

010109

**Title: Deer, Overwinter goals**

**The Problem:** During the 2008 deer season, sharp declines in the deer population, coupled with years of intense harvest quotas such as EAB and Oct. T-zone, left many hunters with little if any deer sighting and we now have many units that are below goal.

Even in units that remain above goal, hunters saw fewer (if any) deer and will again be subjected to antlerless harvest seasons they don't agree with. The problem is NOT that areas have too many deer. The problem is the goals are set too low. The current overwinter population goal is 737,000 deer. Increase the current overwinter goals by making these changes:

- Units at 10 deer per sq./mi. increase to 15,
- Units at 12 deer per sq./mi. increase to 17,
- Units at 15 and 16 deer per sq./mi. increase to 20,
- Units at 17 and 18 deer per sq./mi. increase to 25,
- Units at 20, 21 and 22 deer per sq./mi. increase to 30,
- Units at 25 deer per sq./mi. increase to 35,
- Units at 30 deer per sq./mi. increase to 40.

This brings the overwinter population goal from 737,000 AND ADDS 200,000 DEER TO THE LANDSCAPE.

Be it resolved that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Adams County on April 13, 2009, recommends the Conservation Congress work with the Department and the NRB to take action to institute this modest increase in overwinter deer population goals.

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