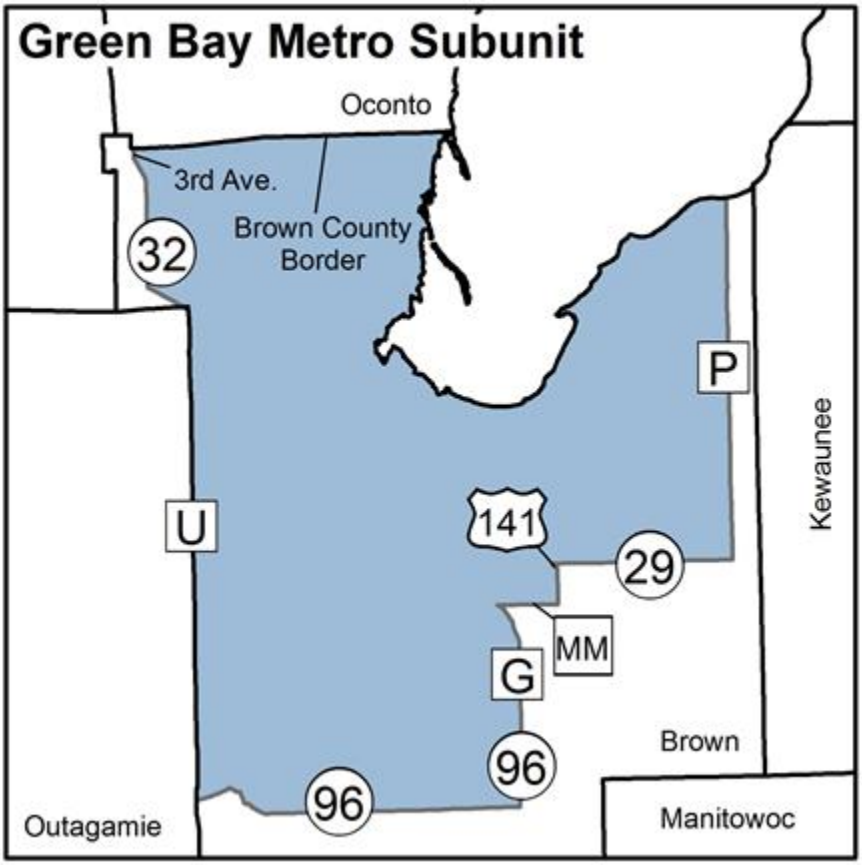
(c) *Milwaukee area*.



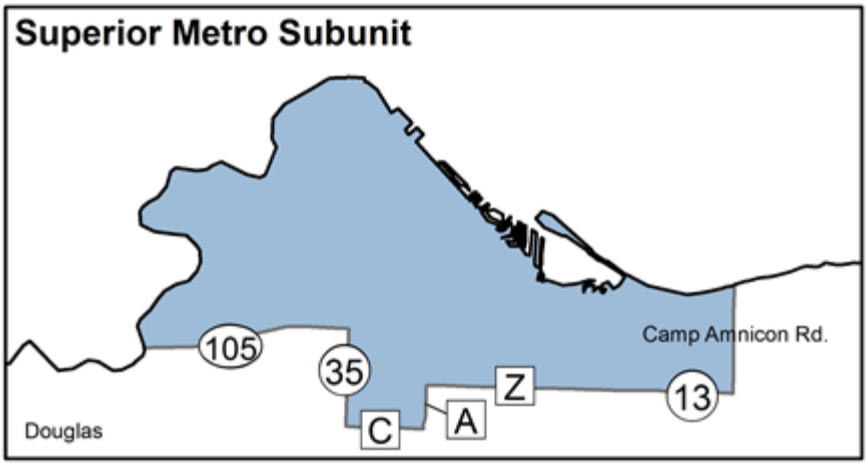
(d) *Hudson area*.



(e) *Green Bay area*.



