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Title: Use of Magnification on Muzzleloaders during the Muzzleloader Season

The Problem:

The traditional muzzleloader hunt, which is currently 10 days long, is no longer "traditional" due to the evolution of the muzzleloader. Modern in-line muzzleloaders are capable of shooting accurately for distances up to and exceeding 200 yards. Currently, use of magnifying scopes on muzzleloaders, during the 10-day season is illegal.

According to the Department of Natural Resources nearly every deer management unit in the state is either close to or above the designated population goal for white-tailed deer.

There are hunters in the state who would like to participate in the muzzleloader deer hunting season, but cannot because they have problems with their vision. Because of their sight restrictions, 1x scopes are not adequate for them to make the ethical and accurate shot that is needed to harvest a deer.

Also, in an effort to create more deer hunting opportunities and to help reduce the deer population, the restriction of scopes with magnification on muzzleloaders during the muzzleloader season should be removed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its' annual meeting held in Florence County on April 14, 2008 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change allowing magnification greater than 1x on muzzleloaders during the Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Season.

Name of Author: AROLD NINNEMAN
Address: 3671 US HWY 2
City, State, and Zip Code: FLORENCE, WI 54121
County Introducing In: FLORENCE
Telephone #: 715.528.4203