



# Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

## Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

### Final Report

# Public Proposals to Implement Recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report

Submitted by  
Public Action Teams

- Regulations and Season Structure Action Team
- Herd Health and Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team
- Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Action Team
- Science and Research Action Team

March 9, 2013 through July 20, 2013

### Summary

Following a period of concern expressed by the hunting public, in 2011 the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration contracted with Dr. James Kroll (Deer Trustee) to conduct an independent review of Wisconsin's deer management practices. This evaluation produced a Deer Trustee Report (DTR) in June 2012 with a total of 62 recommendations covering 10 broad categories related to white-tailed deer management in Wisconsin.

To convert 49 of these recommendations into DTR Implementation Action Items, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources began by establishing a public involvement process which consisted of four volunteer public Action Teams. Each team was assigned to develop specific implementation proposals for the recommendations related to regulations, hunting seasons, herd health, chronic wasting disease, science and research, and deer management assistance programs.

This report is the final report on the Action Teams' proposals and follows a total of seven Saturday meetings at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point – Dreyfus University Center.

***A message of thanks to our partners in conservation:***

This final report is the representation of the dedication of those in Wisconsin who have an interest in enhancing deer management in the state. Its contents have been informed by public survey results, comments, and above all – the hours of dedicated citizen volunteers who consistently met between March and July 2013, to chart the path for Deer Trustee Report implementation. This report represents a true publicly-driven process and is a real testimony to the value of deer in Wisconsin. They feed our hunting traditions, our families and our economy.

In planning for the future, the public was tasked with providing implementation proposals to the DNR on 49 of the 62 recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report. This document summarizes all of the hard work that was put into this initial stage of the Deer Trustee Report implementation process.

I want to personally thank the participants on the four volunteer action teams who dedicated seven Saturdays to develop proposals for how the DNR should implement the 49 recommendations. I also would like to thank all who took the time to learn more and get involved in Wisconsin's deer management program. It is because of you that we have such a great tradition in Wisconsin.

I promised you that this report wouldn't collect dust and because of the dedication of deer hunters, landowners and others, it has not. I am anxious to transition the proposals into action on the ground. Together we will enhance what is already considered by many to be a nationally-leading deer management program.

Next steps will include the formation of new rules, and in some cases legislation, necessary to implement management changes. We anticipate the Natural Resources Board will approve draft rule changes for public hearings during the fall of 2013. So please stay involved! We still need your input in the next phases of the process!

Our goal is to have any new rules and management practices in place for the 2014 deer season.

I hope you are as excited as I am about the upcoming deer seasons. Thank you for being an active participant in our great deer hunting tradition and thanks for all you do to keep Wisconsin's deer hunting heritage strong.

These are your deer, your traditions, and we are your DNR.

Cathy Stepp  
Secretary, Wisconsin DNR



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

**March 9 – July 20, 2013**

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## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

March 9 – July 20, 2013

## DTR Public Action Team Participants

The individuals below volunteered to participate at the Action Team meetings.

<b>Action Team</b> Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)	<b>Action Team</b> Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease (HH-CWD)	<b>Action Team</b> Regulations & Season Structure (Reg/Seasons)	<b>Action Team</b> Science and Research (S&R)
Joe Caputo Ralph Fritsch Bill Horvath Steve Ninneman Andy Pantzlaff Jim Patrick Doug Seidl Jane Severt Greg Szalewski Dale Zaug	Robert Benson Dave Clausen Mike Foy Tony Grabski Julie Langenberg Mark McCaulley Gene Reineking Bryan Richards Jim Riphon Marc Schultz Joe Weiss	Wade Anding Merlin Becker Mike Brust Andrew John Heinzl Allen Jacobson Tony Janecek Jim Kerkman Ron Kulas Marvin Kummer Dick Nikolai Mark Noll Al O'Leary Al Phelan Joshua Polland Dianne Postel-Smith Joseph Ryder David Walter Pete Weinfurtnr John Wetzel Tom Zimmer	Nan Baur Joe Brehm Jim Gillis Ed Harvey Al Horvath Chris Jennings Kris Kavelaris Scott Kirkpatrick George Meyer Paul Smith Tim Van Deelen Jerry VanCleve

## DNR Action Team Liaisons

The following Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) staff were assigned to assist each team by providing additional information, provide insights into current regulations and seasons, present relevant research and data and support Action Team meeting discussions. This staff was responsible for executing portions of the plan as related to their area of expertise primarily through the development and oversight of a focused internal team.

<b>Action Team</b> Deer Management Assistance Program	<b>Action Team</b> Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)	<b>Action Team</b> Regulations & Season Structure	<b>Action Team</b> Science and Research
Jeff Pritzl <i>District Wildlife Sup. - NED</i> Brad Hutnik <i>Forest Ecologist / Silviculturist</i> Scott Roepke <i>Assist. Big Game Ecologist</i>	Tami Ryan <i>Section Chief Wildlife Health</i> Mike Zeckmeister <i>District Wildlife Sup. – NOR</i> Tim Marien <i>Wildlife Health Assist</i>	Kevin Wallenfang <i>Big Game Ecologist WM</i> Karl Brooks <i>Deputy Chief Warden</i> Diane Brookbank <i>Bureau Director, COS</i> Sam Jonas <i>Asst. Big Game Ecologist</i>	Karl Martin <i>Section Chief, Wildlife &amp; Forestry</i> Dan Storm <i>Research Scientist</i>



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

March 9 – July 20, 2013

# 1. Executive Summary

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) was tasked with implementing the recommendations contained in the June 2012 Deer Trustee Report (DTR). These recommendations were submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Administration by a three person Deer Trustee Committee led by Dr. James C. Kroll. The overarching goal of the DTR was to enhance white-tailed deer hunting, improve the management and research of Wisconsin's deer herd through increased communication, and address areas of concern expressed by the hunting public and to further involve them in decision-making processes.

As a first step in the DTR implementation process, the WDNR grouped the 62 DTR recommendations in the DTR Executive Summary into five consistently-themed categories:

1. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) DTR Recommendations
2. Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) DTR Recommendations
3. Regulations & Season Structure DTR Recommendations
4. Science & Research DTR Recommendations
5. Administrative DTR Recommendations

The first four categories of DTR recommendations were assigned to publicly-driven Action Teams consisting of volunteers from around the state. Participation on the Action Teams was open to any member of the public representing themselves, or as a representative of an organization. Public Action Teams were formed following an initial March 9, 2013 public meeting held at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point in the Dreyfus University Center.

The purpose of each public Action Team was to review and discuss the background information related to the DTR recommendations and develop implementation proposals for the WDNR to consider when implementing the DTR recommendations.

The fifth category of DTR recommendations was related to departmental administrative processes. Because these Administrative DTR recommendations involved internal processes were simply statements that did not require further public refinement or involved issues that required independent public involvement process, they were assigned to WDNR staff working on internal Action Teams. The work of these WDNR Action Teams is not described in this report on the Public Action Teams' DTR proposals.

As with many natural resource related topics, some of the DTR recommendations had ramifications in more than one category of deer management. In these cases, recommendations were assigned to two of the Action Teams for consideration. Although some effort was made to have these teams consolidate their proposals into a single document, if agreement was not reached on a common implementation approach, both of the Action Team proposals were submitted in this report for WDNR consideration.



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

March 9 – July 20, 2013

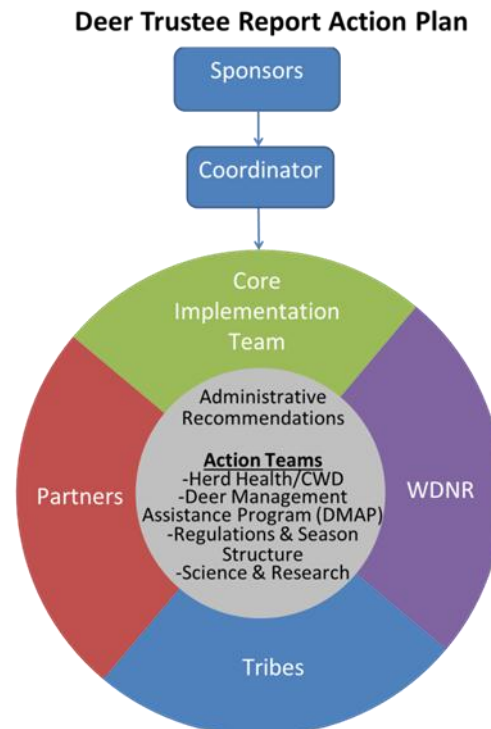


## 1.1 DTR Recommendation Implementation Process

The WDNR's formation of the Public Action Teams was part of a larger effort to implement the DTR recommendations. After the release of the DTR in 2012, the WDNR developed an action orientated DTR Implementation Approach that was approved by the Deer Trustee, tribal interests and representatives from several deer management stakeholder groups.

The WDNR's implementation initiative identified four sponsors from within the WDNR Administration to oversee the effort. The WDNR assigned a DTR Implementation Coordinator to coordinate and lead the effort along with eleven WDNR staff to form a Core Implementation Team that included tribal representation.

### DTR Implementation Structure Diagram



Core Implementation Team		
<u>Sponsors</u>	Diane Brookbank Bureau Director, COS	Jeff Pritzl District Wildlife Sup. – NED
Scott Gunderson Executive Assistant	Karl Brooks Deputy Chief Warden (LE)	Tami Ryan Section Chief, Wildlife Health
Kurt Thiede Administrator, Land Division	Jonathan Gilbert Wildlife Section Ldr, GLIFWC	Dan Storm Research Scientist
Tom Hauge Director, Wildlife Management	Brad Hutnik Forest Ecologist / Silviculturist	Kevin Wallenfang Big Game Ecologist (WM)
Shelly Allness Policy Analyst/Tribal Liaison	Karl Martin Section Chief, Wildlife & Forestry	Mike Zeckmeister District Wildlife Sup. – NOD
<u>Coordinator</u>	Jenny Pelej Communication Specialist	
Eric Lobner District Wildlife Sup. - SOD		



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

March 9 – July 20, 2013

To facilitate the Public Action Team meetings, the WDNR contracted independent third-party facilitators to assist with meeting planning, providing visual aids and maintaining a productive meeting environment for team members to deliberate alternative implementation proposals.

The Public Action Team meetings were held at the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point per the schedule below:

March 9, 2013	Introduction and invitation for public participation
April 6, 2013	Begin individual Action Team meetings with expert presentations relevant to each Team's assigned recommendations
April 27, 2013	Action Team meetings to develop implementation proposals
May 18, 2013	Action Team meetings to develop implementation proposals
June 8, 2013	Mid-Process check-in session followed by Action Team meetings to continue developing proposals
June 29, 2013	Action Team meetings
July 20, 2013	Action Team meetings and final report

## 1.2 Implementation Proposals

To assist the DTR Coordinator and Action Teams track the progress towards completing implementation proposals, an alpha-numeric numbering system was developed to provide a unique identifier for each proposal being developed and submitted.

Table A lists the prefixes used to identify the DTR report section where each recommendation is located. This should help report readers find more detail on recommendations and understand the context of the implementation proposals submitted by the Action Teams.

<b>Table A</b> <b>DTR Report Section Letter Designation</b>	
<b>A</b>	Population Management
<b>B</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons and Bag Limits
<b>C</b>	Predator Studies
<b>D</b>	Chronic Wasting Disease
<b>E</b>	Harvest Data, Herd Health and Productivity
<b>F</b>	Habitat
<b>G</b>	People
<b>H</b>	DNR Research and Technical Publications
<b>I</b>	Conservation Congress
<b>J</b>	Personnel



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

March 9 – July 20, 2013



Table B lists all of the DTR recommendations and the Public Action Team(s) they were assigned for implementation proposal development. The number shown for each recommendation in Table B corresponds to the numbering used in the DTR Executive Summary document.

For example, the first recommendation listed as “A.1 Limit use of SAK accounting style models” was the first recommendation of the DTR under the section “Population Management”.

Important Note: The wording of the recommendations is highly abbreviated to conserve space in Table B. For complete wording of the DTR recommendation, please reference the individual proposals of the Action Teams in this report or the original Deer Trustee Report available online at <http://dnr.wi.gov> keywords: Deer Trustee Report.

Table B - Deer Trustee Report Recommendations		
Recommendation	Assigned Team(s)	Page Number
A.1. Limit use of SAK accounting style models	Science / Research	81
A.2. Do away w/pop goals & estimates @ DMU level	Science / Research	84
A.3. Replace current DMU population goal definition	Science / Research	85
A.4. Develop metrics for DMU pop goal monitoring	Science / Research	86
A.5. Reduce # of DMUs, combine Farmland regions	Regulations / Seasons	61
	Science / Research	89
B.1. Simplify regulatory process, 3-5 year cycle	Regulations / Seasons	63
B.10. Maintain Bonus Buck regulation in CWD Zone	Herd / Health CWD	42
	Regulations / Seasons	71
B.11. Resolve cross-bow season issue	Regulations / Seasons	73
B.12. Resolve baiting/feeding issue outside CWD affected area	Regulations / Seasons	75
B.13. Simplify seasons, bag limits & youth qualifications	Regulations / Seasons	63
B.2. Use DMU historic demand as base for permit quotas	Regulations / Seasons	66
B.3. Increase cost of all antlerless tags to \$12	Regulations / Seasons	63



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

March 9 – July 20, 2013

**Table B - Deer Trustee Report Recommendations**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Assigned Team(s)</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
B.4. Charge fee for antlerless tags in CWD Zone	Herd / Health CWD	39
	Regulations / Seasons	63
B.5. Establish public lands antlerless permit system	Regulations / Seasons	67
B.6. Limit antlerless deer harvest in Reg & Herd Control Zones	Regulations / Seasons	63
B.7. Establish DMAP antlerless permit system	DMAP	22
B.8. Re-evaluate Oct antlerless season in CWD Zone	Herd / Health CWD	40
	Regulations / Seasons	69
B.9. Maintain current buck limit for gun & archery	Regulations / Seasons	63
C.1. Continue research on impacts of predators	Science / Research	91
C.2. Involve public w/field-based research projects	Science / Research	93
C.5. Geospatial studies of predators, esp. wolves	Science / Research	95
D.1. Consider a more passive approach to CWD in DMZ	Herd / Health CWD	44
D.10. Make Charlotte the Deer - Mascot of CWD	Herd / Health CWD	56
D.2. Develop a new sampling protocol for CWD	Herd / Health CWD	46
	Science / Research	96
D.3. Response plan focused on early detection	Herd / Health CWD	47
D.4. Implement statewide DMAP program	DMAP	22
	Herd / Health CWD	49
D.5. Provide more info on humans contracting a CWD variant	Herd / Health CWD	50
D.6. Decrease time required for CWD test results	Herd / Health CWD	51
D.7. Annual meeting of DMAP Cooperators	DMAP	22
	Herd / Health CWD	52



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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**Table B - Deer Trustee Report Recommendations**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Assigned Team(s)</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
D.8. WDNR work closely with WCC at county level	Herd / Health CWD	53
	Science / Research	97
D.9. Be proactive, use human dimensions research	Herd / Health CWD	55
	Science / Research	98
E.1. Involve public in volunteer based data collection	Science / Research	100
E.2. Conduct annual late winter field necropsy study	Science / Research	102
E.4. Annual DMAP workshop, annual report	DMAP	22
F.1. Annual range evals to assess habitat status	DMAP	22
G.1. Implement a DMAP	DMAP	22
G.2. DMAP cooperators receive annual report	DMAP	22
<i>G.3. Develop public lands antlerless permit system</i>	<i>Regulations / Seasons</i>	<i>Combined with B.5</i>
G.4. Agreements with GLIFWC, also many other factors	Science / Research	103
G.5. Expand public education / outreach efforts	DMAP	22
H.1. Establish research steering committee	Science / Research	104
H.2. Human Dimensions research development	Science / Research	105
H.5. Develop long-term research plan	Science / Research	106
H.6. Cooperative efforts with other agencies	Science / Research	107
H.7. Research projects of an applied nature	Science / Research	108
H.8. Project results should be extended to public	DMAP	22
	Science / Research	109
H.9. Develop a Wildlife Disease Unit	Herd / Health CWD	57
I.1. WCC more active role in deer mgmt decision-making	Regulations / Seasons	76
J.1. Addition of Deer Management Assistance Coordinator	DMAP	35



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

March 9 – July 20, 2013

### 1.3 'Parking Lot' Proposals

During the Action Team meetings, additional deer herd management topics were identified by the Action Teams or members of the public that did not fall within the scope of the assigned DTR recommendations. After completing and submitting implementation proposals for all of their assigned DTR recommendations, several Action Teams volunteered to continue working to submit proposals for these additional 'parking lot' items.

Table C below provides a brief statement describing these additional parking lot topics submitted by the Herd Health/CWD and Regulations & Season Structure Action Teams. A copy of their submitted proposal document is provided for further details.