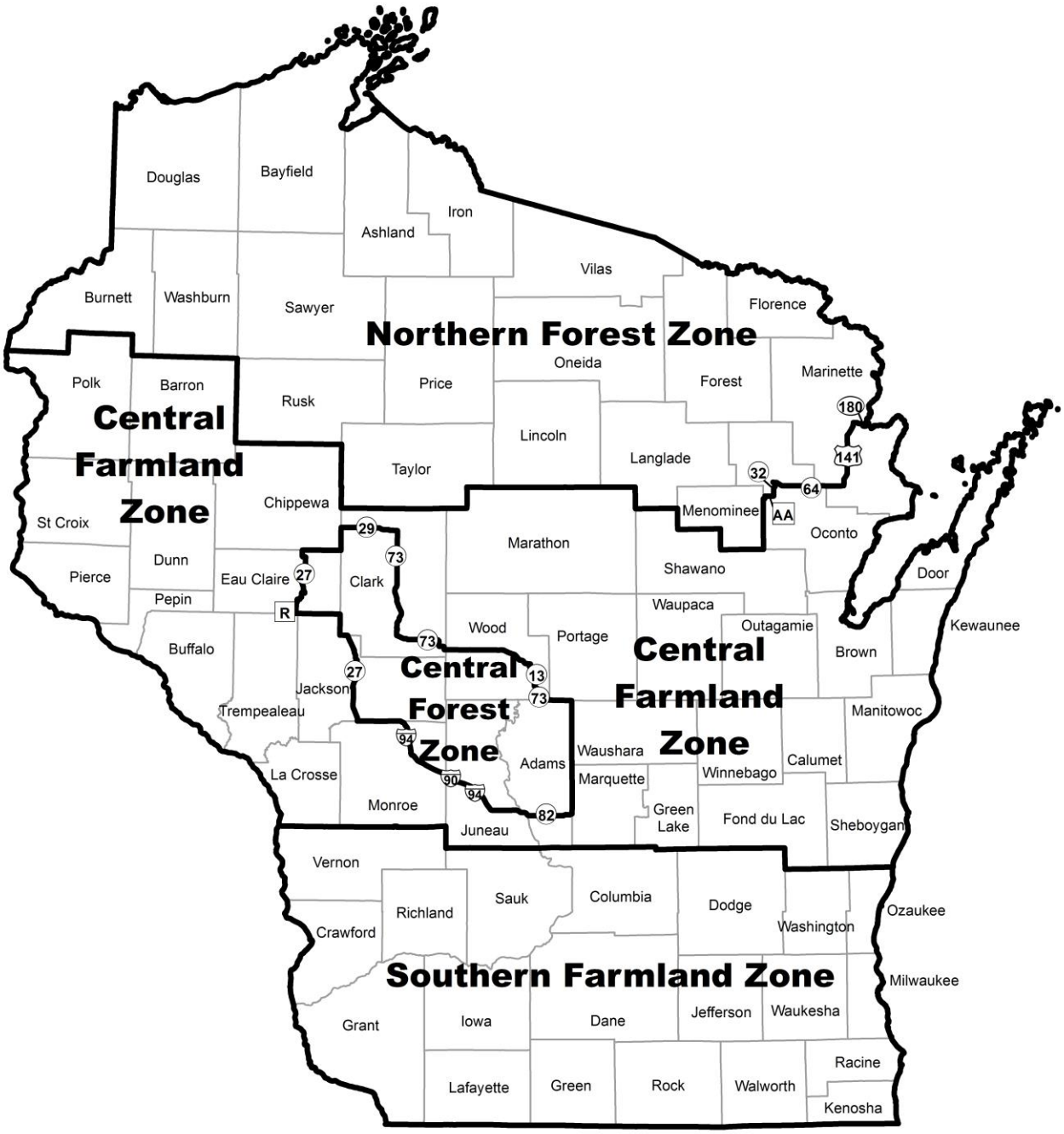
(f) *Superior area*.



SECTION 48. NR 10.28 (3) is repealed.

