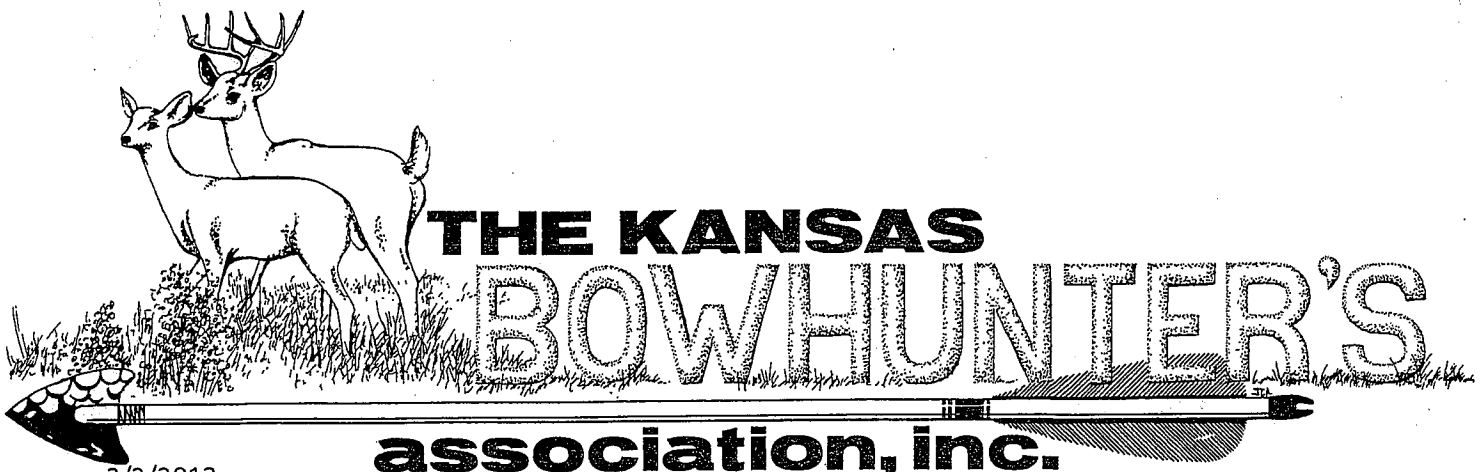


2/2/2012

The Kansas Bowhunters Association opposes House Bill 2295

Speaking on behalf of its members and other concerned bowhunters we see a number of issues with this emphasis to legislate KDWPT regulatory efforts.

This bill appears to once again chip away at the department's ability to maintain control over the resource and one of their sources of revenue, licenses. The revisions to Section 1, (b)-1 and Section 2 (7)-(g) give the department no ability to calculate the affect on the wildlife resource because there is no way to determine what that "immediate family" tag number is. This is a loss to the department and the resource. Trying to offset this by increasing the numbers of permits as identified in Section repealing the 2008 permit numbers formula. Currently based on the states non-resident permit numbers they have become an over-the-counter permit so it's moot point.

These revisions are an economic drain to the Department and also the State.

Section 2, (j)-(2) The doe harvest doesn't need to occur in all areas of the State and this extension of the season will hurt certain regions just a much as it will benefit others. We prefer a unit by unit approach to the antlerless whitetail reduction.

Concerning the use of crossbows in Section 2:

Bowhunting is one of the few growing components in a declining hunting tradition. Why would the State want to implement something that clearly is opposed by a large number of its participants? Crossbows are currently not defined as a "bow" in the legal language of the State of Kansas. The reason they are argued as "bows" is that our Federal Government makes the manufacturers pay the same excise taxes for both bolts and arrows. The projectile shouldn't define the weapon that propels it. In the hands of competent shooters the crossbow has twice the effective range of hand held/hand drawn bows (see attachment). If it is argued that it is not "better" than archery equipment, what is the point of its existence? Along with that point, does the lack of any kind of bowhunting safety training concern anyone? These weapons can be carried ready to fire, with an extended range what is the potential safety concerns. With a bow, the arrow must still be nocked and bow drawn. This gives a person time to identify the target and not make a costly decision.

House Ag. & Natural Resources
February 2, 2012
Attachment 3

We feel that the crossbow industry is piggybacking the efforts of bowhunters only to gain market share and to grab calendar dates that benefit its existence. The question really should be; does this hurt or help the wildlife management model? The department speaks in opposition to this bill for a reason. So do many others (see attachment).

Regarding the mandatory contribution for the Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry Inc.: We view this as a tax and no longer a charity and have concerns that this will affect their 501c non-profit status.

