



# MARY CZAJA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 35<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## **Assembly Bill 194 – Crossbow Hunting and Licensing Senate Committee on Natural Resources August 21, 2013**

Thank you, Chairman Kedzie and members of the Natural Resources Committee for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 194 today.

The goal of AB 194 is to grow hunting opportunities in the state of Wisconsin, by allowing for the expanded use of a crossbow. AB 194 would lift the current age and disability restrictions, and establish both a separate season and separate license for crossbow use. This would follow a growing trend nationwide, where over 20 other states already allow for the expanded use of crossbows, including our neighboring state of Michigan.

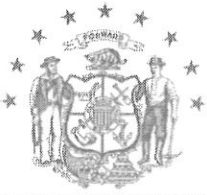
As many of you know, the use of crossbows is not a new debate in the hunting community. I have bow hunted in the past, and I have a deep appreciation for the skill and dedication that the sport requires. Bow hunting will always be a time-honored tradition and a popular sport in our state. However, in recent years overall hunting in Wisconsin has been on a downward trend and we need to do everything we can to encourage new people to the sport and adjust to changing demographics of the hunting population.

AB 194 will retain and recruit past, current, and future hunters. Results have shown Wisconsin in the bottom 20% nationwide for attracting new hunters, and our Hunter Replacement Rate stands at only .53%. This means that for every hunter who leaves the sport – whether due to age, lifestyle change, or another reason – there is not a new hunter to take their place. This was one of the driving forces behind the Mentored Hunting legislation that passed two sessions ago, and has been met with success.

I understand there are concerns about the impact that crossbows would have on the harvest rate of Wisconsin's deer herd. The separate license will allow for data collection and accurate studies on the impact of crossbows on harvest rates.

Expanding the use of crossbows also brings a considerable economic impact to our state. The DNR Fiscal Estimate on AB 194 indicates over \$60,000 combined of savings and new revenue. I have spoken with both bow manufacturers and archery retailers, who state their full support for AB 194. Depending on the amount of licenses sold, there is the potential for even more conservation dollars generated and the ripple effect of spending that hunters bring to transportation, lodging, and other hospitality industries.

This bill is bipartisan – it has a Republican and Democratic co-author in both the Assembly and Senate. On June 6<sup>th</sup> of this year, AB 194 passed on a roll call vote in the Assembly of 95-0, and had 52 cosponsors. Ultimately, as hunters and stewards of Wisconsin's natural resources, we should all have a common goal: to help preserve Wisconsin's cherished hunting heritage for future generations and to retain and recruit past, current, and future hunters.



**Assembly Bill 194 – Crossbow Hunting and Licensing in Wisconsin**  
**Senate Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Rep. Chris Danou Testimony**  
**August 21, 2013**

Chairman Kedzie and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources:

Thank you for holding a hearing today on Assembly Bill 194, a bipartisan bill, that passed 95-0 in the Assembly this past May. As you know, AB 194 establishes the authority to hunt with a crossbow and establish open seasons for hunting with a crossbow.

Hunting is a great tradition and an important part of Wisconsin's culture. Unfortunately, especially in recent years, we have seen a substantial decrease in the number of new hunters joining in this cherished tradition. Knowing this decrease is taking place, we as legislators are in a position to craft state policy that will encourage more individuals to not only take up hunting, but also retain those who are currently engaged in the sport.

This bill does just that. By allowing the use of a crossbow, we will open up opportunities for those who would traditionally be unable or unwilling to hunt during the archery season. This will give those who are physically unable a chance to participate as well as those who see an opportunity to increase their time in the woods. Either way, this bill encourages more men, women and children from all kinds of backgrounds in communities across Wisconsin to hunt.

Not only does the inclusion of crossbows create more hunting opportunities, it will also result in additional opportunities for Wisconsin businesses from the retail to manufacturing levels. It is also anticipated that with more hunters in the woods, there will also be a greater exchange of commerce as people travel and spend time in communities across our state.

As a trained wildlife biologist and avid hunter, I understand that hunting is an important management tool for Wisconsin's game populations. I also recognize that the vast majority of archery and crossbow hunting in Wisconsin will be orientated toward the hunting of white-tail deer. When thinking about creating new opportunities to hunt, the question I always ask myself, in addition to the pleasure hunting brings and the ability to interact with the natural world: is the new technique or season that is being created consistent with the traditions of the public trust and fair chase?

