

Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

Action Team: Regulations & Season Structure	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits A.5,B.1,3,4,6,9,13
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Pages 29-31

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, B.1,3,4,6,9,13

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.

B.1. Simplify the regulatory process by setting antlerless harvest goals, harvest regulations and antlerless permit quotas on a 3-5 year cycle. The annual process of changing regulations, population estimates and antlerless permit quotas magnifies media coverage and public discontent. The annual turmoil and arguments over deer number estimates is pointless with only negative consequences. Increasing the length of the regulatory cycle should also provide better insight into population response to harvest regulations.

B.3. Increase the cost of all antlerless tags for Regular and Herd Control Units to \$12. The cost of \$2 for an antlerless permit in Herd Control Units seems ridiculously low and many hunters see herd control designation as a downgrade in how WDNR values the deer resource. In past years many Herd Control Units had unlimited antlerless tag quotas or quotas where demand was half or less of supply. The reduction in the number of Herd Control Units from 64 in 2011 to 45 in 2012 was a positive step for improving the image of WDNR. Charging \$12 instead of \$2 per antlerless also will increase funding for damage abatement and compensation under the WDACP. Excess funds generated by this fee increase not used in the WDACP could be redirected to other needs such as funding for applied research to answer management questions. This recommendation could be adopted for all DMUs outside the CWD units by doing away with the Herd Control Unit designation.

B.4. Consider charging a fee for antlerless tags in the CWD Zone. CWD DMUs allow unlimited antlerless deer harvest and antlerless carcass tags are free of charge (limit of four per hunter per day) which implies deer have little or negative value in these areas. Charging a modest fee of \$5-10 per set of four tags would signify some positive value for deer and generated funds could be earmarked for CWD monitoring, research or outreach efforts.

B.6. Limit antlerless deer harvest in Regular and Herd Control Zones. Limiting the number of Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags that can be purchased by an individual hunter to two-four should alleviate complaints that a few hunters are taking a disproportionate share of the harvest. The limit could be in addition to the free Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag provided with the Gun Deer or Archery Deer licenses effectively making the limit three-five antlerless deer per hunter. Those hunters purchasing both gun and archery licenses could harvest one additional antlerless deer. The impacts of limiting the number of tags that are sold on antlerless harvest and funds generated should be assessed.

B.9. 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. Hunters appear to be content with current limits on buck harvest although some desired that a limit of one buck over all seasons per year.



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B.13. Put the fun back into hunting! We received numerous comments that most hunters are weary of the controversies surrounding deer hunting in Wisconsin and sincerely want resolution that will allow them to feel some ownership in the deer management process. The WDNR is already moving in this direction with more emphasis on people management as evidenced by improvements to the WDNR website including online forums for public inputs, public involvement in research activities, and the recommendations for the 2012 deer seasons submitted to the Natural Resources Board in April. Working with hunters and landowners through the DMAP and other educational efforts should build on these successes.

II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS

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:

Gun and archery license valid to harvest either sex deer in farmland regions. Same license valid for bucks only in forest regions. Hunters wishing to harvest additional deer purchase an antlerless tag package of 3 tags for \$20.00. Eliminate the CWD, Herd Control and Regular unit tags and combine into one generic antlerless tag.

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

- A recommendation of 3 tags in a package for \$20 to be included passed with a vote of 13 yes 2 no (how much for non-residents?)
- A recommendation of you will be allowed to purchase more than one package of 3 antlerless tags passed with a vote of 10 yes 5 no
- The 3 farmland zones - gun deer license valid for either sex
- Additional generic antlerless tags are bought in a package of 3 antlerless deer for one price. This would include the CWD tag and herd control tag.
- All antlerless tags will be good for bow and/or gun in all zones (farmland and forest zones), all regular units will base antlerless harvest on an annual quota setting process.
- As current law exists group bagging is only allowed for gun season; for consistency this should be evaluated for bow season
- This will be set only for 3 farmland regions to reduce numbers

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

Need to define regions where the base tag is good for buck only, or go either sex for both bow and gun

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

Simplified the regulations by removing/addressing many DTR recommendations as follows:

- A.5. Reduce the number of DMUs and combine the Farmland regions
- B.1. Simplify the regulatory process by setting antlerless harvest goals, harvest regulations and antlerless permit quotas on a 3-5 year cycle.
- B.3. "Increase cost of all antlerless tags to \$12"
- B.4. "Charge fee for antlerless tags in CWD Zone"
- Include all listed at beginning of document



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- B.6. Limit antlerless deer harvest in Regular and Herd Control Zones.
- B.9. 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
- B.13. Put the fun back into hunting by simplifying seasons, bag limits and youth qualifications

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