

**SUBJECT:** Preliminary report on harvest ratios during the second year of a trial elimination of the October 4-day antlerless deer season.

**FOR:** DECEMBER, 2007 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Keith Warnke, Big Game Biologist

**SUMMARY:**

The 2006 deer season rule, WM-29-05, initiated trial hunting seasons with the requirement of harvesting specific ratios of antlerless to antlered deer utilizing a December antlerless only season that was favored by hunters. If minimum harvest ratios identified in Administrative Code are not met then the October hunt is reinstated.

Department staff will deliver a report based on preliminary deer harvest information.

If the average antlerless:antlered harvest ratio in 2006 and 2007 combined does not equal or exceed two antlerless deer per buck, then the four-day October antlerless deer gun hunt will return in 2008. Under this scenario, the start date would be the Thursday nearest October 15 and it would occur in DMUs where a regular season of buck plus quota will not bring the population to within 20% of the over-winter goal.

In 2006, the harvest ratio of 1.7 in 2006 was high enough to continue the trial season in 2007.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information only.

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- No  Fiscal Estimate Required
- No  Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No  Background Memo

- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached

**APPROVED:**

  
Bureau Director, Tom Hauge

11/27/07  
Date

  
Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf

11/27/07  
Date

  
Secretary, Matt Frank

11/28/07  
Date

- cc: Laurie J Ross - AD/5
- Laurie Osterndorf - AD/5
- Barbara Zellmer - WM/4
- Bill Vander Zouwen - WM/4

- Randy Stark - LE/5
- Diane Brookbank - GEF 3
- Vance Rayburn - AD/5
- Susan Crawford - AD/5

- Regional LE Supervisors
- Tribes/GLIFWC
- Conservation Congress Exec. Council