

**SUBJECT:** Request approval of Department recommendations for the 2010 deer hunting season structure and antlerless deer quotas

**FOR:** APRIL, 2010 BOARD MEETING

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

**SUMMARY:**

The department annually recommends deer season adjustments and quotas with the objective of managing deer populations for healthy, sustainable goals. In management units where the deer populations are substantially above goals, herd control seasons are recommended. In management units where populations are well below goals, we are recommending measures to severely limit or eliminate antlerless deer harvest opportunity. For units within the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone, an Earn-A-Buck (EAB) season is recommended whenever the population exceeds established goals. For 2010 the department recommends:

Herd Control Seasons (46 units including state parks)

1M, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 47, 51A, 51B, 54B, 54C, 57, 59C, 59D, 59M, 60M, 61, 61A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64A, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 69C, 72, 72A, 73A, 73B, 73D, 74B, 77C, 77D, 77E, 77M, 80A, 80B, 80C, 81

CWD Management Zone EAB Season (22 units, no change from 2009)

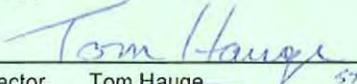
54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75B, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval of Department recommendations for the 2010 deer hunting season structure and antlerless deer quotas

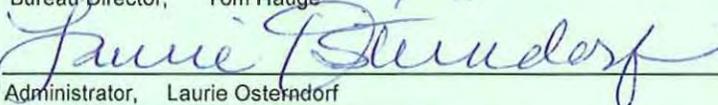
**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |    |                                     |   |     |                                     |          |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required                              | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Background Memo                                       | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

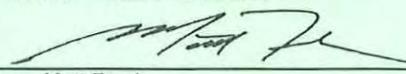
**APPROVED:**

  
Bureau Director, Tom Hauge

4/9/2010  
Date

  
Administrator, Laurie Osterdorf

4/13/10  
Date

  
Secretary, Matt Frank

4/16/2010  
Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8  
Scott Loomans - WM/6

Tim Andryk - LS/5  
Keith Warnke - WM/6

Tom Hauge - WM/6

DATE: April 16, 2010

FILE REF: 2300

TO: Natural Resources Board Members

FROM: Matt Frank 

SUBJECT: 2010 Deer Season Recommendations

**Recommendation:**

The department annually recommends deer season adjustments and quotas with the objective of managing deer populations for healthy, sustainable goals. In deer management units where populations are below healthy goals, we are recommending measures to limit or eliminate antlerless deer harvest. In deer management units where standard hunting seasons will not maintain the population within 20% of the established healthy goals, herd control seasons are recommended (Table 1) and antlerless permits are available. For units within the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone, an EAB season is recommended whenever the population exceeds established goals. The department recommends that the NRB approve the following season structures (Figure 1) and antlerless deer quotas (Table 2):

A traditional 9-day season is recommended in 66 units for 2010 compared to 62 units in 2009 and an increase of 44 units since 2007. In 18 of these units, we are recommending a zero gun antlerless deer harvest quota, compared to 13 units with a zero quota in 2009. Until 2009, there had been no zero quota units since 1994 when there were five. In 1993, much of northern Wisconsin was buck-only (zero quota).

Herd Control Seasons in 46 units (including state parks) compared to 50 Herd Control units in 2009:

1M, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 47, 51A, 51B, 54B, 54C, 57, 59C, 59D, 59M, 60M, 61, 61A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64A, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 69C, 72, 72A, 73A, 73B, 73D, 74B, 77C, 77D, 77E, 77M, 80A, 80B, 80C, 81

CWD Management Zone Earn-a-Buck Season (22 units, no change from 2009):

54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75B, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C

A four-day early season for hunting antlerless deer with firearms will begin on October 14 in the above units, except in certain state properties defined in Administrative Code NR 10.01(3).

Department staff have thoroughly analyzed 2009 harvest and herd status data to prepare population estimates for each management unit. The department also collected hunter input at 38 public meeting throughout the state and through the new online hunter observation survey implemented in 2009.

Table 1. Deer Management units where a Herd Control season structure is recommended. Gun harvest of antlerless deer is not expected to move estimated populations in these units to within 20% of healthy goals.