The State must protect its declining mule deer herd and those efforts are commended.

In closing, I've attached a position statement on the use of crossbows that is currently in circulation along with a petition asking for the support of all hunters who recognize this doesn't fit the definition of bowhunting.

We appreciate your time and efforts. Please look at the States resources as a treasure not a commodity.

Best Regards

Shawn W. Harding
President
Kansas Bowhunters Association

House Ag. & Natural Resources
February 2, 2012
Attachment 3-1

KANSAS BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

VS.

CROSSBOW PROPOSAL

The 2012 legislative session has begun and once again we are looking at another attempt to manage our States wildlife resource from the House and Senate. Potential legislation has the KDWP&T attempting to deregulate crossbows and allow their use by anyone during the archery season. The Kansas Bowhunters Association (KBA) Executive Council has discussed this change and present the following facts and recommendations:

- For the purposes of the KBA, a bow is defined as a Longbow, Recurve bow, or Compound bow that must be hand drawn, and have no mechanical device to lock the bow at full or partial draw, and be designed to shoot only one arrow at a time.

- The current regulations allow anyone not capable of drawing a conventional bow due to a medical condition or injury to obtain a permit to use a crossbow during archery season.

- The minimum draw weight for bows was removed from regulations to allow more hunters, youth and seniors, the ability to use lighter poundage archery equipment. With the proper broadhead and good education, success has been achieved with less draw weight.

- Crossbows are currently legal equipment during the Youth/Disabled Season (9 days), the Early Firearm Season (9 days), the Regular Firearm Season (12 days), the Extended Firearm Season (9 days), and the Special Extended Firearm Season (7 days), for a total of 46 days, over 6 weeks, that crossbows can be used during deer season.

It is the KBA's position that we have been asked to compromise since 1995. It is that very reason we have become the most politically active outdoor organization in the State of Kansas. The compromises we are being asked to make at this time do not improve the biological game management model. We believe the Kansas deer herd should be properly managed using scientific methods to maintain its health and quality for generations to come. We do not believe the use of a crossbow during the archery season is beneficial to these efforts.

The KBA wants the regulations concerning the use of crossbows to hunt big game and turkeys in Kansas to remain as they are currently written.

House Ag. & Natural Resources
February 2, 2012
Attachment 3-2

AMERICAN BOWHUNTING COALITION
NABC

P.O. Box 493 • Chatfield, MN 55923

Aug. 5, 2005

To Whom It May Concern,

The representatives of 32 state and provincial-level bowhunting organizations met on April 17-18 in Springfield, Missouri at the first "NATIONAL BOWHUNTING SUMMIT". The purpose of the summit was to share information and develop strategies to resolve issues of greatest concern and to establish a permanent communications network of bowhunting organizations that will work together on behalf of bowhunting.

A major issue addressed by the summit attendees was the use of crossbows during archery-only hunting seasons. It was immediately apparent that the attendees were unified as being strongly opposed to the use of crossbows in any bowhunting season. State and provincial representatives unanimously agreed that crossbows are not bows and should not be allowed in archery-only seasons.

A hunting bow is recognized as a compound, recurve or longbow that is hand-drawn and that has no mechanical device to enable the hunter to lock the bow at full or partial draw. Crossbows, on the other hand, are locked at full draw by a trigger, utilize a rifle-like stock, have rigidly controlled internal ballistics, can readily be shot from a rest and typically use a telescopic sight. A crossbow's characteristics are so vastly different from those of conventional bows that summit attendees agreed that crossbows would negatively impact bowhunting seasons if allowed in archery-only seasons.

While the group recognized and supported the rights of hunters who choose to use other legal weapons in separate hunting seasons, they stood unanimously opposed to any effort to establish hunting season regulations where the ultimate aim is the inclusion of crossbows in bowhunting seasons or in archery-only areas.

The below signed organizations and bowhunting-related businesses have joined the National Bowhunting Summit conferees in believing that, in order to preserve the integrity of bowhunting, it is vital that crossbows not be permitted in bow seasons or archery-only hunting areas.

