

Citizen Resolution # 670423



Require ruffed grouse hunters to register for a free state certification similar to the federal HIP (Hunter Information Program) currently required of migratory bird hunters

A small game license is the only licensing requirement to hunt ruffed grouse in Wisconsin. Various authorizations, registrations, permits, and fees are required to hunt numerous other game birds, including waterfowl, pheasant, turkey, woodcock, and doves. These requirements help provide convenient means of WDNR contact with hunters, valuable data on hunting pressure and harvest levels, timely dissemination of hunter information, and (in the case of required fees) funding for conservation efforts.

In light of recent concerns with declines in ruffed grouse numbers and habitat east of the Mississippi River and Wisconsin's position at the southern edge of its primary range in North America, gathering species-specific data from hunters of this popular game bird is warranted. At present, this gleaning of information and sharing of opportunities must be accomplished from a list of registered small game license holders, many of which are randomly surveyed and do not actively hunt ruffed grouse.

Requiring ruffed grouse hunters to register for a free certification, similar to the federal HIP (Hunter Information Program) certification required to hunt migratory birds, would provide the WDNR with a more comprehensive and realistic list of ruffed grouse hunters from which to draw grouse-specific information, opinions, and project support. The acronym GIP (Grouse Information Program) might be applied.

Future implementation of a Grouse Stamp requirement to hunt grouse would negate the need to implement the program described in this resolution.

Do you support requiring ruffed grouse hunters to register for a free state certification similar to the federal HIP (Hunter Information Program) currently required of migratory bird hunters?

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