Unit	Goal over-winter density	Estimated over-winter density	Gun antlerless harvest needed to get to within 20% of goal	Maximum historic antlerless gun kill without Herd Control season structure
1M	10	27	434	5
8	20	25	2,192	4,707*
11	20	25	2,615	3,180*
12	20	28	2,387	1,633
15	25	32	4,650	6,423*
16	25	35	4,891	3,471
21	25	34	2,963	2,373
47	25	40	4,487	2,329
51A	25	35	3,013	2,942
51B	25	41	8,417	3,977
54B	25	43	4,077	4,778
54C	25	44	1,637	1,243
57	25	34	1,928	1,344
59C	25	46	13,362	8,199
59D	25	31	1,831	4,031*
59M	15	37	817	320
60M	15	25	653	727*
61	25	41	16,251	9,185
62B	25	59	11,675	5,361
63A	30	37	1,681	4,293*
63B	25	42	2,924	2,569
64	25	44	5,578	3,869
64M	15	31	1,273	916
65B	30	45	4,883	5,067*
66	30	59	5,065	2,702
67A	25	41	5,480	5,917*
67B	25	44	3,237	3,426*
68A	30	74	5,430	2,133
68B	25	38	3,428	1,504
72	20	30	4,099	5,963*
73B	20	42	5,384	2,110
73D	20	38	3,948	1,192
74B	20	33	6,610	3,146
77C	20	47	4,396	2,219
77M	15	19	2,059	611
80A	15	23	1,244	915
80B	25	41	3,026	2,593
81	15	70	1,255	354

\*This antlerless harvest occurred more than 10 years ago.

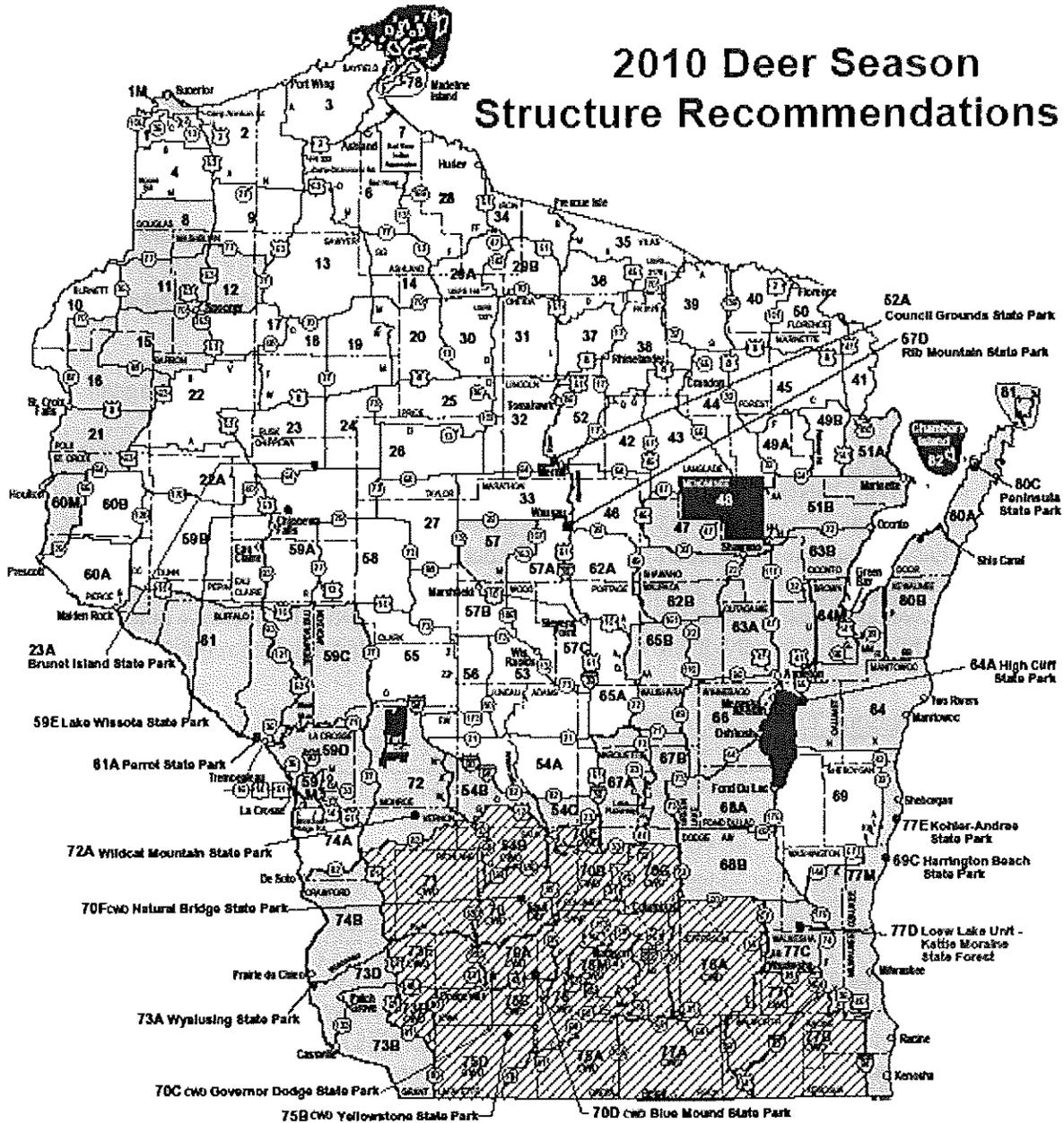
Table 2. Antlerless deer harvest quotas and bonus permit levels in deer management units with a regular gun season.

