

# Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire 2010

By Brian Dhuey and Jes Rees

## **Abstract**

The 2010 gun deer season provided active hunters with 3.2 million days of hunter recreation. Hunter days a field did not differ significantly ( $P=0.71$ ) from 2009 levels. Gun deer hunters averaged 5.4 days a field during the 2010 season. The majority of gun deer hunting took place on private lands (73%). The Northern Forest, Southern Farmland, and Eastern Farmland regions of the state experienced the most hunter days. Ninety-nine percent of all respondents hunted the 2010 "Regular" gun deer season. Forty-two percent of the respondents who actively hunted in 2010 killed a deer.

## **Methods**

A survey was mailed to approximately 10,000 gun deer hunters after the completion of the 2010 gun deer season. The sample was drawn from the 2010 license sales, which had gun deer authority, in proportion to license sales for each county. The questionnaire included specific questions about the days and units in which gun deer hunters hunted as well as the type of land hunted (private, public, or industrial). A second mailing of 5,000 questionnaires was sent to non-respondents. Data from all returned questionnaires were entered into the DNR UNIX production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

## **Results**

Responses were received from 3,647 of 10,000 hunters surveyed. After duplicates were removed, the resulting response rate was 36%. In 2010, 98.8% of hunters who purchased a license hunted during the 9-day season (Table 1, Question 12). Thirty-six percent of the respondents who actively hunted killed a deer (antlered or antlerless) during the 2010 season. The number of license holders who hunted in the 2009 season (98.5%) was similar to the number of license holders who hunted in 2010; however success rate increased from 32% in 2009 to 36% in 2010.

Hunters were asked if they placed trail camera(s) for scouting deer in the fall. Thirty percent of respondents replied that they use a trail camera (Table 1, Question 2). If the results of this survey are expanded to the larger population of licensed gun deer hunters (622,910), 186,873 Wisconsin gun deer hunters place 353,190 trail cameras on the landscape for approximately 24 million camera nights.

Fifty-two percent of gun deer hunters would NOT support the use of archery equipment during the 9-day gun season (Table 1, Question 3). Gun deer hunters would not support making the crossbow a legal weapon for use during the archery deer season for any Wisconsin archery hunter (55%; Table 1, Question 4).

Wisconsin held an antlerless only gun hunt in October in select deer management units, 14% of survey respondents said they took part in this hunt with a mean of 2.3 days hunted and 0.18 deer killed per active hunter (Table 1, Question 9). Twenty-three percent of surveys respondents planned on participating in the statewide antlerless only gun deer season in

December (9-12) (Table 1, Question 5). While twenty-two percent said they plan on hunting the muzzleloader season in 2010 (Table 1, Question 6).

Discussing the Wisconsin DNR's plan to eliminate CWD in the deer herd, most hunters felt they "don't know enough about the plan to have an opinion". The next most popular response was that hunters (31%) felt the plan was "Too aggressive" (Table 1, Question 7). Approximately 11% of licensed hunters participated in the statewide youth deer season as either a hunter or a mentor (Table 1, Question 8). Forty-one percent strongly oppose a 4-day antlerless-only hunt in mid-October in units 20% or more over goal (Table 1, Question 11).

Most hunters (51%) do not use either the DNR website or other websites to get their deer hunting information. Of the hunters that used a website, using both DNR and other website was the most common response, followed by the DNR website only, and lastly other websites only (Table 1, Question 10).

When the results of this survey were expanded to the larger population of licensed gun deer hunters, the number of active hunters in 2010 was estimated at 615,435. This is a decrease from the estimated 620,486 hunters that hunted the 2009 season. The 2010 gun deer season (20 - 28 Nov.) provided these hunters with approximately 3.2 million days of hunting recreation (Table 1, Question 17). This is a decrease of about 300,000 hunter days from 2009 levels. License sales decreased about 2.5% from 2009 levels, and hunters averaged about 0.3 more days afield in 2009.