Allowing crossbows to be used alongside traditional archery – ranging from the most primitive long bows to the most advanced composite compound bows – meets the criteria of public trust and fair chase.

We have an opportunity to get more people out hunting and enjoying Wisconsin's outdoors. I firmly believe this bill does just that in a fair, reasonable and common-sense fashion.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and I look forward to answering any questions you may have at this time.



## 2013 ASSEMBLY BILL 194

### USE OF CROSSBOWS FOR HUNTING

**Testimony by:** Thomas Van Haren - Conservation Warden with the Dept. of Natural Resources  
Appearing for Information Only

Senate Natural Resources Committee  
August 15, 2013 10:00 AM  
Room 300 Southeast

Over the past 34 years, there have been a number of changes regarding who is eligible to use a crossbow for hunting in Wisconsin.

A summary of most of these changes can be found on the back of my written testimony.

The department has not observed any law enforcement or safety problems associated with allowing the use of crossbows for hunting. We do not foresee any such problems created as a result of the provisions of this bill as passed by the Assembly.

In 2012, the department reviewed approximately 4,100 disabled hunting permit applications requesting crossbow authorization. Approximately 2,400 were for permanent disabilities, and approximately were 1,700 were for temporary disabilities.

Individuals with a disability which their doctor believes to be a permanent disability, and which makes them eligible to hunt with a crossbow, are issued a permit valid for 5 years. If their condition has not changed after 5 years and they apply to renew their permit, each future permit is issued for 10 years. Permits that are issued for temporary disabilities may be issued for a period of 6 months to 5 years, depending on how long the doctor anticipates the disability to last.

Passing this legislation would significantly reduce the workload associated with reviewing, issuing and denying disabled permits which authorize certain individuals to use a crossbow to hunt deer under and archer license during the state archery/bow deer hunting season.

This bill would also save disabled individuals under age 65 the cost of paying for doctors' visits and exams by physical therapists to see if they qualify for a permit.

**Thank you for your time.**

## SOME HISTORY OF CROSSBOW AUTHORITY IN WISCONSIN

Crossbows first became legal to use for hunting 34 years ago in 1979. (1977 Wis. Act 232). This authority was initially only provided to Residents who were hunting under the authority of an Archer license and who obtained a special Crossbow Permit.

For the first 10 years, to qualify for a Crossbow permit, a person simply needed to have a doctor sign an application which stated the applicant was: “unable to operate a manually pulled bow with a 30 lb. draw weight, because of a permanent physical disability.”

About 25 years ago (1988), new standards were developed by the departments Disabled Advisory Council and adopted by the legislature.

An applicant has since that time been required to meet certain specific measurable standards based on tests conducted by a physical therapist in order to be eligible for a crossbow permit. A person missing an arm, hand or index or middle finger on the draw and release hand automatically qualifies.

A little over 22 years ago (Dec 1991), the authority provided by the Class A, B and C Disabled hunting permits was expanded to also authorize hunting with a crossbows. Class A permits are available to certain persons with Heart disease, Lung disease, or who are unable to walk unassisted. Class B permits are available to individuals with temporary disabilities caused by injuries or surgery, and Class C permits are available to those who are visually handicapped.

The authority to use crossbows under these permits however was also initially limited to Residents only. Nonresidents became eligible to use a crossbow if they held a Class A, B or C disabled hunting permit about 14 Years ago, effective 1-1-1999.

Since December 1, 2001, (01 Wis. Act 18) - Resident Senior Citizens have been allowed to use crossbows for hunting without the need to be disabled or obtain a Permit. If any of these nondisabled residents moved out of state, they could no longer use a crossbow to hunt in this state, not even if they had been legally using one previously.

In 2008, the Wis. Cons. Congress asked an advisory question at their spring meeting, as to whether or not a Nonresident Senior Citizen should be allowed to use crossbows for hunting, the same as a Resident Senior Citizen. The vote was 3,295 in Support & 2,059 opposed, passing in 65 Counties.

In 2010, under 2009 Wis. Act 119, Nonresident Senior citizens were authorized to used crossbows without the need for a special Crossbow permit or need to be disabled, the same as resident seniors.

In 2012, under 2011 Wis. Act 252, everyone who purchases any hunting license (except for the Archer Hunting license) is now authorized to use a crossbow for hunting species authorized under that license, without the need to be disabled or a senior citizen. The Archer license remains the only license the does not allow hunting deer or small game under that license unless the holder of the license is disabled and also holds a special disabled hunting permit authorizing the use of a crossbow, or is age 65 or older.