Unit	Recommended Antlerless Gun Quota	Recommended Number of permits
1	750	1,675
2	2,600	7,100
3	100	300
4	100	250
6	100	250
7	0	-
9	2,400	6,900
10	2,000	4,875
13	0	-
14	100	275
17	1,100	2,850
18	700	1,525
19	300	675
20	200	475
22	2,200	6,175
22A	3,500	9,000
23	2,300	5,200
24	1,800	4,950
25	1,400	3,525
26	200	375
27	2,000	5,500
28	0	-
29A	0	-
29B	0	-
30	100	300
31	800	2,300
32	350	650
33	1,500	3,125
34	0	-
35	0	-
36	0	-
37	0	-
38	0	-
39	0	-
40	100	325
41	0	-
42	0	-
43	0	-
44	0	-
45	0	-
46	700	1,200
49A	0	-
49B	500	1,575
50	300	950
52	0	-
53	2,000	3,150

54A	4,000	10,100
55	2,500	4,475
56	500	575
57A	1,700	3,400
57B	2,500	6,850
57C	3,400	10,275
58	6,500	16,500
59A	5,000	9,000
59B	3,000	6,500
60A	1,000	2,925
60B	1,200	4,675
62A	800	1,175
65A	1,100	2,500
69	2,900	12,000
74A	1,000	2,000
78	100	300
<u>Total</u>	<u>67,400</u>	<u>179,750</u>

Figure 1.

## 2010 Deer Season Structure Recommendations



- 2010 Herd Control units
- CWD Unit - Unlimited EAB season structure
- Regular Units

**Background:**

While the 2009 deer season total harvest of over 329,000 deer was down 27% compared to 2008 (Table 3), total buck harvest declined by only 3%. The season ranked 20th in total harvest since 1966. All 20 of the top harvests have been in the past 20 years. Most of this year's decline was due to a large reduction in antlerless deer harvest (Table 4) as we responded to declining deer populations in some areas by reducing antlerless deer hunting opportunity.

The 2009 archery buck harvest increased by 19% over 2008 (41,402) making it the fourth highest archery buck harvest in history. Archers accounted for 31% of the total buck harvest in 2009, up from 2008 when archers accounted for 25% of the total buck kill. Gun buck harvest declined by 11% last year from 103,845 in 2008 to 92,754.

Antlerless harvest was carefully managed in regular units through the bonus permit process. In 2009, there were 62 regular units with a traditional 9-day gun season and a limited gun harvest quota for antlerless deer (Table 5). Thirteen of those units were substantially below goal and had a zero antlerless gun quota and no bonus permits in 2009. There were 50 Herd Control units, and 22 EAB units (CWD units).

About 233,000 individual gun hunters (35%) and 69,000 archers (27%) killed at least one deer during the 2009 seasons.

The antlerless deer harvest quota was decreased by 45% in 2009 from 2008 and the total antlerless deer harvest declined by 38% (from 310,366 to 191,715). The greatest changes in antlerless deer harvest occurred in the northern forest where hunters registered 30,431 antlerless deer compared to 56,607 in 2008. This 46% reduction in antlerless harvest was due to a reduction in antlerless deer tags available in the northern forest because deer populations there are lower. The eastern farmland also saw a greatly reduced antlerless harvest with more than 31,000 fewer antlerless deer registered, a 47% decrease from 2008. The decrease in the eastern farmland region (Figure 2) is largely due to the suspension of Earn-a-Buck hunting requirements.

Table 3. Deer Harvest by Season Compared to Prior Years

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Archery Season Harvest	95,607	103,569	78,028	113,884	116,042	99,284	87,241
Total Gun Harvest	388,344	413,559	385,907	393,063	402,531	352,601	241,862
Total Antlerless Harvest	291,017	350,153	274,364	326,065	345,143	310,366	191,715
Total Buck Harvest	192,934	166,796	183,135	177,293	171,142	139,022	134,156
Total Deer Harvest	483,951	517,128	463,935	506,947	518,573	453,480	329,103

Harvest results varied regionally around the state (Table 4) but total harvest was consistently below last year across all deer management regions (Figure 2). In the Central Forest region, where total buck harvest declined by 25%, both gun and archery buck harvest dropped, by 30% and 11% respectively. In all other deer management regions, archery buck harvest increased between 10% (northern forest) and 27% (western farmland), while gun buck harvest dropped between 1% (western farmland) and 14% (northern forest).

