

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Request approval of antlerless deer harvest quotas and deer hunting season framework for 2015.

FOR: May 2015 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Tom Hauge, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Management

SUMMARY:

The department is recommending deer harvest quotas which are designed to manage deer towards population objectives established for each unit/county. For 2015, there would be 13 units without an antlerless quota and a harvest quota for the rest of the state of 224,735 antlerless deer. The issuance of bonus deer hunting permits, which are in addition to free farmland zone tags, would include 18,450 that are valid on public access lands and 125,375 that would be valid on private lands.

These recommendations represent the next step in a new era of Wisconsin deer management. 2015 marks the first year when the newly established County Deer Advisory Councils played a major role in establishing deer harvest quotas and permit level recommendations for each management unit. In February the board approved each county council's recommendations for 3-year deer population objectives. I now ask that you approve harvest quotas and permit levels that will help the councils and the department achieve those population objectives for each county.

This year also marks the second year that we will set antlerless deer harvest quotas and permit levels within deer management units that follow primarily county boundaries. These county units are further divided into public and private land-types to address the differences between them in deer distribution, as well as, in an effort to respond to hunters who are hoping to see an increase in deer numbers on public lands and a more satisfying hunting experience.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of antlerless deer harvest quotas and deer hunting season framework for 2015.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- Background memo
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Approved by	Signature	Date
Tom Hauge, Bureau Director	<i>Thomas M. Hauge</i>	5/12/15
Sanjay Olson Land Division Administrator	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/12/15
<i>for?</i> Cathy Stepp, Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/12/15

cc: Board Liaison – AD/8

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 15, 2015
TO: Natural Resource Board Members
FROM: Cathy Stepp, Secretary
SUBJECT: 2015 Deer Season Recommendations

FILE REF: 2300

Recommendations: The following 2015 deer season recommendations are provided for Natural Resources Board (NRB) consideration and approval:

1. Approval of the antlerless harvest quotas and bonus antlerless permit levels for deer management units (DMUs) (Figure 1 and Tables 1 & 2).

Presented in this memo is the next step in the new era of Wisconsin deer management. 2015 marks the first year that the newly established County Deer Advisory Councils (CDACs) played a major role in establishing antlerless deer harvest quotas and permit levels for each deer management unit. In February you approved each county council's recommendations for 3-year deer population objectives. I now ask that you approve harvest quotas and permit levels that will help CDACs and the department achieve the approved population objectives for each county during the next three years.

This year also marks the second year that we will set antlerless deer harvest quotas and permit levels within deer management units that primarily follow county boundaries. These county units are further divided into public and private land-types to address differences in deer distribution, as well as, respond to hunters desire to see increased deer abundance on public lands. This should provide for a more satisfying hunting experience by providing an opportunity to see more deer.

The Quota-Setting Effort:

I would like take this opportunity to provide you with some background on the overall effort of the councils and department staff during determination of the 2015 antlerless quotas and permit levels. Quota and permit determinations begin with our Science Services staff who do much of the "number crunching". When the DTR rules were being implemented, we made a strong commitment that science would continue to play a major role in deer management. Our department scientists have done a remarkable job of adjusting to the transition. In addition, staff from the Wildlife Management, Forestry and Law Enforcement programs committed many hours to serving as liaisons to each county council by attending and presenting information at meetings, providing input and answers to deer and forest management questions and working with council members on all aspects of this effort.

Led by members of the Conservation Congress, each county council provides a seat for stakeholder groups including local and statewide hunting groups; various aspects of agriculture, forestry, tourism and business; transportation and urban representatives; the Chippewa tribes; and cooperators enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program. Each county council held a meeting in March to formulate preliminary harvest quota and permit recommendations. Subsequently, the department developed and administered an online public questionnaire regarding proposed quota and permit levels (Appendix A). The public's feedback was then shared with and considered by council members before they made final recommendations at April meetings in each county. Those final recommendations were reviewed by the DNR deer advisory committee and the Department and are presented to you today. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the councils and the public for their work and involvement!

Public Involvement in Quota Setting:

Both the county councils and department took extra steps during quota setting to provide opportunity for public input. The concept and implementation of the CDACs themselves was a huge undertaking, all for the sake of including the local public voice in management recommendations. Over the past three years, we have placed a high priority on reaching out to the public and providing opportunities to participate in the state's deer management program.



