

Minnesota Bowhunters

Continuing the Tradition

Attn: Senate Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy
Re: S.F. 2077 Section 12 {Extension of Authority to Use Crossbow}
Date: 4/7/25
Position: We support the extension but would prefer the establishment of separate licenses and shorter seasons for crossbow use this session.

Dear Chair Hawj and Honorable Committee Members,

We write to express our strong opposition to the continued full inclusion of crossbows into designated archery seasons. Modern cross"bows" share little in common with other types of bows and are functionally not archery. We have examined publicly available license sale and harvest data from all twelve Midwest States, and there is no distinguishable correlation between crossbow inclusion and lasting bumps in adult or youth license sales. Almost all Midwest States, whether they permit crossbow inclusion or not, are seeing roughly the same rate of decline in license sales and participation.

One popular compromise to full inclusion that we find exceptionally fair and reasonable is running a crossbow season from firearm opener through the end of the year. This would preserve eight weeks of early season archery opportunity while providing over seven weeks of crossbow use which is almost four times longer than an individual can hunt with a shotgun or rifle. A separate license is important for tracking participation.

We would also like to see Minnesota start tracking and reporting on the number of individual deer hunters, average hunter experience rating by permit area, and days hunted by weapon type. This is data that we find in other Midwest States harvest reports, and it would be beneficial for evaluating the impacts of natural events and management actions.

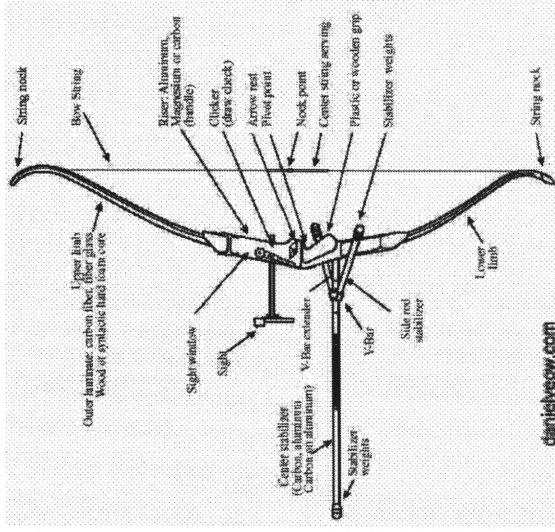
Minnesota Bowhunters (MBI) was founded in 1946, and we are one of Minnesota's oldest conservation organizations. Archery is an ancient and highly accessible sport that almost everyone regardless of gender, age, or ability can enjoy. That being said, bowhunting is challenging, and that challenge/necessary practice helps sustain many of our archery clubs and stores throughout the state. Data from ND shows that ~97% of their bowhunters are capable of drawing and shooting a recurve or compound bow.

Sincerely,



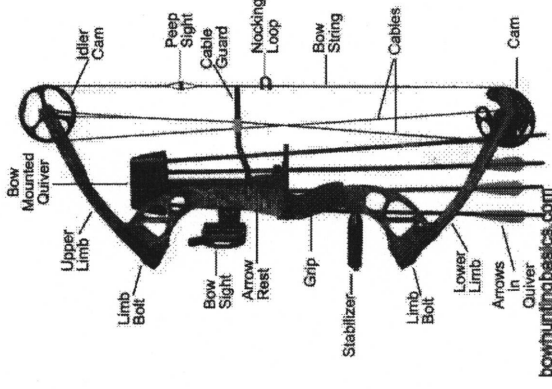
Vice President - Minnesota Bowhunters Inc

What's the Difference?