Table 4. Deer Harvest by Region and Difference from 2009.

Deer management region	2009 total harvest	Change from 2008	Change in bucks	Change in gun buck	Change in archery buck	Change in antlerless
Northern Forest	60,792	-33%	-9%	-14%	10%	-48%
Central Forest	23,116	-26%	-25%	-30%	-11%	-26%
Eastern Farmland	68,018	-32%	1%	-8%	26%	-47%
Western Farmland	70,310	-28%	3%	-1%	27%	-39%
Southern Farmland	97,306	-26%	-3%	-11%	25%	-34%

### Chronic Wasting Disease Units

Since 2002, and despite yearly fluctuations, prevalence in the southwest core area appears to be increasing in all sex and age classes. Over the past eight years of department testing in the core area, 6% percent. Prevalence in yearling males has increased from about 2% to about 4% and in yearling females from 2% to nearly 6% since 2002 (Figure 3).

Department biologists and technicians conducted aerial surveys this winter by helicopter and fixed wing aircraft in the CWD-MZ. The 2009 post hunt population in the CWD-MZ is estimated to be 164,300 compared to 176,300 in 2008 (a 7% decline), about 185,000 in 2007 and 190,000 in 2006 (Figure 4). The total deer harvest in the CWD-MZ in 2009 was about 58,000 deer including 39,850 antlerless deer.

Table 5. Deer season structure and statewide quota to goal, 2007-2010.

Year	Regular Units	Herd Control Units	Non	
			CWD EAB Units	CWD EAB Units
2007	22	56	34	22
2008	27	52	33	22
2009	62	50	0	22
2010	66	46	0	22

Figure 2. Deer Management Regions.