Table C – 'Parking Lot' Proposals			
	Parking Lot Topic	Action Team	Page Number
#1	What does the CWD Management Zone mean? How should we define CWD Zones going forward?	Herd Health / CWD	111
#2	Revert to allowing harvest of white (albino, lutino) deer in the CWD-Management Zone.	Herd Health / CWD	113
#3	Do not continue with bans on orphaned fawn and injured deer rehabilitation associated with CWD affected areas (a request from a licensed rehabilitator from Washington County)	Herd Health / CWD	114
#4	Reducing risk of new CWD introductions in WI needs to include control of human-facilitated spread of CWD prion.	Herd Health / CWD	115
#5	Wisconsin needs to continue to support CWD research that will improve WI CWD management.	Herd Health / CWD	117
#1	Establish an antlerless only season (long and late)	Regulations & Seasons	119
#2	How do we address over-population with EAB removed by legislation?	Regulations & Seasons	120
#3	Allow group bagging for the archery season.	Regulations & Seasons	121
#4	Expand bonus buck outside of the CWD zone where ever needed	Regulations & Seasons	122
#5	Maintain the Holiday Hunt.	Regulations & Seasons	123
#6	Ban group bagging during the firearm season.	Regulations & Seasons	124

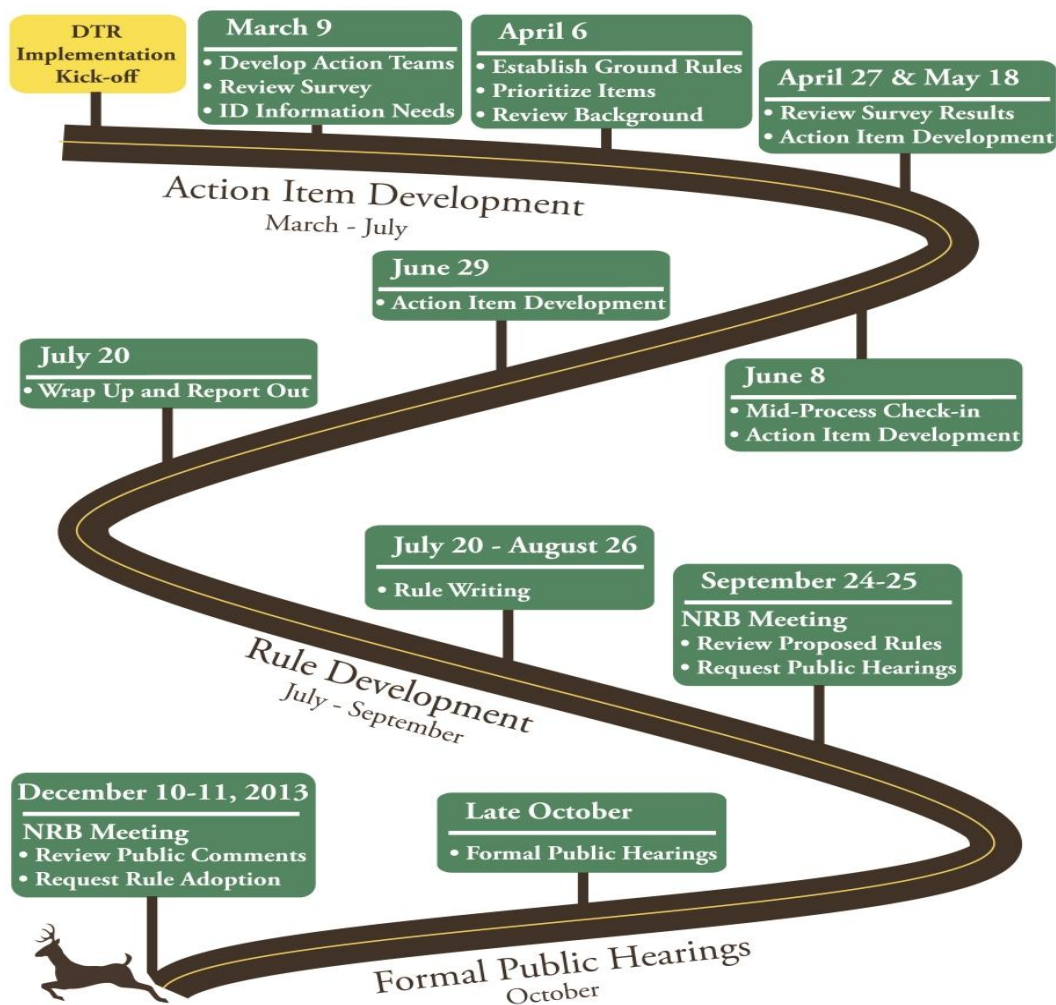


## 1.4 Next Steps

During the formation and orientation process, the WDNR explained to Action Team participants that the implementation proposals submitted represent a starting point for the lengthier process of making administrative rule and legislative changes to white-tailed deer management and hunting seasons in Wisconsin. The 'roadmap' graphic below helped to illustrate this process.

When reviewing the proposals submitted, readers should keep in mind that the Action Team's efforts were focused on developing *concept-driven* ideas for implementing the DTR recommendations versus creating final language for administrative rule changes.

The remaining WDNR, Natural Resources Board (NRB) and public input steps shown on the roadmap graphic on the next page will be announced and available on the WDNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov>. In addition, those interested in receiving announcements and updates are encouraged to subscribe to the email notifications offered by the WDNR.



\*Opportunities for Tribal involvement available throughout



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

March 9 – July 20, 2013

## 2. Action Team Proposal Highlights

The DTR Action Teams completed their work on July 20, 2013, and with the help of the facilitators presented an overview of their implementation proposals in the form of an eighteen minute narrated PowerPoint video presentation. The intent of the video presentation was to highlight key proposals in a format easier for the general public to review online.

The highlights covered in the video are presented in Table D. More complete details are found in each Action Team's detailed implementation proposals under Section 3 of this report.

**As a reminder, the highlights in Table D are highly abbreviated summaries of the Action Team proposals. Readers should reference the Action Teams' detailed final implementation proposal in Section 3 to gain a full understanding of the proposals.**

Table D – Implementation Proposal Highlights
Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Action Team
Propose a three level program which encourages working relationships at the local level between neighboring landowners. The acreage, fee and specific program requirements are as follows:
Level 1 – No Acreage Requirement, No annual fee, No on on-site visit with LO  Components: DMAP educational resources (online, print), communication opportunities with local biologist/forester, annual DMAP reports, annual workshop and meeting invitations, assistance with “citizen science” opportunities., and information on forming DMAP cooperatives.
Level 2 – 160-640 acreage requirement, 3-year, \$25/year, enrollment requirement  DNR Deliverables – site visit, mgmt. plan, harvest reports, <= 50% discount on antlerless tags  Landowner Requirements – Collection of biological data, attendance at workshop
Level 3 – 640+ acres, 3-year, \$50/year, enrollment requirement  DNR Deliverables – site visit, mgmt. plan, harvest reports, habitat assessments, population monitoring, <= 50% discount on tags  Landowner Requirements – additional biological data collection, attendance at workshop





## Table D – Implementation Proposal Highlights

Propose the establishment of a public lands DMAP on an as-needed basis based on local input by the property manager, biologist, forester, and interested citizens. Property specific antlerless tags could be issued based on local public input sessions through the property contact point.

The program should have an annual application deadline and all funding generated through the program would be redirected back to the program.

### Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

Support a “more passive” approach to CWD management than eradication and support a strategy to slow down growth and spread through some level of deer population reduction.

Propose the CWD – Management Zone designation transition from DMU boundaries to following county boundaries with the designation as “CWD affected area” similar to what is used when identifying the existing baiting and feeding ban.

Propose a Bonus Buck regulation statewide which would be used when necessary for population management and disease response.

Support the concept of an October antlerless season which should be available as a management tool statewide, however not necessarily used annually. Implementation of the season would be based on local public input and requests.

Simplify the seasons by returning to the season structures offered statewide in the CWD Management Zone, increase testing to detect spread and progress of the disease, and expand funding sources to support testing.

The response to newly detected cases of CWD in wild deer should start immediately but should consider a phase of thoughtful planning considering the local situation before moving to implementation. It should include:

- Public Involvement - establish a citizen advisory committee at the local level
- Allow the harvest of sick-appearing deer
- Enhanced surveillance to determine the scope and magnitude of the problem
- Significant and sustained herd reduction in a targeted area.
- Immediate implementation of the current law/policy that prohibits baiting/feeding of deer.



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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Table D – Implementation Proposal Highlights	
Regulations & Season Structure Action Team	
Leave the DMU boundaries as they currently exist and combine the farmland regions into three hunting zones which would have consistent season structures. Although the <b>Science and Research Action Team</b> supports maintaining recognizable DMU boundaries, they supported combining some of the DMU's based on local public input, habitat, and deer numbers.	
Simplify carcass tags by creating one generic farmland zone antlerless tag and eliminating CWD and Herd Control Antlerless tags. With the purchase of a license, hunters would be issue a statewide buck tag and one generic farmland zone antlerless carcass tag. A limited number of antlerless carcass tags in the forested zones and additional antlerless carcass tags in the farmland zones would be purchased for \$7.00.	
In overpopulated areas as identified through local input, allow additional antlerless bonus tags to be purchased. As an added incentive to harvest antlerless deer, the Action Team proposes implementing a "Bonus buck" policy available statewide.	
Propose statewide ban on baiting and feeding which was also proposed by the Herd Health/CWD Action Team. The Action Team recognized that legislative action would be required to implement this proposal.	
Support the use of crossbows by the general public to hunt deer in Wisconsin. Propose separate license for archery and crossbows and encourage the WDNR to monitor harvest rates and adjust season structures if the harvest rate changes disproportionately. Also encourage the WDNR to maintain additional disabled crossbow opportunities.	
Support the concept of an October antlerless season as a management tool statewide, however not necessarily used annually. This proposal was also supported by the Herd Health/CWD Action Team.	
Science and Research Action Team	
Although SAK has its limitations, it remains the best deer herd estimation model available and as a result, the action team proposes to continue to use the model as one tool to evaluate deer herd size. Additional metrics should be evaluated and considered, which involve local input, when making deer management decisions.	
Continue and expand research on predator impacts including long-term trail camera monitoring projects as well as fawn and adult deer mortality studies.	



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

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## Table D – Implementation Proposal Highlights

The action team proposes that the WDNR should involve the public as much as possible in research projects, expand human dimensions research while paying specific attention to the following areas:

- Develop metrics for human-dimensions using long-term monitoring, potentially including such topics as:
  - Deer hunter retention and recruitment
  - Evaluation of preferences regarding trade-offs between seeing more deer, harvesting more deer and trophy deer opportunities.
  - How much public land and MFL land would we need to increase hunter satisfaction?
  - Baiting and feeding.
  - Use of public lands and MFL land to reduces hunter conflict and increase hunter satisfaction.
- Perceptions of citizens regarding the deer population, deer impacts, predator populations, and the relationships to their expected future resource use.

The public is encouraged to continue participating in this important discussion by contributing input via email, sharing during online chat sessions and attending upcoming public meetings. Information on these opportunities to contribute input can be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov>, key words: Deer Trustee Report.



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

March 9 – July 20, 2013

### 3. Detailed Implementation Proposals

The following pages are the compilation of the implementation proposals developed by each of the Action Teams.

In addition to the information contained in these submitted implementation proposals, meeting notes for each team are included in Appendix A through D for reference. Also, short video reports were created by Action Teams following each meeting that can be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov> keywords: [Deer Trustee Report](#).

The implementation proposals are presented in the following groups and sections.

2.1 Deer Management Assistance Program

2.2 Herd Health and CWD

2.3 Regulations & Season Structure

2.4 Science and Research

For each Action Team section, a brief introduction is provided describing the scope of the team's assignment and a copy of the Action Team's Assignment Sheet. The Assignment Sheets were developed by the DTR Coordinator to help guide discussions around consistently themed recommendations the recommendations presented in the June 2012 Deer Trustee Report. While reviewing the Action Team Assignment Sheets, the recommendations that are shaded are those recommendations that were also assigned to another action team. The name of the additional action team is in parenthesis's following the recommendation.

Following this introductory material, the Action Team's implementation proposals are attached. To help readers consider the proposals, the format includes the original full DTR recommendation text along with brief paragraphs from the DTR explaining the Deer Trustee's rationale for making the recommendation.

When reviewing the implementation proposals submitted by the Action Teams, several points need to be considered. First, because some recommendations were relevant to more than one Action Team's subject area, some recommendations were assigned to multiple Action Teams. This may produce conflicting proposals for the same recommendation.

Likewise, since this public involvement process encompasses a cross-section of public perspectives on deer management in Wisconsin, the amount of material associated with each implementation proposal varies by subject. In addition, due to the nature of each individual recommendation from the report, the depth of scientific background material varies by subject.



### 3.1 DMAP Action Team

Public participants of the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Action Team are:

**Action Team**  
Deer Management  
Assistance Program  
(DMAP)

Joe	Caputo
Ralph	Fritsch
Bill	Horvath
Steve	Ninneman
Andy	Pantzlaff
Jim	Patrick
Doug	Seidl
Jane	Severt
Greg	Szalewski
Dale	Zaug

The DMAP Action Team is supported by WDNR liaison staff that responded to team requests for additional information, answered team questions and participated in discussions on how proposals might be implemented.

Jeff Pritzl, District Wildlife Sup., NED  
Brad Hutnik, Forest Ecologist / Silviculturist  
Scott Roepke, Assist. Big Game Ecologist

In addition to the meetings at Stevens Point, the DMAP Action Team held a teleconference May 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential components of DMAP in Wisconsin. Joining the Action Team on the call was Dr. Guynn who provided additional insights on the original report's recommendation for creating DMAP in Wisconsin.

The DMAP Action Team's work effort is different than the other three Action Teams. Where the other Action Teams are developing proposals for implementing changes to existing programs and practices, the DMAP Action Team was assigned the additional task of proposing how best to create a new program to improve deer management in Wisconsin. This additional work required a more general outline document to capture the components the Action Team proposed for DMAP.



## Deer Trustee Report Assignment Sheet

March 2013

### Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Action Team

**Responsibilities:** Review DMAP-oriented recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report and identify and develop the specific functions the Department should enact to meet the intent of the recommendations. Provide implementation suggestions and function as a sounding board regarding DMAP-oriented actions to the Department. As a starting point, the Action Team should focus on answering the following questions:

- What type of functions/activities should DMAP conduct or implement around the state?
- What type of benefits should be available or provided to a landowner enrolled in DMAP?
- How should DMAP be funded?

### Wisconsin DNR Action Team Liaison's

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### Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Recommendations

#### B. Hunting Regulations, Seasons and Bag Limits section

7. Establish a Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) antlerless permit system.

#### D. Chronic Wasting Disease

4. We recommend implementation of a statewide DMAP program; and, nowhere is such a program needed more than in the DMZ. (Herd Health/CWD)
7. An annual meeting of DMAP cooperators would be an excellent venue for reporting on various aspects of CWD, in addition to the topics discussed earlier. This would greatly enhance public awareness and WDNR credibility. (Herd Health/CWD)

#### E. Harvest Data, Herd Health and Productivity section

4. An annual report should be prepared for each DMU and Region summarizing these studies and a PowerPoint/video presentation developed for annual DMAP workshops and public presentations.

#### F. Habitat section

1. As both part of DMAP activities and public lands management, local biologists/technicians should be required to conduct annual range evaluations to assess habitat health and condition. Foresters also should be involved in these activities, public and private. (Admin)



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## **G. People**

1. Implement a Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).
2. Each DMAP cooperator should receive an annual report summarizing current data and trend data over years to monitor progress toward goals.
5. Expand public education/outreach efforts to serve landowners whose goals include management for white-tailed deer and other wildlife species.

## **H. DNR Research and Technical Publications section**

8. Project results should be extended to the public through media, workshops and field days, as part of the DMAP program and regional stakeholder conferences.

## **J. Personnel section**

1. We strongly suggest addition of a Deer Management Assistance Coordinator, a highly qualified individual with the following characteristics:

- 1) considerable experience with DMAP or related programs;
- 2) well respected in both the scientific and public communities;
- 3) highly skilled communicator; and,
- 4) highly motivated to work with the public.

**(Administrative)**

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*The Action Team's implementation proposals begin on the next page.*



Action Team: <b>Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons and Bag Limits <b>B.7</b> , Chronic Wasting Disease <b>D.4, D.7</b> , Harvest Data, Herd Health and Productivity <b>E.4</b> Habitat <b>F.1</b> , People <b>G.1, G.2, G.5, H.8</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	DTR Report pages 30, 56-57, 59, 69, 70, 73-74, 77, 79-80

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

**Unlike the other proposals** being drafted by Action Teams for implementing specific recommendations found in the Deer Trustee Report (DTR), the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) required a more general outline document to capture all the aspects of what such a program might look like in Wisconsin.

This document outlines the features and concepts the Action Team considered for defining DMAP in Wisconsin.

These are grouped below into the follow categories to help frame discussions, compare to similar programs in other states and present for additional public comments:

- Menu of Services Offered
- Project Size Requirements
- Application and Enrollment Process
- Fees and Fee Structure
- Administration
- Data Collection
- Annual Meetings, Workshops and Reports
- Antlerless Permit System
- Education and Outreach
- Public Land
- Pilot Program and DMAP Roll-Out
- Measurement of DMAP Success



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## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**B.7. Establish a DMAP antlerless permit system.** Regulations pertaining to DMAP Antlerless Carcass Tags will need to be developed. Major considerations include how tags are issued (individual tags sold to hunters or bundle of tags issued to cooperator for a specific property), private access or public access lands, fees, limits (per hunter, per unit of land area, Deer Management Zone), and establishment and allocation of funds generated from fees. DMAP permits are in lieu of tags issued with a license and are valid only on the specified DMAP property during regular hunting seasons.

**D.4. We recommend implementation of a statewide DMAP program; and, nowhere is such a program needed more than in the DMZ. We recommend implementation of a statewide DMAP program; and, nowhere is such a program needed more than in the DMZ. We strongly recommend immediate development of cooperator DMAP management plans involving landowners, hunters and stakeholder groups.** Establishing DMAP in the DMZ should be a high priority in implementing our recommendations. The benefits are significant. Improved landowner confidence in WDNR field biologists will serve to increase surveillance for clinically ill or recently dead animals, making possible more tracking of CWD-caused mortality. Further, this will increase buy-in by all individuals, especially in regard to population control through harvest management.

**D.7. An annual meeting of DMAP cooperators would be an excellent venue for reporting on various aspects of CWD, in addition to the topics discussed earlier. This would greatly enhance public awareness and WDNR credibility.**

**E.4. An annual report should be prepared for each DMU and Region summarizing these studies and a PowerPoint/video presentation developed for annual DMAP workshops and public presentations.** Health indices such as average number of fetuses by age, breeding phenology, lactation rates, true recruitment and antler development should be discussed.

**F.1. As both part of DMAP activities and public lands management, local biologists/technicians should be required to conduct annual range evaluations to assess habitat health and condition. These assessments would have direct field involvement by the public and DMAP cooperators.**

**G.1. Implement a Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)** We strongly recommend that a Wisconsin DMAP be developed and implemented with the objectives to: 1) improve relationships between hunters, landowners and the WDNR; 2) provide a means for site-specific management of antlerless deer; and 3) provide a data base for site-specific management that can also be used to supplement data bases for management decisions at the DMU and state levels.

**G.2. DMAP data analysis and reporting.** Each DMAP cooperator should receive an annual report summarizing current data and trend data over years to monitor progress toward goals (Appendix 4) from the Virginia DMAP as an example). Most of the report generation can be computerized and cooperators should be provided an option to allow online submission of data to reduce staff time commitments. It is desirable to provide a report of all DMAP cooperators within a DMU or other region to allow the cooperators to compare deer herd metrics on their property with overall herd conditions within their area.



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G.5. Expand public education/outreach efforts to serve landowners whose goals include management for white-tailed deer and other wildlife species. The WDNR should provide technical assistance to landowners interested in wildlife management similar to that provided to landowners interested in timber management. Technical assistance should include on-site consultations by wildlife biologists/technicians and other natural resource specialists (forestry, fisheries, agriculture, etc.), development of management plans, field days at demonstration sites, workshops, and written and online materials. Management plans should be developed from an ecosystem perspective relative to landowner goals. These activities could be facilitated by DMAP cooperators, NGOs such as QDMA, WU, NWTf and RGS, and the cooperative extension and outreach programs at the University of Wisconsin. Other information popular with deer hunters such as the Wisconsin Big Game Records maintained by the Wisconsin Buck and Bear Club and QDMA's Annual Deer Report could be linked to the WDNR website.

