

**CORRECTED** on 5/16/14

**SUBJECT:** Request approval of department recommendations for the 2014 deer hunting season structure including antlerless quotas, antlerless permit levels, and configuration of the CWD affected area

**FOR:** May 2014 Board meeting

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Kevin Wallenfang, Deer and Elk Ecologist

**SUMMARY:**

*Corrected – on May 16, 2014 transcription errors were corrected in Table 1. for the permit level by DMU in Clark County:*

- Farmland Zone Public – 80 (correction from 275)
- Farmland Zone Private – 2,600 (correction from 3,425)
- Forest Zone Private – 2,400 (correction from 2,450)

*As a result of these corrections, the statewide total permit level by DMU is 23,020 (public land tags) and 149,475 (private land tags).*

**The 2014 deer season framework** strikes a balance between the social and biological interests expressed by hunters, landowners, farmers, foresters, businesses and many other stakeholders. Hunters are the backbone of our deer management system and we are striving to make the hunting season enjoyable and satisfying while fulfilling our obligations as herd managers. The enthusiasm and participation of hunters and landowners will make these goals achievable.

**Units with no antlerless deer quota.** We recommend 19 counties (all or in whole) and 4 tribal reservation DMUs for an antlerless quota of zero. All proposed buck-only counties fall within the Northern and Central Forest Zones. The entire Northern Forest Zone is proposed as buck-only with just two exceptions: Marinette County where agricultural damage claims remain high and winter impacts were less severe and the Superior metropolitan subunit.

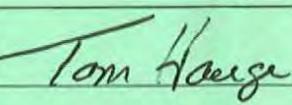
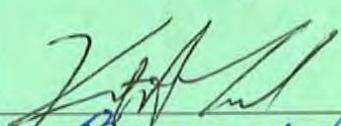
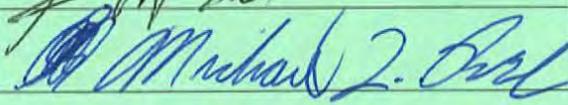
**Bonus permits for antlerless deer.** To determine permit levels for 2014, we looked at former Herd Control units that had both free and reduced-fee permits, and determined that about 1.56 deer were killed per each permit sold. We applied this number to our desired harvest goal to calculate a permit level for each county. For example, in a county where we wish to remove 5,000 antlerless deer, we divided this number by 1.56 to arrive at a permit level of 3,200. (5,000/1.56=3,200). As a result, we would make 3,200 bonus permits available for sale in addition to each hunter receiving one free antlerless permit with each license.

**Configuration of CWD affected areas.** The CWD affected area would include all of the former area established by rule in 2008 as the CWD management zone plus additional portions of counties and counties where CWD has been identified since that time. The area will be the same as the area where baiting is currently prohibited. Other features of this designation are carcass transportation regulations and that \$5.00 from the sales of bonus permits are earmarked for CWD management/testing.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval of department recommendations for the 2014 deer hunting season structure including antlerless quotas, antlerless permit levels, and configuration of the CWD affected area

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Background memo   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maps and appendices |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary's order | <input type="checkbox"/> NA                             |

Approved by	Signature	Date
Tom Hauge, Bureau Director		5/13/14
Kurt Thiede, Administrator		5/13/14
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		5/14/14

# CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: May 14, 2014  
TO: Natural Resource Board Members  
FROM: Cathy Stepp, Secretary  
SUBJECT: 2014 Deer Season Recommendations

FILE REF: 2300

**Recommendations:** I'm offering the following 2014 deer season recommendations for Natural Resources Board (NRB) consideration and approval:

1. Approval of the antlerless quota and permit levels for deer management units (DMUs) (Tables 1 & 2, and Figure 1).
2. Approval of the configuration of the CWD-affected areas.

As was done in 2013, this year we've moved NRB approval of antlerless quota and permit recommendations to May in order to provide an extra month of analysis and public input. As you know, we experienced some major events this year that deserved extra consideration. First, we have had another severe winter in the far northern counties, and the extra time in the quota-setting process has been important for department biologists to assess the anticipated impacts.

Second, our Wildlife and Science Services staff has faced some new challenges in setting antlerless quotas and permit levels because of the change to a county deer management unit system. Setting quotas and permit levels by county is new to us, but we are eager to see the results of this and all the other changes as we move into a new realm of deer management following the Deer Trustee Report (DTR) process. I want to publicly thank the Wildlife and Science Services staff for their work! They have done a remarkable job in adjusting to these new challenges.

