Form 1100-001N (Rev. 09/15)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

Item No. 4.B.2.

SUBJECT: Southwest Wisconsin Deer and Predator Study.

FOR: September 2016 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Scott Hull, Section Chief, Wildlife and Forestry Research

SUMMARY:

Fall 2016 marks the beginning of the largest and most comprehensive deer research project ever undertaken in Wisconsin: the Southwest Wisconsin deer and predator project. The goal of this project is to comprehensively examine factors that could impact deer survival and deer population growth in southern Wisconsin. Those include Chronic Wasting Disease, predation, habitat suitability and hunter harvest. Simultaneous studies will take place in areas with differing rates of CWD infection, which will help the agency better understand how CWD may or may not be interacting with other factors that ultimately impact the deer herd. Uniquely, this study will directly estimate the abundance and distribution of deer predators (bobcats and coyotes) within the study areas, and will examine their impact on deer survival and behavior.

This is a 5-year study which will begin in the fall of 2016 with predator capture and radio-collaring. Deer capture will begin in January 2017. Our goal is to capture and radio-collar 200 adult deer annually (bucks and does), 100 fawns, and 60 predators. Adult deer and predators will be equipped with GPS tracking collars that will record and display their location multiple times per day resulting in unprecedented information on movement, behavior, habitat use, predator-prey interactions and ultimately survival.

Like previous DNR coordinated deer research projects the success of this effort will greatly depend on the participation and cooperation of landowners, citizen trappers, and hunters. There will be numerous ways for landowners and the general public to assist with field work and participate in the study on both the deer and predator aspects of the study.

RECOMMENDATION: Information only

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

- ☐ Background memo
- ☐ Type name of attachment if applicable
- ☐ Type name of attachment if applicable
- ☐ Type name of attachment if applicable

Approved by	Signature	Date
Aaron Buchholz, Deputy Division Administrator	Aaron Buchholz SO	9/16/16
Sanjay Olson, Division Administrator		9/16/16
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		9/16/16

cc: Board Liaison – AD/8