

## Questions brought up at the March 9 Deer Trustee Meeting

### **M) We feel the Conservation Congress must have a more active role in deer management decision-making at the local level**

- Good questions
- The congress already has an active role and it should continue
- Needs discussion? What about the general public? After all it is local!
  
- Do currently CC board feel their opinions are not being heard?
  
- Need more info, I know little about how the CC works and it's idle. I would like to know more history from AI on how it's worked in the past.
  
- WCC should set goals with game managers in each specific DMU in meetings. WCC never know why the goal was set why it is.
  
- How many / which rules went through legislation without conservation congress input?
- Which and how many rules have been successful through conservation congress?

1)

### **B) Simplify the regulatory process by setting antlerless harvest goals, harvest regulations and antlerless permit quotas on a 3-5 year cycle.**

- 3 year basis sounds good
- Agree that the more the exposure the more the pain and discontent
- Good, should be tried, may have to be changed over time
- Strongly disagree! 3-5 year is too long to accurately determine population numbers. What if a severe winter hits or a disease outbreak.
- I like this recommendation it can decrease confusion & lower the chance of accidental unintentional violations
  
- Get information on number of violations based on change frequency
  
- What is past 3-5 year dmu data show for DMU's changes?
- What about special conditions? Two bad winter years. Need emergency rules?
- Support 3-5 year cycle – need mulit year data

- We need to know how volatile populations can move in 3 years..5 years and so on
- How will a heavy winter event impact 3 or 5 year timeframe? What is the current duration of reviews if its not already 3-5 years?
- Data on yearly estimate how much do they vary each year? Plus or minus 10% 20%...?
- At the start I would ask if we should start in a lesser time frame until we think we have population clarity
- Must be able to respond to changes due to owk (over winter kill)
- Would there be an opportunity to make “emergency” adjustments for example – winter kill like 2007/08
- Need current process, congress consideration, legislators, NRB
- What % are there already order 4 antlerless now?
- Will limiting antlerless permits limit number of bucks (EAB permit) in CWD zone?
- How would local vendor know if hunter has already purchased?

2)

**1) Base antlerless permit quotas on DMU historical demand.**

- How many people purchase more than 2 permits per unit?
- Leave alone
- Extra tags in place of free tags?
- Set quotas as it seems to improve the perception thus improving hunter DNR relationships
- Use them or should read purchase them vs unlimited free permits?
- Yes
- How will this recommendation be changed when DMU’s change and numbers change accordingly?
- If followed, won’t this just insure a continued increase in the herd? Don’t you need to look at other methods/ways to reduce the herd?
- Are there people purchasing antlerless permits with the intent of never using them?
- Maximum historical demand?
- Number of permits issued and used?

- How do we track bonus antlerless kills vs regular tags?

3)

**J) Increase the cost of all antlerless tags for regular and herd control units to \$12**

- No needed information
- Very good question, should any free tag be allowed?
- Why hold it to \$12.00? It should be higher
- Should we continue giving free tags with regulation?
- Does this include CWD-MZ?
- Will the current “free” tags you get with your license not cost \$12.00?
- What is the expected revenue and it’s use?
- Is this for the additional tags? Or the ones with the regular tag?
- Is this referring to the additional antlerless tags?
- No, the \$2.00 tags I hear are more effective at harvesting antlerless deer. Would like more stats on this
- What method process is needed to make changes?
- Can this be enforced?
- How many violations have occurred in the past few years on this?
- How many deer farms have CWD? Why not stop this problem?
- Info pertaining to the effectiveness in enforcement
- What counties are baiting and feeding?

4)

**K) Consider charging a fee for antlerless tags in the CWD zone.**

- Yes, \$2.00
- I’m okay with this. ?
- Yes, \$6.00 everybody loves a ½ off bargain
- Change to have value \$3.00-\$5.00
- Would there be any limit on permits?
- Why? Don’t we want deer shot here? Will a change really give value to the antlerless segment?
- How many tags total/used?

5)

**A) Reduce the number of DMU's and combine the farmland regions**

- Where are the chronic herd control units?
- Reduce from existing number of DMU's to county that takes us from 131 DMU's to 72. What are the DNR's concerns with this change?
- Current population & harvest data for existing farmland DMU's?
  
- I would like a map of what a farmland unit would look like. I would like a map of public access land for considering making public land units.
- Need to know the percentage of private land within current DMUs
- Where are the farmland regions?
- What do you mean by the farmland regions? How big of an area?
- Need to know the extent of the farmland regions, map it out.
- What is considered farmland region? Number of farmland in a county? Percent woodland in a region? By county – multi county
- What portion of Wisconsin is considered farmland region? What are habitat differences in the farmland units can they be managed as 1 unit?
- Topographical and satellite maps of current DMU's
- Plot maps of DMU's
- How many units have farmland mixed with forest areas
  
- Farmland units should be broken into smaller units based on ecosystems one unit seems too large
- Kill by DMU and by county
- Not 1 farmland region
- Yes, DMU's need to be reduced
- Reduce number of DMU's. Establish farmland units
- Possibly 8-10 units
- "Farmland" covers more than one habitat type
- Sure, less units sounds better
- If a county i.e Iowa county is geographically split North of Hwy 18 how will S of Hwy 18 able to be managed
  
- Are we prepared to change DMU's to some other criteria than similar habitat type?
- Would farmland region be more liberal or less liberal with antlerless tags?
- Is there a scientifically recommended minimum size?