For 2015, the level of public participation and attendance at the meetings, as well as for the online forum were the lowest level of public involvement in quota setting during the past three years. This is in spite of the department exceeding our past efforts to make the public aware of the opportunity to provide input.

But while feedback was limited, it has provided CDACs with valuable observations and opinions from every county of Wisconsin. The response to the questionnaire impacted decisions about quota and permit levels for individual counties. I hope the public recognizes that both DNR and CDACs value this feedback. We will continue to provide future opportunities for the public to truly influence deer management decisions in the years to come.

CDACs are Working!

The concept of County Deer Advisory Councils is working! While we have councils that clearly function better than others, overall I've heard from department staff as well as CDAC members and the public that they are encouraged by what they have seen so far. Many times I've heard hunters say they feel like they are being heard more than ever before. I've heard from department staff that are impressed by the work of the councils and their depth of knowledge and sincere desire to make a difference. Clearly, some CDAC leaders have embraced their opportunity to get more involved at the highest level possible for the good of their local deer herds and all affected stakeholder groups. So while all may not be perfect, I'd ask that you keep in mind that this is the very first year of CDAC creation. There are going to be some growing pains, and the department is working with CDAC members to determine how things can be improved. Wisconsin is going to continue to have great deer hunting in our future, and we now have many new partners to help ensure that!

A Welcome Mild Winter

I would like to address the deer situation in the Northern Forest and Central Forest Zones. Despite a very mild winter, deer numbers don't bounce back in one year. While we anticipate herd growth this year and are seeing some fringe counties recommending antlerless quotas, the "core" of the Northern Forest Zone remains well below desired levels. It is going to take time for these herds to recover. County councils and the Department are committed to making this happen.

Zero Quota Units

For 2015, we have recommended 12 counties (all or in whole) and 4 tribal reservation DMUs for a zero antlerless quota and buck-only season (Fig. 1). One additional Farmland Zone county (Racine) is also recommended as being designated as a zero quota unit, which deserves additional elaboration below. Putting Racine County aside for the moment, all proposed buck-only counties fall within the Northern and Central Forest Zones. The decrease in buck-only counties compared to last year falls primarily within the "fringe" counties of the Northern Forest where there is a strong agricultural component and correspondingly higher deer numbers. Within the buck-only county of Bayfield we again have the exception that antlerless permits will be available in the City of Superior Metro Subunit where deer numbers remain high and urban hunting opportunities have been effective at keeping deer numbers in check.

Keep in mind that rules are in place allowing certain disabled hunters, military personnel on leave, and youth hunters to harvest antlerless deer in buck-only units. As a result, there will be a minimal antlerless harvest in these buck-only units. CDACs took this harvest into consideration this year when making their recommendations.

Racine County "Zero Quota"

The Racine County council presented a unique situation that we felt merits your attention. The members of the council have recommended an antlerless harvest quota of zero, yet are well aware that this is not achievable considering that current rules provide one Farmland Zone antlerless permit for each deer hunting license purchased. The council's intent is to send a clear message to the public that it is making attempts to follow its 3-year population objective to increase the herd. Even with the harvest of some antlerless deer using Farmland Zone tags, local wildlife staff are confident that herd growth will occur as intended by the CDAC. We are comfortable with this situation, although concerned about the metro sub-unit component within the county where deer numbers should not be increased. As of May 1, more than 500 Farmland Zone antlerless permits have been issued specifically for Racine County. We anticipate that by the 2016 quota-setting effort, we will be able to address both the metro portion and the remainder of the county with different permit allocations that can be accomplished with the launch of our new licensing system.