# Deer Management Regions

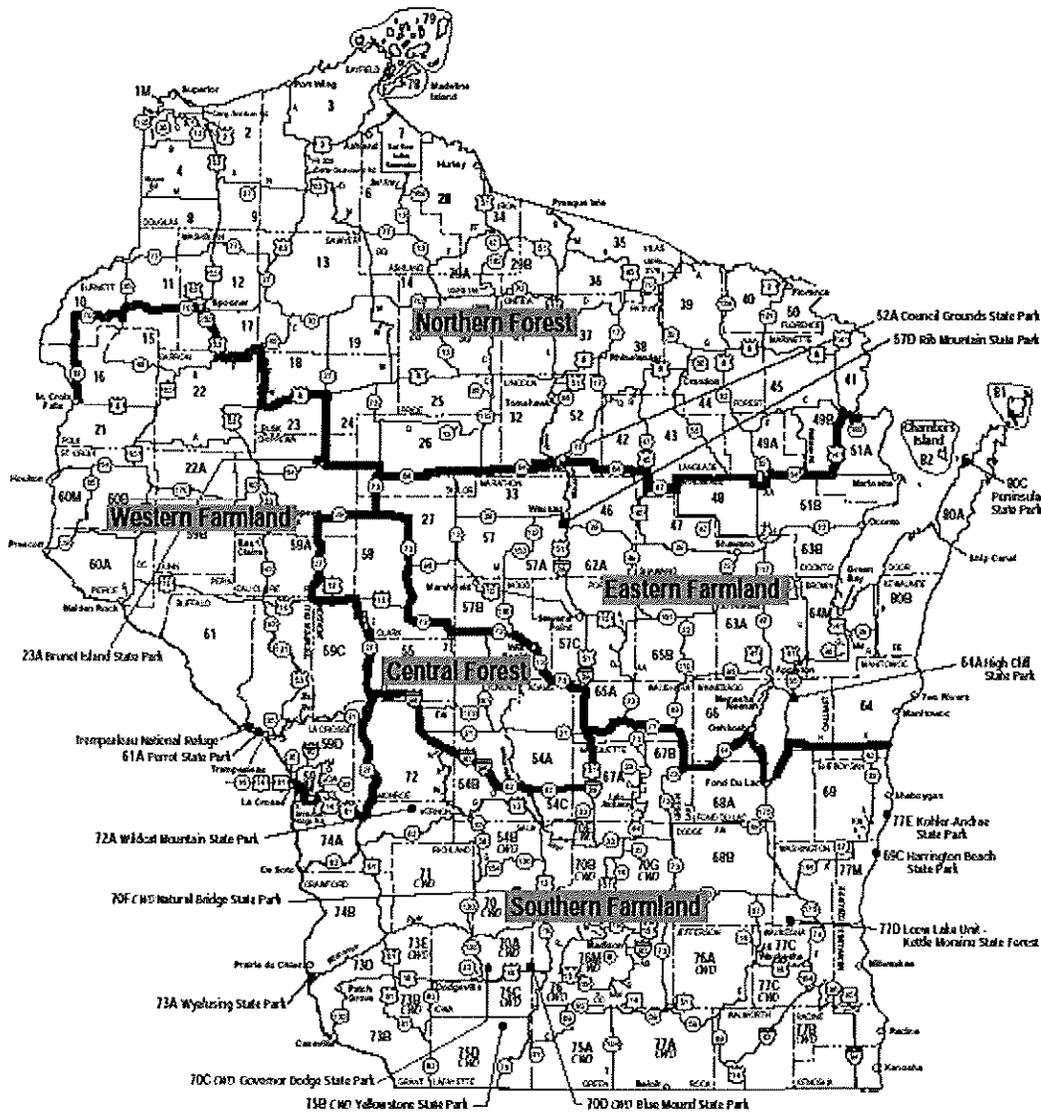


Figure 3. CWD prevalence and trends in yearling females and males from 2002-2009.

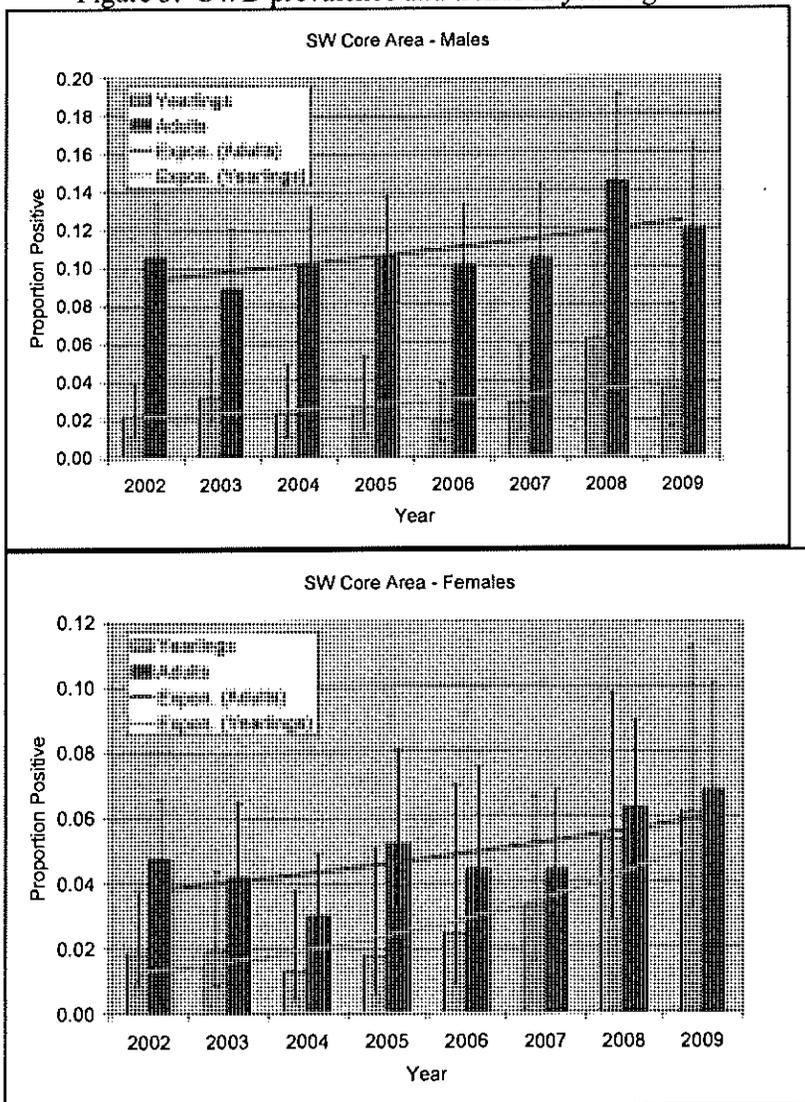
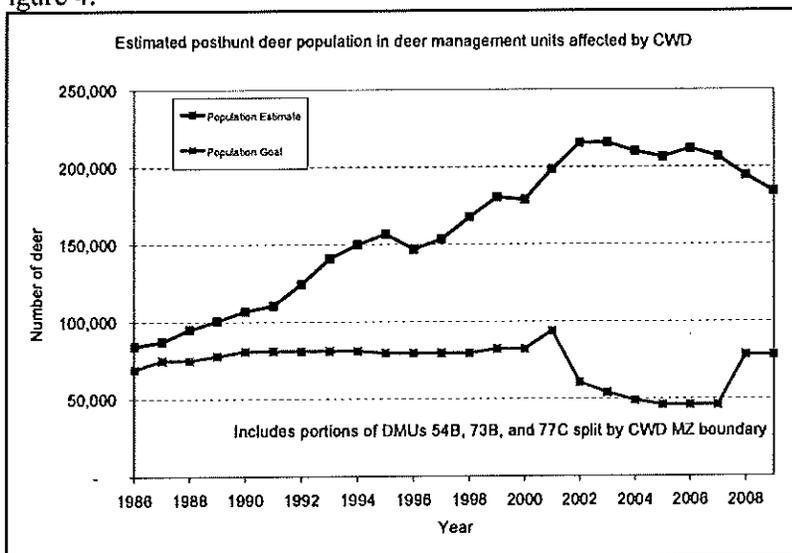


Figure 4.



