

HF 1531 & SF 1251

*Expiration of crossbow hunting and fishing allowance removed

The continued full inclusion of crossbows into the archery deer season will result in a significant foreseeable transition in how deer are hunted and harvested. The negative impacts will be felt across ALL established hunting seasons.

Goal: Limit the use of crossbows during the archery deer season.

Option 1) Allow the crossbow hunting allowance to expire on June 30th. Crossbow use via disability permits or age 60+

Option 2) Restrict the use of crossbows to only designated firearm and muzzleloader deer seasons. (~4 weeks of use)
356+ petition signatures

Option 3) Permit the use of crossbows into the archery season AFTER the start of Firearm (Season A). Retain a permit process for disabled hunters to use a crossbow in the early archery season if they are unable to draw the minimum required weight.

What we see in data from other Midwest states that have dabbled in crossbow inclusion

- No net increase in total hunters. MEA youth firearm season has also not increased the number of youth hunters.
- Crossbow use is not a limiting factor in hunter recruitment or retention.
- Transitions existing hunters into crossbow hunters. Ohio sees nearly 80% of total hunters buying an archery license with over 70% choosing to hunt with a crossbow. Substantial increased early season hunting pressure.
- Significant increase in archery season % of total buck harvest. Expecting MN to go from 12% to 50-60%+.
- Increased archery season success rates.
- Midwest states trending down in hunter #'s even with full crossbow inclusion.
- Modern crossbows outperform traditional muzzleloaders.
- Potential for more wounded animals. Modern crossbow packages marketed as hunt ready with 134 yard accuracy.

- MN is a one buck state that allows party hunting. Anticipate a greater adoption of crossbow use and % of total buck harvest coming from the archery season over Wisconsin. Wisconsin also has a 16 million shortfall in their wildlife management fund attributed to declining hunting license sales. They've had crossbows for a decade.
- MN is not lacking the ability to hunt, but we are lacking quality hunting experiences, especially on public lands.
- The general hunter will when possible choose the tool that gives them the greatest advantage.
- Crossbows are NOT archery. The process of needing to draw, hold weight, and release is the tradition of archery.

*Presented by Midwest Big Game Hunters 501C4 and Minnesota Bowhunters Inc 501C3

Midwest Big Game Hunters

	Full Inclusion States										Limited States	
	Minnesota	Ohio	Illinois	Wisconsin	Michigan	Indiana	Kansas	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	South Dakota	Iowa
Archery Season % of Total License Sales (Most Recent)	20	35.6	41.9	35.4	31.8	12.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archery Season % of Total License Sales (Year Prior Includ.)	18.8	-	38.8	29.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% of Total Hunters Buying Archery License	-	79	-	50.2	-	17.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Bowhunters Using Crossbow Archery Harvest from Crossbow	*48%	*72%	*56%	40% / *61%	75% / *72%	53%	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Total Buck from Archery Season Harvest	11.9	57.5	45.5	39.7	54.9	21.8	-	-	-	19.9	-	
% Total Bucks Crossbow	-	41.3	-	24.5	28.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	
% Total Bucks Archery (Year Prior to Inclusion)	10.8	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Archery Season Harvest Success Rate (Current)	21.1	70.3	31.3	-	33.3	-	-	-	-	24.6	-	
Archery Season Harvest Success Rate (3 Year Avg Prior Includ.)	26.8	-	28.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
# Individual Deer Hunters (Most Recent Year) Reg. Season Lic Sales if # ind not tracked	*481,604	187,219	*542,703	603,933	*901,541	124,173	-	-	-	-	57,504	
% Change (Prev. 3 Year Avg)	-3.7	-3.1	-1.1	-1.7	-0.1	-3.6	-	-	-	-	-0.95	
% Change Youth Hunters (last 3 Year Avg)	-4.19	6.37	15.9	-	-	-2.4	-	-	-	-	-	
% Change Youth Harvest (last 3 Year Avg)	-22.9	31.22	82.8	-	-	24.2	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Bucks / Hunter Bucks / Weapon Season	1 / 1	1 / 1	2 / 2	2 / 1	2 / 2	1 / 1	2 / 1	2 / 2	1 / 1	1 / 1	2 / 1	
Party Hunting Legal?	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	RESIDENTS	
Year of Crossbow Inclusion	2023 (TBD)	1976	2019	2014	2009	2011	2009	2011	Full Disability	Disability / 60+	Disability / 65+	
Archery Season	Sept. 14 - Dec 31	Sept. 28 - Feb 2	Oct 1 - Jan 19	Sept. 14 - Jan 5	Oct 1 - Nov 14	Oct 1 - Jan 4	Sept. 16 - Dec 31	Sept. 15 - Nov 14	Sept 1 - Dec 31	Sept 1 - Jan 1	Oct 1 - Dec 6	