Permit Issuance and Determining Hunter Success in Forest vs. Farmland Zone Units:

The determination of antlerless permit levels brought new challenges again this year. The greatest challenge came from Farmland Zone counties where we have no history of antlerless permit success since most of these areas had free or \$2 permits for many years and free Farmland Zone tags were valid throughout the entire zone in 2014. Recall that in Farmland Zone DMUs, all hunters automatically receive one free antlerless deer permit with the purchase of their deer hunting licenses. We know from past experience that the “free” tags alone are insufficient to reach desired harvest levels, so we are recommending the issuance of additional or “bonus” antlerless tags in most Farmland Zone units for 2015. To determine permit levels for 2015, we evaluated Farmland Zone units that had both free and bonus permits available in 2014. On a county by county basis, we compared the number of antlerless deer killed to the number of bonus permits sold. This ratio varied from as low as 0.7 to as high as 4.16. We applied this number to our desired harvest goal to calculate a permit level for each county. For example, in a county “X” with a harvest goal of 2,000 antlerless deer, we divided this number by the observed 2014 2.2 antlerless deer killed per bonus permit issued to arrive at a 2015 recommended permit level of 900 ($2,000/2.2 = 900$). As a result, in county “X” we would make 900 bonus permits available for sale in addition to each hunter receiving one free antlerless permit with each license purchased (gun and archer/crossbow).

We have one year of data and learning under our belts following the 2014 seasons, 2015 will be another major year of learning as we use the best data we have in transitioning from old DMUs to a county system. We will learn much this year, and will make adjustments accordingly where needed in the coming years.

Bonus Sales Begin Mid-August:

In 2014, the opening sales of bonus antlerless permits were staggered across several days to avoid any potential computer-overload glitches in the online or telephone ordering system. We are preparing to do the same in 2015, beginning sales on Monday, August 17 at 10 a.m. for bonus permits in the Forest Zones. The Central Farmland Zone will follow on the 18th, and the Southern Farmland on the 19th.

Watch-Worthy Issues:

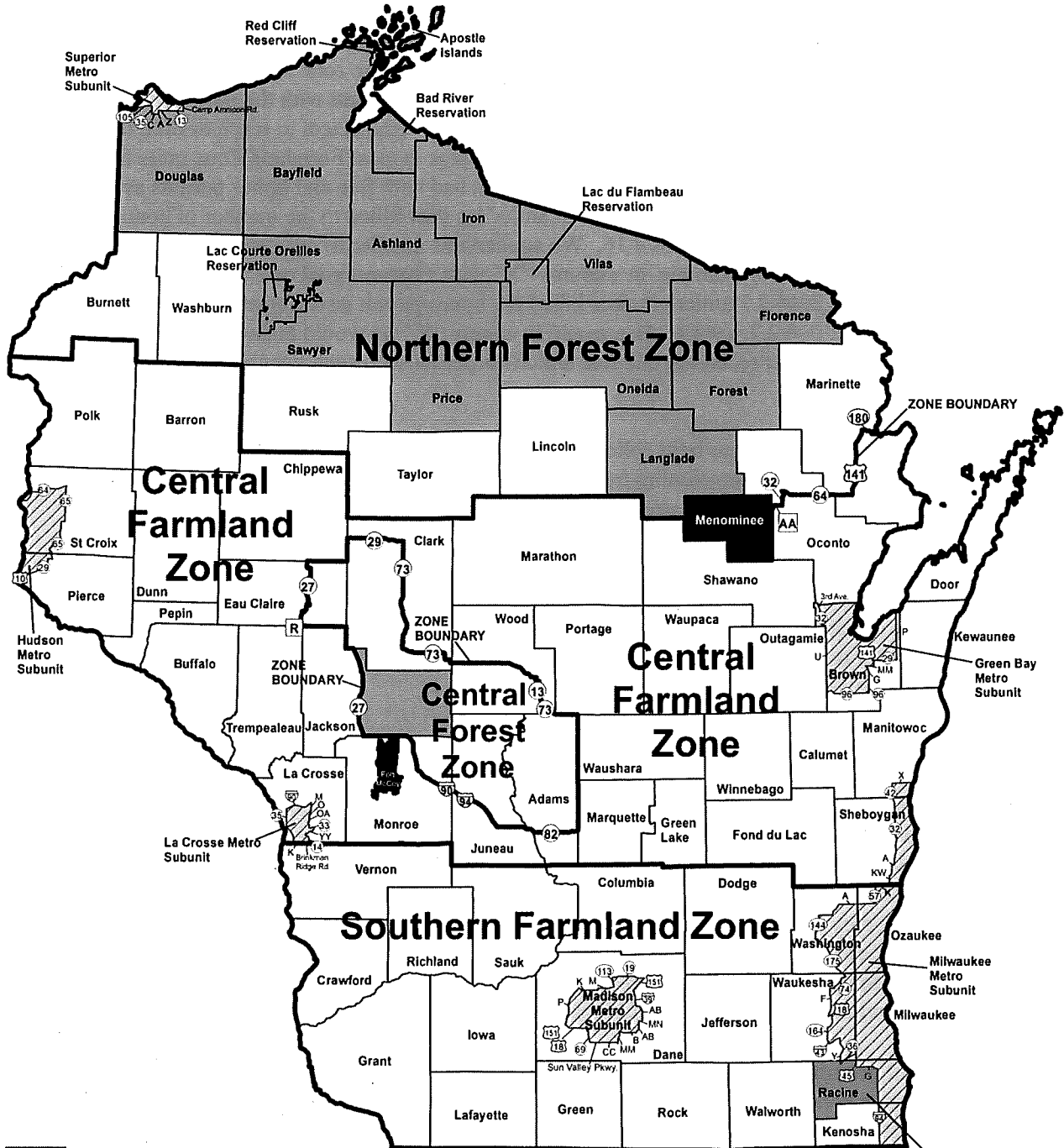
1. “Maintaining” vs. Productive Herds:

In February, you approved 3-year population objectives that are now guiding deer populations and management practices through the 2017 deer season. These objectives were developed by CDACs with input from the public. A “watch-worthy” issue will be whether counties with the “maintain” objective can be successful managing very productive farmland deer herds. In 2015, some counties have recommended quotas that may increase the deer population to a point where they will not be able to achieve “maintain” (within 20% of the base population) in 2016 or 2017. Some of these counties are projected to see 15-18% increases in the first year. The more deer there are the more that need to be harvested in future years to hold the population in check. As populations increase, it may be more difficult for counties without implementing additional season and tag allocation tools available to them.

2. Limiting public land permits in high demand counties

The purpose of establishing a permit allocation system for public and private lands was to provide a means of adjusting antlerless harvest on public lands in an attempt to better manage deer on a smaller scale and potentially provide a better public land hunting experience. This year, recommendations were made for several Farmland Zone counties with maintain and decrease population objectives to levels that we will be limiting hunting opportunity for public land hunters. This is a new experience for central and southern Wisconsin hunters. Some counties with decrease objectives have permit recommendations that will fall far short of meeting public demand. In Farmland Zone units where the objective is to decrease the herd and where public land hunting is good, we will need to watch this issue. We anticipate hearing from unhappy hunters that were unable to secure a public land tag. However, we are also hopeful that hunters will see the benefits of this action in the near future with higher deer sighting rates and increased antlerless deer hunting opportunities.

Figure 1. 2015 Deer Season Structure and Permit Availability



- Bucks Only
- Bucks plus antlerless by permit
- Non-quota Area - No permits issued by DNR
- Metro Subunits - Bucks plus antlerless by permit

Racine County: bucks plus antlerless by free Farmland Zone antlerless permit only

**Table 1. 2015 Bonus Antlerless
Deer Permit Levels by DMU**

County	Public Land Tags	Private Land Tags
Adams - Farmland	50	1800
Adams - Forest	850	5150
Ashland	0	0
Bad River Res.	0	0
Barron	0	1325
Bayfield	0	0
Brown	200	800
Buffalo	500	4000
Burnett	0	1075
Calumet	125	425
Chippewa	0	575
Clark - Farmland	50	1325
Clark - Forest	650	800
Columbia	800	1675
Crawford	200	2000
Dane	500	2700
Dodge	125	1325
Door	200	1800
Douglas	0	0
Douglas - Superior Metro Subunit	150	50
Dunn	200	2300
Eau Claire - Farmland	75	1075
Eau Claire - Forest	150	875
Florence	0	0
Fond du lac	325	850
Forest	0	0
Grant	250	2550
Green	125	1450
Green Lake	1000	8000
Iowa	400	3000
Iron	0	0
Jackson - Farmland	0	1325
Jackson - Forest	0	0
Jefferson	50	875
Juneau - Farmland	25	1300
Juneau - Forest	100	825
Kenosha	25	50
Kewaunee	200	1100
Lac du Flambeau Res.	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles Res.	0	0
La Crosse	100	650
Lafayette	25	1050
Langlade	0	0

