

Success in the Heat!

The 2011-WRPCO Deer Hunt for Hunters with Severe Disabilities

The National Weather Service said it would be 80+ degrees for the 2011-Wisconsin River Power Company Deer Hunt for Hunters with Severe Disabilities and they were right! After six months of planning and the anticipation by about a dozen Integrys employees, we proceeded knowing that deer don't like warm weather in October, affecting our potential for success. So what is success? Success is defined as, "a favorable course or termination of anything attempted." Putting it in terms we all understand at Integrys, "anything attempted" needs to be based on predetermined objectives.

The objectives for the annual hunt are to:

- Provide a quality experience for individuals who are passionate about an activity that unfortunate life events have restricted their physical abilities to participate in.
- Develop new acquaintances from different backgrounds to share past and jointly have new experiences with.
- Rekindle lost enthusiasm for an activity that forms a common bond between participants.
- Enhance the self esteem of individuals.
- Honor disabled veterans.
- Maintain a diverse cultural tradition.
- Implement proven natural resource management practices.

Five hunters participated in the hunt this year. Based upon the camaraderie that developed with the volunteers and gratitude expressed by the hunters and their partners, the hunt provided a positive memorable experience, and many new friendships.

One of the hunters hadn't hunted for 10 years. He indicated his participation was the best time he "ever" had hunting. Another hunter harvested the largest deer of his life. They and the rest of the hunters left after the weekend with both renewed enthusiasm for their capabilities and love for the outdoors.



“The Largest Deer Ever Harvested by Dan”

Two disabled military veterans participated in the 2011 hunt, one from World War II and one from Desert Storm. Providing hunting opportunities for veterans from generations so far apart was an honor the volunteers won't forget. The volunteers thanked them for their participation and their service throughout the weekend.

The traditions of deer camp are what we strive to provide based upon a hunting culture passed down from many generations. The harvest numbers and methods used are proven natural resource management practices. Three deer were harvested. The remaining two hunters had opportunities. Yet, all the hunters left graciously fulfilled and renewed as a result of their hunting experience.

Was the 2011-hunt a success? Most definitely it was!