H.8. Project results should be extended to the public through media, workshops and field days, as part of the DMAP program and regional stakeholder conferences. This will increase credibility of WDNR and techniques used to manage deer, habitats and people.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of DMAP are:

- 1) Improve relationships between hunters, landowners, and the DNR
- 2) Provide a means for sustainable, long-term site-specific management of deer, other wildlife and their habitat
- 3) Provide a data base for site-specific management that can also be suited to supplement data bases for management decisions at the DMU and state levels

## III. MENU OF SERVICES

DMAP participation will be available to private landowners at three levels of involvement to accommodate the wide range of landowner goals and deer management options across the state. The three levels of offerings are a list of possible options that have been recommended by the DTR and its authors, Action Team members and the DNR liaisons, and by others states who offer a DMAP.

**Level 1.** This will be the entry level option, best suited for small individual properties with minimal management objectives and where a financial commitment is not required. This option is focused on the dissemination of DMAP related materials and instruction on becoming more involved in DMAP.

- **Annual fee:** \$0
- **Minimum acreage:** none
- **Offerings:**
  - Consultation (no on-site visit) on habitat management and harvest practices.
  - Informational packet of DMAP related materials.
  - Access to online resources.
  - Annual statewide DMAP report.



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- Invitation to attend annual DMAP meetings and/or field workshops.
- Information on participating in “citizen science” volunteer opportunities.
- Opportunity to collect and submit biological harvest data.
- Assistance with forming DMAP cooperatives with neighboring landowners.

○ **Participation requirements:**

- Basic online application:
  - Landowner/cooperative contact information, acreage, habitat types on property, property management and deer harvest history, management goals/objectives, current evaluation of deer herd/habitat, etc.

**Level 2.** This will be the entry level option for DMAP cooperatives and could apply to properties of all sizes.

- **Enrollment fee:** \$75 per 3 year enrollment period (per cooperative)
- **Minimum acreage:** 160 acres per individual landowner or cooperative. Cooperatives should consist of adjacent landowners when possible.
- **Offerings:** All *Level 1* offerings plus:
  - A site visit/consultation per landowner with a cooperating DMAP biologist and forester. The biologist and forester will provide a basic habitat assessment with verbal habitat and harvest recommendations.
    - Management recommendations for wildlife other than deer can be discussed based on landowner desire.
  - Management plan prepared by the cooperating DMAP biologist or private consultant.
    - DNR will provide a free management plan or the cooperative has the option of hiring a private consultant for a more detailed plan. Cooperatives will not be required to follow recommendations made in the management plan. Consulting plan writers will be certified in writing DMAP plans.

Plan components (may not be a complete list):

1. General description of property – ownership, legal description, acres, past/current land uses, habitat communities, common wildlife
  2. Land use and management goals and objectives
  3. Map – a map that includes property boundaries, roads, waterways, and habitat communities with the location of habitat management practices indicated
  4. Ecology information of target species
  5. Habitat management recommendations with an implementation schedule
  6. Recommended harvest strategies
  7. Implementation budget to perform management recommendations
  8. Resource materials – aerial photos, soil maps, technical articles on habitat management, contact information for resource professionals who prepared the plan and who can implement the management practices.
- Instruction on wildlife inventory and monitoring resources
  - Annual cooperative harvest reports prepared by the biologist
  - Reduced rate antlerless tags issued based on biologist recommendations made with landowner input. The fee for antlerless tags would be ≤ 50% of the current antlerless tag fee established for the surrounding DMU. Antlerless tags will not be



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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issued the first year of enrollment unless the cooperative can provide biological harvest data from at least one year prior to enrollment.

○ **Participation requirements:**

- Enrollment application:
  - Landowner/cooperative contact information, legal description of property, land use information, total acreage, total acreage in agricultural production, habitat types on property, property management and deer harvest history, management goals/objectives, current evaluation of deer herd, reasons for enrolling in DMAP, submission deadline, etc.
- Enrollment fee
- Collection and submission of biological harvest data annually along with harvest data (number of deer harvested, ages, weights, etc.) from at least one year prior to enrollment. The submission of data from previous years is contingent upon the availability of the data.
  - Data: Date of kill, sex, age (jawbone will be aged by the biologist or cooperatives can be trained), weight, antler measurements, lactation status, CWD tissue samples, etc.
  - Renewal should be contingent upon submission of this data. Cooperatives should be strongly encouraged to submit the data prior to the termination of the contract.
- Attendance at an annual field workshop/meeting by at least one member of a cooperative for certification purposes

**Level 3.** This option will include the full suite of program options and is best suited for medium-large properties with complex management goals and dedicated cooperatives.

- **Enrollment fee:** \$150 per 3 year enrollment period (per cooperative)
- **Minimum acreage:** 640 acres per landowner or cooperative. Cooperatives should consist of adjacent landowners when possible. DMAP project areas may be established where cooperatives could be formed by non-adjacent landowners.
- **Offerings:** All *Level 2* offerings plus:
  - Additional assistance/interaction with the landowner and/or cooperative
  - Management plan prepared by the cooperating DMAP biologist or private consultant.
    - Management plans will include the additional management options included at *Level 3*, including detailed habitat management recommendations and population monitoring techniques and can be adjusted based on management outcomes.
  - Assistance with population monitoring (i.e. trail camera surveys, spotlights counts, pellet counts)
  - Management recommendations for wildlife other than deer
  - Annual habitat assessments will be developed by the Bureau of Science Services and will be conducted by the DMAP biologist and/or forester. Landowners will be trained on the survey methods and required to participate.



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### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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- Property design/layout (“deer-scaping”) recommendations to improve hunting experiences.
- Identification and assistance with other programs and grant opportunities to conduct habitat improvement and management activities (Farm Bill programs, WDNR Landowner Incentive Program, USFWS Private Lands Program, WWOA, etc.).
  - A DMAP working group consisting of these programs may be organized by the DMAP coordinator through the development stages of the program. Partner programs may be involved on an as needed basis determined by the DMAP coordinator, biologist, forester, and landowner.
- **Participation requirements:**
  - Enrollment fee
  - Enrollment application
  - Collection and submission of biological harvest data
  - Attendance at an annual field workshop/meeting by at least one member of a cooperative for certification purposes

## IV. Project Size Requirements

### Private land

- There will not be a minimum property size for the basic program offerings (Level 1), recognizing that communication opportunities/relationship building can exist on small properties, but Level 2/3 will have minimum cooperative sizes of 160 and 640 acres (total acreage). Although DMAP is intended to be a people management program, not a deer management program, we recognize that the potential for deer herd management will be a function of property size. There is no minimum property size for individual properties included within cooperatives.
- Cooperatives between adjacent landowners will be strongly encouraged to meet the minimum acreage. Cooperatives formed between non-adjacent landowners will be at the discretion of the DMAP biologist based on land ownership and habitat patterns within the area. This will allow more cooperatives to achieve minimum acreage requirements.

### Public land

- State owned properties in Wisconsin range from a few acres to over 190,000 acres, with the average property size being 1,777 acres. County forests range from <1,000 acres to 267,000 acres with an average of 79,000 acres. National Forest districts can easily exceed the largest state and county owned properties.
- There will not be a minimum property size for public lands to enroll in DMAP. Enrollment of public lands will be at the discretion of the biologist, DMAP coordinator, and property manager with input provided by hunters and neighboring private property owners. Public lands enrolled in DMAP will not have to be contiguous acres.



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- DMAP cooperatives can be formed between adjacent public and private landowners to achieve management goals. There will not be a minimum size for these cooperatives.

## **V. APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT**

- Landowners seeking involvement in DMAP would fill out an application form indicating the location of the property, the landowner's management objectives, property history, deer harvest history, and applicant's evaluation of the deer herd.
- Dependent on the level of enrollment, additional information would be required including the location and ownership of all properties included in the cooperative, a history of prior deer management activity, and an identified coordinator or contact, which will function as the primary conduit for annual reporting, meetings, and renewal with DNR. At least one individual per cooperative will be required to attend a DMAP certification workshop (additional cooperating landowners also welcome) as a condition of enrollment. Once a cooperative is approved/established, new properties may be added to the cooperative with the consent of the biologist.
- Approval of the application will be at the discretion of the biologist primarily based on habitat management opportunities and the ecological capacity of the property to meet the goals and objectives of the landowner(s). If the number of applicants exceeds the work capacity of the staff involved, applications will be ranked based on the information provided in the application. Applicants that are not accepted will be put on a waiting list and reviewed the following year.

## **VI. FEES AND FEE STRUCTURE**

- A small annual fee will establish a commitment to the program and cover some of the costs of the program. Establishment of a fee will require legislative approval.
- The annual fee will be based on a combination of landowner goals, DMAP offerings, and property size. Cooperatives at Level 2/3 will enter a three year enrollment agreement.
  - Level 1 - \$0
  - Level 2 - \$75 for 3 years
  - Level 3 - \$150 for 3 years



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- There will not be a fee charged to public lands, or to the hunters who hunt public lands, enrolled in DMAP.
- All fees that are generated in the program (including enrollment fees and antlerless tag fees) would be used to fund the administration of DMAP.

## VII. Administration

- The success of DMAP will be dependent upon the technical expertise and communication skills of the staff interacting with the landowners and hunters. To best address the goals of DMAP as stated in the DTR, current DNR biologists should be used to deliver DMAP.
- A generic field Wildlife Biologist position description has 5% of duties dedicated to private land assistance (1 day every 3 weeks). If this time were allocated to DMAP, this would equate to 16 days/yr for a biologist to interact with DMAP cooperators.
  - site visits/habitat analysis with landowners
  - management plan development
  - annual cooperative and statewide reports
  - annual meetings/workshops
- There will be variability in DMAP participation and workload across the state. Staff position descriptions and performance objectives will need to be customized based on local needs to maintain or grow the DMAP program. One option would be to have 3-4 biologists dedicated to DMAP duties within each WM district. These biologists would possess an interest in deer management, have strong communication skills, and will attend annual trainings on current deer management techniques (possibly the QDMA deer steward courses).
- Upon full implementation, regional DMAP staff could be hired, following the current model of state Farm Bill biologists which are funded by a partnership between several agencies and conservation organizations. Regional DMAP staff would provide support to the field biologists and foresters to develop maps and management plans, collect and enter data, and schedule site visits.
- The development of a certification process will be incorporated into the program in order to meet the needs of a wider array of private landowners while keeping the administrative costs lower. The certification process will identify current and emerging management options, survey/assessment standards and requirements, management plan specifications, data collection/submission requirements, etc.

## VIII. Data Collection



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- Citizen-based Science monitoring is a growing opportunity for biologists and the public to establish cooperative relationships. Data collection by DMAP cooperators was one of the primary goals of DMAP in the DTR. The collection of biological data will be an important step in building relationships between landowners, hunters and the DNR, add to the current statewide database of biological data, and may be used to demonstrate program success. However, results from the biological data may have limited applicability to demonstrate significant changes in the local deer population due to the low sample size of deer harvested off of individual properties and hunter selectivity on these properties.
- Cooperators at *Level 2/3* will be required to collect and submit harvest data requested by the DNR, such as sex, age (or submit jawbone), weight, antler measurements, lactation status, and disease samples (ex. lymph nodes for CWD testing). At a minimum, all harvest data collected through normal registration should be collected by DMAP cooperatives. Additional data that could be used to demonstrate program success (weights, antler measurements, etc) should also be collected. Data should be submitted within 10 days of the close of the hunting season. Annual renewal in DMAP would be contingent on receipt of required data and involvement in training opportunities/workshops.
- Cooperators at *Level 3* could also be provided the opportunity to participate in standardized trail camera surveys, collection of winter severity data, deer browse surveys, and hunter observations/effort journals. DMAP biologists would analyze the data and include this information in the annual report provided to the cooperative. Trail camera surveys can be one of the most influential management tools when working with landowners to estimate local deer densities, sex ratios, buck age structure, and fawn:doe ratios.

## IX. ANNUAL MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND REPORTS

- Annual meetings of DMAP cooperators would be established at a statewide and/or regional level depending on program participation and cooperative distribution in the state. Participants at all levels of the program will be invited to attend the annual meeting.
- Annual field workshop(s) will be conducted, perhaps in conjunction with annual meetings as an overnight/second day option. Field workshops will only be offered to all program participants.
  - Field workshops will cover habitat management and property design techniques. DMAP properties should be used as demonstration properties for the workshop when possible.



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- Field necropsies (not complete necropsies) could be conducted as part of the annual workshops, if carcasses are available.
- Various partners with land conservation initiatives will be engaged to participate in workshops (and meetings) to expand the awareness of the resources they have to offer and help grow their programs as well.
- Annual cooperative reports will be provided to all cooperatives at *Level 2/3*. The report will contain a review of the previous management actions of the cooperative, harvest statistics and analysis, and habitat and harvest recommendations for the following year.
- A statewide summary of DMAP participation, accomplishments, and harvest summaries will be produced annually and be made available to the public.

## X. ANTLERLESS PERMIT SYSTEM

- DMAP cooperators will be provided a recommended antlerless harvest in consideration of their stated objectives, identified community issues related to deer abundance, and landowner input.
- Antlerless tags could be issued to DMAP cooperators when harvest needs have been identified by the landowner and DNR biologist that cannot be met by the season framework in the Deer Management Unit. This would require legislative approval.
- The fee for DMAP antlerless permits should be earmarked for DMAP implementation. This would require legislative approval.
- Antlerless tags issued to DMAP cooperatives (including public lands) would be cooperative specific, not hunter specific, meaning the cooperative could distribute the tags to any hunter that they choose. Public properties may issue tags on a first-come, first-served basis similar to how antlerless tags are currently issued.
- Reduced rate antlerless tags issued based on biologist recommendations made with landowner input. The fee for antlerless tags would be  $\leq 50\%$  of the current antlerless tag fee established for the surrounding DMU. Antlerless tags will not be issued the first year of enrollment unless the cooperative can provide biological harvest data from at least one year prior to enrollment.

## XI. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- In addition to the annual meetings, workshops, and reports for DMAP cooperators, information will be shared with the general public through online, print, and broadcast



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media to promote DMAP participation and improve the relationship between all hunters, landowners, and the DNR. The DMAP Coordinator will be in charge of developing the outreach with help from the Office of Communications:

- DMAP website with program information, technical brochures, etc.
  - DNR YouTube Channel video installments addressing deer management issues
  - Regular articles submitted to general and conservation print media
  - Promotion for TV news coverage and sponsorship of syndicated outdoor programs
  - Regular radio appearances on various talk shows
  - Appearances at annual sport shows and conservation organization conferences
  - Information and maps will be printed in many DNR publications, including the deer hunting regulations.
- These recommendations collectively will increase program participation, information sharing, overall support of the program, and most importantly cooperation & trust between landowners, hunters, and the DNR.

## **XII. PUBLIC LAND**

- Public lands across Wisconsin represent the full spectrum of deer management issues, from low deer densities that are negatively impacting recreational opportunity to high densities that negatively impact plant communities, native habitat, and commercial products.
- As such, public lands could benefit from DMAP participation:
  - Engagement of local communities and users to identify habitat improvement needs and adjustments to antlerless harvest will allow the public more opportunities to provide input on the management practices on these properties.
  - Increased promotion of wildlife habitat management by the DMAP coordinator and/or biologist on the properties enrolled.
  - Access to additional harvest opportunity (antlerless permits) where forest regeneration is a concern or reduction in antlerless harvest where warranted.
- The DMAP coordinator and biologist will work with land managers to enroll properties into DMAP on an as needed basis based on habitat evaluations, local deer populations, and public desire. In addition, the public will be encouraged to contact their local biologist, land manager, or DMAP coordinator if they feel the property could benefit from DMAP. The annual Conservation Congress spring hearings, March public deer forums, and other meetings will provide an opportunity for citizens to recommend DMAP on specific properties.



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- Local public input sessions with the property manager, biologist, forester, hunters, and landowners would be used to set antlerless harvest quotas for enrolled properties. Antlerless harvest could be increased/decreased on certain areas of the property depending on localized issues. For public lands enrolled in DMAP, hunters must possess a property-specific antlerless tag to be able to harvest antlerless deer on those properties. All other antlerless tags would not be valid on public lands enrolled in DMAP. Antlerless tags would be issued on a first-come, first-served basis similar to how antlerless tags are currently sold in regular units. Hunters would not have restricted buck harvest opportunities.
- During the initial stages of DMAP implementation, it is recommended that DMAP be used on a limited basis on public properties until more is learned about how DMAP can be applied to these properties. The initial properties that will be enrolled will be limited in number, should consist of various land owners with different management goals, and should be geographically spread across the state.

### **XIII. PILOT PROGRAM AND DMAP ROLL-OUT**

- The initial few years of DMAP will consist of a staged initiation and not necessarily a pilot, recognizing that the program will be part of deer management well into the future. The program will be allowed to change and adapt as information is learned over the first few years.
- The number and locations of initial DMAP cooperatives will be determined based on landowner goals, property size, location in the state, staff workload, and ability to demonstrate success. Applicants that are not accepted the first year will be put onto a waiting list and re-evaluated the next year.
- Annual workshops/meetings and a strong media campaign will be used to build program support and enrollment over time.
- It is anticipated that DMAP will be initiated in 2014. Prior to the implementation of DMAP in 2014, DNR biologists and the DMAP coordinator will begin to build awareness of the program through media, the DNR's website, and through conversations with the public.

### **XIII. MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS**

- The success of the of the program will indicated by measureable outcomes such as the number of cooperatives participating annually, acreage enrolled, customer satisfaction (through surveys), amount of biological data provided to the department, through observations of landowner/hunter attitudes and overall support of the program.



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- Relationship improvement will be measured by a combination of anecdotal observations of increasing or decreasing support of DNR, often appearing through media coverage; and documented experience and attitude measurements of DMAP participants and surrounding community members through surveys conducted by DNR Science Services or a contractor.
- Site-specific deer management success can be measured as it relates to DMAP participant satisfaction through the above mentioned survey. Impacts on regional deer population management will likely take years to measure, but can be accomplished with established or newly developed harvest statistics collection and deer population trend monitoring.
- Success of the program will also be monitored by the DMAP cooperators ability to provide the required biological data and remain enrolled in the program. The ability for this data to become a significant source of regional or statewide deer population monitoring will depend on the growth of the program and size of the data bases which can be established.



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Action Team: <b>Deer Management Assistance Program</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons & Bag Limits J.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 76

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

We strongly suggest addition of a Deer Management Assistance Coordinator, a highly qualified individual with the following characteristics: 1) considerable experience with DMAP or related programs; 2) well-respected in both the scientific and public communities; 3) highly skilled communicator; and, 4) highly motivated to work with the public.