### Population Estimates

Summer deer observations show that fawn recruitment in 2009 was marginally better than 2008 (Table 6), but still below the long term average in the north and central forest deer management regions.

We use five data points collected from hunter harvested deer (total deer harvested, number of bucks harvested, number of antlerless deer harvested, and the age structure of the buck and doe harvest) along with the observed fawn:doe ratio to develop the Sex-Age-Kill estimates and accounting population models to provide unit specific estimates of the deer population prior to the 2009 hunting season. We then add a 15% factor for unrecovered losses to hunter harvest and subtract that from the pre-hunt estimate to arrive at the over-winter population estimate. The statewide pre-hunt population estimate in 2009 was 1.37 million deer, 10% lower than 2008. The statewide over-winter population estimate is 990,000, 1.5% lower than last year.

Table 6. Summer Deer Observations. Statewide fawn to doe ratio 1998-2009.

Year	Fawns per doe
1998	0.94
1999	0.92
2000	0.87
2001	0.84
2002	0.90
2003	0.80
2004	0.80
2005	0.86
2006	0.86
2007	0.86
2008	0.74
2009	0.78
10 Year Average	0.87
% change from 10 Year Average	-10%

### Proposed season structures and quotas

The estimated statewide deer population after the 2009 hunt is about 25% above the current overwinter goal of 794,000. However, in several units in northeastern Wisconsin and the central forest deer management region, deer populations are below goal and our 2010 season proposals there are structured to increase deer herds. The department is recommending a regular 9-day season structure in 66 units this year – 18 where no antlerless deer hunting will be allowed (except first time hunter education graduates, military and disabled permit holders), Herd Control in 46 units, and EAB only in the CWD units again this year (Figure 1).

The quota (or allowable antlerless deer harvest after taking into account anticipated bow harvest) in regular units is determined by multiplying the overwinter deer population estimate by an average population growth rate adjusted for winter severity. We then subtract the expected gun buck, archery buck, and archery antlerless harvest and compare that result to the over-winter population goal. The difference (the amount that result is above the goal) is the gun antlerless quota.

This year there are many units where the SAK estimate is below goal. This does not mean that there is no available opportunity to harvest antlerless deer in these units. Biologically, some antlerless harvest opportunity is always available because at low harvest levels the various mortality forms compensate for one another (i.e., if deer are harvested by hunting, fewer will die by other means because food and habitat space will be available for them). Biologically, this opportunity exists and there is substantial interest in harvesting antlerless deer as evidenced by the fact that when a limited number of permits are available, they sell out rapidly.

However, there was again strong sentiment from hunters attending some herd status meetings that the gun antlerless quotas in units well below goal should be zero. Meeting attendees were asked for input, and where the sentiment favored a small quota with no population impact, we are recommending a small quota. If

attendees favored a zero quota in a unit where the SAK estimate is at least 20% below goal, we are recommending a zero gun quota.

Also in response to hunter sentiment, we are also proposing that archers be prohibited from harvesting antlerless deer in a zero gun quota unit. The predicted archery antlerless harvest is generally less than one deer per square mile of deer range; within the range believed to be compensatory to other forms of mortality. Chippewa tribal antlerless deer harvest declarations in units in the ceded territory will be made using the predicted antlerless bow kill and anticipated antlerless harvest from other authorizations for which antlerless harvest is allowed by state statute (Class A and C disabled hunters, active military, and first time hunter education graduates).

Recommended quota levels in units with a regular season structure are fairly conservative in many northern and central forest units (Table 1). The total recommended gun antlerless deer harvest quota in the 66 units recommended for a regular season structure is 67,400. These recommendations (season structures and quotas) are a reduction in herd control strategies over past years as the deer population is lower than it has been for several years.

### Conservation Congress Review

The Conservation Congress Big Game Study Committee reviewed the Department's deer season proposal on March 20. The committee supported the department's recommendations for the 2010 season structure. The recommended quota levels were not finalized at that time. However, many of the big game committee members endorsed the zero quota units as well as eliminating archery antlerless harvest in zero quota units.