I also want to emphasize that we again took extra steps in the quota-setting process to provide opportunity for public input. Over the past three years, we have placed a high priority on reaching out to the public and providing them with opportunities to participate in our deer management program. Since the 2013 gun deer season ended, our big game staff and local managers have held many special meetings with individuals and groups of hunters to listen to their concerns. We provided a herd status update in every county at the annual spring hearings where managers shared information with over 7,000 attendees, and listened to their input. And we provided an on-line forum opportunity for those who are unable to attend a local herd status meeting, and more than 8,400 people completed the survey from their home. Their feedback has provided us with valuable observations and opinions from every county of Wisconsin. The response to the survey impacted decisions about quota and permit levels for individual counties, especially in areas hard-hit by winter, and areas where we have not set quotas in many years. I hope the public sees the value we put in their feedback!

The 2014 deer season framework attempts to strike a balance between the social and biological interests expressed by hunters, landowners, farmers, foresters, businesses and many other stakeholders from all corners of the state. Hunters are the backbone of our deer management system and we are striving to make the hunting season enjoyable and satisfying while fulfilling our obligations as herd managers. Without the enthusiasm and participation of hunters and landowners, no management goal is achievable. We need our partners, the landowners and hunters, to help manage the deer herd. We feel we are making progress and are very excited about the launch of the new Deer Management Assistance Program to help further this cause.

**Quota and Permit Level Considerations:** Department staff committed a great deal of effort and attention to biological details, heeded the wishes of the public, and used their professional "gut" feelings in setting quota and permit levels this year. I am happy to say that the local biologists found a great deal of common ground with the public, and we have fulfilled promises to set rock bottom quota levels in the north where the herd will need time to recover from another rough winter.

In sharp contrast to the Forest Zones, the Farmland Zones have very high deer numbers in many areas, and our quota and permit recommendations reflect that. Like last year, it is worth repeating that of great concern are the local reports in the Farmland Zones where extremely productive and high deer populations have depleted natural winter browse over the years, resulting in stressed deer and direct losses again this winter. It should serve as a reminder that over-abundant deer numbers might make for good hunting, but nature will ultimately balance things out and this is not a responsible way of managing the state's deer herd.

Lastly, I would like to address the deer situation in the northern and central forest areas that, after this winter are well below our former population goals. Despite our population objective to increase the herd, deer numbers in the north will be lower than last year. It is going to take time for the herd to recover. Our deer mortality studies are providing useful knowledge on the role of predation which is a major concern for many northern deer hunters. While we realize that predators can slow population recovery, it is worth repeating that much of northern Wisconsin simply is not the deer habitat it used to be. Our maturing forest is not capable of supporting as many deer as it did in the past. Many hunters realize this, and are pleased to see an increase in the amount of timber cutting that is occurring across the north and look forward to the benefits it will have for many species of wildlife. However, hunters also realize that it will take time for recovery of the deer herd to occur, and almost across the board hunters have asked for zero quotas this year in Northern Forested Zone counties. We are in full agreement with this request with very few exceptions.

#### **Zero Quota Units:**

For 2014, we have recommended 19 counties (all or in whole) and 4 tribal reservation DMUs for a zero antlerless quota. All proposed buck-only counties fall within the Northern and Central Forest Zones. The entire Northern Forest Zone is proposed as buck-only with just two exceptions: One being in Marinette County where agricultural damage claims remain high, and winter impacts were less severe than other areas of the north. Public input supports a small number of permits in Marinette County. The other exception is that antlerless permits will be available in the City of Superior Metro Subunit (formerly unit 1M) where deer numbers remain high and urban hunting opportunities have been effective.

**Public vs. Private Land Tags:** Another major DTR change we are implementing this year is the issuance of bonus permits which are valid for either public or private lands, but not both. We are doing this in response to public desires to limit antlerless harvest on the more heavily hunted public lands in an effort to allow people to see more deer and have a higher-quality hunting experience. This is a first step, and already we are hearing concerns from hunters about doing so. However, we will use deer harvest information and hunter surveys following the deer seasons to assess the value of this tool, and can make adjustments in the future if needed.

#### **Counties as DMUs:**

The DTR process brought a major change to the boundaries of our deer management units. Instead of 136 DMUs that followed roads and rivers, we now have 76 DMUs that follow county lines and reservation boundaries. This change challenged our staff to transform the old DMU harvest and population data to new geographic boundaries. We will be learning a great deal this year, building a brand new data-set as we apply established methods to new boundaries, but feel confident that the recommendations we make here are sound and reasonable as we transition to new parameters. And coming in 2015, we are excited about yet another important change to how we conduct deer management in Wisconsin and look forward to the formation of local County Deer Advisory Councils.

