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The Southwest Wisconsin Deer and Predator Study looks at how bobcats and coyotes can affect deer population dynamics

Trappers can help catch and track predators by reporting cases of incidental captures of bobcats and coyotes.



Box trap used to capture deer which are later released after being fitted with a GPS tracking collar

Landowners can help by allowing deer capture and release on their property



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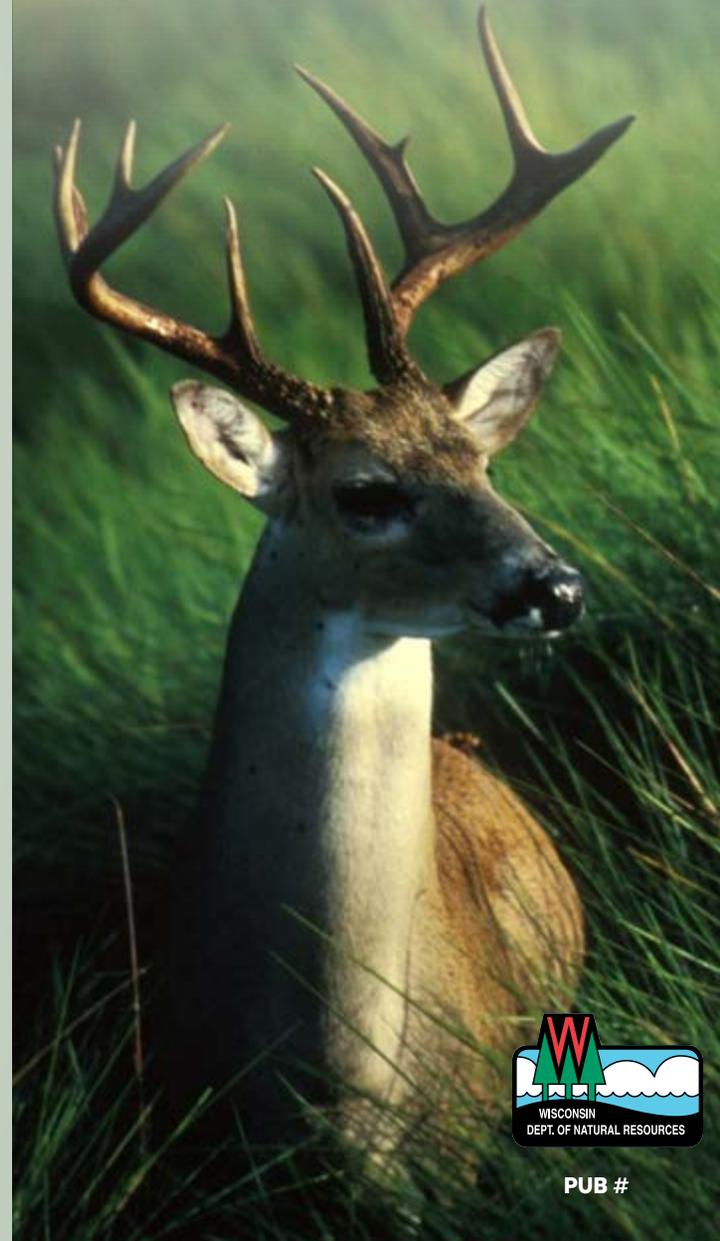
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SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN DEER & PREDATOR STUDY