Gun deer hunters averaged 5.4 days a field in 2010, this is less than the 5.7 days in 2009. Most hunter days were spent in the Northern Forest (30%), Southern Farmland (24%), and Eastern Farmland (23%) regions of Wisconsin (Figure 1). The remaining hunter days were spent in the Western Farmland and Central Forest regions, 15% and 8% respectively. Much of this distribution is in relation to the amount of deer habitat in each region. Seventy-three percent of hunter days were spent on private lands (Table 1). Public lands (about 20% of the State's deer range) provided approximately 594,000 hunter days of recreation (19% of hunter days). This is down significantly from the 719,000 hunter days on public land in 2009. The rest of the hunter days were spent on Industrial forest, Forest Tax, or a mixture of land ownership types (Table 1, Question 17).

Wisconsin's gun deer hunters are not likely to move from deer management unit to deer management unit. Seventy-three percent of gun deer hunters have hunted the same deer management unit five or more years (Table 1, Question 18).

Hunters were asked how they obtained access to private land on the opening day of the gun deer season. Eight-six percent of the respondents either owned the land themselves, hunted on land owned by a relative or family member, or hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land (Table 1, Question 19). Of the hunters that hunted private land, 7% paid for access, with the average payment of \$551.95. Forty-seven percent of hunters hunted a unit where baiting was legal, of these hunters, 34% baited (Table 1, Question 20).

The 2010 gun deer harvest was 4.6% higher than in 2009, but 57.6% of hunters still felt the deer population "went down" from last year (Table 1, Question 21). For eight of the last ten years hunters that thought the population "went down" outnumber those that thought the population "went up", by at least 6 to 1 ratio. With an increase in deer harvest, there was a slight increase in hunter satisfaction. Ten percent rated their hunt "Very High" or "Fairly High", with only 5% rating their hunt "Very High" or "Fairly High" in 2009. Twenty-five percent rated their hunt "About

Average", while 65% rated it "Fairly Low" to "Very Low" (Table 1, Question 23). Successful hunters are significantly ( $P = <0.0001$ ) more likely to rate their hunt "Very High" or "Fairly High" than unsuccessful hunters.

"Seeing deer" and "Spending time with friends and family" continue to be the "most" important factors influencing Wisconsin hunters' perceptions of "quality". "Weather" and "Not seeing other hunters" have the least effect. In Wisconsin, hunters continue to say that their happiness is not very strongly correlated to a dead deer, as only 16.1% of hunters ranked "Killing a deer" as the most important factor effecting their perception of "quality" (Table 1, Question 24).

Slightly larger deer numbers in some units and higher kill meant that overall, hunters were more satisfied with deer hunting in Wisconsin in 2010, with 53% of the hunters rating their satisfaction a five or higher on a scale of 1 to 10 (mean = 4.9) (Table 1, Question 26). This was higher than in 2009 when 41% rated their satisfaction a five or higher and with the mean being 4.1. As in previous 4 years, more hunters felt that the DNR's population estimate was "too high" compared to "too low" in the area they hunted (Table 1, Question 22).

Forty percent of respondents were "very dissatisfied" with the number of deer they saw during the entire 9-day gun season (Table 1, Question 27). "Declining local deer populations" was the most stated factor affecting the number of deer seen by gun deer hunters; "Predators" and "Change in hunting strategies that don't tend to "move" deer" were the next most stated factors (Table 1, Question 28). "Not enough deer in my area to hunt" and "Other time commitments" were both the most listed factor and the most influential factor that limited the amount of time gun deer hunters spent deer hunting this fall (Table 1, Question 29 and 30).