## **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:

- Hire a DMAP coordinator and their primary focus should be DMAP and at a level of responsibility consistent with the DTR recommendation. Priorities should be managerial, coordination, communication, and leadership skills rather than the science. The group acknowledges that coordinator should be on the ground, in the field during the pilot program, not in the office.
- Coordinator should:
  - Primary focus is DMAP
  - Boots on the ground, property visits, annual workshop presence
  - Outreach to all parties involved
  - Salesperson skills
  - Responsibilities may change over time
  - Strong negotiation skills

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

- We acknowledge that this position is already in the works.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Need an on the ground presence.
- If this position is a section chief, will they have flexibility to dedicate more time to DMAP than other tasks?

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

Unless coordinator will be primarily dedicated to the program, and to have the leadership and communication skills to bring this to the public, the action team has reservations about the success of the program.



### 3.2 Herd Health /Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

Public participants of the Herd Health and Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team are:

#### **Action Team**

Herd Health Chronic  
Wasting Disease

Robert	Benson
Dave	Clausen
Mike	Foy
Tony	Grabski
Julie	Langenberg
Mark	McCaulley
Gene	Reineking
Bryan	Richards
Jim	Rippon
Marc	Schultz
Joe	Weiss

The Herd Health and Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team was supported by WDNR liaison staff that responded to team requests with additional information by compiling research information and information from other states, answered team questions and participated in discussions on how proposals might be implemented.

Tami Ryan Section Chief, Wildlife Health  
Mike Zeckmeister District Wildlife Sup. – NOR  
Tim Marien Wildlife Health Assistant

Below in this section is the Action Team's Assignment Sheet listing the DTR recommendations assigned, followed by the Action Team's current implementation proposals.



## Deer Trustee Report Assignment Sheet

March 2013

### Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Action Team

**Responsibilities:** Review CWD-related recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report and identify and develop the specific functions the Department should enact to meet the intent of the recommendations. Provide implementation suggestions and function as a sounding board regarding CWD-related actions to the Department. As a starting point, the Action Team should focus on answering the following questions:

- What is “passive management”?
- What methods should the Wisconsin DNR use or require for detecting disease spread?
- What do we do when we detect spread?
- What does the boundary of the CWD MZ mean?

### Wisconsin DNR Action Team Liaison's

Tami Ryan	Section Chief, Wildlife Health	<a href="mailto:tamara.ryan@wi.gov">tamara.ryan@wi.gov</a>	608.266.3143
Mike Zeckmeister	District Wildlife Sup. – NOR	<a href="mailto:mike.zeckmeister@wi.gov">mike.zeckmeister@wi.gov</a>	715.635.4090
Tim Marien	Wildlife Health Assistant	<a href="mailto:timothy.marien@wi.gov">timothy.marien@wi.gov</a>	608.264.6046

### Herd Health/CWD Management Recommendations

#### ***B. Hunting Regulations, Seasons and Bag Limits section -***

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 4. Consider charging a fee for antlerless tags in the CWD Zone.                     | (Regulations/Season) |
| 8. Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the October antlerless seasons in the CWD Zone. | (Regulations/Season) |
| 10. Maintain the Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD Zone.                                 | (Regulations/Season) |

#### ***D. Chronic Wasting Disease section -***

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. We believe it is time to consider a more passive approach to CWD in the DMZ.   |                    |
| 2. There is a clear need for a new sampling protocol for CWD in Wisconsin, one that gives a true picture of the progress of the disease; but more importantly, one designed to detect spread.                         | (Science/Research) |
| 3. Dealing with wildlife diseases is not unlike responding to wild fires, and response plan should be developed on this model, focusing on early detection of “break outs” and citizen involvement (active approach). |                    |
| 4. We recommend implementation of a statewide DMAP program; and, nowhere is such a program needed more than in the DMZ.   | (DMAP)             |



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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5. There is a need to provide more information about concerns for humans contracting a CWD variant.
6. The time required to receive CWD test results from hunter-killed animals must be decreased to a few days.
7. An annual meeting of DMAP cooperators would be an excellent venue for reporting on various aspects of CWD, in addition to the topics discussed earlier. This would greatly enhance public awareness and WDNR credibility. **(DMAP)**
8. WDNR should work closely (through the local biologist) with the Conservation Congress in developing goals and strategies at the county level. We feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective. **(Science/Research)**
9. We feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective. **(Science/Research)**
10. Charlotte the Deer should become the “Smokey Bear” of CWD in Wisconsin, serving as the centerpiece for a public education program developed with stakeholder organizations such as QDMA, Whitetails of Wisconsin and Whitetails Unlimited.

#### ***H. DNR Research and Technical Publications section –***

9. In the long-term, we recommend developing a wildlife disease unit to:

- respond quickly to CWD outbreaks;
- monitor health and disease of other wildlife species; and,
- train and support local biologists/technicians in conducting annual herd health surveys. **(Administrative)**





Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Hunting Regulations Seasons &amp; Bag Limits B.4</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 30

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**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.**

## **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:

- We support this core recommendation. For DMAP participants, we support the recommendation that comes from the DMAP Team regarding antlerless tag fees. We support the regulations committee recommendation on this matter.

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

- Free tags devalue the deer and the resources from tag sales are needed for deer and CWD management. The current state budget proposal includes language that tag fees from CWD areas would be available to support CWD surveillance and testing, which we support.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comments submitted by Team

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

- This will bring the southern CWD affected area into line with statewide approaches to tag fees.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits <b>B.8</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 30

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the October antlerless seasons in the CWD Zone.**

## **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:

- This Team supports having an October antlerless season available statewide which would be used when and where needed for population management, including response to disease.
- Authority for implementing this season should be in consultation with appropriate stakeholder groups (including but not limited to Conservation Congress, Hunting Heritage Council) with approval by the Natural Resources Board.
- Though it should be possible to qualify for bonus buck tags (where Bonus Buck has been applied) through antlerless deer harvested in an October season, there should be a limit of three (3) bucks harvested annually by one individual, total (all weapons). The WDNR deer management structure should be able to cancel the October season as needed in response to deer population changes.

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

- The availability of an October season was removed by an administrative order from the Governor in 2012.
- Many hunters perceive that having an October hunt reduces sightings of deer, and hunting success when the 9-day season starts. There are also many hunters who like the extra opportunity of the October hunt. Decisions about implementing an October antlerless hunt should always include public input.
- The Team's DNR advisors from the Northern Region view the October antlerless hunt as the best tool available for increasing antlerless deer harvest. This is a tool that may be needed in general to achieve CWD management goals in areas of new CWD detections.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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- This issue needs to be considered not just for the CWD Management Zone, but also in areas of new CWD detections, such as Washburn County. It also is a tool that should be available for other disease management and deer population management.
- This is also a tool for accessing more deer for CWD surveillance testing, so if there is an October hunt, focus should be put on testing of the harvested deer where it is appropriate.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Currently the WDNR does not have clear authority to use an October season as a tool for deer management. As a standard procedure, authority to implement this tool should reside with the WDNR with public and stakeholder input.

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

- This Team prioritizes having a simplified, statewide deer hunting season structure whenever possible. An October antlerless hunt is an important tool that WDNR should have available statewide, to be used when WDNR and its stakeholder partners decide it is needed for disease management and deer population and harvest management.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits <b>B.10</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Maintain the Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD Zone.**

## **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:

This Team supports having a Bonus Buck Regulation available statewide which would be used when and where needed for population management, including response to disease. There should be a limit of three (3) bucks harvested annually by any individual, in aggregate (all seasons and weapons). A minimum of two (2) antlerless deer should be required to qualify for a Bonus Buck tag. The WDNR deer management structure should be able to cancel the Bonus Buck Program as needed in response to deer population changes.

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

- We recognize that some hunters are uncomfortable with higher buck harvest, but there are situations (including CWD affected areas) where allowing the harvest of more bucks is important.
- It is important that the WDNR has tools that work to remove more deer, especially antlerless deer, to manage deer populations that are too high and to control disease impacts. Bonus Buck is an effective current tool to increase deer harvest and promote antlerless harvest.
- The Bonus Buck Program needs to be applied thoughtfully and there needs to be continued creative thinking about how to provide incentives to private landowners and DMAP participants to contribute to deer population reduction, where needed.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- There must be continued attention to keeping hunting season structure simple, even while using the Bonus Buck Program.
- Conflicts between private and public land users are likely.



**Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

March 9 – July 20, 2013

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

- Deer hunting management will be simplified when the same tool, the Bonus Buck Program, is available to be used for disease management and deer population management statewide.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health / CWD</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 56

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**We believe it is time to consider a more passive approach to CWD in the DMZ. As noted by the 2003 Audit Committee, "Severe deer population reduction in affected areas is not a benign treatment, and like the disease, the deer depopulation process will have long-term negative effects on the hunting culture and tradition. Because of this, efforts to depopulate free-ranging deer should not be continued any longer than there is reasonable hope that they will be effective." We feel that time is NOW!**

## **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:

- We do agree that the approach should be "more passive" than deer population eradication, but we feel that some level of deer population reduction is currently a strategy to attempt to slow down growth and spread. We believe there is a need to minimize further impacts of CWD on the state and that slowing down the growth and spread of CWD from the current Management Zone is a necessary piece of minimizing CWD's impact.
- Herd management should be based upon habitat, public acceptance and tolerance of herd population levels and disease.
- For hunting season structures in the Management Zone, we recommend a return to statewide seasons, specifically:
  - Continue the traditional 9 day gun season.
  - Continue the Archery season.
  - Continue the Muzzleloader season.
  - Continue the Youth Hunt.
  - Continue a Holiday Hunt (possibly reduced length), but for antlerless deer harvest only.
  - Establish a total yearly maximum buck harvest of 3 (in aggregate among all seasons and weapons).
  - In the CWD Management Zone, we recommend that sharpshooting only be used for harvest of sick or injured deer.
  - Consider the establishment of an October antlerless season (please see Recommendation #B.8)



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

March 9 – July 20, 2013



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

- We think this proposal is based on Dr. Kroll's analysis, concluding CWD is not increasing in prevalence. There are peer-reviewed publications documenting an increase in prevalence.
- A result of a more passive approach to CWD management is growth and spread of the disease.
- We are concerned about the currently unknown human health risk.
- CWD is not a native disease or natural part of Wisconsin ecosystems; we are concerned about the possibility of broader ecologic and landscape consequences from continued growth and spread.

## 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comments submitted by the Team

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

- This approach will greatly simplify deer hunting and deer management in WI, and open the possibility to allow elimination of a special CWD zone and a return to statewide seasons for most deer hunting regulations.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health / CWD</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.2</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 56

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**There is a clear need for a new sampling protocol for CWD in Wisconsin, one that gives a true picture of the progress of the disease; but more importantly, one designed to detect spread. Sampling should continue within the DEZ to monitor conditions over time; but resources should be focused on detecting new cases outside the DEZ to support detection of outbreaks and rapid response.**

## **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:

We support the intent of this proposal, acknowledging that over the last decade there have already been changes made to the state's CWD surveillance program to maximize the chance of detecting changes in disease distribution. We recognize that there will need to be more testing to achieve all the critical surveillance goals – detection of spread, tracking of the progress of the disease. An increased level of testing (potentially a minimum of 20,000 tests annually) may be required to accomplish statewide surveillance goals (including detection, monitoring, and hunter service). Surveillance information should be made available to the general public on the agency's website. There will need to be new, larger and stable sources of funding to achieve this. This Team supports a renewed effort to expand funding sources to support testing.

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

- Over several years, there have already been many changes in the strategies and tools used for surveillance: a weighted surveillance strategy, a focus on finding and testing sick deer, working with taxidermists on a voluntary program to access older buck samples, etc. This appears to already be improving our ability to find new areas where there are CWD deer, and in a more cost effective way.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Cost is a major obstacle to do enough testing to achieve all the surveillance goals (new areas, out-state, CWD Management Zone, etc.). This Team supports a renewed effort to find new sources to support testing: conservation organizations, government funding, hunter testing fee, small increase in license fees (\$2-5?), voluntary donations (license application, etc.), and others.

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

*No comments submitted by team*



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

March 9 – July 20, 2013

Action Team: <b>Herd Health / CWD</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.3</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 56

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

Dealing with wildlife diseases is not unlike responding to wild fires, and response plan should be developed on this model, focusing on early detection of “break outs” and citizen involvement. EARLY detection of CWD in the current DMZ may have allowed a focused eradication effort using trained sharpshooters. Yet, no one ever will know. In the wild fire analogy, a fire is controlled easily when it first starts, but uncontrolled there is a point where control is out of the question; leading to a fall back strategy to defend what is in its path. We believe this is the case for the DMZ. Hence, the reaction to the Shell Lake infected deer, although much more reasoned than in 2002, should have included a faster response to determine the extent of distribution. Waiting until deer season in fall of 2012 to sample for CWD is not adequate. A proper approach would have been use of a health check/surveillance team (discussed later) deployed immediately on such a finding. In addition, use of local observers and cooperators to find and report sick or dead deer would have provided a non-lethal first response. Once the geographic context is determined, the appropriate action should be focused, localized eradication. Mistakes were made in this particular case, including leaving an infected carcass on the landscape for some time and delays in testing the suspected animal.

## **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:

The response to newly detected cases of CWD in wild deer should start immediately but should consider a phase of thoughtful planning considering the local situation before moving to implementation. It should include:

- Request public involvement through quick establishment of a citizen advisory committee with diverse representation, for information sharing, consideration of options, stakeholder input, and development of strategies to get public buy-in to management choices.
- Use of existent (or perhaps more efficient) DNR policy to allow harvest of sick-appearing deer, using information on the DNR website (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/sickdeer.html>) or by contacting the local warden or DNR Tip Line (1-800-TIP-WDNR).
- Enhanced surveillance to determine the scope and magnitude of the problem. This usually should be done as soon as practical, not waiting until the next deer hunting season. Strategies for sample collection that should be considered include landowner permits, road-kill salvage, and encouraging public reporting and harvest of sick deer.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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- Significant and sustained herd reduction in a targeted area (chosen based on surveillance findings) with herd goals as low as the public input supports. The citizen advisory group and public stakeholders should be able to consider using extended seasons and tags (including landowner tags), agency harvest where appropriate (cooperating private lands, public lands, cooperating municipalities), and financial and other incentives for harvest of CWD-affected deer. We also support offering DMAP participants as many permits as they want to use for reduction of the herd they manage.
- Immediate implementation of the current law/policy that prohibits baiting/feeding of deer when CWD is found. This Team also supports the Rules/Regs Team recommendation to adopt a statewide ban on baiting, and thinks there should also be consideration of a statewide ban on feeding.
- As technology becomes available, harvest emphasis should switch to harvest of diseased animals.

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

- No additional comments submitted by Team

## 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Many of these recommendations will require further work by the DNR and other parts of government for implementation. Public participation which is so critical is dependent on citizen understanding of CWD risks and management strategies, so education before and in response to new outbreaks will be needed.

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

- Effective management of new outbreaks may mean some adaptation of season structure and other deer management structure in the outbreak area. The desire is to manage as much as possible within a statewide season structure.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health / CWD</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.4</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 56-57

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**We recommend implementation of a statewide DMAP program; and, nowhere is such a program needed more than in the DMZ. We strongly recommend immediate development of cooperator DMAP management plans involving landowners, hunters and stakeholder groups. Establishing DMAP in the DMZ should be a high priority in implementing our recommendations. The benefits are significant. Improved landowner confidence in WDNR field biologists will serve to increase surveillance for clinically ill or recently dead animals, making possible more tracking of CWD-caused mortality. Further, this will increase buy-in by all individuals, especially in regard to population control through harvest management.**

## **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:

We support this recommendation, because we feel that landowner education and engagement in CWD management are critical. It is important that the deer management alternatives available to DMAP participants in the Management Zone be consistent with this Action Team's recommendations on CWD disease management. The DMAP deer management alternatives should also be consistent with the general deer hunt framework.

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

- No comments submitted by Team.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Other agency land management programs need to aware of and understand the CWD Zone DMAP program.

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

- No comments submitted by the Team.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.5</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 57

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**In spite of considerable efforts to the contrary, public education remains a problem in the DMZ. There is a need to provide more information about concerns for humans contracting a CWD variant. Long-term occurrence rates of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or suspected related cases within the zone should be monitored. Data should be available for the period prior to and after CWD.**

## **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:

We support this recommendation. DNR and Division of Public Health should enhance and make more accessible, information about CWD and human health risks. The basic message should include acknowledgement that though there is no evidence that humans can acquire CWD from eating meat from a CWD-infected deer, that there is much research to be done on that possibility. The basic message should be available in a prominent position in the annual deer regulations and updated more extensive information should be easily accessible through DNR and Division of Public Health websites.

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

- Research has already identified that venison and blood can contain small concentrations of CWD prion, so normal field dressing of a carcass will not necessarily remove all CWD prion.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Accessibility is important; information must also be available to non-computer users.

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

- Taking this approach could complicate deer management and create need for more testing and more research (which will add costs), but providing information to the public, including deer hunters and their families is a responsibility.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.6</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 57

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**The time required to receive CWD test results from hunter-killed animals must be decreased to a few days. We applaud Wisconsin for providing these tests free-of-charge. A permanent fund should be established to support this work, perhaps using a small increase in hunting license or tag fees.**

## **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:

We agree with the majority of the surveyed public, the time required for CWD test results is currently acceptable. However, cost effective improvement in the time required should be a long term objective. Alternate testing opportunities need to be communicated broadly.

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

- The results of the DTR Survey completed at the start of the implementation process indicates that 81.9% of the respondents feel that a 21-day turnaround time for test results are either "More than acceptable" (23.0%) or "Acceptable" (58.9%).

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Recommend DNR investigate an expedited test for a service and/or fee.

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

- *No comments submitted by the team*



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.7</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 57

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**An annual meeting of DMAP cooperators would be an excellent venue for reporting on various aspects of CWD, in addition to the topics discussed earlier. This would greatly enhance public awareness and WDNR credibility.**

## **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:

We support this recommendation that CWD consistently be included in any annual DMAP meetings but we do not support or reject the DMAP concept. We support that additional to the DMAP annual meeting, there should be other forums in which stakeholders have an opportunity to get updated CWD information and provide input on CWD management.

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

- None listed by the team.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comments submitted by the team.

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

- No comments submitted by the team.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.8</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 57

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**WDNR should work closely (through the local biologist) with the Conservation Congress in developing goals and strategies at the county level.**

## **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:

We support regular meetings between WDNR and WCC for mutual education and issues discussion on CWD/herd health management on a county level or other appropriate geographic scale. But it is important to also maintain the independence of the 2 institutions. There are already regular WCC county and district meetings that could be the forum for these CWD/herd health discussions. And public and stakeholder input on CWD/herd health management issues should ALSO occur through other forums, particularly any local Citizen Advisory Groups that have been formed in response to a new CWD detection.

