

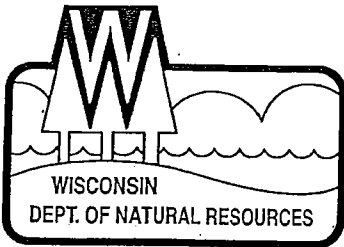
CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: January 25, 2006
TO: Deer Rule 2006 Stakeholders Committee
FROM: Keith Warnke *Keith*
SUBJECT: Department response to Natural Resources Board request

The enclosed letter was sent to Representative Scott Gunderson and Senator Neal Kedzie on January 24, 2006. The letter was sent at the request of the Natural Resources Board to clearly state the Department's position on baiting and feeding and present the public's response to the attached advisory question authored by board member Herb Benke. As you know, the advisory question was presented to the public for input and response at the 10 public hearings held statewide in October, 2005.

Thank you for your continued efforts and interest in supporting Wisconsin's deer management program.



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Scott Hassett, Secretary

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January 24, 2006

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

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

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

Dear Gentlemen:

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

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

Table 1. Response to Natural Resources Board Resolution on Banning Baiting and Feeding Prior to and During the Deer Gun Seasons.

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

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

conflict related issues. However, in the absence of a statewide ban, we do believe that the NRB and Legislature should consider improvements to current law. Therefore, I respectfully request your help in passing legislation that would allow implementation of the NRB proposal for the 2006 season.

The following modifications are provided for your review:

s. 29.336 Feeding deer. (3) ~~A~~ Except as provided in sub. (5), a person may feed deer for viewing purposes in counties not included in the rules promulgated under sub. (2) if all of the following apply:

(a) The feeding site is within 50 yards of an owner-occupied residence or of a person's business, if the business is one that is generally open to the public.

(b) The feeding site is not less than 100 yards from a roadway, as defined in s. 340.01 (54), having a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or more.

(c) Not more than 2 gallons of material are at the feeding site.

(d) The material used to feed deer does not contain any animal part or animal byproduct.

(4) A person may feed deer for hunting purposes in counties not included in the rules promulgated under sub. (2) during any season open for hunting deer if all of the following apply:

(a) Not more than 2 gallons of material are at the feeding site.

(b) No feeding site is closer than 100 yards of another feeding site.

(c) The person does not place more than 2 gallons of material in any area comprising 40 acres or less.

(d) The material used to feed deer does not contain any animal part or animal byproduct.

(5) A person shall not feed deer for viewing purposes or for hunting purposes beginning 10 days prior to the 9-day deer gun season and continuing through the Sunday following the thanksgiving holiday.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to contact me or Keith Warnke (264-6023). As always, we'd be happy to meet with you.

Sincerely,



Scott Hassett,
Secretary

Cc. Natural Resources Board
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Wisconsin Deer Hunting Organizations

Encl.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

In support

In opposition

Neutral

Comments: