

CWCS

*Preserving access to and multiple-use of
public lands & waters*

*Conservationists
with Common
Sense*



www.cwcs.org

P O Box 1046 Virginia, MN 55792 218-365-BWCA(2922)

Minnesota Deer Hunters Association
460 Peterson Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

February 6, 2009

Dear MDHA Board,

Conservationists with Common Sense (CWCS), an organization with over 4,000 members, works to preserve access to and multiple recreational uses of public lands and waters. Many of our members are deer hunters. We have members with concerns regarding the proposed 14-day early deer season (following the moose season) in permit areas 115 and 116 in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

With many of our members already enjoying a hunting experience in these areas, we wonder why a change would be pursued. There already is a deer hunting season during the dates that have been proposed in the Boundary Waters with the use of bow. During the statewide firearms season many of our members also utilize the BWCA areas in question.

Many of our members have some major concerns with this proposal. They worry that creating a new firearm season that is open before the remainder of the Minnesota firearm season will create a situation that will upset traditional hunting patterns and the hunting opportunities that they now enjoy in and around the areas in question. What will happen to non BWCA bordering areas in the 115 and 116? Will DNR zones change or will they be tied in with BWCA season?

Although it has been presented that the proposed 300 parties hunting this area would be a very minimal impact, many of our members would disagree with this point. Areas of concern include the quality of their hunt in terms of changes in the deer behavior that additional hunting pressure would create, as well as the eventual impact on the deer herd.

Additional deer harvested from this area may seem to be minimal when analyzed in other more heavily numbered deer populations, but our members worry that adding another stress to this population isn't wise. Northeastern Minnesota has the most highly concentrated population of wolves in the state and winter severity index levels are normally higher in this area, making any additional stresses a concern.

Finally although we understand that the proposal's tag system pertains only to deer hunting, we have concerns that any type of a permit system that concerns just the BWCA has the potential to be something more in the future. Past history has made us very sensitive to this situation.

With all of the concerns and potential negatives that have been brought to our attention and the fact that hunting is now already available in these areas, we would urge you to discontinue your pursuit of these proposed changes.

Thank you for considering our concerns with this proposal.

Nancy McReady
CWCS President
www.cwcs.org
218-365-2922 or
218-365-5764

Conservationists with Common Sense –
'Preserving access to and multiple-use of public lands & waters'