#### **“Regular” and “Herd Control” Units: A Thing of the Past:**

With the DTR process came another significant change that influences antlerless quota setting and permit issuance, and many hunters feel it is a welcome change. The days of Regular and Herd Control units and season structure are a thing of the past, and have been replaced with one consistent method of applying antlerless quotas and permit issuance across the state. In addition, four Deer Management Zones will simplify and add consistency to the deer season structure, so hunters know just what to expect from one season to the next. And even further simplification of the permitting process involves the elimination of different antlerless tag types including CWD tags and Herd Control tags. Instead, we now have one simple “antlerless deer permit” across the entire state with a consistent cost of \$12 to residents and \$20 for non-residents. In Farmland Zones, one free antlerless tag valid anywhere within the zone during any deer season is available for each hunter for each license purchased, and may be filled with any weapon during the appropriate season.

**Permit Issuance in Farmland Zone Units:**

The determination of antlerless permit levels brought new challenges this year. The greatest challenge came from Farmland Zone counties where we have no history of permit success since most of these areas had free or \$2 permits for many years. In Farmland Zone DMUs, all hunters automatically receive one free antlerless deer permit with the purchase of their deer hunting license. We know from past experience that the "free" tags alone are insufficient to reach desired harvest levels, so we are recommending the issuance of additional or "bonus" antlerless tags in all Farmland Zone units. To determine permit levels for 2014, we looked at former Herd Control units that had both free and reduced-fee permits, and determined that about 1.56 deer were killed per each permit sold. We applied this number to our desired harvest goal to calculate a permit level for each county. For example, in a county where we wish to remove 5,000 antlerless deer, we divided this number by 1.56 to arrive at a permit level of 3,200. ( $5,000/1.56=3,200$ ). As a result, we would make 3,200 bonus permits available for sale in addition to each hunter receiving one free antlerless permit with each license purchased (gun and archer/crossbow).

I would again remind you that this is a major year of learning for us using the best information we have in transitioning from old DMUs to a county system. We will learn a great deal this year, and will make adjustments accordingly where needed in the coming years.

**Bonus Sales Begin Mid-August:**

Like the sale of leftover turkey permits, the opening sale of bonus antlerless permits will be staggered across several days this year. Rather than risk any demand-overload glitches in the on-line or telephone ordering system, we are preparing to begin sales on Monday, August 18 at 10 a.m. for bonus permits in the Forest Zones. The Central Farmland Zone will follow on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and the Southern Farmland on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Establishment of CWD-affected Areas:**

Emergency rules implementing the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee's Report provide that the department may establish CWD affected areas in any county where CWD has been identified and in adjacent counties that are within a 10 mile radius of a deer that tests positive. The vehicle for establishing the area is the issuance of an order. The order recommended by the department is attached.

The CWD affected area would include all of the former area established by rule in 2008 as the CWD management zone plus additional portions of counties and counties where CWD has been identified since that time.

The primary effect of this order is to establish that an amount of \$5 from the sale of each bonus deer hunting permit issued for these counties will be credited to an appropriation established for management and testing for chronic wasting disease. Additionally, deer carcass transportation out of the affected areas would be prohibited except for transportation to 1) adjacent counties, 2) to licensed meat processors or taxidermists, 3) boned out meat and clean skulls, 4) quarters with no spinal column attached, and 5) finished taxidermy heads. Finally, this secretary's order will be used to establish areas where baiting and feeding of deer are not allowed, however, the baiting and feeding restrictions in this order are identical to regulations currently in place.

Regulations previously associated with the CWD management zone such as special deer hunting season dates, earn-a-buck regulations, and free antlerless permits will not be features of orders establishing CWD affected areas under current rules.

**Table 1. Permit Level by DMU**

County	Public Land Tags	Private Land Tags
Adams - Farmland	50	750
Adams - Forest	425	2,400
Ashland	0	0
Bad River Res.	0	0
Barron	170	1,625
Bayfield	0	0
Brown	275	1,475
Buffalo	500	4,500
Burnett	0	0
Calumet	250	875
Chippewa	375	3,350
Clark - Farmland	275 100	3,425 2,600
Clark - Forest	800	2,450 2,400
Columbia	600	3,275
Crawford	800	3,200
Dane	550	4,000
Dodge	550	2,075
Door	475	2,575
Douglas	0	0
Douglas - Superior Metro Subunit	150	50
Dunn	275	3,425
Eau Claire - Farmland	100	1,600
Eau Claire - Forest	575	1,050
Florence	0	0
Fond du lac	450	2,175
Forest	0	0
Grant	450	4,700
Green	125	2,000
Green Lake	250	2,100
Iowa	350	3,550
Iron	0	0
Jackson - Farmland	150	2,925
Jackson - Forest	0	0
Jefferson	300	1,800
Juneau - Farmland	0	2,075
Juneau - Forest	50	450
Kenosha	100	525
Kewaunee	325	1,750
Lac du Flambeau Res.	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles Res.	0	0
La Crosse	500	2,000
Lafayette	100	1,475
Langlade	0	0

