



June 15, 2022

To: Members of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board

Re: Approval of 2022 Antlerless Deer Quotas, Permit Levels and Season Frameworks (Agenda item 4.F.)

On behalf of Wisconsin's Green Fire, we request your approval of the Department recommendations for quotas, permits and season frameworks. The County Deer Advisory Councils and Department staff have contributed thousands of hours examining the deer herd data, listening to public feedback in the development of these recommendations. Your support for their efforts is very important.

Wisconsin's deer herd is strong, but is facing many conservation [challenges](#). These include:

- The detection of Chronic Wasting Disease in at least 35 of our county wild deer herds,
- Widespread deterioration of forest habitats from over browsing,
- Inability to control growth of farmland deer herds,
- Demographically driven declines in deer hunter numbers; and
- Insufficient department resources to address these problems.

We encourage the Board to initiate development of a Wisconsin White-tailed Deer Conservation Plan to guide Department actions over the next 10-15 years. We have done this for most of our highly cherished wildlife species and it is time we do so for the species that the Wisconsin State Legislature designated as our State Wildlife Animal in 1957.

Thank you for your service and consideration of our comments.

Tom Hauge

Tom Hauge
Wildlife Work Group Co-chair
Retired Wildlife Program Director