

December 23, 2008

Dear Fellow Hunters:

I attended the Conservation Congress meeting 12/19/08 and listened to the DNR push for earn-a-buck and other herd reduction efforts for the 2009 season. They want to diminish the size of the herd even further, and basically ignored hunter's comments regarding the overall lack of deer.

Since most of us hunters cannot understand why the DNR is on such a mission of herd reduction, I snooped around on the DNR website this weekend.

The following excerpt was part of a correspondence memorandum from DNR Secretary Matt Frank to the DNR board on April 23, 2008. This information was presented by Mr. Frank as the DNR recommended herd reduction strategies for various deer management units. Mr. Frank wrote:

"The department's management objective is to manage the population at the goals that have been established, not to set harvest records. This is important because the number of deer that hunters will be able to harvest is likely to decline in the future as hunter numbers decline. Clearly there will be a large decline in the number of deer hunters in the next 10-20 years as the baby boomer generation ages and moves out of the ranks of hunters. The ability to manage deer populations through hunting are at risk because the current deer herd is too large to be managed by fewer hunters. It is imperative that we move deer populations significantly downward toward goal now, because the harvest capacity in the future will be insufficient to hold the deer population stable at the level it now exists."

My reaction to this memorandum is:

- 1) What a poorly thought-out strategy. Clearly there must be better ways to address this issue if and when it ever becomes a problem.
- 2) This explains why the DNR doesn't seem to care about bear and wolf predation. They are actually tools to reduce the herd size.
- 3) Reducing herd size and creating a poorer hunt will effectively drive more hunters away, compounding their perceived problem.
- 4) If more people quit hunting, then the DNR will want to drive the herd lower according to this memo. There will be fewer hunters in the woods, but fewer deer also. This means that Wisconsin deer hunting will never be any better than when the DNR reaches "goal" with herd size.

I think that the only thing that will get the DNR to pay attention is to stop buying licenses. It needs to be on a large scale for 2009 to be effective

Please let me know what you think.

Also, please share this with anyone whom you think would be interested.

Sincerely,

Kevin Wolosek

## Send message to DNR on deer

I'm writing in response to Marlin Laidlaw's letter of Dec. 11 (in the Marshfield News-Herald). I have known Marlin for many years, and he is a true friend of the Wisconsin whitetail deer. His article was right on the money.

Speaking of money, it is time to show the DNR just how powerful we customers are. Over the last several years the DNR has been confronted by Wisconsin hunters about the deer herd numbers game.

As Marlin pointed out, we hunters know what the truth is, by what we see and don't see during the hunting season. We speak, but no one at the DNR listens. It's time for us hunters to stop talking about how dissatisfied we are and stop buying gun licenses, until their hearing starts to work again.

With the state budget deficit we face, it would take one year for the DNR to get the message loud and clear. To the DNR it's about money; to true hunters it's about a grand old tradition and the love for what is left of our whitetail deer herd.

Patrick O'Kelly  
Hewitt