### **Deer herd status meetings:**

Deer herd status meetings were held at 38 locations statewide in March to discuss herd status with the public. These meetings are held each year as part of the department's annual deer quota setting process. The meetings provide local wildlife managers with an opportunity to discuss the past and future deer seasons with local hunters and to gather hunter input that informs season recommendations. A summary of public comments collected during these meetings is provided in Appendix 1.

### **Timeline:**

The timeline for determining the deer season structure and quotas is tight. Following board action, changes (if there are any) will be incorporated into quotas and permit levels. We will continue to track winter and spring weather when making final quota determinations into May, but so far this winter appears to be mainly moderate with some limited areas of severity and early spring green-up is occurring. Antlerless permit and season structure information need to be available by late May for inclusion in the regulations pamphlet.

## **Appendix 1: Summary of 2010 Deer Management Information and DMU Review Meeting**

The goal of the Deer Information (Herd Status) meetings is to inform the public on recent deer management activities, the status of the herd, upcoming deer season recommendations, to answer questions and listen to concerns.

Overall, meetings were somewhat shorter this year than the 2009 meetings when an additional focus was put on the DMU goal and boundary review. Statewide meeting attendance this year was 1,817, down somewhat from 2009 (2,124).

New in 2010 was a 7-minute video that covered some of the current topics in statewide deer management. Department staff also distributed the publication "Investing in Wisconsin Whitetails," and covered the upcoming research and management efforts outlined in the plan. Biologists also presented the new online deer hunter surveys results from the 2009 season, plus the observational data from the new deer registration stub.

Since earn-a-buck (EAB) is not recommended outside of the CWD Management Zone for 2010, the topic drew much less controversy. Another topic that did not draw as much attention from participants was snowmobiling during December gun hunts. Some topics of common concern are brought up every year, including agricultural damage permits, the need/timing for special antlerless hunts, baiting and feeding deer, deer distribution, hunting land access, CWD, wolves, and population estimates.

### **Northern Region Summary**

Our total attendance for 16 meetings was 700. Compared to the past, attendance was up; higher than our peak of 640 in 2003 when CWD was the hot issue. Issues brought up were consistent over the past 10 years: season structure, predation, and deer distribution.

In 2010, goal changes were not yet finalized. This uncertainty made it challenging to discuss season structure and preliminary quotas during these meetings. The overall theme of the meetings was general dissatisfaction of the 2009 deer season, specifically the nine-day gun season. We pointed out that the bow buck harvest was up in most of our units (region wide it was up 20%). The common recommendation was to have no antlerless harvest to allow the herd to recover. Weather conditions during the 2009 9-day gun season rarely came up from the hunters as a factor contributing to the reduced deer sightings.

### **Northeast Region Summary**

While attendance was down this year, meeting attendance in the northeast was higher than other regions. Some of the meetings have seen some regular public attendees who have been very vocal during the presentations. Generally, these meetings appear to have been the most difficult in communicating the background about deer population estimates and season structure recommendations. Some hunters and landowners have approached DNR staff, away from contentious crowds, expressing their support for continued herd control efforts in their local area.

### **West Central Region**

Attendance at West Central Region meetings was moderate, ranging from 25 to 82 public attendees. Most of these meetings had open house and formal presentation components. Public reactions at these meetings have been generally respectful and measured. However, some expressed disbelief in population estimates, and concerns with overharvest. Biologists from these meetings reported several good questions that were asked and engaged in dialogues between several groups of hunters. Overall, positive public reactions were reported when it was mentioned that deer population goals may increase and recommended season and tagging structures may be more conservative toward antlerless harvest. However, in some areas the crowd accepted Herd Control season recommendations.

### **South Central Region**

Public attendance at South Central Region meetings was moderate; between 25 and 71 people. Attendance at these meetings appears to have increased somewhat from the previous year. Most meetings were open house format, but a couple included presentations. The main topic of discussion at these meetings was CWD Management. Like other regions, attendees questioned population estimates. If there were helicopter survey counts to provide, the public focus shifts to deer distribution, refuges, and access to private lands, instead of DMU level population estimates. In all meeting reports, biologists identified there are some people at every meeting who are supportive of current deer management efforts and are interested in learning more.

### **Southeast Region Summary**

The two meetings in the Southeast Region were highly attended (46 and 83). The focus of these meetings included units that were mainly comprised of farmland, southern forests, and urban areas. Meetings were held with a formal presentation followed by question and answer sessions. The meetings were well attended by Conservation Congress representatives and legislators. Overall, meeting attendees were respectful and measured. Topics of public concern were similar to those expressed in other regions, such as population estimates, CWD, predation, and October gun seasons. Some also expressed concerns with deer range and its definition.