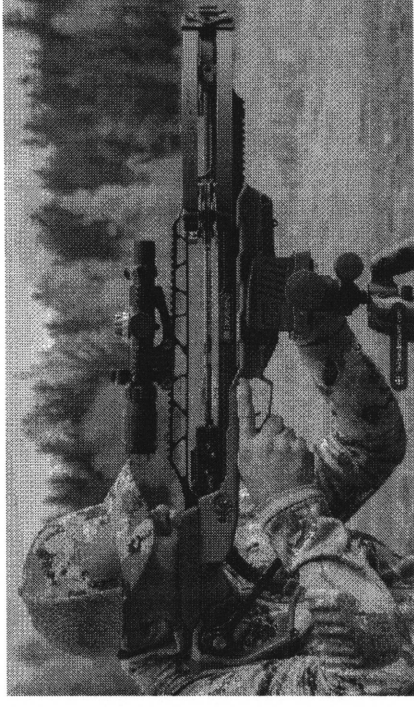
Recurve Bow

- User drawn & held
- No let-off
- Archer holds full draw weight
- Average shooting distance (5-15 yards)
- Held at full draw (0.5 - 30 seconds)



Compound Bow

- User drawn & held
- Cams allow for let-off (80-90% typical)
- Archer holds 10-20% of draw weight
- Average shooting distance (15-30 yards hunting) (<40 yards Practice)
- Held at full draw (3 - 45 seconds)



Cross "bow"

- Hand crank with locking mechanism
- Vertical models in use
- Shooter does not hold draw weight
- Advertised as "your next rifle" featuring highly unethical 135 yard hunt accuracy (deer move and a lot can go wrong past 30 yards)
- Most strings must be replaced every 200 shots or 2 years (can be significantly less for models under \$500)
- Readily accepts thermal scopes
- Rifle style stock
- Double shot model with two cocked bolts and two triggers
- Compact enough to easily shoot from vehicle
- Typically rested on another object while firing
- Not archery

	Full Inclusion States					Limited States						
	Minnesota	Ohio	Illinois	Wisconsin	Michigan	Indiana	Kansas	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	South Dakota	Iowa
Archery Season % of Total License Sales (Most Recent)	20	35.6	41.9	35.4	31.8	12.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archery Season % of Total License Sales (Year Prior Indu.)	18.8	-	38.8	29.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% of Total Hunters Buying Archery License	-	79	-	50.2	-	17.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Bowhunters Using Crossbow												
*Archery Harvest from Crossbow	*48%	*72%	*56%	40% / *61%	75% / *72%	53%	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Total Buck from Archery Season Harvest	11.9	57.5	45.5	39.7	54.9	21.8	-	-	-	-	19.9	-
% Total Bucks Crossbow	-	41.3	-	24.5	28.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Total Bucks Archery (Year Prior to Inclusion)	10.8	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Archery Season Harvest Success Rate (Current)	21.1	70.3	31.3	-	33.3	-	-	-	-	-	24.6	-
Archery Season Harvest Success Rate (3 Year Avg Prior Indu)	26.8	-	28.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
# Individual Deer Hunters (Most Recent Year)												
*Reg Season Lic Sales if # ind not tracked	*481,604	187,219	*542,703	603,933	*901,541	124,173	-	-	-	-	-	57,504
% Change (Prev 3 year Avg)	-3.7	-3.1	-1.1	-1.7	-0.1	-3.6	-	-	-	-	-	-0.95
% Change Youth Hunters (last 3 Year Avg)	-4.19	6.37	15.9	-	-	-2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Change Youth Harvest (last 3 Year Avg)	-22.9	31.22	82.8	-	-	24.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Bucks / Hunter Bucks / Weapon Season	1 / 1	1 / 1	2 / 2	2 / 1	2 / 2	1 / 1	1 / 1	2 / 1	2 / 2	1 / 1	1 / 1	2 / 1
Party Hunting Legal?	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	RESIDENTS
Year of Crossbow Inclusion	2023 (TBD)	1976	2019	2014	2009	2011	2013	2009	2011	Full Disability	Disability / 60+	Disability / 65+
Archery Season	Sept 14 - Dec 31	Sept 28 - Feb 2	Oct 1 - Jan 19	Sept 14 - Jan 5	Oct 1 - Nov 14 Dec 1 - Jan 1	Oct 1 - Jan 4	Sept 16 - Dec 31	Sept 15 - Nov 14 Nov 16 - Jan 15	Sept 1 - Dec 31	Aug 30 - Jan 5	Sept 1 - Jan 1	Oct 1 - Dec 6 Dec 23 - Jan 10