

Reintroduction of Elk Herd in Jackson County

Whereas, the Department of Natural Resources in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation reintroduced an elk herd near Clam Lake in northwestern Wisconsin in the mid-1990s; and

Whereas, the Clam Lake herd of elk has grown slowly to about two hundred animals; and

Whereas, soon after the reintroduction of elk near Clam Lake, sportsmen and women including the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation sought to have another reintroduction of elk on the large public land areas of Jackson, Monroe and Juneau counties in west central Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the proposed Jackson county elk herd reintroduction was put on hold due to the complications of the spread of chronic wasting disease in the United States; and

Whereas, there is now renewed interest in the reintroduction of elk into the Jackson County of west central Wisconsin bringing in elk from the State of Kentucky; and

Whereas, any such reintroduction should be accomplished with strong public input from the residents of west central Wisconsin and with proper precautions assuring that the elk brought into the area are disease free; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin DNR, working in conjunction with conservation organizations like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has the capability to oversee the testing and other legal requirements necessary to reintroduce elk into west central Wisconsin in a safe and responsible manner.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on April 14th, 2012 goes on record as reaffirming its past support for the reintroduction of elk into Jackson County in west central Wisconsin and commits to working with other organizations and the Department of Natural Resources to accomplish such this goal.

Submitted by:
Ralph R. Fritsch, Chair
Wildlife Committee
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