



TOM TIFFANY

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

April 26, 2013

Dear Editor,

In light of the Kroll Report, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has sought greater input from sportsmen and women around the state regarding deer management. I applaud the DNR for their efforts on including the sporting community in this discussion. They have been willing to expand this discussion beyond just deer management practices, as was demonstrated by the recent public hearing that was held in Crandon at my request on bobcat numbers.

At the deer hearings, hunters in the north have made one thing clear; we must end the practice of issuing antlerless deer permits in our part of the state, not just for the coming deer season, but possibly over the next few years. Predation and years of high antlerless permits being issued have contributed to significant declines in the deer population for most northern units. The late winter this year has led to a high winter severity index and may have an impact on fawn reproduction.

At the hearing in Crandon on bobcat numbers, area sportsmen and women shared their experiences and frustrations that bobcat numbers are significantly higher than DNR modeling estimates. The input offered at this hearing reflects what I have been told by outdoorsmen all across the north. The time has come to raise permit numbers on bobcats after years of declining tag allowances and to open the season south of Highway 64. In his report, Dr. Kroll cited the aspect of "human dimensions," as it pertains to the DNR gathering greater feedback from shareholders on deer management practices. I would ask the Department to apply the human dimension to bobcats and other game.

I appreciate that the DNR has conducted these hearings in northern Wisconsin. I know that sportsman are anxiously awaiting the implementation of the Kroll Report and seeing more bobcat permits being issued for the upcoming season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Tiffany".

TOM TIFFANY
State Senator
12th Senate District