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

- There is a need for citizens to understand the roles and activities of the WCC in its work with the WDNR and the NRB.
- The goals of the WDNR –WCC collaboration on CWD/herd health goals and strategies perhaps need to be better defined.
- There is value in the Natural Resources Board hearing somewhat independently from WDNR staff and the WCC, so this should not be defined as WDNR and WCC bringing joint CWD/herd health recommendations to the NRB.
- There is value in the interchange between WDNR staff and WCC members, to improve understanding of issues and different perspectives.
- Sometimes it will be appropriate for this interchange to be focused at the county level, but there should be recognition and flexibility so this interchange can happen with multiple counties represented or at the WCC district level, if appropriate.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- The time that WDNR local biologists have available is not infinite and needs to be prioritized, so being thoughtful of how this is implemented is important (especially as DMAP implementation also is being considered).



- Science based CWD/herd health management recommendations may not always be supported by the public.
- The value that will be built by enhanced WDNR and WCC engagement should be respected and not compromised by legislative and higher executive branch decision-making.

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

- Though more WDNR and WCC engagement will of course mean more time spent, the mutual education should hopefully also simplify the process of decision-making.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.9</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 57

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**We feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective.**

## **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:

We support the use of human dimensions research as part of optimal CWD management. However, this needs to be rigorous research (with well thought out targeted study subjects and approaches). We recommend consideration of studies closely tied to chosen CWD management actions, incorporating pre-action assessment of stakeholder attitudes and actions and monitoring of how the management action changes attitudes and actions.

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

- Human dimensions research has been part of Wisconsin's CWD response over the last decade, but there is clearly need to better understand stakeholders attitudes and actions.
- There is a need for rigorous research on stakeholders' attitudes and action choices, as they relate to CWD/herd health management. Surveys and other methods for collecting hunter/landowner input have value, but decision-makers need human dimension research with a well-defined study set and expert analysis and interpretation.
- This work should be done collaboratively between the WDNR and independent and scientific (university) researchers to maximize credibility and use of state-of-the art approaches.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Good research takes money, time, and planning.

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

- Good research may help simplify publically accepted management.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.10</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 57

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Charlotte the Deer should become the "Smokey Bear" of CWD in Wisconsin, serving as the centerpiece for a public education program developed with stakeholder organizations such as QDMA, Whitetails of Wisconsin and Whitetails Unlimited.**

## **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:

We do not believe that the specific DTR recommendation should be implemented, though we support the need for more CWD public education efforts. "Charlotte the Deer" is not a good choice for a centerpiece, because this is a complex issue more about illegally taken wildlife than about CWD.

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

- Charlotte was an illegally held wild deer in Walworth County that the Department was initially informed about through a hotline complaint in the summer of 2011. It was determined that the deer was held within the CWD-MZ for over one year. Per department pilot policy the deer could not be rehabilitated and released to the wild, or transferred to a captive facility, and euthanasia was recommended. This resolution was unacceptable to the citizen in possession of the deer and the case was taken to the Walworth County District Attorney's office and was ultimately resolved via a Governor pardon which directed the DNR to allow Charlotte to remain with the citizen as a pet.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- With rejecting the specific "Charlotte the Deer" approach to public education, we are definitely not rejecting the importance of CWD public education. Once the goals on CWD are re-developed, it will be important to re-enforce CWD outreach to help meet those goals.

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

- No comments submitted by the team*





Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	DNR Research and Technical Publications <b>H.9</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 77

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**In the long-term, we recommend developing a wildlife disease unit to: 1) respond quickly to CWD outbreaks; 2) monitor health and disease of other wildlife species; and, 2) train and support local biologists/technicians in conducting annual herd health surveys.**

## **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:

A DNR Wildlife Health Unit has existed for over 30 years. It is supported by technical staff in other states and federal agencies. It works well with the existing organization and a large cadre of field staff.

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

- The existing Wildlife Disease Unit works well with current budget staff and organizational structure.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- The main concern of the Action Team is whether the Wildlife Health Team will have the resources to handle the expected response with increasing CWD distribution and prevalence while still handling other disease and species challenges.

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

- Action Team doesn't anticipate this proposal will result in a significant change.



### 3.3 Regulations & Season Structure Action Team

Public participants of the Regulations & Season Structure Action Team are:

#### **Action Team Regulations and Season Structure**

Wade	Anding
Merlin	Becker
Mike	Brust
Andrew John	Heinzl
Allen	Jacobson
Tony	Janecek
Jim	Kerkman
Ron	Kulas
Marvin	Kummer
Dick	Nikolai
Mark	Noll
Al	O'Leary
Al	Phelan
Joshua	Polland
Dianne	Postel-Smith
Joseph	Ryder
David	Walter
Pete	Weinfurtnr
John	Wetzel
Tom	Zimmer

The Regulations & Season Structure Team is supported by WDNR staff that functioned as liaisons to the action team by responding to team requests by compiling research information and harvest and management information from other states, answered team questions and participated in discussions on how proposals might be implemented.

Kevin Wallenfang, Big Game Ecologist (WM)  
Karl Brooks, Deputy Chief Warden (LE)  
Diane Brookbank, Bureau Director, COS  
Sam Jonas, Asst. Big Game Ecologist

In addition to the meetings at Stevens Point, the Regulations & Season Structure Team held a teleconference July 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss proposals prior to the final meeting.

Below in this section is the Action Team's Assignment Sheet listing the DTR recommendations assigned to the team, followed by the Action Team's implementation proposals.



## Deer Trustee Report Assignment Sheet

March 2013

### Regulations/Season Structure Action Team

**Responsibilities:** Review the Regulation and Season-oriented recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report and identify and develop the specific functions the Department should enact to meet the intent of the recommendations. Provide implementation suggestions and function as a sounding board regarding the Regulation and Season-oriented actions to the Department. As a starting point, the Action Team should focus on answering the following questions:

- What should the season framework look like into the future?
- What different types of seasons and permits should be available across the state?
- What type of process and metrics should be used to define an acceptable deer population at the county level?

### Wisconsin DNR Action Team Liaison's

Kevin Wallenfang	Big Game Ecologist (WM)	<a href="mailto:kevin.wallenfang@wi.gov">kevin.wallenfang@wi.gov</a>	608.261.7589
Karl Brooks	Deputy Chief Warden (LE)	<a href="mailto:karl.brooks@wi.gov">karl.brooks@wi.gov</a>	608.266.7820
Diane Brookbank	Bureau Director, COS	<a href="mailto:diane.brookbank@wi.gov">diane.brookbank@wi.gov</a>	608.267.7799
Sam Jonas	Asst. Big Game Ecologist	<a href="mailto:samuel.jonas@wi.gov">samuel.jonas@wi.gov</a>	608.264.6023

### Regulations/Season Structure Recommendations

#### A. Population Management section

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 5. Reduce the number of DMUs and combine the Farmland regions. | <b>Science/Research</b> |
|--|-------------------------|

#### B. Hunting Regulations, Seasons and Bag Limits section

1. Simplify the regulatory process by setting antlerless harvest goals, harvest regulations and antlerless permit quotas on a 3-5 year cycle.
2. Base Antlerless Permit Quotas on DMU historical demand.
3. Increase the cost of all antlerless tags for Regular and Herd Control Units to \$12.
4. Consider charging a fee for antlerless tags in the CWD Zone. **(Herd Health/CWD)**
5. Establish a public lands antlerless permit system.
6. Limit antlerless deer harvest in Regular and Herd Control Zones.



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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8. Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the October antlerless seasons in the CWD Zone.  
(Herd Health/CWD)
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.
10. Maintain the Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD Zone. (Herd Health/CWD)
11. Resolve the cross-bow season issue through the public involvement process.
12. Resolve the baiting and feeding issue outside CWD affected areas.
13. Put the fun back into hunting by simplifying seasons, bag limits and youth qualifications!

#### **G. People section**

3. Develop a public lands antlerless permit system.

#### **I. Conservation Congress**

1. We feel the Conservation Congress must have a more active role in deer management decision-making at the local level.



Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	Population Management <b>A.5</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 25

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**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.

**REVISED 7-20-2013**

### 1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

It was supported unanimously to leave the DMU boundaries as they currently exist and combine the farmland regions into three hunting zones. Additionally, it was supported (14 yes, 2 no) to eliminate the need for a CWD zone with the creation of farmland hunting zones.

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

- An initial vote was taken 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.



**Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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### 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.

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

- Many units have 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.



Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits <b>B.1,3,4,6,9,13</b>
<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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**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.**

**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.**



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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## 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.

Revised 7-20-13

### 1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

With the purchase of a gun or archery deer license you will be issued a buck tag valid statewide and an antlerless deer carcass tag for farmland zones only. Any additional antlerless tags will need to be purchased for \$7.00. The purchase of the \$7.00 antlerless tags in the farmland zones will be limited to two per day until the zone is sold out or the season is closed. It was also supported (16 yes, 1 no) to maintain the Non-resident fee of \$20 for bonus antlerless tags. In the regular units the group recommended the purchase antlerless tags be limited to one per day until the unit is sold out or season is closed. Northern and Central forest zones shall be evaluated on an annual basis and farmland zones shall be evaluated on a 3 year cycle, this was supported (12 yes, 0 no). Additionally, it was supported (12 yes, 2 no) to limit hunters to only 1 bonus buck and maintain the limit of one buck per deer gun license and one buck per deer archery license (3 total bucks).

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

- Revision of B-1,9,13: Issue one either sex tag statewide with purchase of gun and archery license was originally supported but later redacted
- Revision of B-3,4,13: Eliminate the statewide free antlerless tag with purchase of gun or archery license was supported but later redacted
- Revision of B-3,4,6,13: Sell individual antlerless tags for \$12.00 statewide, eliminate the sale of 3 antlerless tags in a package for \$20.00 was originally supported but later redacted
- Revision of B-6,13: Limit the sale of one antlerless tag for \$7.00 to one per day until zone is sold out or season is closed was supported

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- The 3 farmland zones - gun deer license valid for either sex was originally supported but later revised to current proposal
- 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.
- This will be set only for 3 farmland zones to reduce numbers

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

- A recommendation of 3 tags in a package for \$20 was originally supported but then later revised to a plan to sell individual antlerless tags for \$7.00 statewide. The rationale is that the majority of hunters bags one or zero deer each year, and the \$7.00 tag will be consistent and simple.



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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

- 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
- 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



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

March 9 – July 20, 2013

Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits <b>B.2.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 29

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Base Antlerless Permit Quotas on DMU historical demand. Even when justified by SAK Indices or other indicators of population size, unlimited or large antlerless permit quotas that greatly exceed historical demand do little to increase actual harvest. However, they are likely to be met with concern and resistance by hunters. We commend the WDNR for using this approach in their 2012 Deer Season Recommendations.**

## **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:

Accept DTR recommendation B-2 as is, "Base antlerless permit quotas on DMU historical demand."

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

- A recommendation to use DMAP to address local over population numbers was not supported.
- The hunter success rate in each unit helps determine the number of permits required to meet the antlerless quota.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- When you establish permit quotas on historical demand, are you underselling the problem of over-population? If the number of permits offered doesn't reflect over-population then you are saying there isn't a problem.
- To reduce the herd, offering permits based on historic demand may not allow the opportunity to harvest the established quota needed based on scientific demand. Although we do not have DMAP at this time, it could potentially offer additional antlerless tags where needed.

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

- No comments submitted by the team.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

March 9 – July 20, 2013

Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits <b>B.5</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 30

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Establish a public lands antlerless permit system. A public lands antlerless permit system would address public concerns about potential overharvest of deer on these lands, especially the National Forests, and allow the WDNR to affirm the value of public lands to deer hunters and better respond to the potential impacts of maturing forests and predation on deer populations. During the Town Hall Meetings, we heard many comments about private landowners killing antlerless deer on public lands but not on their own land. This issue could be addressed through the DMAP for public access lands enrolled in the program.**

## **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.

Revised 6-8-13

### 1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

Restrict the days of hunting with antlerless harvest on public lands – public land is defined as any publically owned land. Let the DNR decide the days. Bow hunting and muzzleloader season will remain unchanged. Youth will be exempt from this.

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

- A recommendation to restrict the number of hunting days on public land for antlerless harvest was supported.
- A recommendation that youth are to be exempt from this restriction was supported.
- A recommendation that antlerless permits would be based on percentage of deer range on public vs. private property was supported.
- A recommendation that opening weekend shall be buck only harvest on public lands and Mon/Tues either sex harvest was not supported.
- A recommendation to restrict the use of antlerless tags exceeding an (x) amount of acreage of public land was not supported.
- A recommendation that Gun deer licenses are limited by a lottery system was not supported.
- A recommendation that a Private landowner with more than 10 acres cannot hunt antlerless deer on public land was not supported.



**Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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- Developing additional tags for public vs. private land will be complex and costly for the DNR. DTR survey shows the public is behind the idea of developing a private vs. public land tag system of some sort.
- **June 8 Revision** of B-5: Change definition of public land from public access to publically owned lands was supported

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Game retrieval may cause problems – shoot in private, retrieve on public. Problems with enforcing any quotas, special tags, etc.
- DNR should decide what days to allow antlerless harvest on public land. Need to have a good definition of public land – state, federal, county MFL?

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

- It might cause some confusion and complication with regulation changes and determining days of antlerless harvest



Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits <b>B.8.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 30

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the October antlerless seasons in the CWD Zone. Just over 2,000 deer were harvested during the 2011 CWD October hunt. Van Deelan et al. (2006) reported that harvest during antlerless-only hunts such as the October hunt is additive to that taken during other seasons. Analyses presented in the CWD section of this report are counter to this conclusion. With this level of harvest, it is questionable if the additive effect of harvest in the October hunt is worth the concerns of hunters about the impacts of this hunt on deer behavior during the 9-day November gun season. We recognize the challenges of WDNR and most state wildlife agencies in managing overabundant deer herds through regulated hunting as discussed by Holsman (2000) and Vercauteren et al. (2011), but this gesture would increase focus on the opening day of the 9- day gun season that many hunters desire. The youth, archery, muzzleloading, and other antlerless seasons would remain unchanged.

## **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.

Revised 6-29-13

### 1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

Should not have an annual October antlerless hunt in the CWD zone. The DNR shall retain the emergency rule process to have an October (early season) hunt if needed. Reasons to constitute an emergency rule shall be due to areas with overpopulation, CWD presence and other disease presence such as Tuberculosis or high crop damage, high car killed deer numbers, and the DNR shall utilize the science group metrics prior to an emergency rule. If the October hunt is authorized under the emergency rule process then the early antlerless only hunt in the CWD zone can take place on public and private properties.

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

- Revisions added 6/29/13
- Areas with overpopulation, CWD and other disease such as TB, CWD presence, high crop damage, high car killed deer all constitute and emergency rule was supported (14 yes 0 no)
- Utilize science group metrics to constitute and emergency rule was supported (7 yes 1 no)
- Allow DNR to manage the deer herd while utilizing public participation statewide (12 yes, 2 no)
- Topics discussed 5/18/13



# **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

## **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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- A recommendation that we should we have an annual October antlerless season in CWD zone was not supported.
- A recommendation that the WDNR shall retain the process through emergency rule to have the ability to establish a CWD antlerless season was supported
- A recommendation to establish an early (prior to Oct 15) antlerless only hunt through the emergency rule process on private land in CWD zone was supported.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Keeping October hunt may lead to a conflicting situation – similar to “earn a buck”
- This past fall was the first season of archery hunt without an October gun hunt since 2002. We need information from previous years to determine if the harvest is additive was shown and supported by the team.

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

- No comments submitted by the team.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

**March 9 – July 20, 2013**



Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits <b>B.10.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Maintain the Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD Zone. The EAB regulation was repealed by the Wisconsin Legislature in 2011 prior to the beginning of this evaluation. The regulation was highly effective in increasing antlerless harvest (Van Deelen et al. 2006), but was unpopular with hunters because of the requirement that an antlerless deer be harvested prior to taking a buck. Beginning in the 2011 hunting season, hunters in the CWD Zone were able to harvest either an antlered buck or an antlerless deer as their first deer. Hunters wishing to pursue additional deer including antlered bucks were able to do so under a Bonus Buck permit. Virginia uses a similar strategy on private lands by allowing hunters to first harvest a buck, but then requires the hunter to harvest at least one antlerless deer before a second buck can be taken. This strategy has been effective in increasing antlerless harvest and popular with hunters (<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/deer/eab/>). The original EAB concept could be applied on private DMAP lands and even enhanced by requiring the harvest of two or more antlerless deer prior to taking a buck if the property owner so chooses. This is a common practice used on private lands in the southeastern United States.**

## **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.

Revised 7-20-13

### 1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

It was supported unanimously to accept DTR recommendation B-10 as is, "Maintain Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD zone." As well as increase the requirement of harvest to two or more antlerless deer prior to the issuance of a bonus buck sticker. Additionally, it was supported (12 yes, 2 no) to limit hunters to only 1 bonus buck and maintain the limit of one buck per deer gun license and one buck per deer archery license (3 total bucks).

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

- A recommendation for the requirement to harvest two or more antlerless deer prior to being able to harvest a bonus buck was supported.
- A recommendation to extend the bonus buck statewide was not supported.
- Earn a buck was removed by legislation; bonus buck is the best tool for reduction of the deer herd remaining.
- It was not supported (6 yes, 10 no) to allow 2 bonus bucks (4 total bucks) and it was also not supported (2 yes, 13 no) to have no limit to bonus buck



**Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

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3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- If done statewide, this would cause more privatization of hunting land; all hunters would be able to kill more bucks.
- If done statewide, there would be a lot of political backlash as it may be viewed as “earn a buck.”
- What if the CWD MZ disappears?

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

- No comments submitted by the team.



Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits <b>B.11</b>
<b>[ ] Draft [ X ] Submitted</b>	Deer Trustee Report Page 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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Resolve the cross-bow season issue through the public involvement process. The nationwide trend is toward accommodating cross-bow archers in some way, be it special seasons, overlapping seasons or age-limited use in all seasons. Studies in Ohio have shown crossbows attract younger hunters to archery and allow older hunters to remain in the field, in spite of physical limitations.**

## **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.

Revision 7-20-13

### 1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

Cross-bows shall have a separate license for archery and crossbow. The crossbow season will be monitored to adjust season structure if data showed any disproportion added to harvest based on historical data. Disabled cross-bow opportunity will be maintained. It was supported unanimously (17 yes, 0 no) to retain verbiage in AB 194 to protect 65 and older as well as the disabled.