**Al Ott**

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

**AB 194  
Crossbow Hunting and Licensing  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
August 20, 2013**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Assembly Bill 194 (AB 194).

Under current law, a person may not utilize a crossbow to hunt during Wisconsin's archery season unless the person is disabled or at least 65 years of age. These restrictions unnecessarily hinder our ongoing efforts to keep hunters in the woods and recruit new generations of sportsmen and women.

Approved by the Assembly on a **95-0** vote, AB 194, as amended, eliminates the current disability and age requirements for the use of a crossbow during the archery season. In turn, the bill establishes a separate crossbow license for use during a separate crossbow season, which would run concurrent to the state's archery season.

The bill in its current form is the result of countless hours of discussion and a healthy dose of compromise. I applaud Representative Czaja and Senator Farrow for their tireless work on this bill, and thank them for their sincere efforts in working with those who have had concerns with AB 194 to reach a solid middle ground.

I fully support the bill in the form in which it is before you today. I was proud to move AB 194 through the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage, and pleased to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in voting unanimously for the bill on the floor of the Assembly.

With that said, I honestly find the notion of a separate license and separate season for crossbows to be complete nonsense. In the spirit of our shared goal to recruit and retain hunters, we – as legislators – should be seeking ways to make it easier to get people into the woods rather than forcing potential hunters to jump through yet more bureaucratic hoops simply to appease the sensibilities of one user group. If I had my druthers, AB 194 would allow for the full inclusion of crossbows during the archery season. Frankly, I believe such a bill would pass the Assembly on another strong bipartisan vote.

For those who know me, you know I am a big proponent of compromise in the interest of advancing good public policy. Despite my own personal preferences on this issue, I believe AB 194, as passed by the Assembly, represents a good faith compromise and a strong step in the

right direction for Wisconsin's sporting heritage. By its very definition, no one side can get everything they want in a compromise. The bill before you embodies that concept.

I am happy to see that this Committee is scheduled to vote on AB 194 tomorrow. I look forward to the Senate's action on this important legislation, and remain committed to making sure we have the expanded use of crossbows on the books this session.

While I am pleased that we are finally moving forward and embracing the opportunity to set aside some of the divisiveness surrounding the use of crossbows during the archery season, I anticipate our work on this matter is not entirely complete. Our history of skirting around the issue of full inclusion of crossbows, and making minor tweaks here and there, have led us to this point. Based on that history, I feel it is entirely reasonable to assume we will be revisiting the necessity of a separate license and separate season for crossbows in the future.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of AB 194.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Institute for Legislative Action**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VA 22030

FAX (703) 267-3976



August 21, 2013

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Rifle Association of America (NRA), I am here to provide NRA-ILA's full throated support of Assembly Bill 194 authorizing the use of crossbows during the same time frame as the state deer archery season. This important legislation would dramatically expand hunter opportunity and assist in Wisconsin's efforts to recruit and retain hunters afield.

The NRA advocates for any expansion of hunter opportunity and choice where there is no biological reason to oppose the expansion. Preserving and strengthening our cherished hunting heritage depends on it.

Experience in the 29 full-inclusion crossbow states proves that allowing the unqualified use of crossbows helps to retain and recruit hunters while having no detrimental impact on game populations. At a time when hunter numbers are declining, promoting hunter recruitment and retention is more important than ever. Retention of older hunters with diminished physical capabilities is especially critical. Allowing these hunters to transition from vertical bows to crossbows when they choose to do so encourages them to continue archery hunting for decades longer than they otherwise would. Because of this, they are able to recruit more friends and family members throughout their careers.

Mentoring new hunters is one of the most important things any of us can do to strengthen our hunting heritage. However, this is much more difficult to do when a particular hunting season is relatively short, as is the case with the nine day rifle season. Experienced hunters are understandably more involved in attempting to ensure their own success during the brief rifle season than they would be during an archery season that spans more than 90 days. Allowing crossbow use will encourage more rifle hunters to transition to crossbows. The much longer season that is available to them will provide them more time to focus their efforts on bringing more children and adults into the life-long hunter ranks while still allowing ample time for them to secure their own success.

Another important aspect of allowing the full-inclusion of crossbows is that younger hunter who may not have the physical strength to draw a vertical bow would finally be able to participate in the archery season. This much longer season would give them many more opportunities to go afield at a time when school and extracurricular demands seem to be growing exponentially.

