



Deer Trustee Report Proposed Rule Package

What it means for deer hunters in Wisconsin.

Standard Season Structure – Statewide

Tag Availability:

- **Farmland Zones:** One buck and one antlerless tag per license
- **Forest Zones or North of Hwy 64:** One buck, can purchase bonus antlerless if available
- **Bonus antlerless tags = \$12 statewide**

Standard Season Framework:

**Season dates are for 2014

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Archery | Sept. 13 – Jan. 4, 2015 |
| • Youth Hunt | Oct. 4 & 5 |
| • Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities | October 5 – 13 |
| • 9-day Gun | Nov. 22 – Nov. 30 |
| • Muzzleloader | Dec. 1 – 14 |
| • Holiday hunt | Dec. 24 – Jan. 4, 2015 |
| • Either - South of Hwy 64 | |
| • Or - Farmland Zones Only | |

Options – DMU's with a Decrease Objective or CWD-affected DMU's

- Bonus Buck
 - 2 antlerless/buck
 - 3 Buck max
- Issue Landowner permits
- Issue extra antlerless permits
- Increase the number of antlerless permits with license purchase
- Implement 4-day October antlerless gun hunt in disease-affected areas only by emergency rule

Deer Management Unit's

- Eliminate Park Zones Statewide
- Convert Metro Units to "sub-units" or "zones" within new aggregation
 - Gun Season consistent with the rest of the state
 - Archery season – Sept. 13 – Jan. 31, 2015
- CWD-affected area – Identified by county boundaries consistent with baiting & feeding ban



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- Option 1: Consolidate existing DMU's using established boundaries (Roads)
- Consider less aggregation in the Northern Forest Zone
 - Follow Action Team guidance for aggregation
 - Consider habitat types, historical harvest and deer numbers

Option 2: Counties as Boundaries

Deer Management Unit Review

- Continue a standard 3-year objective review schedule
- Continue annual "herd status" meetings at the county level through the "Deer Management Advisory Committees". Potential membership to include:
 - Conservation Congress (Chair)
 - Agricultural
 - Forestry
 - Tourism
 - Transportation
 - City/Village Representative
 - Tribal Representative (Ceded Territory)

Deer Management Assistance Program

Initiate a statewide 3-tiered Deer Management Assistance Program

Level 1 (entry level option aimed at increasing communication with landowners and hunters)

- No annual fee, minimum acreage, or participation requirements.
- Components: DMAP educational resources (online, print), communication opportunities with local biologist/forester, annual DMAP reports, attendance at annual workshop and meetings, assistance with "citizen science" opportunities, and information on forming DMAP cooperatives.

Level 2 (best suited for small-medium properties with minimal management goals)

- \$75/3 year enrollment, 160 acre minimum property size (cooperatives of neighboring landowners can be formed). Cooperatives will be required to submit an application, biological harvest data, and attend an annual meeting and/or workshop.
- Components: Level one plus: on-site visit by biologist and forester, management plan with habitat and harvest recommendations, reduced rate antlerless tags, and cooperative-specific harvest reports.



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Level 3 (best suited for medium-large properties with complex management goals)

- \$150/3 year enrollment, 640 acre minimum property size. Cooperatives will be required to submit an application, biological harvest data, and attend an annual meeting.
- Components: Level two plus: management recommendations for wildlife other than deer, assistance with deer population monitoring, annual habitat evaluations, assistance with other conservation programs (i.e. CRP), property design/layout recommendations, additional site-visits and in-depth management recommendations.
- Enrollees would be eligible to receive antlerless tags at 50% of the cost of antlerless tags in the unit.
- A public land option would also be available.

Other Proposed Program Changes

- Transition to an automated deer registration system in the 2015 deer season with a pilot occurring in 2014.
- Restore a statewide restriction on the harvest of white/albino deer.