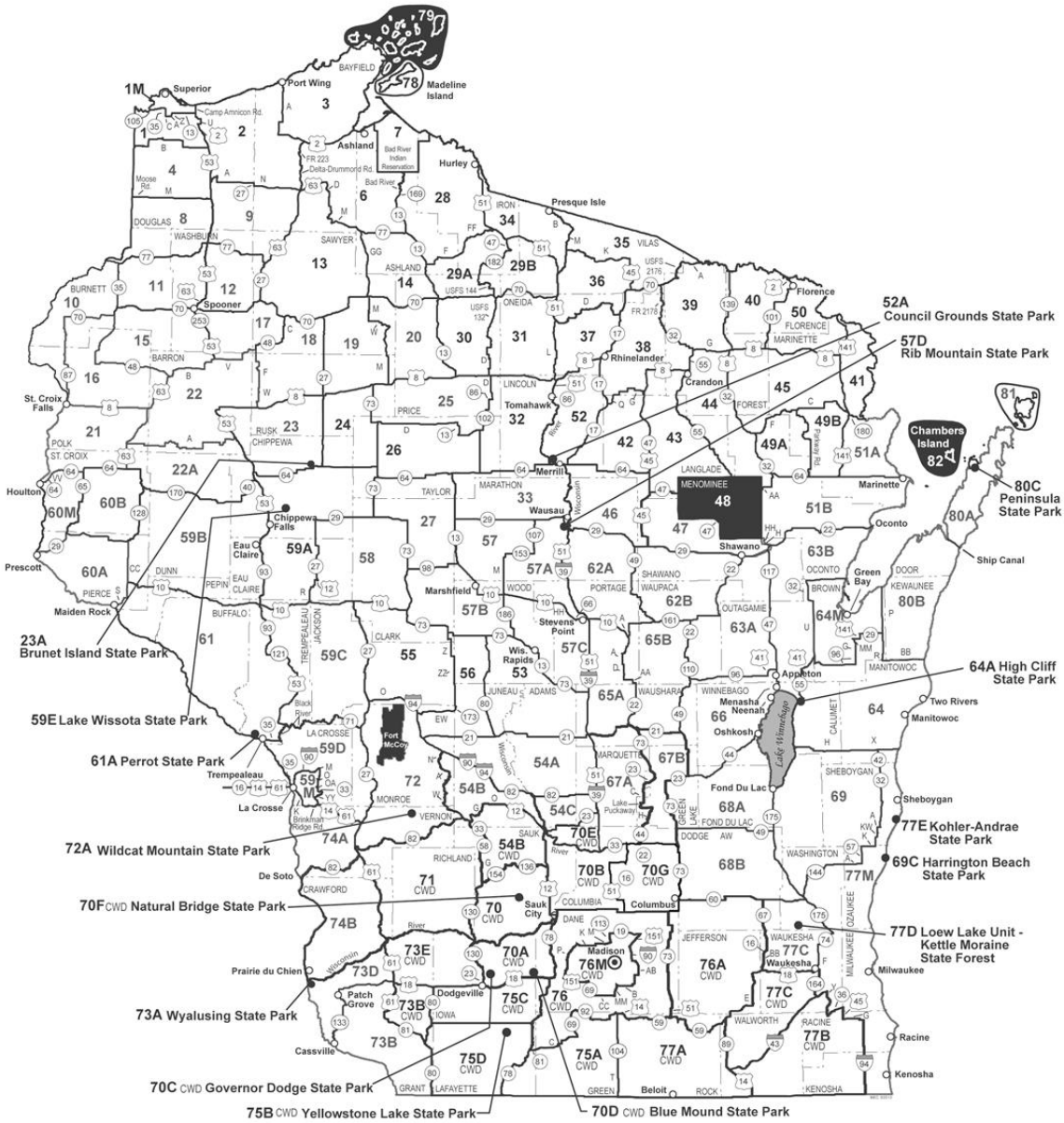
SECTION 49. NR 10.28 (4) is repealed and recreated to read:

10.28 (4) DEER MANAGEMENT ZONES:



Section 50. NR 10.285 is created to read:

NR 10.285 Game Management Zones:



Note: Prior to 2015 the game management zones in this section were also used by the department as deer management units. These game management zones continue to serve as the basis for fisher, sharp-tailed grouse, and bear management zones.

SECTION 51. NR 10.40 (3) (f) and (Note) are amended to read:

NR 10.40 (3) (f) *Rule compliance.* Unless otherwise provided by the department, all disabled hunters and accompanying persons shall comply with all hunting rules and laws applicable to the regular gun deer season specified under s. NR 10.01 (3) (e). The bag limit is one ~~deer of either sex~~ buck deer per valid gun buck deer carcass tag and additional antlerless deer per current valid antlerless deer permit. An antlerless deer permit that is issued under s. NR 10.104 (7) may be used by a participant in this special hunt in any unit statewide. Other hunters, hunting on the lands described on the application during the special gun deer hunt, shall comply with the blaze orange clothing requirements in s. 29.301 (2), Stats., except waterfowl hunters.

Note: ~~Firearms are limited to those approved for use during the regular gun deer season in that county as specified under s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) and blaze~~ Blaze orange clothing meeting the requirements of s. 29.301 (2), Stats., must be worn by all disabled hunters and accompanying persons. Participants must use their regular gun deer season license, backtag and carcass tag.

SECTION 52. NR 10.41 is repealed and recreated to read:

NR 10.41 Wildlife disease management:

(1) PURPOSE.

Pursuant to s. 29.063 (1), Stats., the natural resources board establishes this section to provide guidelines for the department to manage chronic disease in wild cervids in this state.

