Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

Action Team: **Regulations & Season Structure**	Population Management **A.5**
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This document shows the original Deer Trustee Report recommendation that the Public Action Team considered when developing proposals for implementing the recommendation in Wisconsin. The Public Action Team's implementation proposal is then presented followed by a brief summary by the WDNR.

I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION

A.5. Reduce the number of DMUs. Decreasing the number of DMUs should improve the reliability of all metrics used for the simplified population goal system. Reduction in the number of DMUs has also been recommended by the Deer 2000 and 2006 SAK Audit Reports, but was not supported by the public because of concerns about management at the local level. Development of a DMAP as discussed elsewhere in this report would address these concerns by providing site-specific management options. Consideration could also be given to reducing the number of regions by combining the Farmland Regions.

II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION

Below is the Public Action Team implementation proposal along with their rationale and supporting evidence, potential implementation obstacles and consideration of the proposal's potential impact on the overall deer management in Wisconsin.

1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

- Leave the DMU boundaries as they currently exist and combine the farmland regions into three hunting zones.

2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it.

- An initial vote was taking and in support of reducing DMU's statewide and combining farmland regions.
- A recommendation to develop and manage seasons on a regional scale was supported.
- A recommendation to separate DMU's into 5 regions (Northern Forest, Central Forest, Western Farmland, Southern Farmland, Eastern Farmland) was supported.
- A recommendation to compare deer seasons and population metrics by unit, region, as well as at the state level was supported.
- Clarification was discussed and the original recommendation was revised and supported on June 8, 2013.
- Farmland units are mostly privately owned / controlled.
- Deer harvest within the farmland regions is controlled more by the landowner than other forces such as winter severity in the north which can have greater localized impacts resulting in the justification for maintaining existing (smaller) DMU boundaries.

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Growing pains, adjustment, political, private ownership/management, work done already that had a lot of effort into it, DNR administrative cost.

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4. Overall, how will this proposal simplify or complicate deer hunting, management, or research in Wisconsin.

- Many units have one-half with a large herd control while the other half are slim to next to no population making a unit larger WILL increase this problem.
- Increasing unit size would increase the number of counties involved in making already hard decisions and common goals will not be reached.
- Hunters already know their current hunting units – they are well established making them larger would cause confusion.
- Something is easier to count in a smaller area – NOT larger. No one will know where the new unit lines are without very specific maps.

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