County	Public Land Tags	Private Land Tags
Lincoln	250	750
Manitowoc	150	2000
Marathon	450	3375
Marinette - Farmland	175	3400
Marinette - Forest	225	725
Marquette	2000	8000
Milwaukee	75	600
Monroe - Farmland	400	1350
Monroe - Forest	0	100
Oconto - Farmland	200	2075
Oconto - Forest	200	500
Oneida	0	0
Outagamie	350	1075
Ozaukee	150	850
Pepin	75	800
Pierce	300	2000
Polk	500	3100
Portage	275	2375
Price	0	0
Racine	0	0
Red Cliff Res.	0	0
Richland	350	2650
Rock	250	1550
Rusk	0	1225
Sauk	500	3200
Sawyer	0	0
Shawano	750	3500
Sheboygan	100	1025
St. Croix	150	1400
Taylor	0	3525
Trempealeau	0	500
Vernon	300	3700
Vilas	0	0
Walworth	150	375
Washburn	825	3375
Washington	350	1350
Waukesha	375	925
Waupaca	300	7200
Waushara	600	1200
Winnebago	125	375
Wood - Farmland	25	775
Wood - Forest	75	300
Totals	18,450	125,375

Table 2. 2015 Antlerless Harvest Quotas by DMU

County	Antlerless Quota
Adams - Farmland	1525
Adams - Forest	3000
Ashland	0
Ashland – Madeline Island	0
Bad River Res.	0
Barron	2780
Bayfield	0
Brown	2700
Buffalo	9000
Burnett	500
Calumet	1520
Chippewa	1090
Clark - Farmland	2500
Clark - Forest	700
Columbia	5200
Crawford	4840
Dane	5030
Dodge	2725
Door	5000
Douglas	0
Douglas - Superior Metro Subunit	200
Dunn	5500
Eau Claire - Farmland	2200
Eau Claire - Forest	625
Florence	0
Fond du lac	2500
Forest	0
Grant	6170
Green	2000
Green Lake	4220
Iowa	3800
Iron	0
Jackson - Farmland	3525
Jackson - Forest	0
Jefferson	1500
Juneau - Farmland	2400
Juneau - Forest	470
Kenosha	50
Kewaunee	3400
Lac du Flambeau Res.	0
Lac Courte Oreilles Res.	0
La Crosse	2100
Lafayette	1820
Langlade	0

County	Antlerless Quota
Lincoln	380
Manitowoc	5000
Marathon	6500
Marinette - Farmland	5000
Marinette - Forest	350
Marquette	6360
Milwaukee	280
Monroe - Farmland	5000
Monroe - Forest	50
Oconto - Farmland	5860
Oconto - Forest	225
Oneida	0
Outagamie	4620
Ozaukee	1290
Pepin	2000
Pierce	4120
Polk	7670
Portage	5540
Price	0
Racine	0*
Red Cliff Res.	0
Richland	5000
Rock	1460
Rusk	500
Sauk	7160
Sawyer	0
Shawano	15000
Sheboygan	1830
St. Croix	3000
Taylor	1550
Trempealeau	4000
Vernon	8000
Vilas	0
Walworth	580
Washburn	1600
Washington	2730
Waukesha	1300
Waupaca	12300
Waushara	4290
Winnebago	1600
Wood - Farmland	1800
Wood - Forest	200
Totals	224,735

*Some antlerless deer will be harvested due to issuance of Farmland Zone antlerless tags with each deer hunting license

2014 Herd Monitoring Data

Annually, department staff conduct a post-hunt review of the biological data, aerial surveys and harvest data from the previous year and calculate updated population estimates for each DMU. Annual herd monitoring data (some of which is being collected by volunteers) includes information on fawn production, age structure, body condition, hunter observations and harvest data.