**Table 1.** *Answers to the 2010 Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire.*

Question 1. What is your county of residence?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Northern Forest	446	12.9%
Western Farmland	549	15.9%
Central Forest	183	5.3%
Eastern Farmland	886	25.6%
Southern Farmland	1,400	40.4%

No Answer = 165

Question 2. Did you place any “trail camera(s)” for scouting for deer this fall?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,095	30.4%
No	2,505	69.6%

No Answer = 28

Number of cameras used **Mean = 1.89 cameras**  
Number of days cameras were used **Mean = 68 days**  
Number of days spent setting/tending trail cameras **Mean = 16 days**

Question 3. Do you support the use of archery equipment during the 9-day gun season?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,706	47.7%
No	1,868	52.3%

No Answer = 55

Question 4. Do you support making the crossbow a legal weapon for use during the archery deer season for any Wisconsin archery hunter?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,605	45.0%
No	1,965	55.0%

No Answer = 59

Question 5. Do you plan on hunting the statewide antlerless only gun deer season (Dec. 9-12)?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	836	23.3%
No	2,756	76.7%

No Answer = 37

Question 6. Do you plan on hunting the 2010 muzzleloader season, which immediately follows the 2010 "**Regular**" 9-day gun deer season?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	795	21.9%
No	2,820	78.1%

No Answer = 14

Question 6a. If yes, are you going to use a scope on your muzzleloader rifle (now legal during muzzleloader season)?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	350	44.4%
No	438	55.6%

No Answer = 7

Question 7. The Wisconsin DNR's plan to minimize CWD in the deer herd has been:  
**(Check only ONE)**

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Not aggressive enough	243	6.8%
About right	803	22.5%
Too aggressive	1,117	31.4%
I don't know enough about the plan to have an opinion	1,399	39.3%

No Answer = 97

Question 8. Did you participate, as a hunter or a mentor, in the October (9-10) youth deer season?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	409	11.3%
No	3,193	88.7%

No Answer = 27

Question 9. Did you participate in the 4-day October Antlerless only **Gun** deer hunt?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	513	14.2%
No	3,093	85.8%

No Answer = 23

If yes, how many days did you hunt? **Mean = 2.3 days**

If you killed a deer, what type and how many?

# of Antlerless deer killed: **Mean = 0.18**

Question 10. Do you use the internet and the Wisconsin DNR website for finding information about deer hunting in Wisconsin?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
I do not use either	1,812	50.5%
I use both the DNR website and other websites	1,076	30.0%
I only use the DNR website	644	18.0%
I only use websites other than the DNR	54	1.5%

No Answer = 43

Question 11. The Wisconsin DNR is mandated by law to manage the deer herd to overwinter goals. Overwinter goals are based on the land's ability to sustain a healthy deer population without causing long-term effects to the habitat or causing human/deer conflicts. When deer routinely exceed this overwinter goal, negative effects occur on the landscape. In past years a mid-October antlerless-only gun deer hunt has been implemented as a way to reduce the deer population in units that are above their population goals. How strongly do you oppose or support a 4-day antlerless-only hunt in mid-October for management units 20% or more above goal? (**circle ONE number**)

**Mean response = 2.88**

Response	Frequency	Percent
1 (Strongly oppose)	1,480	41.3%
2	436	12.2%
3	272	7.6%
4 (Neither oppose nor support)	589	16.4%
5	321	9.0%
6	215	6.0%
7 (Strongly support)	269	7.5%

No Answer = 87

Question 12. Did you hunt the "**Regular**" 9-day gun deer season of Nov. 20- 28?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	3,568	98.8%
No	45	1.2%

No Answer = 20

Question 13. How many days did you hunt during the 2010 "**Regular**" 9-day gun deer season? (Do not include days hunted during the early antlerless only or muzzleloader seasons.) Mean days hunted = **5.4**.

Days	# of Responses	Percent (%)
1	104	2.9%
2	400	11.3%
3	368	10.4%
4	467	13.1%
5	563	15.1%
6	436	12.3%
7	383	10.8%
8	311	8.8%
9	517	14.6%

No Answer = 19

Question 14. What type of firearm did you use most?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Rifle	2,872	80.9%
Shotgun	612	17.2%
Muzzleloader	42	1.2%
Handgun	26	0.7%

No Answer = 16

Question 15. How many **antlerless** deer permits did you **purchase** this season? Mean number of permits = **0.33**.