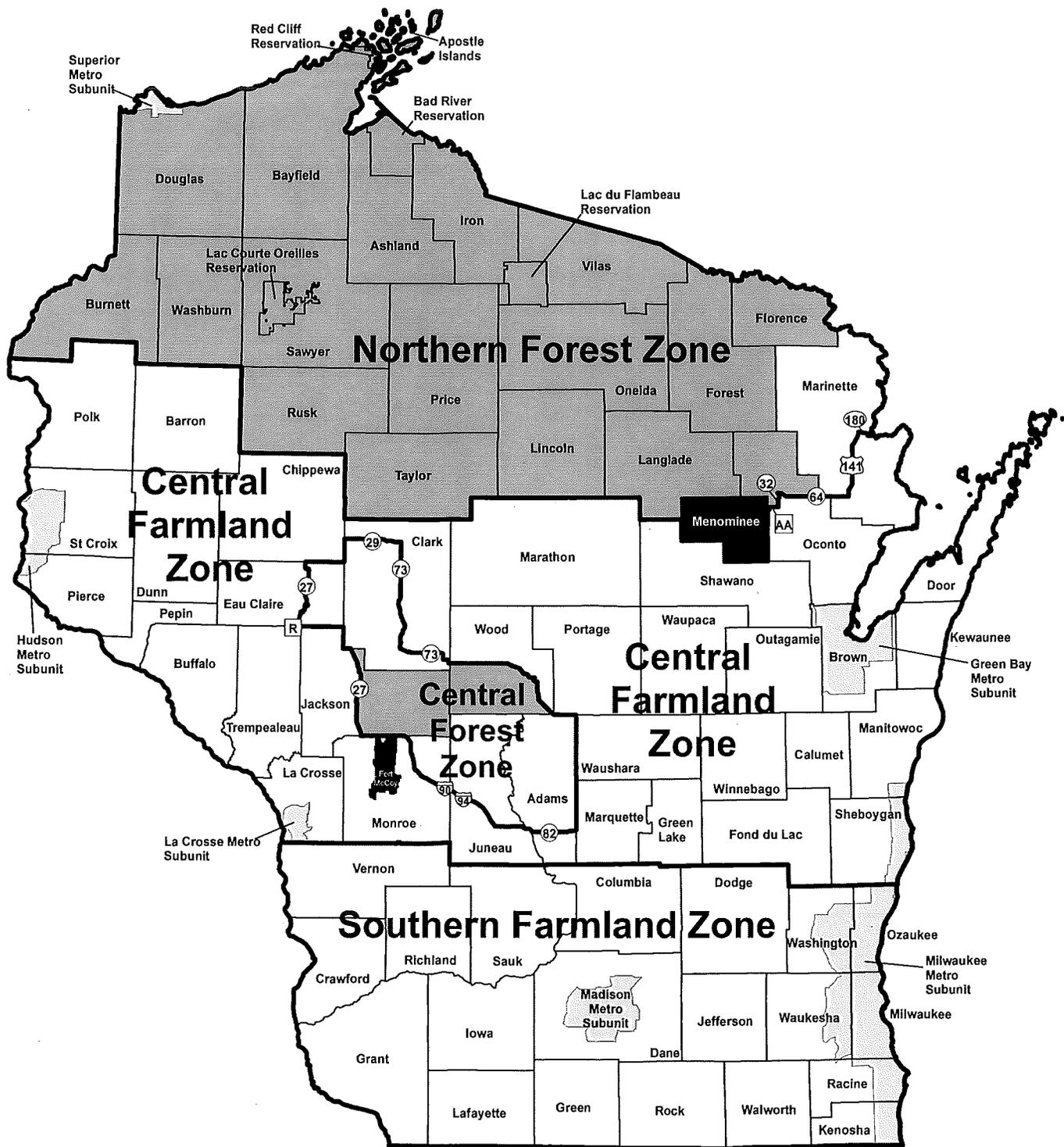
County	Public Land Tags	Private Land Tags
Lincoln	0	0
Manitowoc	425	2,400
Marathon	1,250	7,075
Marinette - Farmland	450	2,550
Marinette - Forest	700	1,050
Marquette	225	3,200
Milwaukee	25	425
Monroe - Farmland	500	3,500
Monroe - Forest	0	100
Oconto - Farmland	675	4,050
Oconto - Forest	0	0
Oneida	0	0
Outagamie	425	2,300
Ozaukee	175	1,350
Pepin	100	1,175
Pierce	150	1,975
Polk	350	2,175
Portage	725	2,875
Price	0	0
Racine	75	600
Red Cliff Res.	0	0
Richland	225	3,225
Rock	225	1,550
Rusk	0	0
Sauk	525	4,175
Sawyer	0	0
Shawano	2,150	6,450
Sheboygan	350	1,350
St. Croix	225	1,875
Taylor	0	0
Trempealeau	500	4,500
Vernon	600	4,400
Vilas	0	0
Walworth	225	950
Washburn	0	0
Washington	350	1,700
Waukesha	375	1,875
Waupaca	300	6,775
Waushara	300	2,925
Winnebago	250	1,175
Wood - Farmland	0	1,000
Wood - Forest	0	0
<b>Totals (public - 23,195, private -150,350)</b>	<b>23,020</b>	<b>149,475</b>