(2) STATE PARKS AND OTHER CLOSED AREAS. State parks, refuges and closed areas identified in chs. NR 11, 15 and 45 may be opened to deer hunting to assist in the control of CWD.

(3) CWD-AFFECTED AREA.

(a) *Establishment.* The department may establish a CWD-affected area around the location of known positive cases of CWD.

(b) Population objectives. Entire counties, or portions of counties, located within the boundaries of a CWD affected area shall be managed toward a population objective established after seeking comment from county deer management advisory councils under s. NR 10.104 (5).

(c) *CWD affected area*. The CWD-affected area consists of the counties identified on the department's website after following the procedures established in par. (f).

(d) *Population monitoring.* The department shall monitor deer populations in a CWD-affected area with information obtained by surveys that may include registration data and aerial surveys.

(e) *Tags.* Pursuant to s. NR 12.06, the department may issue free deer hunting permits or tags to hunters or landowners, lessees, occupants or their duly authorized agents of a single parcel of land at least 5 acres in size, all within the CWD-affected area, which authorizes the individual to hunt deer in the CWD-affected area or a portion of the area.

(f) E*xpansion of the affected area.*

1. The department may include additional counties or portions of counties in the CWD affected area where and when additional CWD-positive deer are found. The department may add adjacent counties or portions of counties if they are within a 10-mile radius of the known location of a captive or free-roaming domestic or wild animal that has been tested and confirmed to be positive for CWD.

2. Affected area expansion under this subsection shall become effective upon issuance of an order by the secretary of the department and publication in the official state newspaper. In addition, a notice of the order shall be provided to newspapers, legislators, and hunting license outlets in the area affected.

SECTION 53. NR 10, Subchapter II is created to read:

SUBCHAPTER II

DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NR 10.70 Purpose. This subchapter is adopted to implement the deer management assistance program under s. 29.020 Stats. The program is established to help landowners to achieve deer and other management objectives at a localized level and collect biological data that supplements statewide data, and to build relationships between landowners, hunters, and the department.

NR 10.71 Definitions. In this subchapter:

(1) "Cooperative" means an association of individual property owners or their representatives who are not organized as a business entity but are organized for the purposes of managing deer and other wildlife resources, whose properties are located within one-half mile of another property in the cooperative, and whose members have agreed to participate in the deer management assistance program under this subchapter.

(2) "Authorized representative" means the person a landowner has designated to act and make decisions on the landowner's behalf for purposes of the program, including but not limited to, granting access to the landowner's property for department staff to conduct on-site consultation visits.

(3) "Program primary contact" means a person who is primarily responsible for submitting program enrollment applications and fees, scheduling meetings with department staff, and sharing information with landowners or their authorized representatives in a group cooperative or when there is more than one owner of an individual property.

(4) "Medium to large property" means a property of 640 acres or larger.

(5) "Small to medium property" means a property of at least 160 acres but smaller than 640 acres.

NR 10.72 Deer management assistance program levels. (1) LEVEL 1. The first level for participation in the deer management assistance program is designed to increase communication with landowners and hunters. The department shall provide all of the following to Level 1 participants:

(a) Deer management assistance program educational resources.

(b) Opportunities for assistance from department employees including wildlife biologists and foresters.

(c) Annual program reports.

(d) An opportunity to attend annual workshops organized by the department or its partners.

(e) Assistance with projects that have scientific value.

(f) Information on forming program cooperatives.

(g) Assistance with information for participation in other conservation programs.

(2) LEVEL 2. The second level for participation in the deer management assistance program is for small to medium properties with basic management goals. A property owner or cooperative of owners or their authorized representatives must apply to the department for Level 2 participation in the deer management assistance program. Participants shall provide deer harvest reports and the department may require collection of additional data and attendance at an annual meeting or workshop sponsored by the department or its partners. The department shall provide all of the following to Level 2 participants who provide the information required in this section:

(a) One on-site consultation visit by a wildlife biologist and a forester.

(b) A management plan with habitat and deer harvest recommendations developed individually for the enrolled property or cooperative.

(c) Antlerless tags established under s. NR 10.104 (9m) when appropriate based on harvest recommendations developed under subd. 2.