PUB #

DEER & PREDATORS



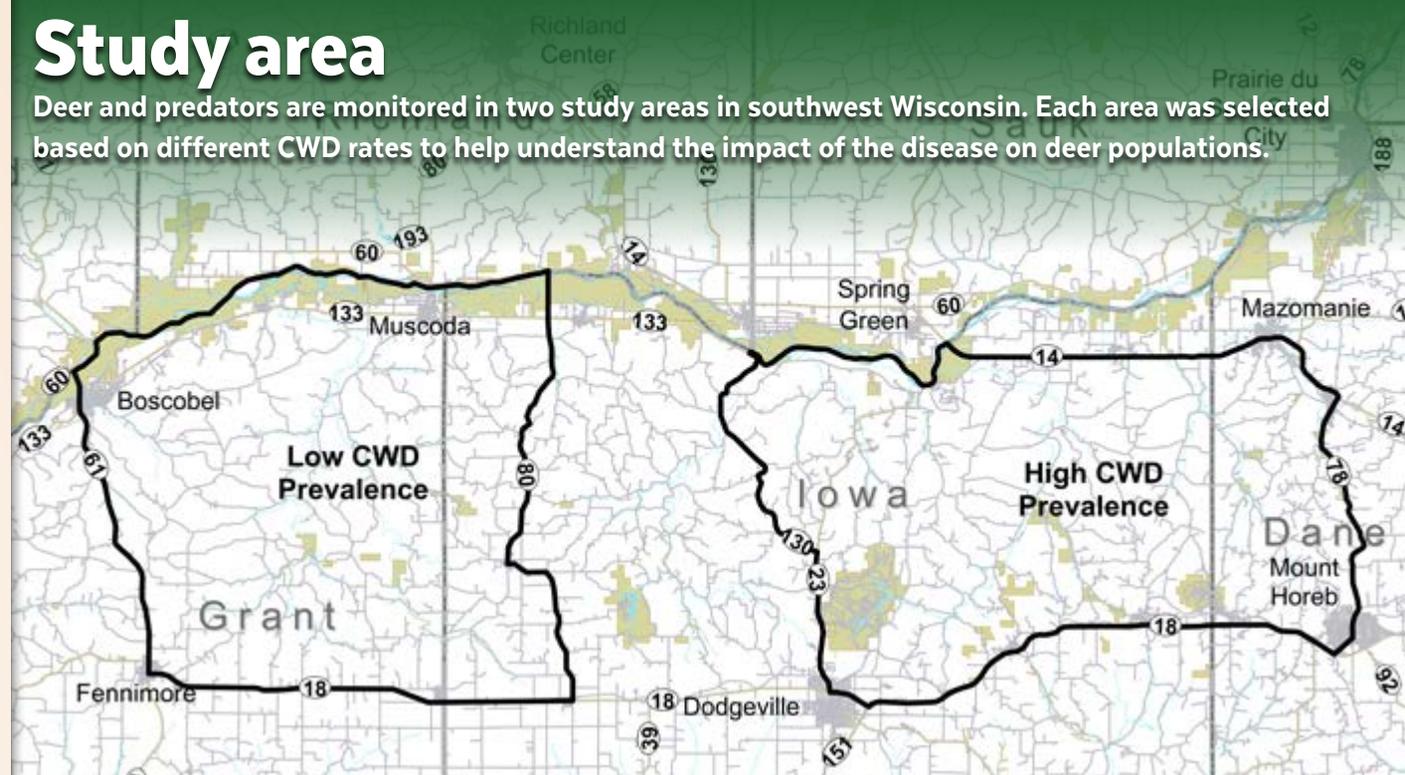
The Southwest Wisconsin Deer and Predator Study is looking at how different factors like predation, hunting, disease, and habitat impact deer survival and deer populations.

To do this, deer research crews capture deer and predators using a variety of methods like box traps, drop nets, trapping, and darting. Once captured, researchers take tissue samples, health measurements and equip the animals with GPS collars and then release them back into the wild.



Study area

Deer and predators are monitored in two study areas in southwest Wisconsin. Each area was selected based on different CWD rates to help understand the impact of the disease on deer populations.



Project Goals

- Measure survival rate of deer and record causes of death due to predators, hunting and other factors
- Gather data on deer health such as Chronic Wasting Disease rates, pregnancy rates, litter size, nutritional condition and more
- Estimate abundance and distribution of coyotes and bobcats in the area.
- Gather information on food availability as it relates to deer nutrition.

Tracking

The captured deer and predators are fitted with GPS collars that track their location several times a day and tell researchers when a collared deer or predator has died. The information gained from the collars helps researchers find den sites, learn about predator diets, study their movement patterns, and much more.