**Table 2. Antlerless Quota by DMU**

County	Antlerless Quota
Adams - Farmland	1,250
Adams - Forest	1,400
Ashland	0
Bad River Res.	0
Barron	2,800
Bayfield	0
Brown	2,675
Buffalo	7,400
Burnett	0
Calumet	1,700
Chippewa	5,700
Clark - Farmland	4,200
Clark - Forest	1,550
Columbia	4,850
Crawford	5,425
Dane	5,750
Dodge	3,200
Door	4,700
Douglas	0
Douglas - Superior Metro Subunit	100
Dunn	5,775
Eau Claire - Farmland	2,600
Eau Claire - Forest	800
Florence	0
Fond du lac	4,050
Forest	0
Grant	6,300
Green	2,700
Green Lake	3,600
Iowa	4,750
Iron	0
Jackson - Farmland	4,800
Jackson - Forest	0
Jefferson	2,600
Juneau - Farmland	3,250
Juneau - Forest	250
Kenosha	650
Kewaunee	3,175
Lac du Flambeau Res.	0
Lac Courte Oreilles Res.	0
La Crosse	3,625
Lafayette	2,000
Langlade	0

County	Antlerless Quota
Lincoln	0
Manitowoc	4,400
Marathon	13,000
Marinette - Farmland	4,675
Marinette - Forest	500
Marquette	5,300
Milwaukee	550
Monroe - Farmland	6,700
Monroe - Forest	50
Oconto - Farmland	7,325
Oconto - Forest	0
Oneida	0
Outagamie	4,200
Ozaukee	1,000
Pepin	1,950
Pierce	3,275
Polk	3,900
Portage	6,400
Price	0
Racine	700
Red Cliff Res.	0
Richland	4,050
Rock	2,300
Rusk	0
Sauk	5,650
Sawyer	0
Shawano	13,400
Sheboygan	2,600
St. Croix	3,250
Taylor	0
Trempealeau	7,000
Vernon	6,700
Vilas	0
Walworth	1,250
Washburn	0
Washington	2,600
Waukesha	2,700
Waupaca	11,000
Waushara	5,000
Winnebago	2,200
Wood - Farmland	1,500
Wood - Forest	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>238,750</b>

Figure 1. 2014 Deer Season Permit Map



- Bucks Only
- Bucks plus antlerless by permit
- Non-quota Area - No permits issued by DNR
- Metro Subunits - Bucks plus antlerless by permit

**2013 Herd Monitoring Data:**

Annually, department staff undertakes a post-hunt review of the biological data, aerial surveys, and harvest data from the previous year and calculates updated population estimates for each DMU. Annual herd monitoring data (some of which is being collected by volunteers) includes information on fawn production, age structure, body condition, hunter observations, and harvest data.

The Winter Severity Index has shown the winter of 2013-14 to be one of record severity across most of the north. It started with bitter cold conditions in November and didn't let up until well into April. Our research projects in the north show that the winter caused direct losses to the herd, primarily fawns. It is also likely to impact recruitment this spring. We have taken these factors into consideration and are recommending zero harvest quotas in all but one county within the entire Northern Forest Zone.

We aged 19,596 deer during the opening weekend of the 2013 gun deer season (a 25% decrease from 2012). This information is an important component used to estimate the pre-hunt population in September, primarily by measuring the percent of the harvest comprised of 1.5 year old deer. Our aging efforts have also documented an increasing proportion of older bucks in the farmland regions over the past two decades.

Tables 3 and 4 provide a summary of antlered and antlerless harvests in recent years, as well as a comparison of the 2012 and 2013 harvests by Wisconsin's five deer management regions (Figure 2).

**Table 3. Statewide Deer Harvest by Season 2007-2013**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Archery Season Harvest	116,010	99,284	87,241	83,833	90,200	94,267	87,628
Total Gun Harvest	402,563	352,601	241,862	253,038	257,511	274,047	255,003
Total Antlerless Harvest	347,431	313,378	194,947	188,493	196,872	202,857	198,893
Total Buck Harvest	171,142	138,507	134,156	148,378	150,839	165,457	143,738
Total Deer Harvest	518,573	451,885	329,103	336,871	347,711	368,314	342,631

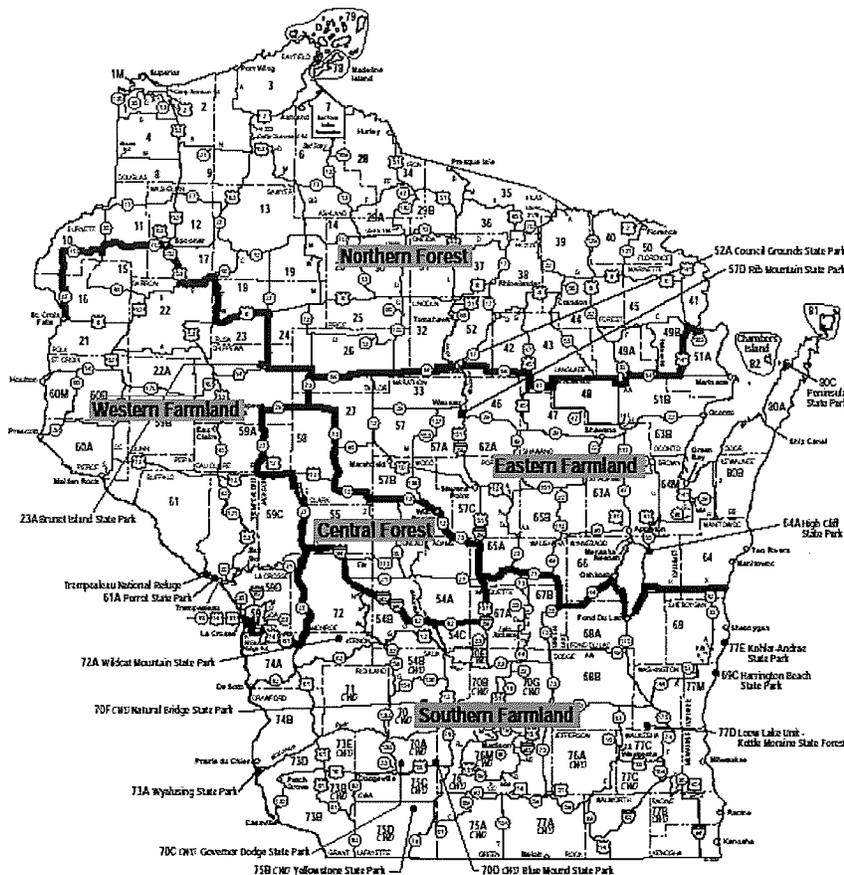
**Table 4. 2013 Deer Harvest by Deer Management Region and Difference from 2012**

*Deer management region	2013 total harvest	Change from 2012	Change in bucks	Change in gun buck	Change in archery buck	Change in antlerless
Northern Forest	59,157	-17%	-14%	-15%	-10%	-20%
Central Forest	20,326	-3%	-10%	-8%	-16%	3%
Eastern Farmland	95,039	2%	-7%	-7%	-7%	11%
Western Farmland	72,450	-8%	-19%	-20%	-16%	-1%
Southern Farmland	95,651	-8%	-15%	-18%	-6%	-3%

\*Based on boundaries of former deer management units.

Figure 2. Wisconsin Deer Management Regions

## Deer Management Regions



### CWD Monitoring Effort:

During the 2013 deer season, DNR staff sampled 6,655 deer statewide from both within and outside of the former CWD Management Zone (CWD-MZ – now dissolved as a result of the DTR). Of these, 357 tested positive. The sampling strategies were aimed at detecting changes in the location and trends in prevalence of the disease. Monitoring plans focused surveillance on adult deer which are the age group most likely to have CWD. Since 2002, over 185,000 deer have been sampled in Wisconsin with 2,505 testing positive.

After the 2012 discovery of CWD in Washburn County, we initiated a surveillance strategy based on a great deal of input from the public. Thanks to overwhelming cooperation by our hunters, over 1,000 deer were sampled from the area during the 2012 hunting season, and over 500 deer sampled during the 2013 hunting season. No new positives have been detected. Based on this comprehensive sampling, all indications are that CWD is not yet widespread in the area, it is at a very low prevalence rate, and we may have discovered it early.

The 2012 discovery of CWD in wild deer in Juneau, Adams, and Portage counties prompted the 2013 surveillance effort in a 10 mile radius surrounding the positives utilizing hunter harvested deer. This resulted in the detection of a total of four additional positives in Adams and Portage counties. In Portage County, two of the positives were from the southern part of the county where no wild deer had previously tested positive. To date, there are 12 total positives outside of the former CWD-MZ.

One important project we continue using is the weighted surveillance program using taxidermists as sampling cooperators. By focusing the collection and sampling effort on select age and sex classes of deer, the program attempts to increase the efficacy and efficiency of our outstate detection surveillance efforts. Because CWD is found at higher prevalence rates in adult males than in other demographic groups, we work with taxidermists who routinely receive older-

age bucks. In 2013, taxidermists in Dodge, Vernon, and Crawford counties provided samples, and no positives were detected.

Since 2002, CWD prevalence within our western monitoring area has shown an overall increasing trend in all sex and age classes. During the past 12 years, the trend in prevalence in adult males has risen from 8-10 percent to nearly 25 percent, and from 3-4 percent to more than 10 percent in adult females. During that same time period, the prevalence trend in yearling males increased from about 2 percent to about 7 percent, and in yearling females from roughly 2 percent to about 6 percent. Despite yearly fluctuations, overall prevalence in the former CWD-MZ has doubled across all sex and age classes of deer. It is important to keep in mind that annual prevalence estimates are subject to sampling variation, and those trends over time give better information.

## 2014 Deer Forum Survey Summary

### Attendance

On April 14, Wildlife staff gave herd status presentations at every spring fish and game hearing in all 72 counties to share information about deer management and gather public input. As an alternative to traveling to a hearing, the public was also able to obtain unit-specific information and contribute feedback through a DNR website survey that was active from March 25 through April 18. Over 7,000 people attended the spring hearings, while more than 8,300 surveys were completed through the DNR website.

### Reponses by Deer Region

The Northern Forest Zone received the most survey responses (41%), followed by the Central Farmland (34%), Southern Farmland (17%), and Central Forest (8%).

Region	Frequency	Percent of all responses
Central Farmland	2795	34
Central Forest	703	8
Northern Forest	3437	41
Southern Farmland	1416	17

### Responses by Type of Deer Hunting

The majority of respondents identified themselves as both gun and bow deer hunters (65%), while relatively few respondents replied that they do no hunt deer (1%).

Type	Frequency	Percent of all responses
Both	5419	65
Gun Only	2376	28
Bow Only	448	6
Don't Hunt	108	1

### Reponses by Deer Management Unit

Respondents were asked to identify the county/Deer Management Unit (DMU) for which they were providing feedback. Bayfield County received the highest number of responses with 287, followed by Marinette (276), Oneida (247), Vilas (238), and Douglas (235).

### Number of Deer Compared to Two Years Ago

Statewide, 68% of respondents indicated the number of deer in their DMU was "Many Fewer" or "Fewer" than two years ago. Twenty-four percent said it was about the same, and 7% said there were "More" or "Many More".

Number	Frequency	Percent of all responses
Many Fewer Deer	2850	35
Fewer Deer	2677	33
About the Same	1911	23
More Deer	459	6
Many More Deer	70	1
Unsure	136	2

### **Number of Antlerless Permits Available in 2013**

Statewide, the majority of respondents (49%) indicated there were too many antlerless permits available in the DMU in which they hunt (up from 47% in 2012, but down from 55% in 2011). Thirty-nine percent felt there were an acceptable number of antlerless permits available (down from 44%) and 5% indicated too few antlerless permits were available in their DMU last season (same as 2012).

