

## Deer Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 9:30 AM

Mead Wildlife Area, 201517 County Road S, Milladore, WI



### In attendance:

Jeff Pritzl (DNR), Anna Brose (DNR), Eric Canania (DNR), Bryan Woodbury (DNR), Steve Hoffman (DNR), Brad Hutnik (DNR), Joe Dittrich (DNR), Travis Bartnick (GLIFWC), Brian Dhuey (DNR), Brad Koele (DNR), Matt Esser (DNR), Jake Walcisak (County Forest Association), Al Horvath (WCC), Mike Riggle (WCC), Jennifer Stenglein (DNR), Amanda McGraw (DNR), Beth Wojcik (DNR), Dan Storm (DNR), Bill Hogseth (DNR, Skype), Bret Owsley (DNR, Skype), Dave Zebro (DNR, Skype), Dan Eklund (USFS, Skype), Rich Kirchmeyer (WBA, phone)

### Welcome and Introduction

- New committee seat for County Forest Association

### Customer Service Deer Season Report - Jeff Pritzl for Linda Olver

- 806,452 license sales in 2018
- 2002 - 2018: slow decline of gun license sales, slow increase in archery license sales
- 3rd annual DNR presence at Fleet Farm Orange Friday, all WI stores staffed in 2018
- [Hunt Wild Mobile app](#) went live before hunting season
  - More than 85,000 downloads as of January 1, 2019
  - 26,000 using the app during opening day of gun season
- 300,000+ views of [Wild Wisconsin Season Two](#) videos
- Started using [Instagram](#) in 2017; over 10,000 IG followers in the first year

### Law Enforcement Report - Dave Zebro

- 15,300 LE patrol contacts, 2,700 service calls, 863 hotline tips during 2018 hunting season
- 6 non-fatal hunting accidents
- Baiting and feeding violations are what wardens spend the most time on across the state

### 2018 Deer Season Data Review - Jen Stenglein

- 2018 Harvest Figures
  - ~336,000 deer harvested in 2018, an increase of 4% from 2017
  - Detailed harvest figures will be available on the [Deer Metrics System](#)
- Fawn:Doe ratios and Snapshot integration
  - [Snapshot Wisconsin](#) growing, so we are adding more Snapshot data to F:D ratio, but Summer Deer Observations and [Operation Deer Watch](#) are still the main drivers for F:D ratio
- 2018 Deer Aging Results
  - Aging data comes from deer processed at cooperating meat processing centers and from deer heads submitted for CWD sampling

### 2019 Quota setting process - Jeff Pritzl

- Conference call with this committee on March 6 to finalize population estimates

### Ojibwa Deer Hunting Updates - Travis Bartnick

- Decline in off-reservation deer harvest in ceded territories in 2018
- Decline in number of night hunting shooting plans, no deer registered under night hunting shooting plans in 2018

### CWD Update - Dan Storm

- Increase in Midwest regional distribution of CWD in 2018
- 55 CWD [affected counties](#) in Wisconsin
- Increased surveillance efforts in west central and north central areas in reaction to Eau Claire and Oneida/Lincoln county wild CWD positives found in early 2018

- 16,850 total deer samples analyzed in 2018 (70% increase from 2017)
- >1,000 CWD positives identified this year
- 2019 sampling strategy is to be determined, awaiting restructuring of CWD team

#### **WSI Status for 2019 - Joe Dittrich**

- Low [WSI during December](#) in northern part of the state
- Average 14 points across northern part of the state
- Highest values around 22 points due to cold snap in January in northern part of the state
- Discussion: making WSI more reflective of conditions (brief severe conditions, etc.)

#### **First-run population estimates for 2018**

- 2018 post-hunt deer population estimate: 1,344,800 - 1,647,500 deer (95% confidence)
- Only DMUs with a negative pre- and post- hunt population estimate are those with boundary changes in 2018 which reduced the size of the DMU

#### **Deer Research Update - Beth Wojcik, Amanda McGraw, Dan Storm**

- Analysis of effectiveness of standardized roadside surveys to inform F:D ratio
  - Discussion: Many counties aren't collecting enough data under our current Summer Deer Observation methods
    - Committee recommendation: continue using Summer Deer Observation methods but send weekly updates to staff in each county reminding them how many observations have been completed for their county
- DMAP Research
  - Data submitted by DMAP cooperators 2016-2018
  - Over 700 deer submitted over three years
  - Large variability in carcass weight for both male and female deer
  - Large variability in inside spread of antlers
  - Carcass weight was positively correlated with the % of agriculture land cover
- Car Killed Deer
  - Collected data from fresh car killed deer in early spring (Feb - April) 2014-2018
  - Data set is robust enough that survey does not need to continue
- WSI

#### **[Damage Program](#) Update - Brad Koele**

- Agriculture Damage
  - 3,851 deer registered on agriculture damage permits (1% of statewide deer harvest)
  - ~\$940,000 appraised deer damage compensation in 2017
  - Maps of enrolled properties open to public access provided online starting in 2018
- Forest Damage policy and shooting permit issuance
  - 193 deer registered on forest damage tags in 2018
  - Mike: suggests having counties survey hunters to determine how many deer are being taken off county forest each year before they are issued damage permits
- Nuisance Deer Removal Permits
  - 1,005 deer registered on nuisance permits in 2018
  - Number of deer registered on nuisance permits increasing for the last three years
- Continued decrease in meat processors enrolled in deer donation program
  - Processors dropping out due to costs and logistics of carcass disposal
  - 11,000 deer donated in 2006 versus 1,500 deer donated in 2018

**Adjourn 3:30pm**