Respectfully,

Alabama Society of Traditional Bowmen
Alaskan Bowhunters Association
Alberta Bowhunters Association
Alberta Traditional Bowhunters
Archery Big Bucks of Missouri
Archery Past (OR)
Association of Traditional Hunting Archers
Bayou State Bowhunters (LA)
Bob's Archery Sales (CO)
Bowhunting Council of Oklahoma
Bowhunters of Alabama
Bowhunters of Wyoming
Carolina Traditional Archers
Colorado Bowhunters Association
Compton Traditional Bowhunters
Georgia Bowhunters Association
Green Mountain Traditional Bowhunters
Horse Creek Traditional Archery Club (FL)
Idaho State Bowhunters
Idaho Traditional Bowhunters
Illinois Bowhunters Society
Indiana Bowhunters Association
Iowa Bowhunters Association
Iowa Traditional Bowhunters Society
Kansas Bowhunters Association
Lone Star Bowhunters Association (TX)
Maine Bowhunters Association
Maine Traditional Archers
Maryland Bowhunters Society
Maryland Bowhunters Society
Massachusetts Bowhunters Association
Michigan Bow Hunters Association
Michigan Traditional Bowhunters
Minnesota Bowhunters, Inc.
Mississippi Bowhunters Association
Missouri Bow Hunters Association
Montana Bowhunters Association
Nebraska Bowhunters Association
Nebraska Traditional Archers
New York Bowhunters, Inc.
North Carolina Bowhunters Association
North Dakota Bowhunters Association
Northern Bowhunters Association (AB)
Ohio Bowhunters Association
Oregon Bow Hunters
Pennsylvania Association of Traditional Hunting Archers
Pope and Young Club
Professional Bowhunters Society
South Carolina Bowhunters Association
South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc.
Suburban Whitetail Management of North Georgia
Suncoast Archers, Inc. (FL)
Tallahassee Bowhunters Association (FL)
Traditional Bowhunters of California
Traditional Bowhunter Magazine
Traditional Archers of New Jersey
Traditional Archers of Oregon
Traditional Bowhunters of Florida
Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia
Traditional Bowhunters of Montana
Traditional Bowhunters of Washington
United Bowhunters of Connecticut
United Bowhunters of Illinois
United Bowhunters of Kentucky
United Bowhunters of Missouri
United Bowhunters of New Jersey
United Bowhunters Pennsylvania
Virginia Bowhunters Association
Wakulla Archery Club (FL)
Washington State Bowhunters
Washington State Archery Association
West Virginia Bowhunters Association
Wisconsin Bowhunters Association

Crossbow Tests **March 2005**

Great Lakes Crossbow Co.

DURANGO

The reason for conducting these tests was to establish a basis for performance measurements between modern crossbows and other hunting weapons, most specifically, modern compound bows. Given the movement to redefine crossbows as conventional archery tackle so as to allow their use during bowhunting-only seasons, it seemed appropriate to provide a means for comparison. Of particular interest was the accuracy potential of a rested crossbow at extended ranges. Crossbow manufacturers list velocity and pull weights, but I am not aware of any published accuracy expectations.

In early March 2005 I obtained a Great Lakes Crossbow Co. Durango model crossbow in slightly used condition. While it does not have as high peak weight (165 pounds) as many of the "high performance" crossbows that peak at 175 pounds to 200 pounds, it does have a 17-inch power stroke, and overall, it's velocity and kinetic energy ratings compare favorably with other modern crossbows.

This crossbow has an overall weight of 8 ¼ lbs., 34-inch length without the stirrup, and very heavy two-piece limbs with an axle-to-axle length of 27 ¼ inches. It uses round cams, approximately 2 9/16 inches in diameter. It comes fitted with a 4 power, parallax adjustable scope with hand adjustable windage and elevation turrets. The trigger has a pull weight of over 7 pounds, with considerable creep and overtravel. While the crossbow does have a crossbolt safety, it can't be engaged until after the crossbow is cocked and it is in an awkward location to operate safely. Five bolts were also provided. They were fitted with 100 grain screw-in target points and 5" vanes at a slight straight offset. The shafts are 2219 Easton aluminum, cut to 22 1/8 inches before inserts and had an average weight, with points, of 476 grains.

Although as the shooter, I have no previous experience shooting crossbows, I do have considerable experience in competitive rifle shooting.

The first test took place indoors on March 10th. A total of 4 bolts were shot before the cocking mechanism broke under pressure, causing minor damage and some trepidation on the part of the operator. The crossbow was rested across a stool with all 4 shots taken at 22 yards. The initial shot was used to adjust the sights and find a hard spot on the bales where the bolts wouldn't pass completely through them, and then three shots were taken at the same point of aim. The first was taken then pulled. The second entered within ½ inch of the first bolt hole and then a third was shot, which hit right next to the second and almost exactly in the hole that the first was pulled from. As mentioned, the cocking winch broke at that point, but a three shot group of under ¾ inches was a pretty impressive start.