The 2014-15 Winter Severity Index score of 49 points has shown this winter to be a mild one - a welcome change from the record severity of 149-points across the north in 2013-14. While the mild winter has been taken into consideration in setting quotas, deer herds don't bounce back in a year and it is not surprising that several northern counties are recommending zero quotas again this year.

We aged 16,193 deer during the opening weekend of the 2014 gun deer season (a 17% decrease from 2013). We also piloted methods to work with meat processors to collect aging information in the new age of electronic registration. In 2015, we will be partnering with deer processors across the state to gather deer harvest aging data. This method shows promise, but continued evaluation is needed to ensure that this method provides the quality data needed to inform management. Aging information is used to measure changes in the deer population over time, including estimating deer population size. For example, our aging efforts have documented an increasing proportion of older bucks in the former farmland regions over the past two decades, likely as a result of increased hunter selectiveness.

Tables 3 and 4 provide a summary of antlered and antlerless harvests in recent years, as well as a comparison of the 2013 and 2014 harvests by Wisconsin's four deer management zones (Figure 2).

Table 3. Statewide Deer Harvest by Season 2008-2014

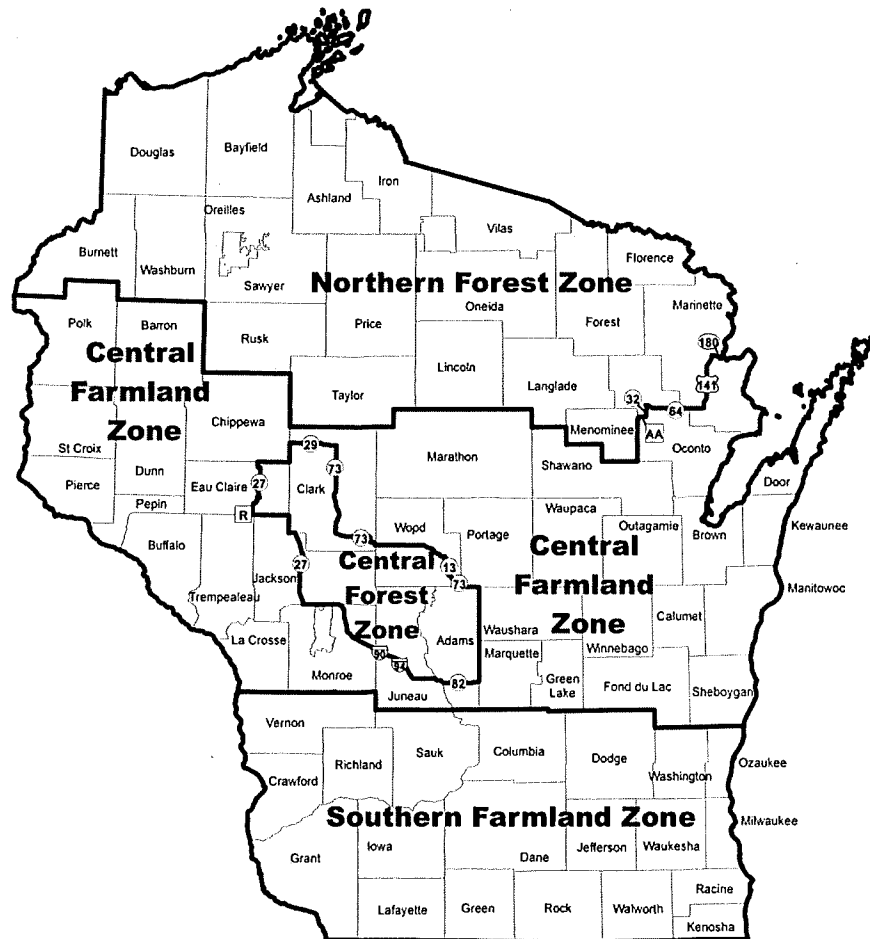
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Archery Season*	99,284	87,241	83,833	90,200	94,267	87,628	54,810
Crossbow Season	----	----	----	----	----	----	26,891
Total Gun	352,601	241,862	253,038	257,511	274,047	255,003	222,588
Total Antlerless	313,378	194,947	188,493	196,872	202,857	198,893	158,689
Total Buck	138,507	134,156	148,378	150,839	165,457	143,738	143,397
Total Deer Harvest	451,885	329,103	336,871	347,711	368,314	342,631	304,289

*Prior to 2015, archer and crossbow harvest totals are combined.