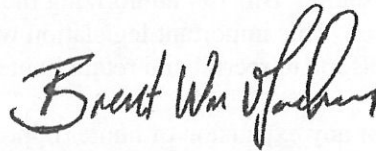
According to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation, only 71 new hunters are recruited to the field in Wisconsin for every 100 who permanently leave it (a hunter replacement ratio of 0.71). Wisconsin is to be commended for its many recent efforts to improve this alarming ratio including last year's passage of the Sporting Heritage Act and this crossbow proposal is one more logical step in that laudable endeavor.

Contrary to the claims of critics, the experience in other states shows that archer success rates do not increase with the use of a crossbow as opposed to a vertical bow. The goal of all hunters should be to increase participation because greater hunter numbers in the future will bolster defenses against the political attacks initiated by anti-hunting extremists like the Humane Society of the United States.

With the passage of this bill the time for this issue dividing our sporting community will have come and gone. Ultimately, a hunter during the archery season should not care whether the hunter on the next piece of ground is using a longbow, recurve bow, compound bow or crossbow. It should all come down to the individual hunter making the choice that is best for his or her circumstances.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this legislation. If I could be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-267-1384.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Wm. Gardner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brent Wm. Gardner  
Wisconsin State Liaison  
NRA-ILA State and Local Affairs



## Testimony In Support of Assembly 194—Hunting with Crossbows

Chairman Kedzie, Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation in support of Assembly Bill 194 and Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 194. The Federation is comprised of 185 hunting, fishing and trapping clubs located throughout the State of Wisconsin, the total membership of which exceeds 100,000 members. Unlike the many other fine non-profit sports groups in the state, the Federation represents the full cross-section of hunters, anglers and trappers.

The WWF strongly supports AB 194 for the full expansion of crossbow use for all hunters for all hunting seasons in the state when current archery use is allowed. While we prefer the original bill lead authored by Representative Czaja and Senator Farrow, we were also part of the group that worked on and agree to Substitute Amendment 1 as a compromise alternative. It is clearly time to provide the use of crossbows as another alternative method of hunting in the state. When we discuss crossbow use with our counterpart hunting organizations in other states that allow broad crossbow use they report that there has not been any serious downside to the use of crossbows in their states. They also report that full legal use of crossbows in their states has allowed older hunters under the age of 65, women and youth the experience to get into the woods to hunt during the normal archery season and expanded hunting opportunities in their states. And that is why the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation supports this bill. Many archery hunters slowly lose their ability to use compound bow because of normal ageing but are under the age of 65 and are not so severely injured that they qualify for the current disabled hunter permits. They still want to enjoy the opportunity to get out into the woods during the fall archery season and this bill gives them an opportunity to keep active in the sport. Likewise this bill provides women and youth who may not have the upper body strength to use compound or recurve bows an opportunity to engage in fall hunting and become engaged in the live-long pursuit of hunting.

One issue that the Federation feels compelled to bring up is that since the Assembly passed the Substitute Amendment to AB 194, we have heard concerns from a number of disabled hunters about the bill removing the current process for the issuance of disabled cross bow hunting permits. They are concerned that since the Substitute Amendment creates two seasons, one for current archery used and one for crossbow use, that it is conceivable that in the future DNR will shorten the fall crossbow season shorter than the archery season. That would mean a loss of hunting opportunity for disabled crossbow hunters and hunters over the age of 65 from what they are able to engage in now under the disabled hunter permit. We respectfully request that Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 194 be amended to continue as a "back-up" system for disabled hunters and hunters over the age of 65 if there are future restrictions placed on crossbow hunting that are not placed on archery hunting. The WWF does not want to see an inadvertent loss of hunting opportunity for disabled hunters and hunters over the age of 65.

In conclusion, the Federation would like to thank Representative Czaja and Senator Farrow for their strong leadership in support of expanded hunting opportunities in this state. We request that this committee amend the bill and send it to the full Senate for action this fall. Thank you again for testifying in support of this bill.

