

DMAP Action Team

B. Hunting Regulations, Seasons and Bag Limits Section

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

Summary From DTR Report Page 30 Recommendation #8.

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.

DMAP Action Team

D. Chronic Wasting Disease Section

D.4. Implementation of a statewide DMAP program

Summary from DTR Report Page 56-57 Recommendation #5

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.

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D. Chronic Wasting Disease Section

D.7. An annual meeting of DMAP cooperators

Summary from DTR Report Page 57 Recommendation #8

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.

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E. Harvest Data, Herd Health and Productivity Section

E.4. An annual DMAP workshop and annual report.

Summary from DTR Report Page 59 Recommendation #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.

DMAP Action Team

F. Habitat Section

F.1. Annual range evaluations to assess habitat status.

Summary from DTR Report Page 65 Recommendation #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.

DMAP Action Team

G. People Section

G.1. Implement a Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).

Summary from DTR Report Page 69 Recommendation #1

Implement a Deer Management Assistance Program. A growing number of state wildlife agencies, including AL, AR, CT, DE, FL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MO, MS, NC, NJ, NY, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, and VA, have developed Deer Management Assistance Programs (DMAP) to facilitate deer management on private lands at the local level by involving landowners and hunters. Gynn et al. (1983) reported on a seven-year pilot study in Mississippi designed to: 1) develop a system for collection, analysis, and reporting of harvest data, 2) actively involve sportsmen in the process, 3) reduce deer density and crop depredation, and 4) improve the quality of the deer herd. The Mississippi DMAP was implemented statewide in 1983 and Hunt et al. (2006) evaluated program cooperators' satisfaction with the program and attitudes toward program success and service quality by agency personnel. (Cont'd on next slide)

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G. People Section

The primary goal of most DMAPs is to allow landowners and hunters to work together with the state agency to manage deer on a site-specific basis. Landowners/hunt clubs have the option to increase, stabilize or decrease the deer population on their property enrolled in DMAP. These objectives are accomplished by controlling the number of antlerless deer (does and male fawns) harvested, primarily through the issuance of DMAP antlerless tags. The DMAP tags are valid only on the enrolled property and may not be used for antlered bucks. Other major goals of DMAPs are to increase the biological data base for the state agency and to improve communication and build trust between deer hunters, landowners and the state agency. For example, the DMAP administered by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) was implemented in 1988 and currently serves 860 cooperators on more than 1.5 million acres with 18,000 members (Personal communication, Matt Knox, VDGIF). The DMAP costs about \$100,000 per year (PR funded) to administer and yields high quality biological data (age, weight, antler development, etc.) on 20,000-25,000 deer per year (about 10% of the total statewide harvest). The program is viewed as “the most cost efficient and best public relations program in the Department” (Personal communication, Matt Knox, VDGIF).

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G. People Section

G.2. Each DMAP cooperator should receive an annual report

Summary from DTR Report Page 73 Recommendation #1k

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. People Section

G.5. Expand public education/outreach efforts

Summary from DTR Report Page 73-74 Recommendation #3

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.

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H. DNR Research and Technical Publications Section

H.8. Project results should be extended to the public.

Summary from DTR Report Page 77 Recommendation #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.

DMAP Action Team

J. Personnel Section

J.1. Addition of a Deer Management Assistance Coordinator, a highly qualified individual with the following characteristics:

- Considerable experience with DMAP or related programs;
- Well respected in both the scientific and public communities;
- Highly skilled communicator; and,
- Highly motivated to work with the public.

Summary from DTR Report Page 79-80 Paragraph 2

Fifty-three biologist and 56 technician positions currently are approved for work in Wisconsin's 72 counties. In addition, there are 139 approved Limited Term Employee (LTE, 1040 hour) positions. The ratio of supervisors to biologists/technicians is 1:6.8, a reasonable ratio. In addition, WDNR recently filled a Big Game Program Leader position to oversee work on the State's big game species (deer, bear, turkey and elk); presumably wolves also will be included in these responsibilities. Although this position should be adequate for most activities related to white-tailed deer, **we strongly suggest addition of a Deer Management Assistance Coordinator (see DMAP section).**

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DMAP Action Team

I. Personnel Section

This would require hiring 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. Technical competence in deer biology and management would logically be included in these traits. This individual would coordinate and oversee all activities related to DMAP, working closely with regional and local biologists/technicians. He/she would also have responsibilities for developing strong cooperative relationships with other Wisconsin state agencies, federal agencies and most importantly the Cooperative Extension Service, forestry and university scientists/researchers and Tribal management needs. The incumbent would be expected to develop protocols for development of private land management plans that include deer, habitat, forestry and agricultural considerations. This position also would be responsible for production of annual reports in multiple media for cooperators and stakeholders, concerning progress and conditions of the deer-habitat-human predator ecosystem.