Table 4. 2014 Deer Harvest by Deer Management Zone and Difference from 2013

Deer management zone	2014 total harvest	Change from 2013	Change in bucks	Change in gun buck	Change in archery buck	Change in antlerless
Northern Forest	36,235	-39%	-6%	-13%	15%	-72%
Central Forest	11,163	-45%	-21%	-26%	10%	-62%
Central Farmland	187,093	12%	19%	14%	27%	7%
Southern Farmland	69,759	-27%	-22%	-26%	-13%	-18%

Figure 2. Wisconsin Deer Management Zones



CWD Monitoring Effort:

During the 2014 deer season, DNR sampled 5,460 deer statewide. Of these, 331 tested positive. The sampling strategies were aimed at detecting changes in the geographic distribution and trends in prevalence of the disease. Monitoring plans focused surveillance on adult deer, which are the age group most likely to have CWD. Since 2002, over 190,000 deer have been sampled in Wisconsin with 2,838 testing positive.

Following the 2012 discovery of a CWD-positive adult doe near Shell Lake, 2014 marked the third year of surveillance efforts in Washburn County. Following recommendations from a local community action team, local landowners and hunters helped the department sample over 1,900 deer in the area over the last three years. No new positives have been detected. Based on three years of sampling, all information has indicated CWD is not widespread in the Washburn area, and occurs at a very low prevalence rate.

The 2012 discovery of CWD in wild deer in Juneau, Adams, and Portage counties prompted the 2013 surveillance effort in a 10 mile radius surrounding the positives utilizing hunter harvested deer. Four additional positives were found in 2013 in Adams and Portage counties, while two additional positives were discovered in Adams County in 2014. Surveillance

was also conducted surrounding a CWD-positive captive deer farm in Marathon County, with no wild CWD deer detected.

One important tool we continue using is the weighted surveillance program using taxidermists as sampling cooperators. By focusing the collection and sampling effort on select age and sex classes of deer, the program attempts to increase the efficacy and efficiency of our outstate detection surveillance efforts. Because CWD is found at higher prevalence rates in adult males than in other demographic groups, we work with taxidermists who routinely receive older age bucks. In 2014, taxidermists in Vernon and Crawford counties provided samples, and no positives were detected.

CWD prevalence has changed over time. Since 2002, CWD prevalence within our western monitoring area has shown an overall increasing trend in all sex and age classes. During the past 13 years, the trend in prevalence in adult males has risen from 8-10 percent to over 25 percent and in adult females from about 3-4 percent to more than 10 percent. During that same time, the prevalence trend in yearling males has increased from about 2 percent to about 8 percent and in yearling females from roughly 2 percent to about 7 percent.

Appendix A:

2015 Deer Management Unit Public Input Summary

The public was offered an opportunity to view deer management unit-specific information and contribute feedback through a DNR website questionnaire that was active from March 30 through April 15. More than 2,400 individuals filled out the questionnaire. Results were provided, by county, to each County Deer Advisory Council to be considered when developing quota and permit recommendations for 2015.

Note: Not all respondents answered all questions and some respondents provided input for more than one county. Thus, the total number of responses differs slightly for each question.

Responses by Deer Management Zone

The Northern Forest Zone received the most responses (44%), followed by the Central Farmland (32%), Southern Farmland (17%), and Central Forest (7%).

Region	Frequency	Percent of all responses
Central Farmland	995	32%
Central Forest	227	7%
Northern Forest	1362	44%
Southern Farmland	511	17%
Total	3095	

Responses by Type of Deer Hunting

Respondents were asked to check all that apply to their style of deer hunting. The majority identified themselves as gun deer hunters (84%) and 57% as archers, while relatively few respondents replied that they identify themselves as muzzleloader deer hunters (32%) or crossbow hunters (22%).

Type	Frequency	Percent of all responses
Gun	2596	84%
Archer	1779	57%
Crossbow	682	22%
Muzzleloader	985	32%
Total	3095	

Number of Deer Compared to Two Years Ago

Statewide, 67 percent of respondents indicated the number of deer in their DMU was “Many Fewer” or “Fewer” than three years ago. Twenty-two percent said it was about the same, and 8 percent said there were “More” or “Many More”.