Submitted by:  
Ralph Fritsch, Chair  
Wildlife Committee  
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

## CROSSBOW TALKING POINTS

1. HUNTER RIGHTS AMMENDMENTS... \$ IMPACT ON HANDICAPPED \$1 MILLION, WOMEN, YOUTH & AGEING BOW HUNTERS PHYSICAL LIMITS
2. HANDICAPPED +6000 PERMITS LAST YEAR, AS MANY AS 20,000 POTENTIAL HUNTERS
3. MANY WOMEN, AND YOUTH CAN'T EFFECTIVLY SHOOT 30 LB BOW
4. YOUTH (SMALL IN STATURE) WE ISSUE HUNTER ED PERMITS, BUT DON'T GIVE THEM THE CHOICE OF AN EFFECTIVE TOOL
5. CURRENT ARCHERY HUNTERS MAY NEED OR WANT TO SWITCH AT ANY AGE DUE TO STRENGTHISSUES OR CHANGING LIFE SITUATIONS
6. 2007 DNR GOALS - RETAIN HUNTERS, RECRUIT YOUTH, RECRUIT WOMEN: CROSSBOW WORKS AS SHOWN IN 25 STATES. CROSSBOWS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN IMPROVING THEIR RECRUITING RESULTS ... THROUGH FULL INCLUSION OF CROSSBOWS
7. MICHIGAN RESULTS (3 YEARS) ARCHERY  
+108%, INCREASE IN CROSSBOW USERS : 56,000 TO 118,000  
74% OF CROSSBOW USERS WERE COMPOUND BOW USERS,  
25% OF THOSE HAD NOT HUNTED WITH A BOW IN LAST 3 YEARS,  
19% HAD BEEN GUN ONLY HUNTERS
8. WISCONSIN ECONOMIC IMPACT \$42M TO \$51M, EXAMPLE MISSION CROSSBOW BUILT IN SPARTA, PLUS 12 OTHER COMPANIES
9. FEDERAL LAW STATES "EQUAL ACCOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE MADE FOR GENDER, AGE & HANDICAPPS AND NO ONE GROUP SHOULD HAVE EXCLUSIVE USE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES

**1. OUTRAGE LLC**

1230 Poplar Avenue Superior WI 54880-1955

Phone: (888) 779-0092

Category: Archery Equipment, General

CO. REP Richard Krause

**2. BRENNAN INDUSTRIES, INC.**

THE MAKER OF THE GENESIS® BOW

2035 Riley Road

Sparta, WI 54656

PHONE: (608) 269-1779

E-MAIL: [customerservice@genesisbow.com](mailto:customerservice@genesisbow.com)

**3. RINEHART TARGETS**

1029 S Jackson Street # B, Janesville WI 53546-2554 (608) 757-8153

**4. TRUEFLIGHT MANUFACTURING CO**

33 N US Highway 51, Manitowish Waters WI 54545-8907 (715) 543-8410

Email us at: [email@trueflightfeathers.com](mailto:email@trueflightfeathers.com)

**5. VAPORTRAIL INC.**

1333 154th ave.

55304 Phone: 800-310-8110

(763) 862-8870 [steve@vaportrailarchery.com](mailto:steve@vaportrailarchery.com)

**6. CARRON NET CO., INC. - TWO RIVERS, WI**

Distributor, Manufacturer, Custom Manufacturer

[sales@carronnet.com](mailto:sales@carronnet.com)

High density 100 percent nylon archery backdrop nets help make archery target practice safe

**7. KOLPIN POWER SPORTS**

[www.kolpinpowersports.com/](http://www.kolpinpowersports.com/)

Fox Lake, WI 53933-0107 [map](#)

Phone: 920-928-3118, 877-956-5746 (toll free)

Fax: 920-928-3687

**8. NonTypicalBuck**

Crossbow sales

13009 Willmas Rd.

Newton, WI 53063 [map](#)

Phone: 920-693-2853

Website: [www.nontypicalbuck.com](http://www.nontypicalbuck.com)

**9. HHA SPORTS/WARRANTY**

7222 Townline Road  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
Contact Chris Hamm  
1-800-548-7812  
email at [hhasport@wctc.net](mailto:hhasport@wctc.net)

**10. RETRACT-O-BARB**

21795 Greendale Dr  
Waukesha, WI 53186-4009  
(262) 786-2834  
Frank Yurchich

**11. MATHEWS INC**

815 Industrial Drive,  
Sparta WI 54656-2287

**12. HEADHUNTER BOW STRINGS**

1211 Storrs Lake Road  
PO Box 246  
Milton, WI 53563  
P 608.868.3060  
Email: [info@headhunterbowstrings.com](mailto:info@headhunterbowstrings.com)

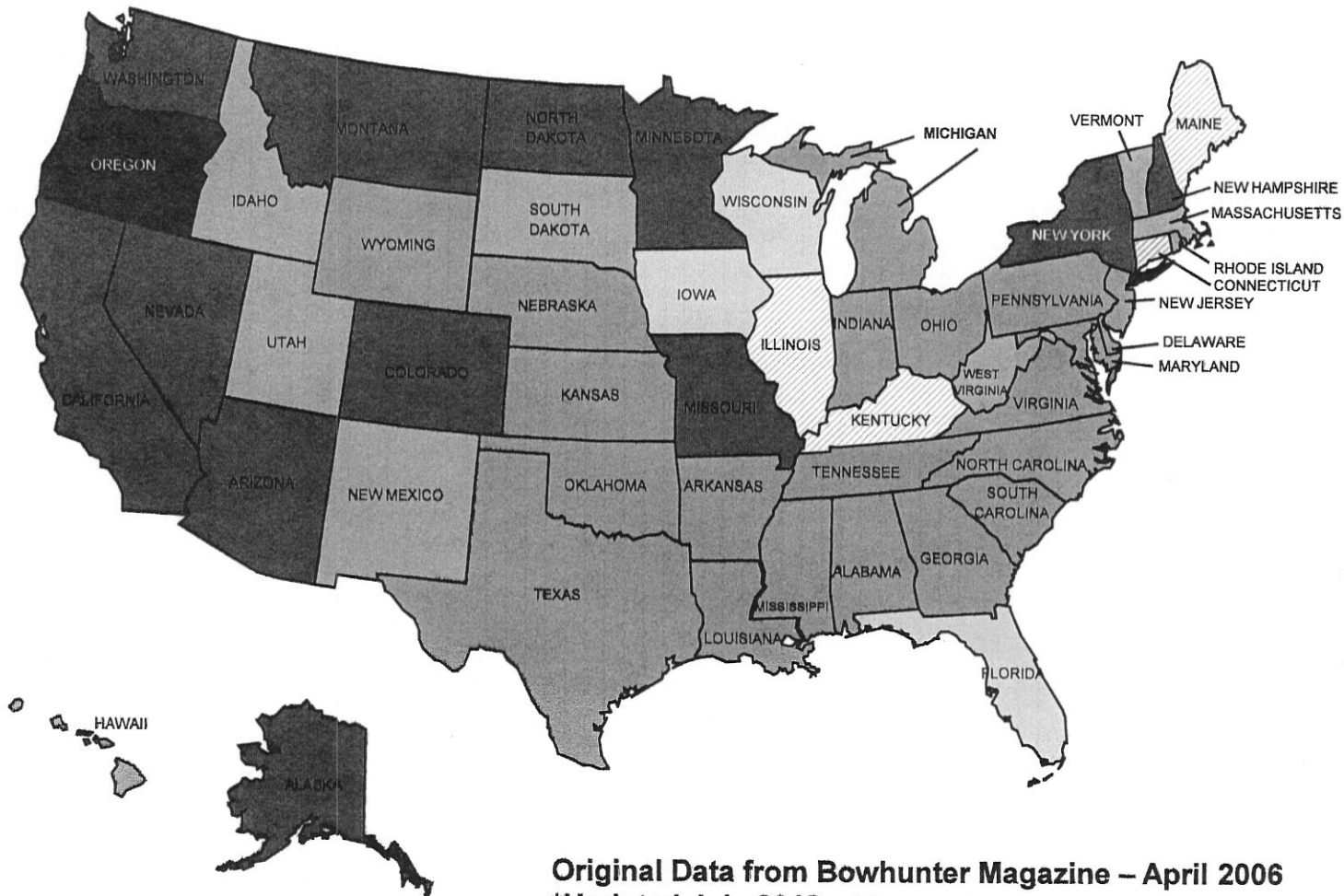
**13. THE ARCHERY LAB**

PO Box 1285 Eau Claire, WI 54702  
Phone: 715-829-7856  
Email: [kevin@thearcherylab.com](mailto:kevin@thearcherylab.com)

**14. RENEGADE ARCHERY COMPANY**

228 Division Street Altoona, WI 54720  
715-568-2730  
[sales@renegadebows.com](mailto:sales@renegadebows.com)

# State Regulations at a Glance



## CROSSBOWS ARE:

- Legal for use in Archery Season. 22 States (44%)
- Legal during a portion of Archery season. 4 States (8%)(Dashed)
- Legal for use in Archery Season – private land only (FL). 1 State (2%)
- Legal for Hunters over a certain age: 65+ (WI) & 70+ (IA). 2 States (4%)
- Legal for physically challenged hunters during Archery Season. 8 States (16%)
- Legal in Firearm Season. 12 States (24%)
- **Illegal hunting equipment. 1 State (2%)**

Original Data from Bowhunter Magazine – April 2006

\*Updated July 2013 \*Always check current regulations before hunting.