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
None	2,719	76.2%
1	622	17.4%
2	165	4.6%
>2	62	1.8%

Question 16. During the entire 2010 9-day gun deer season how many deer did you register that were killed on either private or public/industrial forest land?

Number Killed	Private Land Antlered %	Private Land Antlerless %	Public Land Antlered %	Public Land Antlered %
0	81.2%	84.4%	95.8%	96.9%
1	17.7%	13.2%	4.0%	2.7%
2	0.9%	2.0%	0.1%	0.4%
3	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%
4	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	N/A
5+	N/A	0.0%	N/A	0.0%

Question 17. If you hunted deer with a gun this past season, fill in the table below.

Write in the management unit number for each day you hunted. If you hunted in more than one unit on a given day, list only the unit in which you spent the most time. Also, please specify the type of land on which you hunted.

Regions Where Hunters Hunted (# of hunter days)						
Date 2010	Northern Forest	Western Farmland	Central Forest	Eastern Farmland	Southern Farmland	Total
Nov. 20	178,145	88,133	48,678	122,464	136,128	573,548
Nov. 21	169,093	78,739	44,750	113,241	127,930	533,753
Nov. 22	125,197	43,042	27,499	64,392	61,317	321,447
Nov. 23	99,406	39,113	22,546	60,293	52,094	273,452
Nov. 24	86,596	38,089	17,592	65,075	60,122	267,474
Nov. 25	80,447	46,458	16,568	74,981	76,860	295,314
Nov. 26	93,257	49,703	23,570	78,910	83,522	328,962
Nov. 27	87,621	58,072	24,595	83,522	90,695	344,505
Nov. 28	61,488	40,821	17,763	66,271	71,907	258,250
Total	981,250	482,170	243,561	729,149	760,575	3,196,705

Deer Management Unit Group	Land Type Hunters Hunted (# of hunter days)					Total
	Private	Public	Industrial	Forest Tax	Mixed	
A	41,163	41,675	1,879	4,782	8,540	98,039
B	50,386	45,433	2,220	4,953	19,300	122,292
C	54,485	37,918	4,441	5,295	12,298	114,437
D	145,864	51,069	4,270	8,711	23,400	233,314
E	35,014	40,138	0	2,391	6,149	83,692
F	70,882	34,160	6,149	5,807	11,444	128,442
G	23,570	43,554	1,366	3,245	7,515	79,250
H	50,899	43,725	0	5,466	6,832	106,922
J	167,043	31,598	0	4,270	14,860	217,771
K	639,990	60,293	1,366	3,758	23,741	729,148
L	154,404	69,516	2,050	5,636	11,956	243,562
M	552,369	37,918	1,366	3,587	21,692	616,932
N	339,381	57,389	1,537	683	23,912	422,902
Total	2,325,450	594,386	26,644	58,584	191,639	3,196,703

Question 18. Thinking about the previous 5 gun deer seasons, please check each year that you hunted the above mentioned DMU.

# of Years in same unit	# of Responses	Percent (%)
0	240	6.7%
1	230	6.5%
2	141	4.0%
3	166	4.7%
4	173	4.9%
5	2,618	73.4%

Question 19. If you hunted privately owned land on **OPENING DAY** of gun deer season, how did you obtain access to the land? (Please check ONE.)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
I own the land. <b>(Go to 17a)</b>	1,061	37.0%
I lease the land. <b>(Go to 17a)</b>	101	3.5%
I hunted land owned by a relative or member of my family. <b>(Go to 18)</b>	908	31.6%
I hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land. <b>(Go to 17b)</b>	507	17.7%
I obtained permission from a non-related landowner. <b>(Go to 17b)</b>	186	6.5%
I hunted unposted private land. <b>(Go to 18)</b>	22	0.8%
Other (please describe):	83	2.9%

