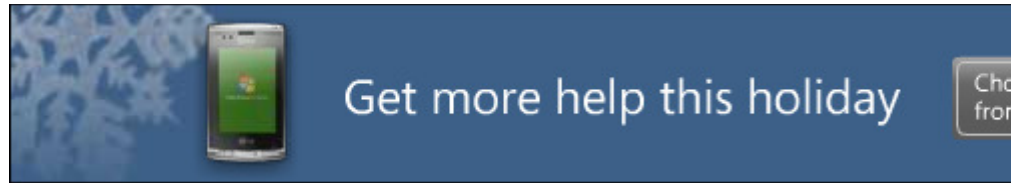


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## Request for hunt suspension denied

### Antlerless deer ruled not to be in danger

By *Paul A. Smith of the Journal Sentinel*

Posted: Dec. 9, 2008

**Madison** - The Natural Resources Board has denied a state group's request to suspend the December antlerless deer hunt.

Citing low harvest numbers from the recently completed gun deer hunt, the Wisconsin Hunters Rights Coalition asked the board to use its emergency rule authority to stop the antlerless-only hunt, planned statewide from Thursday to Sunday.

"It is the responsibility of the DNR and sportsmen to protect this cherished resource," said Greg "Kaz" Kazmierski of Pewaukee, representing the Wisconsin Chapters of the Safari Club International. "To err on the side of caution seems prudent with the data that is in."

Hunters registered 276,985 deer in the gun hunt, a 20% drop from 2007. The coalition said its request was on behalf of hunters statewide who are "concerned that the overstated population estimates by the DNR may have already resulted in an overharvest of antlerless deer."

Board chairwoman Christine Thomas said she considered the request but, based on biological information from the DNR, didn't think it was warranted.

"We aren't on the brink of population collapse," Thomas said. "And people have made their hunting plans for the upcoming season. The staff will take a hard look at the numbers and come up with the best recommendations for next year."

Before the season the DNR estimated the state's deer herd at 1.5 million to 1.7 million. An updated estimate, prepared from 2008 harvest data, will be available in late January.

The Wisconsin Hunters Rights Coalition consists of Wisconsin Chapters of Safari Club International, Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association and Wisconsin Chapters of National Wild Turkey Federation.

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