<b>Permits</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent of all responses</b>
Too Few	366	5
Acceptable #	3125	39
Too Many	3860	48
Unsure	611	8

Fifty-five percent of hunters in the Northern Forest Zone believed that too many antlerless permits were available in 2013. The same was felt by 54% of Central Forest respondents. Forty-two percent of both Southern Farmland and Central Farmland Zone hunters also felt there were too many permits issued.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Permits (%)</b>				<b>Total #</b>
	<b>Too Few</b>	<b>Acceptable #</b>	<b>Too Many</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	
Central Forest	5	34	54	7	670
Cen. Farmland	3	47	42	8	2668
N. Forest	7	31	55	7	3301
S. Farmland	2	47	42	9	1323
<b>Frequency</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>3125</b>	<b>3860</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>7962</b>

### **What Type of Antlerless Permit System would be Appropriate for 2014?**

Statewide, 34% of respondents indicated a “Moderate number” of antlerless permits would be appropriate for the DMU in which they hunt (same as 2013 responses). Twenty-four percent of respondents indicated a “Small number” of antlerless permits would be appropriate, 20% felt a “Buck Only” system would be appropriate (up from 12%), while 10% believe a “High” number or “Other System” would be appropriate.

<b>System</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent of all responses</b>
Buck Only	1600	20
Small #	1888	24
Moderate #	2694	34
High #	805	10
Unsure	172	2
Other System	812	10

Regionally, Northern Forest Zone respondents indicated the highest amount of support for a “Buck Only” antlerless permit system for 2014 (39%, up from 24% in 2013). Northern Forest Zone and Central Forest Zone respondents also indicated the highest support for a “Small number” of antlerless permits available in 2014 (27% and 34%, respectively). Central Farmland and Southern Farmland Zone hunters indicated the highest support for a “Moderate Number” of antlerless permits in 2014 (45% and 46%, respectively).

Area	Percent (%)					
	Buck Only	Small #	Mod. #	High #	Unsure	Other System
Central Forest	13	34	34	5	3	11
Cen. Farmland	6	21	45	17	2	10
N. Forest	39	27	20	2	2	10
S. Farmland	5	18	46	19	3	11
<b>Frequency</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>1888</b>	<b>2694</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>812</b>

**Antlerless Permits for Marinette County**

In the Central Farmland Zone portion of Marinette County, 68% of respondents indicated support for “Small” or “Moderate” numbers of antlerless permits for 2014. Nine percent supported “High” levels of permits, while 12% supported “Buck only”.

In the Forested Zone portion of the county, some level of antlerless permits (27% for “Small”, 25% for “Moderate”, and 4% for “High”) was preferred over a “Buck Only” season (32% support) for 2014.

**BEFORE THE STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

In the matter of a Secretary's Order relating to establishing chronic wasting disease affected areas.

This order replaces the order related to prohibiting the practices of deer baiting and feeding in certain counties that was published in the Wisconsin state paper on February 6, 2014.

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER**

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The counties of Adams, Barron, Burnett, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marquette, Milwaukee, Polk, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washburn, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara and Wood meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. A CWD Management Zone has been established in the county or a portion of the county.
2. A CWD or bovine tuberculosis positive captive or free-roaming, domestic or wild animal has been confirmed after December 31, 1997 from the county.
3. The county or portion of the county is within a 10-mile radius of a captive or free-roaming, domestic or wild animal that has been tested and confirmed to be positive for CWD or bovine tuberculosis after December 31, 1997.

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

According to ss. 29.063 (1), 29.181 (3) and 29.336 (2), Stats. and ss. NR 10.07(2m), 10.41 (3) (a) [EmR1405], and NR 19.60(2) Wis. Adm. Code the department may, upon making the above findings, establish a CWD affected area in Adams, Barron, Burnett, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marquette, Milwaukee, Polk, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washburn, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara and Wood counties.

**ORDER**

The CWD affected area as defined in s. NR 10.001 (6p) and for purposes of Ch. NR 10 related to game and hunting, Ch. NR 12 related to wildlife damage and nuisance control, and Ch. NR 19 related to miscellaneous fur, fish, game and outdoor recreation shall be the counties of; Adams, Barron, Burnett, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marquette, Milwaukee, Polk, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washburn, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara and Wood.

An amount of \$5 from the sale of each bonus deer hunting permit issued for these counties shall be credited to an appropriation which is established for management of and testing for chronic wasting disease as required under s. 10.104 (8) (c).

Deer carcass transportation out of the affected areas shall be regulated by ss. 10.105 (4) and (7).

Baiting and feeding of deer is prohibited by ss. NR 10.07(2m)(b) and NR 19.60(2)(b) Wis. Adm. Code

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Stepp, Secretary

# CWD-affected Counties