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

- A recommendation to monitor and adjust season structure if data showed disproportion to harvest of deer compared to gun/archery harvest was supported
- A recommendation to have a separate license for archery and crossbow was supported
- A recommendation to maintain disabled cross-bow opportunity was supported unanimously
- The concept of AB-194 in its current form as of 5/17/13 is in support
- A recommendation that the crossbow season be separate from archery season was not supported
- A recommendation to have the same license for archery and crossbow was not supported
- When the gun deer season opens early – more bucks are taken by gun deer
- Michigan found that crossbows have a higher success rate than archery
- Georgia lost hunter numbers when crossbows were allowed



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## **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Will the disabled crossbow license be eliminated if the season is restricted? How would that affect the disabled? Make sure they do not lose out

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

- May complicate hunting by adding another permit and season
- Need to track the harvest separately
- Will the deer harvest be stopped when a set amount of deer are harvested for archer or crossbow? Or does the harvest continue regardless of how many deer are killed?



Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits <b>B.12.</b>
<b>[ ] Draft [ X ] Submitted</b>	Deer Trustee Report Page 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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Resolve the baiting and feeding issue outside CWD affected areas. The primary concerns expressed about baiting at the Town Hall and stakeholder meetings were the effects on deer behavior (becoming nocturnal) and potential conflicts with other hunters on public lands. While legality of baiting varies among states due to past customs, several aspects of baiting are cause for concern, especially transmission of diseases. Although Wisconsin has the most strict baiting regulations in the nation, with the current extent of CWD in the Farmland Regions and the recent discovery of a CWD positive deer in Washburn County, it is time to resolve the baiting and feeding issue as soon as possible. Involving human dimensions studies would help considerably. If not resolved, we feel spread of CWD will render this a moot point!**

## **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:

Ban baiting and feeding statewide

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

- A recommendation to leave legislation as is was not supported
- A recommendation to legalize baiting and feeding statewide was not supported
- Legislators asked for research on disease transmission via baiting and it was proving
- DTR survey showed respondents are about 50/50 on baiting issue
- Baiting and feeding artificially increases deer numbers, confounding herd control effort

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- It is a legislative matter and elected officials do not want to address it again, as it is very contentious. Legislators claim they have already addressed it with CWD rules.

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

- Baiting and feeding has created a divide amongst hunters. This proposal will help eliminate that divide and complication of where and how much bait can be used.



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Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	Personnel <b>I.1</b>
<b>[ ] Draft [ X ] Submitted</b>	Deer Trustee Report Page 79

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**We feel the Conservation Congress must have a more active role in deer management decision-making at the local level.**

## **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:

Conservation Congress should have a more active role in the deer management decision making process at the local level. WCC shall take a leadership role – solicit and summarize input at a regional level to then be provided to the DNR. WCC should have a stronger outreach and education effort. At spring hearings each county should vote on the levels of deer.

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

- A recommendation to approve DTR I-1 as is with an emphasis on public outreach/involvement and let conservation congress sort out details was supported
- A recommendation to have WCC serve as a leadership role at a regional scale and provide summary to the DNR was supported
- A recommendation to have the spring hearings in each county, allow a public vote – do you want more deer, same, or less? Was supported
- The conservation congress should have hearing around the regions after the spring county hearings.
- Tribes have government to government negotiations about the WCC, tribes role will not be delisted
- Need to revisit/re-determine: What is deer range?

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comments submitted by the team

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

- No comments submitted by the team



**Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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### 3.4 Science and Research Action Team

Public participants of the Science and Research Action Team are:

#### **Action Team**

##### Science and Research

Nan	Baur
Joe	Brehm
Jim	Gillis
Ed	Harvey
Al	Horvath
Chris	Jennings
Kris	Kavelaris
Scott	Kirkpatrick
George	Meyer
Paul	Smith
Tim	Van Deelen
Jerry	VanCleve

The Science and Research Action Team is supported by WDNR liaison staff that responded to team requests by compiling research information and information from other states, answered team questions and participated in discussions on how proposals might be implemented.

Karl Martin    Section Chief, Wildlife and Forestry  
Dan Storm    Research Scientist

To more fully discuss and deliberate on the recommendations assigned, the Science and Research Team agreed to begin meeting one hour earlier than the other Action Teams.

Below in this section is the Action Team's Assignment Sheet listing the DTR recommendations assigned, followed by the Action Team's current implementation proposals.



## Deer Trustee Report Assignment Sheet

March 2013

### Science/Research Action Team

**Responsibilities:** Review Science/Research-oriented recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report and identify and develop the specific functions the Department should enact to meet the intent of the recommendations. Provide implementation suggestions and function as a sounding board regarding Science/Research-oriented actions to the Department. As a starting point, the Action Team should focus on answering the following questions:

- What metrics should be used and how can/should they be collected to evaluate the impact the deer herd is having on other resources of the state?
- What long-term human dimensions surveys should be conducted to measure public perception of hunter satisfaction?
- What specific studies should the Wisconsin DNR initiate to evaluate long-term population trends of predators and their impact on the deer herd?

### Wisconsin DNR Action Team Liaison's

Karl Martin	Section Chief, Wildlife & Forestry	<a href="mailto:karl.martin@wi.gov">karl.martin@wi.gov</a>	608.224.7138
Dan Storm	Research Scientist	<a href="mailto:danielj.storm@wi.gov">danielj.storm@wi.gov</a>	608.221.6334

### Science/Research Recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report

#### A. Population Management section

1. Limit the use of SAK/accounting style models to monitoring deer population size and trends at the state and regional levels.
2. Do away with population goals and population estimates at the DMU level.
3. Replace the current DMU population goal definition of comparing the deer population estimate with the desired population goal for the DMU with a simplified goal statement of increase, stabilize or decrease population density.
4. Develop a set of metrics to monitor progress towards the DMU goal of increasing, stabilizing, or decreasing population density.
5. Reduce the number of DMUs and combine the Farmland regions. **Regulations/Season**

#### C. Predator Studies and Management section

1. Continue to conduct research on the impacts of predators on the deer herd.
2. Involve the public as much as practical with field-based research projects.



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### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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5. Geospatial studies of predator distribution and densities, especially for wolves, should be encouraged and developed to assess long-term trends and issues.

#### **D. Chronic Wasting Disease section**

2. There is a clear need for a new sampling protocol for CWD in Wisconsin, one that gives a true picture of the progress of the disease; but more importantly, one designed to detect spread.  
**(Herd Health/CWD)**
8. WDNR should work closely (through the local biologist) with the Conservation Congress in developing goals and strategies at the county level. We feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective.  
**(Herd Health/CWD)**
9. We feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective.  
**(Herd Health/CWD)**

#### **E. Harvest Data, Herd Health and Productivity section**

1. Involving the public in data collection produces many benefits, including buy-in on management and harvest strategies and cost-efficiencies of data collection.
2. Each field biologist should be required to organize and conduct at least one field necropsy study each year, conducted along with cooperators and volunteers during late winter.

#### **G. People section**

4. In addition to providing hunting opportunities, the impacts of deer depredation on agricultural crops, forest regeneration and biodiversity, deer/vehicle collisions, the special significance of deer to the Ojibwe people and other factors also must be considered in management of Wisconsin's white-tailed deer resources. This will include strict adherence to all agreements with the Voight Intertribal Task Force (GLIFWC), the tribes serving as "co-managers" where appropriate.

#### **H. DNR Research and Technical Publications**

1. We strongly suggest establishment of a research steering committee, with representation from user groups, stakeholders and regional WDNR biologists, and Tribal representatives.  
**(Administrative)**
2. A significant effort should be developed in Human Dimensions research. Wisconsin is blessed with two excellent researchers (Holsman at UW-SP and Petchenik in house), and a plan for long-term monitoring of trends and issues should be developed between them.
5. There is a need for a long-term research plan (developed through 1), based on needs assessments, and prioritized for funding.  
**(Administrative)**



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### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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6. Synergies with other agencies and greater cooperative efforts, particularly with those in forestry and geospatial disciplines, would help leverage funding and strengthen projects.
7. Research projects should be of an applied nature, rather than basic research with clearly defined application to the needs for managing Wisconsin's deer and habitat resources.  
**(Administrative)**
8. Project results should be extended to the public through media, workshops and field days, as part of the DMAP program and regional stakeholder conferences.  
**(DMAP)**



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>Science &amp; Research–A.1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 23

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Limit the use of SAK/accounting style models to monitoring deer population size and trends at the state and regional levels. We agree with the 2006 SAK Audit Report that estimates at the state level likely reflect actual conditions, and this is the scale at which most other states that use similar models report estimates of population size. With increased sample sizes of deer bio-checked by DMAP cooperators, precision of estimates at the regional level may be appropriate for setting policy and monitoring trends at that level. Statistical estimates such as those from aerial surveys in the CWD management zone should be used for estimates at the DMU or finer scale as appropriate. Unfortunately, we cannot recommend alternative population estimating procedures that are less susceptible to assumption violations or sample size requirements at the DMU level.**

## **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:

- Use SAK at the level that is appropriate for management (DMU level) and scientific inference.
- Target efforts towards DMUs with less certainty/more controversy in population estimates.
- Find a way to rigorously examine and incorporate local knowledge into deer estimation.
- Keep collecting registration and harvest age-data during firearm deer season.
- Augment population estimates with data derived from metrics.

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

- State and regional estimates don't help manage the herd because they are not linked to management decisions
- Ongoing research will improve the SAK
- Rationale:
  - The Science and Research Action Team does not believe that Wisconsin should abandon attempts to quantify deer in the state.
  - The 2005 SAK Audit indicated that there is not a cost effective alternative to SAK for use at the scale of DMUs in Wisconsin. Even if a promising alternative technique were to become available suddenly we feel that it would be prudent to maintain the current technique so that the relative cost and benefits of each could be measured.



- SAK should continue, as a single component in a more comprehensive deer count. Continuing to use SAK does not preclude more emphasis on the use of other criteria to make deer management decisions.
- Research is needed that will specifically improve SAK and Lambda (population growth) and address potential problems (e.g., opening day weather, hunter selection, baiting, overall herd mortality and predation, and other factors).
- Use of SAK has required the standardized gathering of harvest and herd structure data and this data now represents a comprehensive state-wide database that stretches back more than 30 years. This is a uniquely valuable asset for deer managers in Wisconsin because it can be analyzed to retrospectively address key management questions that were never anticipated when the data-gathering began (e.g. effects of Earn-a-buck, effects of baiting). We think that it's prudent to continue to build on this database for future management issues.
- Research suggests that SAK is sensitive to variation in its input parameters and that naïve calculations can produce unacceptably large confidence intervals. However examination of actual SAK estimates produced over the last 20 years indicated that the precision of field based SAK estimates in Wisconsin are dramatically more precise than examples produced from simulation modeling (e.g. the 2005 SAK audit report). This suggests that intelligent use of input variables (e.g. smoothing to reduce yearly variation, borrowing from neighboring units to mediate field data that are unrealistically extreme; topics unaddressed in the 2005 SAK Audit) is important. This process should be evaluated, formalized, and made transparent.
- Research suggests that SAK is accurate when its assumptions are met (stable-stationary age structure). Populations quickly converge on a stable age structure and biases associated with growth are minimal. Special consideration should be given when populations are not stable.
- When management prescriptions are made, considerations need to be made for professional judgment and additional metrics.
- Newly available statistical techniques show promise for rigorously incorporating and evaluating local observations in SAK. The potential and value of these techniques should be studied.
- DNR has a public process for re-examining DMU boundaries every 3 years. The trend in this process has been movement from larger to smaller DMUs indicating that Wisconsin deer hunters expect management to be more responsive to local conditions. Reversing this trend to improve SAK precision should be done more gradually and in consultation with local deer hunters and landowners.
- DNR has a large investment in on-going research designed to improve SAK and provide input on key assumptions. This research is a direct outcome of



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### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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recommendations in the 2005 SAK report and enjoys wide support from deer hunters, landowners and even the Deer Trustee report itself. The implications of this research should be evaluated before a dramatic shift away from SAK at the DMU level.

- An emphasis on communication and education regarding deer population estimation (including the SAK) and deer population dynamics. **Especially a clear interpretation of precision and accuracy of the SAK.**

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- This will be controversial with some of the public and some policy makers.
- Kroll Report recommendation replaces current “top down” approach with a new “bottom up” approach, implemented over time.
  - Current approach is to:
    - Establish deer population goals based on carrying capacity of the habitat, tempered by social tolerance level for agricultural damage, forest browsing impacts, car-deer collisions, etc.
    - Estimate deer population with SAK model.
    - Compare population with goal to determine number of doe permits to issue, by DMU. DNR decides whether to increase or decrease herd.
  - New approach is to:
    - Allow local stakeholders to decide whether deer population is too high, too low, or just right. This is what DMAP is all about.
    - No population estimates or goals are needed. Whether to increase or decrease herd comes down to desire of stakeholders.
    - Focus on herd health and habitat health.
- Problem with current approach:
  - Hunters distrust DNR and SAK because field observations are often inconsistent with SAK estimates.
- Problems with new approach:
  - Carrying capacity or impacts on habitat are not considered.
  - No reliable measures exist to quantify herd health and habitat health.
- Science & Research Team feels SAK should be maintained until adequate measures of herd health and habitat health are developed.

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

- May require increased cooperation by hunters in research
- Additional research needed on metrics for herd health & habitat health.



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

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Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	Population Management <b>A.2.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 24

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Do away with population goals and population estimates at the DMU level. This recommendation is particularly relevant in the Eastern and Western Farmland Regions where WDNR has limited or no ability to increase harvest on private lands and thus cannot manage for population goals as currently defined. Population goals have become meaningless numbers and population estimates cannot be defended from a statistical standpoint. The constant argument about annual estimates of deer numbers is pointless with only negative consequences in terms of WDNR credibility. DMAP and WDACP may present opportunities to increase antlerless harvest at the local scale. Antlerless harvest goals and permit quotas should be based on historical harvest, historical demand for antlerless permits and the desired status of population size change.**

## **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:

- The team supports retaining population goals and estimates but encourages developing additional metrics for monitoring deer populations and impacts, evaluating unit goals at the time of 3-year unit reviews.
- Include valid local input as an additional factor to consider in goal setting.

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

- Population estimates and goals are needed for decision making for proper management of the deer herd.
- There is strong value in quantitative statements.
- Population estimates limit controversy by placing limits.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Continued controversy about estimates and goal.
- Research may be insufficient to justify goals and objectives.

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

- The proposal to keep population goals and estimates will have a neutral effect on hunting, management, and research.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>Population Management–A.3</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 24

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

Replace the current DMU population goal definition of comparing the deer population estimate with the desired population goal for the DMU with a simplified goal statement of increase, stabilize or decrease population density. Population estimates at the DMU level are suspect from questions of accuracy and precision, and the procedures for deriving the estimates are difficult to explain and communicate. When a hunter or landowner sees a number describing the deer population on lands that they hunt or own that is counter to their perception of population size, it is only natural to ask "where did this come from?" Most people will not support what they do not or cannot understand, especially if a meaningless, sometimes volatile, number becomes the focus of their concern over time. Other states such as Virginia (VDGIF 2007) use this approach as a foundation for their deer management plan.

## **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:

*See A.2. for language and rationale.*

- The team supports retaining population goals and estimates but encourages developing additional metrics for monitoring deer populations and impacts, evaluating unit goals at the time of 3-year unit reviews.
- Include valid local input as an additional factor to consider in goal setting.

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

- Population estimates and goals are needed for decision making for proper management of the deer herd.
- There is strong value in quantitative statements.
- Population estimates limit controversy by placing limits.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comment submitted by Team

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

- No comment submitted by Team



**Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	Population Management <b>A.4</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 24

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

Develop a set of metrics to monitor progress towards the DMU goal of increasing, stabilizing, or decreasing population density. The Deer 2000 and Beyond Report and the 2009 DMU Public Stakeholder Advisory Panel Report ([www.widmu.org](http://www.widmu.org)) called for development of various metrics to be used in the population goal setting process. Metrics should reflect the basic considerations that dictate cultural carrying capacity (the number of deer that coexist compatibly with humans) such as deer density, hunter success, deer-vehicle collisions, agricultural damage, forest regeneration problems, CWD incidence, and concerns for biodiversity. SAK or accounting style procedures could be used to calculate a simple index of population density for monitoring trends that indicate if the population is increasing, stable or decreasing. This expression should be easier to grasp than a questionable number that is portrayed as an accurate estimate of population size. A change in population status might be defined as a change of 10% or more in the index value over a defined time period (3-5 years). Similarly, indices could be developed for the other metrics. Buck or total harvest density could be used to monitor hunter success as well as changes in population size. We understand that data sets exist for deer-vehicle collisions and agricultural damage, but that there are problems of reporting (collisions) and participation (damage). Development of a forest regeneration metric should be facilitated through the Division of Forestry whose Foresters work with 9,000 landowners each year. Results of forest certification audits on MFL lands that relate to the impacts of deer herbivory on regeneration and biodiversity could also be used. Occurrence, distribution and infection rates of CWD would be meaningful metrics for this disease. Keyser et al. (2005) described population density-physical parameter relationships that can be used to monitor physical condition trends. Development of reliable indices will require collaboration with other entities and will take time to test and validate, but should prove invaluable in diverting attention from population estimates and demonstrating the need for deer population management actions to hunters and others. Consistency across this set of metrics and in their interpretation is sorely needed to justify the herd control policies of WDNR over the past two decades and into the future.

