

2015 – 04 DEER STANDS ON STATE LANDS

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) has allowed permanent deer stands on most State lands; and

the construction of many permanent deer stands on State lands has become excessive in size and materials used so as to appear as tree houses with walls and roofs; and are usually constructed of unnatural materials which detract from the natural beauty of State forest lands; and

most permanent deer stands are constructed by using wood penetrating hardware to attach stands to trees and create steps for climbing into stands; and such hardware can damage wood processing equipment, make trees dangerous to process, reduce tree value, and/or make trees unusable for wood products processing; and

permanent deer stands are often abandoned and left in place after they are no longer used, thereby leaving litter and trash on State lands; and

permanent deer stands can create a sense in the builder that they are entitled to exclusive hunting use of public land near the stand, and tend to discourage other hunters from using the area near the stand, even when such stands are not in use; and

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service, some industrial forest landowners, and some Counties already prohibit the use of permanent deer stands on their lands;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League, in convention, April 26, 2015, supports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources effort to prohibit construction and use of permanent deer stands, prohibit the use of wood penetrating hardware, and require the use of portable stands on State lands.

Submitted by the Grand Rapids Wes Libbey Chapter