4. Annual reports summarizing data collected by the property owner or cooperative.

(3) *Level 3*. The third level for participation in the deer management assistance program is for medium to large properties with complex management goals. A property owner or cooperative of owners or their authorized representatives must apply to the department for Level 3 participation in the deer management assistance program. Participants shall provide deer harvest reports and the department may require collection of additional data and attendance at an annual meeting or workshop sponsored by the department or its partners. The department shall provide the services established in sub. (2), together with all of the following, to Level 3 participants who provide the information required under sub. (2):

(a) Assistance with deer population monitoring.

(b) Technical assistance and design recommendations for habitat and property management activities.

(c) Additional site visits that may be needed to provide detailed management recommendations.

(4) PUBLIC LAND.

(a) The department may cooperate with the managers of national, state, county, or municipally owned land which is open to the public for deer hunting.

(b) The program coordinator, biologist, and forester shall work together with public access land managers and hunters to enroll properties and recommend harvest quotas.

(c) Local public input sessions conducted by the enrollee shall be used to identify site-specific management concerns and to review antlerless harvest quotas. Property specific antlerless tags established under s. NR 10.104 shall be issued to harvest antlerless deer on enrolled public properties.

(d) The program coordinator, biologist, forester, and local property manager shall work together to promote wildlife habitat improvement projects on properties where quality habitat is limited.

NR 10.73 Fees. Enrollment in the deer management assistance program is for a period of not less than three years beginning on the date that a valid application is accepted and ending on a date specified by the department. The department may wave the fee for participation by governmental organizations or owners of other lands that the department determines are open to the public for hunting. The fees for participation in the deer management assistance program are as follows:

Level 2 . . . . . $75.00
Level 3 . . . . . $150.00

NR 10.74 Ineligibility and penalties. Any participant who charges a fee for bonus permits issued under this subchapter in violation of s. NR 10.104 (9m) (a), or who fails to keep records or make reports to the department as required under this chapter, shall be denied any benefits of enrollment in the program for the calendar year in which the failure was identified and be ineligible to participate for up to two years subsequent to that.

SECTION 54. NR 11.042 (intro.) is amended to read:

NR 11.042 Waterfowl closed area; trapping and deer hunting permitted. A closed season is established in the following areas posted with department signs. Trapping of furbearing mammals is permitted during established seasons. No person may hunt any species of wild animal, except deer during periods established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e), (em), (ep), and (es), during the open season on waterfowl established in s. NR 10.01 (1) (b) and (g). Legally killed or crippled game may be retrieved by dog or hand.

SECTION 55. NR 11.043 (intro.) is amended to read:

NR 11.043 Waterfowl closed area; deer hunting permitted. A closed season is established in the following areas posted with department signs. No person may hunt or trap any species of wild animal, except deer during the periods established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e), (em), (ep) and (es), during the open season on waterfowl established in s. NR 10.01 (1) (b) and (g). Legally killed or crippled game may be retrieved by dog or hand.

SECTION 56. NR 11.11 (intro.) is amended to read:

NR 11.11 Deer closed area; trapping permitted. A closed season is established in the following areas posted with department signs. No person may hunt any species of wild animal thereon, except waterfowl during periods established in s. NR 10.01 (1), during the open gun deer season established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e). In addition, a closed season is established for archery and crossbow hunting of deer beginning the Saturday immediately following the close of gun deer season and continuing through December 31.

SECTION 57. NR 12.06 (title) (1) and (2) are amended to read:

NR 12.06 ~~CWD management zone~~ CWD-affected area deer removal permits.

(1) FINDINGS. Pursuant to s. 29.885 (4), Stats., the natural resources board finds that deer within any ~~CWD management zone~~ CWD-affected area cause a nuisance and that the shooting of deer with nuisance permits is necessary within any ~~CWD management zone~~ CWD-affected area defined in s. NR 10.001 (6p) in order to reduce the spread of disease within the ~~CWD management zone~~ CWD-affected area and to reduce the risk of disease spreading outside any ~~CWD management zone~~ CWD-affected area.

(2) PERMITS. Unless otherwise authorized by the department, landowners, lessees, occupants or their duly authorized agents of a single parcel of land at least 5 acres in size, all within the ~~CWD management zone~~ CWD-affected area may, under a department issued permit, remove deer from lands under their ownership or control in accordance with this section. Both antlerless and buck deer may be harvested unless otherwise restricted as a condition of the permit.

SECTION 58. NR 12.06 (4) (b) is repealed:

SECTION 59. NR 12.16 (4) is amended to read:

NR 12.16 (4) EFFECTIVE DATES. Authorization to kill deer commences the date of permit receipt by the permittee and continues through the open season for the appropriate zone described in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) ~~and (em) except that no deer may be killed during the 24 hour period prior to the November firearm deer season in the area of the state outside of the CWD management zone in s. NR 10.28 (3)~~ , (em) and (ep).