- Why reduce DMU's? Simply to get better deer estimate numbers?
- What are geographically similar areas comprising Wisconsin?
- Should state, county, federal forests be separate units? Most are big enough.
- Need to know where similar habitat areas are throughout the state to determine DMU boundaries

5)

**L) Establish a public lands antlerless permit system**

- Good?
- Yes
- If hunters on public land seem to like quotas or antlerless deer and public tags then do it
- Public land owners – generally grow trees – they don't want deer numbers to determine understory growth
- How do other states manage tags on public vs private lands?
- What other states have public land permits? How do they work?
- What other states do this and how do they do this?
- What lands? How large a unit? Public lands become own unit?
- Figure how to sell only to non-landowners should not be sold only to non – land owners
- How many landowners/hunters shoot antlerless on public land but not on the land they hunt bucks?
- What if public & private lands are intermixed?

6)

**C) Limit antlerless deer harvest in regular and herd control zones**

- Yes
- Looks like total max of 4 tags (2 extra) is bet in herd control units not regular units?
- Current limits
- Current herd estimate of antlerless
- What is impact on deer population?
- How many people buy how many tags?

- How many people do this? Why? Has this been a problem?
- If people are upset, they can also purchase a permit
- Data with information on average number of deer per hunter
- How many people actually harvest 2 or more deer?
- Is this information showing number of deer registered per individual, i.e. hunters # - 1 deer shot by 1 hunter, # - 2 deer shot by 1 hunter, # - 3 deer shot by 1 hunter etc
- Different for CWD zone or other units?
- How will group bagging affect number of tags issued?

8)

**D) Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the October antlerless seasons in the CWD zone**

- Are you in favor of an antlerless hunting October in CWD zone? If yes, how valuable is it?
- Info pertaining to public opinion on October season
- Need information of harvest and participation by unit
- Success ratio
- Estimated number of hunters to harvested deer
- Need to see number of deer harvested in October compared to total harvest. Has harvest numbers significantly changed before, during, after? Has archery harvest been affected?
- If the number of antlerless deer harvested during the October hunt has plummeted since the EAB in CWD zones has changes to the “bonus buck” rule then do away with the October hunt?
- Kill info prior to CWD and since CWD
- Over the years what has the harvest data shown? How many hunters participate what is the success rate?
- Was there a reduction in antlerless kill in 2012 vs year with October hunt?
- Effectiveness without an earn a buck requirement
- Did regulation season in 2012 have more or less participants than years with October hunt

- Can of worms – harvest trends vs infection trends. What are other options?

9)

**E) Maintain the current buck limit of one buck per deer gun license (may be used in muzzleloader season) and one buck per Archery Deer License**

- No Change outside CWD zone, potential tweaks
- Change the buck limit for gun & muzzleloader to 2, and for 2 in bow
- Do you favor present regulations for buck quota, 1 gun and 1 bow? What if crossbows were allowed for 55  All  prior to gun season?
- How many people take 2 bucks per year?
- Does this include CWD-MZ

10

**F) Maintain the Bonus Buck Regulations in CWD – MZ**

- Get rid of bonus buck opportunity in CWD zones, and go back to EAB in CWD zones
- Needs more discussion and thought
- How many hunters shot more than 3 bucks with a bow
- How many hunters shot a second buck with a bonus buck permit? Percent of total kill?
- Data for number of second buck in CWD
- How does this tie into “passive” CWD management?
- What is the buck population in CWD? Before and after CWD?
- Has a CWD zone ever gone away?
- Would go away if CWD zone is eliminated? Legal language defines CWD zone comes into play, if CWD zone doesn’t exist special regs that pertain specifically to CWD zone wouldn’t exist either?
- Is there a chance this could go state wide?
- Yes, but re-evaluate if CWD zone goes statewide

11)

**G) Resolve the cross-bow season issue through the public involvement process**

- The public involvement process should be surveys
- Why not expand the archery season
- Needs more thought and discussion
- Crossbows are not archery equipment!
- Would you accept a shortened archery season if crossbows were allowed for more users. 55  All
- Crossbows need to be limited to older or disabled hunters. The legislative needs to stay out of the issue
  
- Can you provide the results of DNR mail surveys and conservation congress votes on full inclusion of crossbows? Not age 55 questions just full inclusion questions
  
- Conservation congress process
  
- Is this a legislative matter?
  
- What is the crossbow issue?
  
- What are current Regulations?

12)

**H) Resolve the baiting and feeding issue outside CWD affected areas**

- If CWD keeps spreading, this question goes away
- Outlaw feeding and baiting statewide. It's not hunting in my opinion that makes hunters look bad to not hunting public and it spreads disease
  
- Baiting – affects on disabled hunters
  
- Any studies done on how deer habitats are affected by baiting, nocturnal, change in movement, increase disease, etc?
  
- What other groups impacted by elimination?
- Need to address bait is a deer problem – does not relate to use of bait for bear

- What kind of push back is there from other groups? – Vendors – Bear hunters
- How much is spent on bait/feeding each year? Is income important to some states?
- How many people feed outside the deer season?
- How many people would stop hunting without baiting
- How many people bait during the deer season?
- How many hunters/camps currently use baiting?
- Biological info on deer behavior changes with baiting i.e. going nocturnal, disease transmission
- Is baiting and feeding worth having based on disease spreading?
- What is the value \$ of the industry? They are vocal in keeping it.
- What are the numbers for baiting? Feeding?
- Hunter conflicts deer behavior commercial dealer response violations
- Definition of “bait”?
- What is baiting?
- What is current penalty?