\* My name is Herb Schwartz from Oshkosh, a lifelong resident of Wisconsin. I started bow hunting in 1964 and have been fortunate to not miss an archery season in 47 years. I currently do not belong to any state archery club or organization, but do have a strong passion and interest in Archery.

X I have followed the crossbow issues for about the last 12 years with much interest. The last several years I started doing some in depth research into the matter. Also researching the proponents and opposition of crossbows in archery deer seasons. I have come to the conclusion that there are no factual reasons not to allow crossbows in archery deer seasons, but have found many reasons to allow them.

X I have researched information and data from the 25-27 states that have full crossbow inclusion. I have communicated with different states department of Natural Resources personnel and their summations were, no negative impacts but a surprising number of positive results in many aspects.

A prime example would be the state of Kansas. In 2011 they implemented full inclusion of crossbows with a two year study that was set to expire at the end of the 2013 hunting season. At the end of the 2012 hunting season, the Kansas game commission studied the first years data, and was so overwhelmed they canceled the two <sup>YEAR</sup> study and incorporated full crossbow inclusion in the full archery seasons.

Another state example would be Michigan, which is in many ways is similar to Wisconsin.

They incorporated crossbow usage in the lower peninsula in 2009 and followed in 2010 with statewide inclusion. In January of this year they released a very in depth report pertaining to deer seasons and weapons specific data. The report being 20 pages in entirety, with all kinds of charts and graphs, is a bit much to comprehend, and did create some controversial discussion. This did concern me, so I called the <sup>AUTHOR</sup> composer of the report for specific details. He assured me that there were a lot of different factors involved. I asked if he could simply summarize the report, He replied yes I can, by saying that "QUOTE" full inclusion of crossbows had no negative impact whatsoever, in fact results were overwhelmingly positive. For anybody with concerns or questions regarding Michigan's crossbow inclusion, my suggestion would be to view the entire report for yourself and in particular read the first six pages of introduction, explanations, summaries.

I would like to add that currently there are crossbow actions going on in an additional <sup>SEVERAL OTHER</sup> five states.

In Wisconsin, AB194 will be a very positive legislative action in many aspects.

By allowing crossbow use for everyone, it will eliminate the discrimination for the physically disabled and also their personal expenses involved to obtain a crossbow license. It will also eliminate the restrictions for youth and the female gender.

Additionally, allowing full crossbow use will have an overwhelmingly positive effect on hunter recruitment and retention. AB194 will also be a huge economic boost, with more revenue provided to the Department of Natural Resources in license sales. Independent archery stores in Wisconsin will see increased revenue not only in crossbow sales, but with accessories, parts, and repair services. The positive economical list can go on and on.

As I could go on and on, but Trying to make this as brief as possible, I will conclude by respectfully requesting your support and assistance in the passage of AB194.

To the members of the ~~Assembly~~<sup>SENATE</sup> Natural Resources Committee.

Thank you

# WISCONSIN FORCE

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs and Educators, Inc.

Executive Director

Jeff Nass

N615 Silver Lane

Pulaski WI 54162-8320

Phone 920-687-0505

[jeff@wisconsinforce.org](mailto:jeff@wisconsinforce.org)

[www.wisconsinforce.org](http://www.wisconsinforce.org)

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August 15, 2013

Wisconsin Senate  
Natural Resources Committee

Re: Expansion of Crossbow Hunting

Senator Wirch:

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs, and Educators Inc. (Wisconsin FORCE) is in full support of Assembly Bill 194, expanding the use of crossbows for hunting.

This legislation would benefit all hunters in Wisconsin, especially for those hunters who, for many reasons, do not have the strength or experience to use a conventional bow. The addition of crossbows is a safe, ethical means of recruiting and retaining hunters and managing our deer herd.

Please vote in support of Assembly Bill 194, expanding the use of crossbows for hunting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Nass  
Executive Director

WISCONSIN  
FORCE

Wisconsin Firearm Owners,  
Ranges, Clubs and Educators, Inc.