



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Jim Doyle, Governor

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Frederic Souba, Jr.
Chairman
Wisconsin Rapids

February 5, 2007

Mary Jean Huston
Vice Chair
Madison

The Honorable Jim Doyle
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Jeffrey Stier
Secretary
Madison

Dear Governor Doyle:

Michael Bolton
Plover

As advisors to you on the State's forest resources, the Wisconsin Council on Forestry feels compelled to express to you our concerns regarding the size of the white-tailed deer population in Wisconsin. From a science-based perspective, the burgeoning deer herd is having a detrimental impact on forest regeneration, health and quality, and on the biological diversity of Wisconsin's forests. There will likely be long term, detrimental effects on forest productivity in Wisconsin if deer population density is not reduced.

Sen. Roger M. Breske
Eland

Dennis Brown
Rhineland

Troy Brown
Antigo

The Council believes deer herbivory is a serious problem that if not addressed will affect the sustainability of forestry in Wisconsin. The Council supports the efforts of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to manage the deer herd at the goals identified in the administrative code and believes strongly that these goals should take into account the impact of deer density on forest sustainability.

Leon Church
Appleton

Fred Clark
Baraboo

We understand that the issues surrounding the management of the state deer herd are many and controversial. It is not our intent to debate the details of hunting seasons and techniques. Instead, we wish to provide you with a scientific basis on why the deer population is an issue that impacts the sustainability of one of our state's key economic resources, our forests.

Sen. Russ Decker
Schofield

Paul DeLong
Madison

Rep. Donald Friske
Merrill

The enclosed position paper summarizes the deer population issue from a forest resource perspective. We would be pleased to work with you on addressing this issue as it relates to Wisconsin's forest health and sustainability.

James Heerey
New Auburn

Sincerely,

William Horvath
Stevens Point

Rep. Mary Hubler
Rice Lake

Colette Matthews
Tomahawk

Fred Souba
Chairman

Kenneth Ottman
Milwaukee

Cc: Natural Resources Board
Scott Hassett, Secretary Department of Natural Resources
Wisconsin Legislature
Conservation Congress Executive Committee
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Robert Rogers
Custer

William Ward
Green Bay