House Ag. & Natural Resources
February 2, 2012
Attachment 3-4

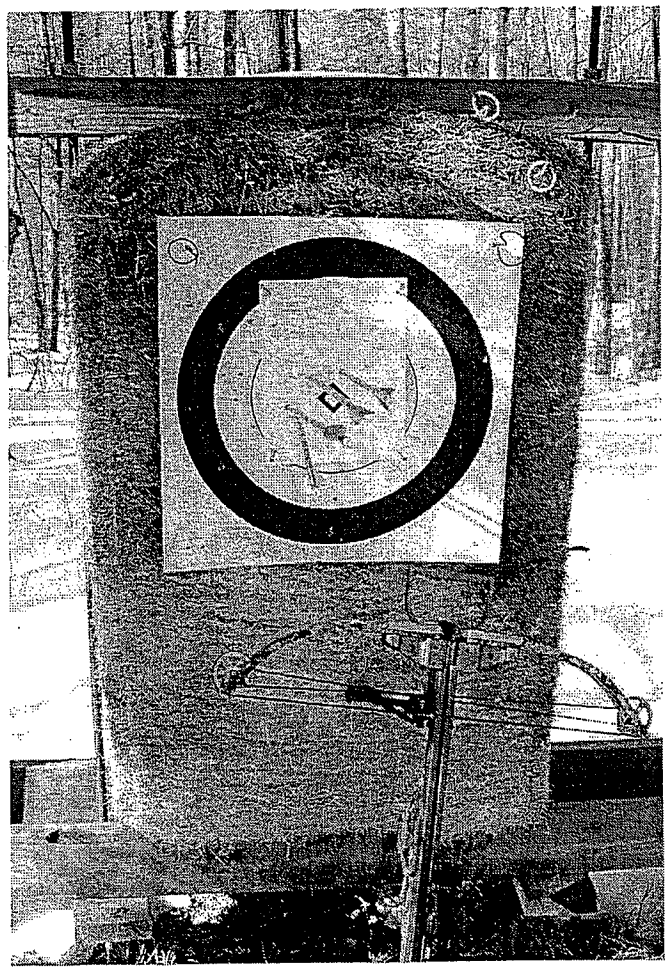
After the winch was repaired I was back at the range on March 12th to shoot at longer distances. The crossbow was shot from a shooting bench

with sandbags. I had shimmed the back of the scope .050 because I anticipated that the scope would run out of elevation adjustment before it could be held dead-on at the longer ranges I hoped to shoot it at. It turned out not to be necessary because even at 90 yards, the bolt sailed over the whole bale assembly. It was recovered but was bent badly due to impact with a tree. The shims came out. After four shots at 40 and 60 yards to get "on" the bales I moved to 90 yards and impacted below my aiming point. I then adjusted the scope to the bulls-eye and shot a four shot group with the four straight bolts I had remaining. The aiming point was a scrap of white paper. The first shot hit about 1 inch left of the paper, the second hit it, the third hit about 4 inches right and the final one, less than an inch right. **The final 90-yard group was a horizontal string less than 5 inches across**. Penetration was approximately 8 inches into frozen and practically new excelsior bales.

Even though these results surprised me, I felt this crossbow was actually capable of better accuracy. Conditions were not good with variable winds to at least 10 mph. Also, I wanted to straighten the bent bolt so I could shoot a 5 shot group.

In checking the bolts when I got home, I found that all but one were bent at least .005. I don't know if they came that way or it was the result of impact and/or removal from the frozen bales, but I straightened them the best I could. Unfortunately, the bolt that hit the tree couldn't be straightened sufficiently.

I returned to the range on March 25th. Conditions were better with light winds, temperature in the low 40's and clear skies. With the aid of a laser rangefinder, I set my bench up (across the parking lot) exactly 100 yards from the farthest bale. I used a rifle bipod instead of sandbags to rest the stock and had adjusted the scope in the rings to avoid canting.



I took two shots to get me close to the bulls-eye, then put up a new target and shot the four almost-straight bolts. The four shot group measured just slightly less than 4 inches across. Because I prefer to shoot 5 shot groups for rifle testing, I pulled the bolts, returned to the bench and shot a fifth bolt. It hit within the holes from the previous four shots, so **the 5 shot group at 100 yards measured less than 4 inches across, with 4 of the 5 shots hitting within a 3-inch circle.**

House Ag. & Natural Resources
February 2, 2012
Attachment 3-5

With straight carbon bolts and perhaps some fine tuning of equipment, I don't doubt that this could be improved upon, however, this level of long range accuracy exceeded my wildest expectations - and concerns.