SECTION 60. NR 13.38 (2) (b) is amended to read:

NR 13.38 (2) (b) *Maximum antlerless deer harvest limit.* The maximum tribal harvest limit in forest zones established in s. NR 10.28 (4) shall be calculated according to the following formula:

The management unit deer harvest quota as calculated under ~~s. NR 10.103 (7) x 50%~~ s. NR 10.104 (7) x 50%.

SECTION 61. NR 13.38 (2) (b) (Note) is repealed.

SECTION 62. NR 15.01 (intro.) is amended to read:

NR 15.01 Year round game refuge. A game refuge is created in the following areas as posted with department signs and no person may hunt or trap upon such areas or have in possession or under control any gun or rifle unless the same are unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this sec. does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

SECTION 63. NR 15.015 (intro.) is amended to read:

NR 15.015 Waterfowl production areas. A wildlife refuge is established in the following areas as posted with U.S. fish and wildlife service signs. No person may hunt or trap or have in his or her possession or under control within such area any firearm unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung or completely enclosed within a carrying case, without authorization from the U.S. fish and wildlife service. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this section does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

SECTION 64. NR 15.10 (1) (intro.) is amended to read:

NR 15.10 Horicon marsh wildlife refuge. (1) A wildlife refuge is established in the following area as posted with department signs. No person may hunt or trap or have in possession or under control thereon any firearm unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung or completely enclosed within a carrying case. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this subs. does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin:

SECTION 65. NR 15.12 (intro.) is amended to read:

NR 15.12 University arboretum. A wildlife refuge is established in the following area and no person may hunt or trap upon such area or have in possession or under control thereon any firearm unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, or a bow unless it is unstrung or completely enclosed within a carrying case, but nothing herein shall prohibit, prevent or interfere with the department, its deputies, agents or employees in the destruction or removal of injurious animals. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this section does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

SECTION 66. NR 19.60 (2) (b) 1. is amended to read:

NR 19.60 (2) (b**)** 1. A ~~CWD management zone~~ CWD-affected area has been established in the county or a portion of the county, or

SECTION 67. NR 45.09 (1) is amended to read:

NR 45.09 Firearms and hunting. (1) No person may take, catch, kill, hunt, trap or pursue any wild animal or bird, or discharge any firearm, or have in possession or under control any firearm or air gun as defined in s. 939.22, Stats., unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, or any bow, crossbow, slingshot or spring-load device designed for shooting a projectile unless the same is unstrung or enclosed in a carrying case while in any state park, fish hatchery, or within 100 yards of any state campground, picnic area or other special use area designated by the department by posted notice. No person may discharge a firearm, bow, crossbow, or airgun from, on, or across any state trail corridor or other state park area, which is not open to hunting.

SECTION 68. NR 45.09 (9) is repealed.

SECTION 69. NR 45.13 (18) is amended to read:

NR 45.13 (18) KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST, LAPHAM PEAK. No person may take, catch, kill, hunt, trap or pursue any wild animal, or discharge any firearm or have in possession or under control any firearm or air gun as defined in s. 939.22, Stats., unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow, crossbow, slingshot or spring-loaded device designed for shooting a projectile unless the same is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case while on any department lands designated by posted notice within the Lapham Peak Unit-Kettle Moraine state forest.

SECTION 70. NR 45.13 (21) is amended to read:

NR 45.13 (21) KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST, NORTHERN UNIT. No person may take, catch, kill, hunt, trap or pursue any wild animal, or discharge any firearm or have in possession or under control any firearm or air gun as defined in s. 939.22 (2), Stats., unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow, crossbow, slingshot or springloaded device designed for shooting a projectile unless the same is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case while on any department lands designated by posted notice in sections 13 and 24 east of Long Lake, and section 25 north of county highway F, T14N, R19E, town of Osceola, Fond du Lac county.

SECTION 71. NR 45.13 (24) is amended to read:

NR 45.13 (24) TUSCOBIA STATE RECREATION TRAIL. Except for deer hunting in accordance with ch. NR 10, no person may hunt any wild animal or discharge any firearm, air gun, bow, crossbow, slingshot or spring-loaded device designed for shooting a projectile within the boundaries of the Tuscobia state recreation trail.

SECTION 72. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register as provided in s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

SECTION 73. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on February 25, 2015.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Cathy Stepp, Secretary

(SEAL)