## **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:

- Retain and expand in-person registration for all deer hunting seasons, which currently provides a large number of metrics. We recommend retaining in-person deer registration in the strongest possible terms
- Explore additional metrics collection and involve the public when feasible



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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- Evaluate each metric on the basis of:
- Goal – begin with the end in mind
- Functional relationship (sensitivity)
- Cost/benefit analysis – is it worth your time and money?
  - Needs to inform management decisions
  - Involve citizens as much as feasible
  - ADVERTISE THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF IT - Critical to identify and communicate specific questions that each metric will address
  - Delegate the details of the metrics to the scientists and citizen advisory research board
  - Additional population indices that can be used in integrated population models
  - Metrics categories may include:
    - Deer population trends and influences
    - Deer Health Metrics
      - Fat reserves
      - Reproduction (% pregnant, litter size)
      - Body weight
      - Body size
      - Antler dimensions (especially of yearlings)
        - # points
        - Antler beam diameter
    - Metrics Related to Deer Impacts on Natural Resources
      - Number of seedling presence for each species of interest
      - Seedling height
      - The proportion of total stems browsed.
      - Abundance and/or presence/absence of herbaceous plants that are highly palatable to deer
    - Metrics Related to Deer Impacts on Society
      - Crop damage
        - Depredation claims
        - Perceptions of farmers
      - Deer-vehicle collision numbers (although data on this is problematic)
      - Tree-nursery damage
        - Depredation claims
        - Perceptions of nursery operators
      - Human-dimensions surveys, asking general public about:
        - Perceptions of deer abundance
        - Experiences with deer-vehicle collisions, damage to plantings
        - Desired population trend
    - Metrics Related to Deer Hunters



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

### Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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- Deer seen per hour hunted
- Hunter success rates
- Perception of deer population trend
  - Desired deer population trend

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

- Specific to in-person registration - Committee rigorously interviewed the scientists and on that basis we have absolute strength of conviction that they know what they are talking about.
- The DNR needs to capitalize on the opportunity for public engagement that in-person registration provides
- Collecting additional metrics will help refine harvest management
- Given the strong tradition of in-person registration, compliance is likely extremely high; going away from this system will alter compliance rate
- When developing new metrics, it is important to retain current monitoring so costs/benefits can be evaluated
- Will help move hunters from harvesters to managers
- This will increase citizen involvement in data gathering and application
- This will increase public trust in deer population monitoring

## 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

This will increase costs

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

- May increase responsibility of hunters
- May require additional staff/resources



Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>Population Management A.5.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 25

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**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:

- The committee endorses aggregation of DMUs which have similar habitat, overwinter goals, etc..., where 1 to 7 DMUs are aggregated (with less aggregation in the north), to be reviewed every 3 years. (8/9 support, 1 prefers current system).
- The team endorses the recommendation in principle. (8/9, 1 says no change)
- Counties as DMUs (8/9, do not support, 1 abstain, based on insufficient discussion)
- Reduce DMUs by aggregating current DMUs to maintain continuity with historical data
- Team disagrees with DTR Rules and Regulations Team's recommendation for A.5. as of 7/20/2013, given concern about the flexibility to manage at appropriate scales (e.g., address CWD) (9/9 support)
- Implementation recommendations:
  - Consider reducing the number of DMUs where appropriate and in consultation with scientists and citizen deer research advisory committee (team recommended the deer research advisory committee in a previous recommendation), incorporating public input and similar deer habitat and populations (9/9 support).
  - If considering reducing the number of DMUs, clearly define goals, functional relationship (sensitivity to change in deer population), and cost-benefit of proposed reduction (see alignment with metrics discussed in A.4.). (9/9 support)
  - Maintain DMU boundaries that are recognizable in the field, avoiding county lines (9/9 support).



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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

- Aggregating DMUs, using historic boundaries, preserves historical wildlife data.
- Aggregating DMUs can improve precision of estimates.
- Too much aggregation will impinge on management of CWD, or other management issues that may arise.

## 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- May be counterintuitive to many hunters' perspectives and expectations, and thus not supported.

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

- Boundary confusions, but may be short-term.





Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>Predator Studies and Management C.1.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 41

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Continue to conduct research on the impacts of predators on the deer herd. Widely differing opinions of public and academic origin exist on the impacts of predators on Wisconsin's deer herd, but sufficient documentation of these relationships has been lacking. The recently initiated survival and cause-specific mortality study in northern and east-central Wisconsin is a great step in the right direction to provide much needed information for management. We recommend conducting similar types of field-based research studies in other locations across the state, as resources become available, to document the variability of predator impacts in various regions with differing landscape and habitat characteristics.**

## **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:

- The team endorsed the recommendation.
- The team recommended implementation actions:
  - Continue to support high-quality research on predators, including geospatial studies and sustainable harvest of predators, in order to monitor trends in population growth and depredation, and communicate research methods and findings with neighboring states.
  - Recommend alternative funding and support for predator studies, especially wolves.
  - Evaluate and implement new research methodologies that are validated and applicable, including:
    - Support the trail camera study of predators
    - Encourage expanded use of rigorous, scientific, citizen monitoring (e.g., hunters, loggers, Wisconsin Conservation Congress members, mail carriers, private sector/corporate), scat and other surveys.
    - Expand research to different parts of the state
  - Communicate the research and results with the public.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.

- Citizen science is an emerging field and has been used successfully in the state.
- Other out-of-state agencies use corporate and private sector based monitoring.

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.

- Stable funding (could be addressed with fee increases, special stamps and grant-writing partnerships with University researchers).

4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?

- May require additional data collection from hunters at check station or using standardized observation protocol.
- May draw funding from priority research in other areas.
- May require special hunting regulations to implement study designs.



Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>Predator Studies and Management C.2.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 41

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Involve the public as much as practical with field-based research projects. The involvement of the public in field work for these types of studies is extremely valuable in increasing public confidence, credibility, and support for the WDNR. When we were conducting our Town Hall meetings we were impressed by several volunteers who had assisted with the WDNR survival and cause-specific deer mortality study and spoke very highly of the WDNR and this study. It is hard to overestimate the positive impacts created for the WDNR by establishing local non-governmental public supporters for department research and management activities by having them involved in field activities.**

## **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:

Continue with public field-based research projects on predators, including wolves, and include the involvement with all segments of the public, including non-hunters.

### 2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.

In addition to the Implementation Proposal above, the Action Team also endorsed the following considerations:

- Involve the public, including non-hunters, in new research efforts, such as the trail camera study
  - Involve Wisconsin Conservation Congress and other stakeholders in training and implementation of trail cameras
  - Involve hunters, loggers, mail carriers, and other citizens in monitoring efforts (scat, howling surveys).
- Efforts to involve the public will improve public relations, legitimacy and credibility of the research.
- Hunters and non-hunters may have greater trust in the research findings if they are involved in the data collection process.
- Submit public observations on the DNR website



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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- DNR needs to include adequate monitoring, training, and oversight of the public effort, “training the trainers”.

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.

- Involves substantial DNR oversight, training, and monitoring of public involvement.
- Concern with data quality with involving more public contribution to the data collection process.

4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?

- May have to deal with liability issues
- Declining public interest
- Cost of managing public volunteers
- Data quality



## Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

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Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	Predator Studies and Management <b>C.5.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 42

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Geospatial studies of predator distribution and densities, especially for wolves, should be encouraged and developed to assess long-term trends and issues. The geographical documentation of annual harvests, observations, or other potential geospatial data on predators that might help describe the distribution or density of predators is encouraged to assess current and future trends.**

## **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:

Endorsed the recommendation and chose to include language for the recommendation with C. 1.  
(Continue to conduct research on the impacts of predators on the deer herd.)

### 2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.

- *None listed by the team*

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.

- *No comments submitted by the team*

### 4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?

- *No comments submitted by the team*



Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.2</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 56

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**There is a clear need for a new sampling protocol for CWD in Wisconsin, one that gives a true picture of the progress of the disease; but more importantly, one designed to detect spread. Sampling should continue within the DEZ to monitor conditions over time; but resources should be focused on detecting new cases outside the DEZ to support detection of outbreaks and rapid response.**

## **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:

The Science and Research Team endorses the proposal as presented by the Herd Health/CWD Team:

- We support the intent of this proposal, acknowledging that over the last decade there have already been changes made to the state's CWD surveillance program to maximize the chance of detecting changes in disease distribution. We recognize that there will need to be more testing to achieve all the critical surveillance goals – detection of spread, tracking of the progress of the disease. There will need to be new and larger sources of funding to achieve this. This Team supports a renewed effort to expand funding sources to support testing, and propose that a small increase in license fees (\$2-5?) be considered.

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

- No additional comments submitted by Team

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No additional comments submitted by Team

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

- No additional comments submitted by Team



**Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

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Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.8</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 57

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**WDNR should work closely (through the local biologist) with the Conservation Congress in developing goals and strategies at the county level.**

## **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:

- Team endorses this recommendation; however, as deer management is at DMU-level that should be how the congress gathers input.
- Special effort is needed to ensure all members of the public are adequately represented.
- Reliable study design is needed to properly gather input.

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

- Involving the conservation congress will allow us to leverage resources and better represent the public and gather more representative input.
- This will allow the DNR to react more quickly to problem areas.
- Greater public support when the public is included.
- This would allow the public to view it as a DNR-driven process and more of a cooperative process.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- People who dislike the congress may not participate.
- Focusing on the congress may unintentionally alienate some stakeholders.
- Apathy from the public will decrease efficacy.
- Establishing common goals may be difficult.

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

- Setting up and maintaining this process will require scarce resources (time, money, etc.).





Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>Chronic Wasting Disease D.9</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 57

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**We will discuss at length suggested research activities in that section of our report, but we feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective.**

## **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:

- Team endorses this proposal, subject to implementation recommendations and rationale outline in D.8. and H.2.
  - D-8
    - Team endorses this recommendation; however, as deer management is at DMU-level that should be how the congress gathers input.
    - Special effort is needed to ensure all members of the public are adequately represented.
    - Reliable study design is needed to properly gather input.
  - H-2
    - Agree that this recommendation is important and endorse the need for the development of human dimensions research.
    - Develop metrics for human-dimensions using long-term monitoring, potentially including such topics:
      - Deer hunter retention and recruitment monitoring or tracking.
      - Evaluation of preferences regarding trade-offs between seeing more deer, harvesting more deer and trophy deer opportunities.
      - How much public land and MFL land would we need to increase hunter satisfaction?
      - Baiting and feeding.
      - Better ways of using public lands and MFL land in a manner that reduces hunter conflict and increase hunter satisfaction.
      - Perceptions of citizens regarding the deer population, deer impacts, predator populations, and the relationships to their expected future resource use.



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

- D-8
  - Involving the conservation congress will allow us to leverage resources and better represent the public and gather more representative input.
  - This will allow the DNR to react more quickly to problem areas.
  - Greater public support when the public is included.
  - This would allow the public to view it as a DNR-driven process and more of a cooperative process.

## 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comments submitted by Team

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

- No comments submitted by Team



Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>Harvest Data, Herd Health &amp; Productivity E.1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 59

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**As we have noted, involving the public in data collection produces many benefits, including buy-in on management and harvest strategies and cost-efficiencies of data collection. Hence, we recommend each field biologist develop a volunteer-based data collection program. Examples would be infrared trail camera studies and fawn-at-heel observation sessions. Cooperators should represent stakeholders and both private land and public land hunters.**

## **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:

We agree with the recommendation. Encouraging public involvement has been a theme throughout the discussion.

- Ensure public involvement is centered on rigorous and standardized methods.
- Use pilot studies to develop and test public-based citizen-science data collection methods
- Ensure a level of competence achieved by public volunteers
- Make volunteer 'teams' to add structure
- Research how other states use citizen science, with emphasis on encouraging citizens to join and retaining their participation
- Partner with local conservation and other outdoor clubs to solicit and organize volunteers
- Ensure methods are user-friendly
  - Low-cost, easy to join (e.g. online training)

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

- These steps will increase citizen buy-in.
- Research projects have been very successful in getting citizens involved
  - For example the buck mortality and fawn survival studies



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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- Carnivore snow-track surveys

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- If not done properly, data is poor
- Observer bias
- Must learn from successes and failures of citizen involvement

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

- Increased buy-in will make hunters happier, thus reducing conflict with agency
- Adding new data streams will add more complexity and work
- By increasing the credibility of research projects and obtaining better buy-in from hunters, get better acceptance of results of projects and could increase desire by the public to fund future studies



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

**March 9 – July 20, 2013**

Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>Harvest Data, Herd Health and Productivity – E.2</b>
<b>[ ] Draft      [ X ] Submitted</b>	Deer Trustee Report Page 59

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Each field biologist should be required to organize and conduct at least one field necropsy study each year, conducted along with cooperators and volunteers during late winter. Our experience has been that no activity at the field level produces as much credibility and public buy-in as necropsies. Each animal examined presents a “teachable moment,” in addition to providing critical data. Furthermore, hunters appreciate learning when their deer breed and the sex and age of fetuses.**

## **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:

The spirit of this recommendation is met by conducting assessments of condition and reproduction of a car-killed deer.

- We propose that this recommendation become a metric to monitor deer herd health, and thus rolled into A.4.

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

- No comment submitted by Team

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comment submitted by Team

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

- No comment submitted by Team



Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<b>People – G.4</b>
<b>[ ] Draft      [X] Submitted</b>	Deer Trustee Report Pages 30, 67, 79

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**In addition to providing hunting opportunities, the impacts of deer depredation on agricultural crops, forest regeneration and biodiversity, deer/vehicle collisions, the special significance of deer to the Ojibwe people and other factors also must be considered in management of Wisconsin's white-tailed deer resources. This will include strict adherence to all agreements with the Voight Intertribal Task Force (GLIFWC), the tribes serving as "co-managers" where appropriate.**

## **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:

The team supports the recommendation and proposes that the DNR continue to consult with GLIFWC staff on deer management.

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

- The Voight decision mandates the requirement that the department considers the special significance of deer to the Ojibwe people; however, it does not specify 'co-management'.
- In addition, the DNR consults with tribes not covered by the Voight decision

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comment submitted by Team

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

- No comment submitted by Team



Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	DNR Research and Technical Publications <b>H.1</b>
<b>[ ] Draft      [ X ] Submitted</b>	Deer Trustee Report Page 76

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

#### **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**We strongly suggest establishment of a research steering committee, with representation from user groups, stakeholders and regional WDNR biologists, and Tribal representatives. This group should identify knowledge gaps and technology needs, and set priorities for projects.**

#### **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:

The Action Team endorses the recently established steering committee.

- Support the creation of a subcommittee within the deer committee to address research, and include representatives from the universities, agricultural and forestry stakeholders, federal agencies, with geographic representation from across the state.

##### 2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.

- Reference shared for the WDNR Biennial Research Agenda.
- The Action Team acknowledges that there are different research issues in different geographic regions of the state.
- Recommended that academic researchers should be involved.
- The subcommittee will help the WDNR research section gain access to research recommendations by stakeholders.

##### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.

- This recommendation will slow down the process.
- Question about citizen representation on the research steering committee.

##### 4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?

- May direct research efforts/funding into projects with low potential to improve management at a state-wide level (i.e. pet projects).
- May raise expectations about research findings beyond what are likely pay-offs
- May recommend techniques that are inappropriate to the question or the scale of the information needs
- May reduce flexibility in the research process by adding another layer bureaucracy.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	DNR Research and Technical Publications <b>H.2.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 76

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

### **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**A significant effort should be developed in Human Dimensions research. Wisconsin is blessed with two excellent researchers (Holsman at UW-SP and Petchenik in house), and a plan for long-term monitoring of trends and issues should be developed between them. This does not exclude other scientists at the various campuses, however.**

### **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:

- Agree that this recommendation is important and endorse the need for the development of human dimensions research.
- Develop metrics for human-dimensions using long-term monitoring, potentially including such topics:
  - Deer hunter retention and recruitment monitoring or tracking.
  - Evaluation of preferences regarding trade-offs between seeing more deer, harvesting more deer and trophy deer opportunities.
  - How much public land and MFL land would we need to increase hunter satisfaction?
  - Baiting and feeding.
  - Better ways of using public lands and MFL land in a manner that reduces hunter conflict and increase hunter satisfaction.
  - Perceptions of citizens regarding the deer population, deer impacts, predator populations, and the relationships to their expected future resource use.

#### 2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.

- No comment submitted by Team

#### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.

- Attraction of not doing rigorous work in favor of less expensive methods (e.g., self-selection surveys vs. proper sampling methods).
- Needs adequate staffing and funding.
- Lack of long-term perspective by policy makers

#### 4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?

- No comments submitted by Team



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

March 9 – July 20, 2013

Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	DNR Research and Technical Publications <b>H.5.</b>
<b>[ ] Draft      [ X ] Submitted</b>	Deer Trustee Report Page 76

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**There is a need for a long-term research plan (developed through [a research steering committee]), based on needs assessments, and prioritized for funding.**

## **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:

- Recommend a 10-year goal/plan commitment with a major review after 5 years, and annual assessments.
- Switch depredation funding from license and application fees to general purpose revenues and use license fees for wildlife research.

### 2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.

- Reference: 5-year time horizon for research proposals.
- Need a big picture goal and a 10-year goal commitment. Revisit goals on a 5-year basis and annually.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.

- Funding fluctuations
- Changes in membership of the research committee, the political environment, Department staffing (vacancies), and environmental factors have the potential to impact the functionality of the team.
- A description of how the DNR understands its mission to apply to deer management.

### 4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?

- Could modify expectations of hunters or the public.
- Will improve research continuity over time.
- Can advocate for research funding.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

March 9 – July 20, 2013

Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	DNR Research and Technical Publications <b>H.6.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 76

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Synergies with other agencies and greater cooperative efforts, particularly with those in forestry and geospatial disciplines, would help leverage funding and strengthen projects.**

## **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:

Endorse this recommendation and support collaboration across agencies to help leverage funding and strengthen projects however questions about GIS information and collaboration across agencies exist.

### 2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.

- No comment submitted by the Team.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.

- No comment submitted by the Team.

### 4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?

- No comment submitted by the Team.

Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	DNR Research and Technical
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## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

March 9 – July 20, 2013

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		Publications H.7.
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 76-77

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

**I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

Research projects should be of an applied nature, rather than basic research, with clearly defined application to the needs for managing Wisconsin's deer and habitat resources. Funding arising from hunting revenues and related federal programs such as Pittman-Robertson funds should be prioritized for game and habitat management related studies.

**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:  
The Team endorsed the language and the members are in agreement on the recommendation.
2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.
  - No comments submitted by the Team
3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.
  - No comments submitted by the Team
4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?
  - No comments submitted by the Team

Action Team: <b>Science &amp; Research</b>	DNR Research and Technical Publications <b>H.8.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page 77

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 presented then followed by additional background information.

## **I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**Project results should be extended to the public through media, workshops and field days, as part of the DMAP program and regional stakeholder conferences. This will increase credibility of WDNR and techniques used to manage deer, habitats and people.**

## **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:

The team endorsed the recommendation.

- The Action Team also recommended:
  - Work with the Bureau of Communications to develop a robust outreach / education / marketing plan to push the information to all stakeholders, including pre- and post-study communication.

### 2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.

- The Action Team feels it is important to communicate project results to help increase awareness and restore public trust.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.

- Concern was expressed by some members of the Action Team that effectively distributing the results of the research projects may be more costly and impact the amount of time available for other important work.

### 4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?

- Research/project results may not support popular opinion in some areas and thus could contribute to frustration – especially if those results suggest management changes that are counter to popular opinion.



## 'Parking Lot' Action Team Proposals

During the Action Team meetings, participants identified additional deer herd management topics that were not within the scope of the original DTR recommendations assigned to their Action Team. These additional 'parking lot' topics were temporarily set aside to continue the Action Team's primary task of processing all of their assigned DTR recommendations.

After completing all of their implementation proposals for their assigned DTR recommendations, some of the Action Teams were able to return to these items and develop written proposals to address the topics identified by the team.

To be clear, these parking lot items were outside the original scope of the Action Teams' original DTR recommendation assignments. They are included here at the request of the Action Team participants who volunteered additional time to develop written proposals to topics they felt were important to deer herd management in Wisconsin.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Parking Lot – #1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

## I. ORIGINAL PARKING LOT ITEM

What does the CWD Management Zone mean? How should we define CWD Zones going forward?