I have never fired a crossbow before in my life. And now within 20 shots can group 5 bolts into 4 inches at 100 yards with a borrowed crossbow. I can say that I have owned some deer rifles in my life that haven't grouped that well at 100 yards. However, because of a much greater trajectory curve for the bolt and longer time of flight, the rifle would still be superior unless wind was light and the exact distance was known. Which brings up an interesting point. Ten years ago this very same crossbow wouldn't have been nearly as effective as a long range weapon because range estimation at that time was far less precise. However, with the development of technology completely unrelated to crossbows – laser rangefinders - this crossbow in conjunction with one becomes a bona fide 100-yard killing machine. It would only be a matter of laser ranging the target, dialing the elevation to that exact

distance setting on a scope like the one that came with this crossbow, and then putting the crosshairs on the heart and pulling the trigger. The whole process takes just a few seconds. Pre-ranging distances and using a mil-dot scope would eliminate even that short time.

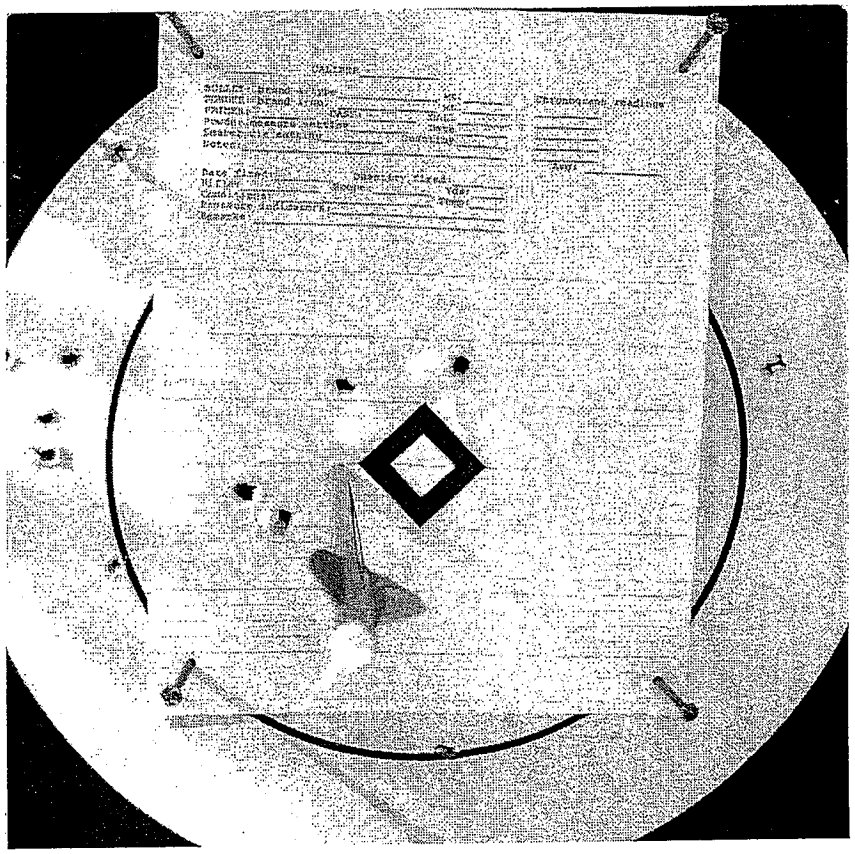
This is only one crossbow. I don't doubt statements by others that have shot crossbows, particularly older models, that say they are not accurate at longer distances. However, this one is. And if this and other newer models have this potential, then everyone that can hunt with one has essentially the same potential; because accuracy is almost completely a function of mechanical action with no significant skill required.

One consideration that I can't comment on is potential variations in accuracy using broadheads. I suspect, but can't confirm until our sand bunkers thaw out, that given the substantially heavier projectile fired from a crossbow, especially with mechanical broadheads, projectile flight can be controlled.

I will leave it to those that read this to form their own opinions on the effect this type of weapon would have on a bow-only season, but there is no question that with widespread use, the effect would be significant, not only on the bow-only season itself, but also upon the harvest dynamics of all seasons for the species involved.

Mike Brust,
Wausau, WI

House Ag. & Natural Resources
February 2, 2012
Attachment 3-6



First 100 yard group 3.9 inch spread

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February 2, 2012
Attachment 3-7