Number	Frequency	Percent of all responses
Many Fewer Deer	722	33%
Fewer Deer	743	34%
About the Same	485	22%
More Deer	152	7%
Many More Deer	29	1%
Unsure	33	2%
Total	2014	

Number of Antlerless Permits Available in 2014

Statewide, the majority of respondents (52%) indicated there were too many antlerless permits available in the DMU in which they hunted in 2014 (up from 49% in 2013, but down from 55% in 2011). Forty-two percent felt there were an acceptable number of antlerless permits available (up from 39%) and 0% indicated too few antlerless permits were available in their DMU.

Permits	Frequency	Percent of all responses
Too Few	0	0%
Acceptable #	766	42%
Too Many	948	52%
Unsure	126	6%
Total	1840	

Forty-seven percent of hunters in the Northern Forest Zone believed that too many antlerless permits were available in 2014, despite that fact that all but just one county had zero permits available. The same was expressed by 61 percent of Central Forest respondents where permits were at record low levels. Fifty percent of both Southern Farmland and Central Farmland Zone hunters also felt there were too many permits issued.

Area	Permits (%)				Total #
	Too Few	Acceptable #	Too Many	Unsure	
Central Forest	0%	34%	61%	5%	862
Cen. Farmland	0%	44%	50%	6%	169
N. Forest	0%	45%	47%	8%	947
S. Farmland	0%	42%	50%	8%	428
All		43%	50%	7%	
Total	0%	1036	1193	177	2406

Antlerless Permit Recommendation for 2015

Regionally, Northern Forest Zone respondents indicated the highest amount of support for a “Buck Only” antlerless permit system for 2015 (60%). Central Forest Zone respondents indicated the highest support for a “Small number” of antlerless permits available in 2015 (33%). In addition, Central Farmland hunters and Southern Farmland hunters indicated the highest support for a “Moderate Number” of antlerless permits in 2015 (41% and 38%, respectively).

Area	Percent (%)					Total #
	Buck Only	Small #	Mod. #	High #	Unsure	
Central Forest	38%	33%	23%	5%	1%	921
Cen. Farmland	10%	25%	41%	22%	2%	213
N. Forest	60%	25%	13%	2%	1%	1251
S. Farmland	15%	22%	38%	21%	4%	461
All	35%	25%	27%	12%	2%	
Total	988	701	768	340	49	2846

County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Population Objectives and Recommendations for 2015

Statewide, most hunters felt the CDAC antlerless quota and permit allocation were either slightly or much too high (40%). The largest response (37%) felt the CDAC recommendations resulted in an “About Right” quota and permit allocation. Little variation existed between private and public land allocations.

2015 Antlerless Quota	Central Farmland	Central Forest	Northern Forest	Southern Farmland	Total
Much too low	5%	7%	12%	4%	8%
A little too low	11%	13%	13%	10%	12%
About right	35%	26%	41%	35%	37%
A little too high	24%	17%	8%	21%	16%
Much too high	22%	32%	23%	26%	24%
Unsure/No Opinion	3%	5%	4%	3%	4%
Total	922	214	1247	462	2845

2015 Private Land Antlerless Permits	Central Farmland	Central Forest	Northern Forest	Southern Farmland	Total
Much too low	6%	7%	13%	6%	9%
A little too low	12%	11%	10%	9%	10%
About right	35%	23%	37%	36%	35%
A little too high	23%	17%	10%	22%	17%
Much too high	20%	34%	24%	22%	23%
Unsure/No Opinion	5%	8%	7%	5%	6%
Total	917	214	1236	464	2831

2015 Public Land Antlerless Permits	Central Farmland	Central Forest	Northern Forest	Southern Farmland	Total
Much too low	5%	10%	11%	4%	8%
A little too low	9%	8%	10%	12%	10%
About right	33%	25%	45%	32%	38%
A little too high	19%	14%	6%	15%	12%
Much too high	24%	37%	22%	28%	25%
Unsure/No Opinion	9%	5%	6%	8%	7%
Total	916	212	1233	461	2822