## II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM

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:

- Some sort of defined CWD zone is appropriate for items including, but not limited to cervid farms and carcass movement restrictions, but may not be necessary for harvest rules.
- In general, we believe that CWD Zone designations should be defined using the current baiting/feeding format, i.e. using county boundaries, create a zone incorporating all areas within 10 miles of where a CWD test positive deer is identified.
- However, there are many complex implications of declaring a CWD Zone (see below), so designating new zones/modifying existent zones should be done very carefully on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with local stakeholders.
- The Team recommends naming such zones “CWD-affected areas.”
- We suggest provisions for removing the CWD-affected designation when it can be confirmed that CWD is no longer a concern in this area.

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

- The following are likely implications of creating a CWD Zone, and therefore should be considered when decisions are being made about Zone designation:
  - Carcass movement restrictions
  - Deer processor/disposal guidance and/or restrictions
  - Use of Zone by DATCP for certain aspects of deer farm management
  - Use of Zone by other states to apply their disease transfer risk management
  - Application of surveillance: mandatory testing, etc.
  - The desire to have an intensive-surveillance-based CWD prevalence map to guide management decisions.





### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Based on WI's experience with CWD Zones to date, maybe they should only be used for some disease containment/management issues (such as carcass movement restriction, deer farm risk management, etc.), but not be used for other purposes, such as deer hunting season structure?
- There needs to be additional discussion about how best to name a CWD Zone: Should this be a "CWD Affected Zone" rather than "Management Zone"? Or should it be a "CWD Prevalence Zone"?

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

- As we know from WI's experience to date, the designation of CWD Zones both simplifies and complicates aspects of deer management and deer hunting. [For example, can you imagine trying to control the risks associated with deer processing by a processor-by-processor risk evaluation and control designation, rather than using a Zone?] The designation of a CWD Zone is of deep concern to some affected landowners, hunters, municipalities, and businesses, so involvement of local stakeholders is critical in these decisions.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Parking Lot – #2</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

## **I. ORIGINAL PARKING LOT ITEM**

Revert to allowing harvest of white (albino, lutino) deer in the CWD-Management Zone.

## **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

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:

Restore in any CWD Management Zones, the state-wide rule protecting white deer from harvest.

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

- The DNR received a letter from State Representative Fred Clark requesting that the Herd Health/CWD Action Team consider restoring protections for albino and white deer in the CWD Management Zone. The CWD-Management Zone-specific exemption allowing harvest of white and albino deer is a DNR rule change that was one of many liberalized harvest measures implemented for controlling and containing CWD to the southern portion of the state. The current HH/CWD Team does not feel that there is sufficient value from the harvest of white deer for CWD management to make it worthwhile to have a different rule on white deer harvest in CWD Zones from the rest of the state.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- None, except the need for informing the public who hunts in CWD Zones that the rules about harvest of white deer have changed again.

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

- This will simplify the hunting experience by reducing rule differences, and will simplify enforcement responsibilities for the game wardens.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Parking Lot – #3</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

## **I. ORIGINAL PARKING LOT ITEM**

**Do not continue with bans on orphaned fawn and injured deer rehabilitation associated with CWD affected areas (a request from a licensed rehabilitator from Washington County)**

## **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

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:

Do not change current DNR policy prohibiting deer rehabilitation in CWD areas.

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

- The DNR received a letter from a licensed wildlife rehabilitator from Washington County requesting that the DNR policy restricting the rehabilitation of deer due to detection of CWD be changed. This is due to the fact that CWD was detected in a wild deer in Waukesha County which resulted in the implementation of a ban of baiting & feeding and deer rehabilitation in Washington County.
- Currently, rehabilitation and release is not allowed for wild deer from counties whose borders fall within 10 miles of where a CWD affected deer has been found. The HH/CWD Team feels that rehabilitation and release of deer is counterproductive to controlling the spread of CWD and that continuing this restriction is prudent.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- None

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

- No comment submitted by the Team



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Parking Lot #4</b>
<b>[ ] Draft    [ X ] Submitted</b>	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

## **I. ORIGINAL PARKING LOT ITEM**

Reducing risk of new CWD introductions in WI needs to include control of human-facilitated spread of CWD prion.

## **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

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:**

WI's CWD management needs to include:

- Reducing the risk of spread of CWD from farmed cervids to wild cervids by continuing mandatory CWD surveillance on all WI deer farms (implemented by accredited veterinarians), mandatory depopulation and premise management of CWD-affected farms, and rigorous prevention and management of farmed cervid escapes (including financial responsibility by producers for the government costs of escape management).
- Regulation of the movement and disposal of carcasses and carcass parts from deer harvested in CWD-affected areas (the intent is to reduce the potential for infectious material to be left on the landscape).
- Appropriate limitations on licensing so that taxidermy, deer rehabilitation, and deer farming activities cannot happen at the same facility.

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

To achieve the goal of limiting spread of CWD to new areas in WI, we need to do more than manage spread of infection in wild deer populations; we also need to reduce the risk of human-facilitated new introductions of CWD:

1. Deer farms are a proven source of new introductions of CWD to wild deer populations; CWD has been repeatedly found on WI deer farms. There needs to be continued attention to surveillance and control of CWD on WI deer farms and management to guard against mixing of farmed and wild deer.
2. Carcass exposure is a proven route of CWD infection for deer; therefore controlling how people move and dispose of carcasses of harvested deer is a prudent part of CWD risk management.
3. In at least one case where CWD was found in a new area (New York), it is suspected that the source was a facility where taxidermy (of cervids harvested in other states) and deer



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

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rehabilitation/release were both practiced. To reduce this risk for introductions of CWD in new areas, cross-licensing of facilities for taxidermy, rehabilitation, or deer-farming should not be allowed.

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Effective implementation of all 3 of these proposals is dependent on collaboration between the DNR, other units in WI state government (especially DATCP) and the involved business communities (e.g. deer farmers, meat processors, taxidermists etc.).

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

- We know that restrictions on carcass movements and disposal can create challenges for some hunters and have workload implications for DNR staff (Enforcement, Staff, Wildlife, etc.). However, the risk management approaches described here are important to limiting spread of CWD and therefore are important to the future of quality deer hunting in Wisconsin.



Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Parking Lot – #5</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

## **I. ORIGINAL PARKING LOT ITEM**

Wisconsin needs to continue to support CWD research that will improve WI CWD management.

## **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

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:

The State of Wisconsin and the federal government need to continue to identify, facilitate, and financially support CWD research that is carefully selected to provide information for state CWD and deer management decisions. Research conducted on public or private landholdings must be approved by the appropriate landowner/property manager. Current high priority research areas include the role of environmental contamination in CWD spread, enhancing surveillance approaches to detect spread and prevalence trends, the efficacy of control strategies, and whether CWD will pose a risk for livestock and human health. WDNR, WI Universities and other proven CWD research partners must collaborate to achieve this in a timely and cost effective way. WDNR routine surveillance data must be readily available (through a WDNR website), both to further some of the research goals, but also for citizen and stakeholder use in making choices about hunting and other activities.

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

There continue to be many areas of our understanding of CWD that need further research to inform good disease management in our state. High priority examples include:

- Understanding detection and trend monitoring capacities of various surveillance strategies.
- Understanding the role that environmental deposition of CWD prion play in spread of infection.
- Exploring how various control strategies impact further spread of CWD (potentially including, but not limited to, different hunter harvest season structures, incentives to hunters, agency culling, and vaccination).
- Understanding how CWD prions adapt to new hosts in natural systems and what this means for potential risks to livestock and human health.
- Any changes to regulatory structure, proposed pursuant to research findings, must be appropriately reviewed (including public input) and approved by the Natural Resources Board prior to implementation.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

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Historically, WI made a strong commitment to supporting CWD research, but recently WDNR has invested less, been less active in fostering research important to WI CWD management, and been less open to facilitating research (e.g. through making surveillance data accessible, by leveraging unique resources like the Hall farm premise, etc.). This trend needs to be turned around.

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Nationally, there is less funding available for CWD research and there is less interest by agencies in stimulating/facilitating research. So, WDNR (with partners) really needs to be active in making important research happen.

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

- Good targeted research on CWD should ultimately help simplify and improve deer management decision-making.





Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	<b>Parking Lot – #1</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

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 PARKING LOT ITEM**

Establish an antlerless only season (long and late)

## **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

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:

Establish a pilot antlerless only season - units, weapons, and length of season up to negotiation was not supported (4 yes 8 no).

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

- The majority of the group decided that the overall hunting public community would not be in support of a pilot antlerless only season and therefore did not wish to spend time on the parking lot item.

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comment submitted by the Team

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

- No comment submitted by the Team



Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	<b>Parking Lot – #2</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

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 PARKING LOT ITEM**

**How do we address over-population with EAB removed by legislation?**

## **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

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:

Earn-A-Buck currently is no longer an option being that it was removed by legislation. However, the Regulations and Season Structure Action team felt that Earn-A-Buck has shown to be the best tool to address over population. It was recommended that the WDNR establish a pilot earn-a-buck program in farmland zones to address areas with high deer populations. In areas where the deer herd was overpopulated it was also recommended that the WDNR shall retain the December antlerless hunt and to establish a longer continuous gun season.

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

- Pilot program for earn-a-buck in farmland zones was supported (9 yes and 4 no)
- Keep Dec Antlerless hunt in overpopulated areas was supported (9 yes and 5 no)
- Longer gun season (continuous) was supported (8 yes, 4 no)
- Restrict number of days you can shoot bucks DNR would determine how many days was not supported (4 yes 9 no)
- Move season closer to the rut longer than 9 day season was not supported (6 yes 7 no)
- Create an additional 9 day rifle season coinciding with the archery season starting opening day of the established archery season was not supported (1 yes and 8 no)

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comment submitted by the Team

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

- No comment submitted by the Team



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

**Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

March 9 – July 20, 2013

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Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	<b>Parking Lot – #3</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

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 PARKING LOT ITEM**

**Allow group bagging for the archery season.**

## **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

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:

The item of allowing group bagging for the archery season was addressed and was unanimously not supported. Therefore the team moved on to additional parking lot items.

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

- Allowing group bagging for archery season was not supported (0 yes, 11 no)

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comment submitted by the Team

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

- No comment submitted by the Team



Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	<b>Parking Lot – #4</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

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 PARKING LOT ITEM**

**Expand bonus buck outside of the CWD zone where ever needed to increase antlerless harvest exists (and also have the requirement to harvest 2 or more antlerless deer for 1 bonus buck which is valid for both gun & archery)**

## **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

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:

The Regulations and Season Structure Action Team proposal of expanding bonus buck outside of the CWD zone where ever needed to increase antlerless harvest exists which includes a requirement to harvest 2 or more antlerless deer for 1 bonus buck, valid for both gun & archery seasons was supported.

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

- The parking lot item was supported (12 yes, 1 no)

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comment submitted by the Team

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

- No comment submitted by the Team



Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	<b>Parking Lot – #5</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

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 PARKING LOT ITEM**

**Maintain the Holiday Hunt.**

## **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

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:**

The Regulations and Season Structure Action Team proposal of maintaining the holiday hunt was supported. Additionally it was proposed and supported to implement a holiday hunt in all farmland zones (or where needed for disease control) (11 yes, 5 no)

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

- No comment submitted by Team

### **3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.**

- No comment submitted by Team

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

- No comment submitted by Team



Action Team: <b>Regulations &amp; Season Structure</b>	<b>Parking Lot – #6</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

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 PARKING LOT ITEM**

**Ban group bagging during the firearm season.**

## **II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

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:

The Regulations and Season Structure Action Team proposal of banning group bagging statewide during the firearm season was not supported (3 yes, 14 no)

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

- No comment submitted by the Team

### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- No comment submitted by the Team

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

- No comment submitted by the Team



## 4. Public Outreach and Involvement Efforts

A communication plan was created and continually refined throughout the process to increase public awareness and encourage public involvement in the development of implementation proposals for the DTR recommendations.

This plan utilized the following methods to keep the public informed on the Action Teams' progress and encourage public involvement in the process:

- Twelve GovDelivery emails sent to over 100,000 subscribers for each email.
- Twenty-five online videos available for public viewers interested in the process.
- Five online chat sessions with over 750 total participants.
- A DTR specific online survey (online & paper) with 9,367 responses.
- WDNR website banner and splash page to promote the DTR the DTR survey.
- Facebook and twitter postings.
- Expansive WDNR website DTR section featuring individual pages for each Action Team, links to the online videos reporting progress, online public comment forms and online access to the supplemental information provided to Action Teams during their meetings.
- Live webcasts of the June 8<sup>th</sup> mid-process and the July 20<sup>th</sup> final report meetings with live online chat available for remote viewers to participate.

The GovDelivery emails were a key method for notifying interested public stakeholders of upcoming meeting dates and when status updates were posted to the WDNR website. Visitors to the WDNR website were greeted with splash pages, banners and links to encourage public involvement during the DTR Action Team implementation effort.

A short video was created with WDNR Secretary Cathy Steep encouraging public participation during the implementation process. This video was used to kick-off the Action Team recruitment process and posted on the WDNR Deer Trustee Report webpage for visitors to gain an understanding of the WDNR's commitment to implementing the DTR recommendations. An updated video from the Secretary was created and played at the final July 20, 2013 meeting to thank participants for their input and for volunteering their time and energies over the course of seven Saturday mornings and afternoons to help implement Dr. Kroll's DTR recommendations.

For those unable to participate or attend the meetings in Stevens Point, five online chat sessions were promoted and offered as a method to provide feedback and ask questions. Other public input methods included an email link provided on the Deer Trustee Report webpage, comment links on DTR webpages and providing WDNR staff contact information.





Following the second meeting, a DTR-specific survey was developed by the Action Teams to gather information on public perceptions, opinions and suggestions related to the DTR recommendations. To encourage and support ongoing public interaction with the Public Action Team participants, meeting rooms included a public input area allowing visitors to post ideas, comments and other feedback for consideration. The survey questions with the responses is attached as Attachment G.

As a part of the effort to receive input from the public on the proposals that the teams had developed mid-way through the process, a mid-process check-in occurred which included a formal report which was presented through a live online streaming-video report-out session on June 8<sup>th</sup> to update the public on the progress made by each Action Team. This three hour session allowed remote viewers to submit questions and comments via online chat sessions monitored in real-time by WDNR staff at the event. This report along with each Action Team's written implementation proposals was posted on the WDNR website for ongoing public review and input.

The final meeting July 20, 2013 was also offered as a live webcast with live chat. It was later produced and posted as a streaming video on the WDNR website for public viewing. This report was also posted on the website for public review and for reference during the upcoming rule making and public input process.

Overall, the DTR communication and outreach effort provided progress updates and opportunities to provide input to over 100,000 people through the Gov. delivery system during the Action Team process. This effort to engage and involve the public in the DTR implementation process will continue as a routine part of the WDNR's continuing process of developing and sharing proposed changes to deer management in Wisconsin. This will include reporting changes to the public, NRB, tribal interests and other stakeholders as well as scheduling meetings around the state to gather public input.



## **Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams**

### **Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations**

**March 9 – July 20, 2013**

## 5. Report Summary

The public is encouraged to continue contributing to this DTR implementation process by submitting ideas and feedback to the WDNR via email or phone, participating in online chat sessions as provided by the WDNR and by attending upcoming public meetings to discuss potential changes needed for the WDNR to implement the Deer Trustee recommendations.

This report attempts to capture the work of fifty-three public volunteers that met for over thirty hours to develop proposals for implementing the recommendations set forth in the Deer Trustee Report. Any errors, omissions or lack of clarity in reporting the work of the Action Teams is unintentional. Where differences between written summaries in this report and the Action Team's detailed implementation proposal forms exist, readers should rely on the Action Team's proposal forms for a more accurate and complete statement of the Action Team's intent.

This report was written by the independent facilitators engaged by the WDNR to assist the Action Teams during this process. The length of this report speaks to the amount of information and the complexity of decisions processes by the volunteer Action Teams.

The facilitators were impressed by the Action Teams' commitment to helping improve whitetail deer herd management in Wisconsin, and also their willingness to listen and consider other viewpoints even when in direct opposition to their own.

Likewise, the WDNR staff that served as liaisons to each of the Action Teams deserve recognition for being responsive to Action Team information requests, providing assistance during meetings and being available between meetings to answer questions.

There were additional WDNR personnel involved throughout the process that helped set-up, operate and conduct the live chat sessions, create and send GovDelivery emails, provide the onsite technology for live webcasting the mid and final report meetings, and yet others to ensure that the WDNR DTR webpages were kept constantly updated with the most current information.

It is hoped that public readers of this report would consider volunteering on similar WDNR public stakeholder meetings in the future. While the process entails a significant amount of time and thoughtful work, the process provides opportunities to meet others sharing a passion for Wisconsin's natural resources.

Participants also gained a greater understanding of the history, science, research and people behind the management policies of Wisconsin's whitetail deer herd. At a minimum, readers should take advantage of the upcoming public hearings or use online input forms



to provide feedback and suggestions before final changes are approved and implemented for the 2014 season.

### About The Deer Trustee Report

The Deer Trustee Report presented the recommendations developed by a three person Deer Trustee Committee comprised of Dr. James Kroll (Deer Trustee), David C. Guynn, Jr. (Committee Member), and Gary L Alt (Committee Member).

These recommendations were based upon their study of deer management in Wisconsin that included reviewing current and past practices; conducting meetings with the WDNR, stakeholder groups, other state agencies, and the general public; obtaining over a thousand comments via the Internet and numerous letters from professionals and private citizens; and meeting with biologists and members of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

The full report is available on the WDNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov> key words Deer Trustee Report. Additional information may also be found at [www.drdeer.com](http://www.drdeer.com).

### About Heartland Information Research, Inc

Heartland Information Research (HIR) provided facilitation coordination for the DTR Public Action Team process. This included assisting with developing forms and meeting processes to support the Action Team decision making process along with producing the mid-process and final reports. HIR previously assisted the WDNR with the 2009 DMU Review Public Input process ([www.widmu.com](http://www.widmu.com)) and the 2010 Alternative to Earn-A-Buck Stakeholder meeting process ([www.herdcontrol.com](http://www.herdcontrol.com)).

HIR is a Wisconsin-based management consulting firm located in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin and serves federal, state and local agencies in a range of capacities including process improvement, meeting facilitation, training and research. [www.HIRservices.com](http://www.HIRservices.com).

### About Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Readers may benefit from reviewing the information on CWD provided online at [www.knowcwd.com](http://www.knowcwd.com).



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## 6. Attachments

- A. Meeting Notes – March 9, 2013 Initial Meeting
- B. Meeting Notes - Regulations and Season Structure Action Team
- C. Meeting Notes - Herd Health and Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team
- D. Meeting Notes - Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Action Team
- E. Meeting Notes - Science and Research Action Team
- F. DTR Communication Plan and Activities
- G. DTR Implementation Survey With Responses
- H. DTR Implementation Structure