BEFORE THE STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In the matter of a Secretary's Order pertaining to modification of 2010 deer hunting regulations in select deer management units that are not CWD units.

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. It is unlikely the deer population in deer management units 1M, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 47, 51A, 51B, 54B, 54C, 57, 59C, 59D, 59M, 60M, 61, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 72, 73B, 73D, 74B, 77C, 77M, 80A, 80B, 81 will be reduced to within 20% of the overwinter population goals established in s. NR 10.104, Wis. Adm. Code, under the current deer hunting rules. In making this determination, the department compared the harvest required to reduce the deer population to goal to the harvest likely to occur under the existing season structure based on deer harvest data from past seasons, including the sex and age of the registered kill.

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

1. According to ss. NR 10.01(3)(e)e., and 10.01(3)(ed), Wis. Adm. Code, the department may, upon making the above findings, modify the deer seasons, deer registration and permit issuance procedures.

**ORDER**

1. *Free Antlerless Permits.* Notwithstanding all other provisions of Ch. NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, which remain in effect, special deer hunting permits for antlerless deer issued under s. NR 10.104, Wis. Adm. Code and s. 29.177, Stats., shall be issued free of charge for use in deer management units 1M, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 47, 51A, 51B, 54B, 54C, 57, 59C, 59D, 59M, 60M, 61, 61A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64A, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 69C, 72, 72A, 73A, 73B, 73D, 74B, 77C, 77D, 77E, 77M, 80A, 80B, 80C and 81. Hunters may receive one special permit with their archery license and one special permit with their gun license, or two special permits with their conservation patron license. Additional antlerless deer carcass tags may be obtained at no charge, except for a \$2.00 handling fee authorized under s. 29.556, Stats. and s. NR 19.02, Wis. Adm. Code, for the above units except 61A, 64A, 69C, 72A, 73A, 77D, 77E and 80C where additional antlerless deer carcass tags may be purchased only by those who have obtained a state park access permit for these units.

2. *October Firearm Deer Season.* Notwithstanding all other provisions of Ch. NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, which remain in effect, a firearm season for hunting antlerless deer is established as described in Section NR 10.01(3)(e)e. The season begins on October 15 and will continue for four days in deer management units 1M, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 47, 51A, 51B, 54B, 54C, 57, 59C, 59D, 59M, 60M, 61, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 72, 73B, 73D, 74B, 77C, 77M, 80A, 80B, 81. This season does not include areas established in Ch. NR 11 and 15, Wis. Adm. code, or state parks that are within or adjoining these units. Sections NR 10.09(2) and 10.06(8)(b) Wis. Adm. Code are not applicable during this population control action. An archery license is not valid for taking an antlered deer in these areas during this period.

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

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES

\_\_\_\_\_  
By Matthew Frank, Secretary

BEFORE THE STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In the matter of a Secretary's Order pertaining to modification of 2010 deer hunting regulations in deer management units that comprise the CWD Management Zone.

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The deer population in deer management units or portions of deer management units 54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70E, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C, which are located in the CWD Management Zone, are estimated to be above the goals established in NR 10.41(3)(b).

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

1. According to s. NR 10.01(3)(et)2., Wis. Adm. Code, the department may, upon making the above findings, modify the deer season to require that hunters shall first tag an antlerless deer during the archery or firearm hunts or with an agricultural shooting permit, before they may tag a buck with either weapon in that deer management unit or units during the either sex hunts listed in s. NR 10.01(3)(et). This requirement shall also apply in state parks that are within or adjoining these units.

**ORDER**

1. *Earn-a-Buck*. Notwithstanding all other provisions of Ch. NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, which remain in effect, hunters shall harvest or tag an antlerless deer in deer management units or portions of deer management units 54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75B, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C, which are located in the CWD Management Zone, with either a bow or a gun during any deer season where earn-a-buck regulations are in place, or with an agricultural shooting permit in an area where earn-a-buck regulations are in place, before they may harvest a buck with either weapon. The requirement to harvest or tag a legally harvested antlerless deer before harvesting or tagging a buck includes state parks and federal properties that are within or adjoining these units including; Belmont Mound, Blue Mound, Devil's Lake, Governor Dodge, Mirror Lake, Natural Bridge, New Glarus Woods, Rocky Arbor, Tower Hill and Yellowstone state parks. One antlerless deer is required to authorize the harvest of one buck in these units or in state parks with gun deer seasons that are within or adjoining these units. Multiple bucks may be harvested with each weapon if each buck taken is pre-qualified by a legally harvested or tagged antlerless deer. Deer harvested as described in this paragraph shall be transported in accordance with s. NR 10.105 (2).

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

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES

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By Matthew Frank, Secretary