

Deer Trustee Report Assignment Sheet

March 2013

Science/Research Action Team

Responsibilities: Review Science/Research-oriented recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report and identify and develop the specific functions the Department should enact to meet the intent of the recommendations. Provide implementation suggestions and function as a sounding board regarding Science/Research-oriented actions to the Department. As a starting point, the Action Team should focus on answering the following questions:

- What metrics should be used and how can/should they be collected to evaluate the impact the deer herd is having on other resources of the state?
- What long-term human dimensions surveys should be conducted to measure public perception of hunter satisfaction?
- What specific studies should the Wisconsin DNR initiate to evaluate long-term population trends of predators and their impact on the deer herd?

Wisconsin DNR Action Team Liaison's

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Science/Research Recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report

Population Management section

1. Limit the use of SAK/accounting style models to monitoring deer population size and trends at the state and regional levels.
2. Do away with population goals and population estimates at the DMU level.
3. Replace the current DMU population goal definition of comparing the deer population estimate with the desired population goal for the DMU with a simplified goal statement of increase, stabilize or decrease population density.
4. Develop a set of metrics to monitor progress towards the DMU goal of increasing, stabilizing, or decreasing population density.
5. Reduce the number of DMUs and combine the Farmland regions. **Regulations/Season**

Predator Studies and Management section

1. Continue to conduct research on the impacts of predators on the deer herd.
2. Involve the public as much as practical with field-based research projects.
5. Geospatial studies of predator distribution and densities, especially for wolves, should be encouraged and developed to assess long-term trends and issues.

Chronic Wasting Disease section

2. There is a clear need for a new sampling protocol for CWD in Wisconsin, one that gives a true picture of the progress of the disease; but more importantly, one designed to detect spread. **(Herd Health/CWD)**
8. WDNR should work closely (through the local biologist) with the Conservation Congress in developing goals and strategies at the county level. We feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective. **(Herd Health/CWD)**

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Harvest Data, Herd Health and Productivity section

1. Involving the public in data collection produces many benefits, including buy-in on management and harvest strategies and cost-efficiencies of data collection.
2. Each field biologist should be required to organize and conduct at least one field necropsy study each year, conducted along with cooperators and volunteers during late winter.

People section

4. In addition to providing hunting opportunities, the impacts of deer depredation on agricultural crops, forest regeneration and biodiversity, deer/vehicle collisions, the special significance of deer to the Ojibwe people and other factors also must be considered in management of Wisconsin's white-tailed deer resources. This will include strict adherence to all agreements with the Voight Intertribal Task Force (GLIFWC), the tribes serving as "co-managers" where appropriate.

DNR Research and Technical Publications

1. We strongly suggest establishment of a research steering committee, with representation from user groups, stakeholders and regional WDNR biologists, and Tribal representatives. **(Administrative)**
2. A significant effort should be developed in Human Dimensions research. Wisconsin is blessed with two excellent researchers (Holsman at UW-SP and Petchenik in house), and a plan for long-term monitoring of trends and issues should be developed between them.
5. There is a need for a long-term research plan (developed through 1), based on needs assessments, and prioritized for funding. **(Administrative)**
6. Synergies with other agencies and greater cooperative efforts, particularly with those in forestry and geospatial disciplines, would help leverage funding and strengthen projects.
7. Research projects should be of an applied nature, rather than basic research with clearly defined application to the needs for managing Wisconsin's deer and habitat resources. **(Administrative)**
8. Project results should be extended to the public through media, workshops and field days, as part of the DMAP program and regional stakeholder conferences. **(DMAP)**