

Testimony in Concern of SB 380
Particularly Concern for Crossbows Use in Archery Season
To
The Senate Committee on Natural Resources
From
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In the 1980s and 90s Kansas was renowned for its text book system in place for wildlife management of its deer herd. That specific management system produced one of the greatest deer herds in North America. The system relied on Kansas residents to participate and legitimately sacrifice for the sake of the greatest good. In addition to the KDWP(T) having the ability to manage as wildlife practice and biology determined, there were THREE notable components in this management system:

- 1) All KS residents were only allowed to take one antlered deer (antlerless were managed as per area with varied limits for quantity control; even allowing for Kansas residents to participate across all seasons and weapons).
- 2) All Kansas residents participated in a sacrificial system whereby they had to choose of one weapon and one particular season in which to participate for the harvesting of an antlered deer. Each weapon, as a tool with its appropriate effectiveness, was given its own season; archery/bow and arrow- the least and most challenging equipment was given the longest season including the rut (key mating time for deer). Muzzleloaders, the next effective weapon was given the first 2 week season, with bucks still in summer patterns. Rifle season, the most effective tool came last, given 2 weeks and being in the post rut. Each Kansas resident had to determine what season and what weapon they would use prior to the season. These limitations proved to be highly successful in; a) Distributing hunters on the limited accessible land, both private and public. b) Giving the greatest protection to the rut, c) While still allowing all to participate for the harvest of antlerless animals if they so desired (A bow-hunter for antlered deer could still rifle hunt for antlerless deer if he/she chose.)
- 3) As Non-Residents were gradually allowed to participate, they were allowed on a very limited basis with a lottery system which limited most to a tag every few years. This served from flooding the field with further outside markets and pressure.

Since the late 1990's the system which produced such a successful herd began to be altered for the sake of taking advantage of that success. However, in doing so the very system that produced this success was now being altered. The question that remains for some, "Will the herd continue

to produce the same results with this different system?" Many of us, resident and non-residents alike, think not. We have already seen the negative impact.

The current bill before you, SB380, will further complicate our system while creating even further negative impact as there is a shift of hunters from one season to another.

As the KDWPT can display, surveys show that the majority of Kansan residents do not want this legislation. Further, it may be added that the survey reveals that those who would classify themselves as archery-bowhunters, overwhelmingly disapprove of crossbows in the archery season.

I am sure you will see in other testimony from that the National Pope and Young Club, the Kansas Bowhunters Association, as well as 66 state/provincial level bowhunting organizations in North America are all opposed to crossbows being used in archery-only seasons (with some exceptions for disabled persons.)

Many of the claims being made for hunter recruitment and ease of entry into hunting by women and youth are based on speculation with no grounding in current demographic studies. The results of youth, women, and others entering into archery through programs such as 4-H, Bowhunter Education, Girl and Boy Scouts, and school programs are easily documented.

It is not the bow-hunters of Kansas, nor the majority of hunters across all weapon's choices who are asking for this change.

My preference would be to leave this in the hands of the KDWPT, which are suggesting options for limited use of the crossbow for youth, the elderly, and the disabled.

Thank You

Dan Rudman