No Answer = 700

Question 19a. Approximately how many acres of land do you own in Wisconsin?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Less than 20	394	24.2%
20-39	218	13.4%
40-79	338	20.7%
80+	680	41.7%

Question 19b. If yes, were you denied hunting access to any land that you had asked permission to hunt?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	231	15.6%
No	1,253	84.4%

Did you pay for access to private land?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	90	6.7%
No	1,248	93.3%

If yes, how many acres?

Mean acres leased: **143.0**

How much did you pay for the hunting lease?

Mean paid for a lease: **\$551.95**

Question 20. Did you hunt in a unit where baiting was legal?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,627	46.7%
No	1,125	32.3%
Unsure	733	21.0%

No Answer = 83

If YES, did you bait for deer?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	544	34.2%
No	1,046	65.8%

No Answer = 37

Question 21. In your hunting area, how have deer numbers changed from the last year?  
(Check Only One)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Deer numbers went up	266	7.5%
Deer numbers went down	2,041	57.6%
About the same	1,001	28.3%
I did not hunt the same area as last year	91	2.6%
Unsure	140	4.0%

No Answer = 29

Question 22. The DNR's population estimate of the deer herd in your hunting area is:

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Too Low	771	21.8%
About Right	363	10.3%
Too High	1,547	43.7%
Don't Know	857	24.2%

No Answer = 30

Question 23. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2010  
"Regular" 9-day gun deer hunt? (Check Only One.)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Very High	97	2.7%
Fairly High	249	7.0%
About Average	894	25.3%
Fairly Low	1,085	30.6%
Very Low	1,217	34.4%

No Answer = 20

Question 24. Please rate the factors that most influence your perception of a "quality" deer hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on you hunting experience.

Factor influencing hunt	% That ranked it "1" (having the most influence)*	Mean value of response
An opportunity to kill a deer	27.6%	3.15
Seeing deer	47.2%	2.42
Seeing bucks	26.5%	3.18
Weather	8.0%	4.81
Not seeing other hunters	12.7%	4.52
Spending time with friends and family	41.6%	3.02
Killing a deer	16.1%	4.25

\* Many hunters rated multiple factors as having the most influence so the column total will not equal 100%.

Question 25. How many deer do you and your immediate family eat in one year? **Mean = 1.8**

Question 26. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with deer hunting in Wisconsin? (Circle One) **Mean response value = 4.9**

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
1	378	11.5%
2	337	10.3%
3	459	14.0%
4	359	11.0%
5	436	13.3%
6	301	9.2%
7	390	11.9%
8	361	11.1%
9	144	4.4%
10	107	3.3%

No Answer = 295

Question 27. Think about the number of deer you saw during the **ENTIRE** 9-day gun season. How satisfied are you with the number of deer you saw? (**circle ONE number**) **Mean response value = 2.5**

Response	Frequency	Percent
1 (Very Dissatisfied)	1,375	40.4%
2	679	20.0%
3	508	15.0%
4 (Neutral)	341	10.0%
5	254	7.5%
6	150	4.4%
7 (Very Satisfied)	92	2.7%

No Answer = 169

Question 28. Many factors can affect the number of deer you see while hunting. Please check all of the factors below that you believe affected the number of deer you saw during your 2010 archery deer hunt. (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Increased deer sanctuary on the landscape	539	5.2%
Baiting and/or feeding causing reduced deer movements	671	6.5%
Declining local deer populations	2,751	26.6%
Increased hunting pressure	715	6.9%
Decreased hunting pressure	1,037	10.0%
Change in hunting strategies that don't tend to "move" deer	1,082	10.4%
Increasing local deer populations	214	2.1%
Weather events caused reduced deer movement	1,034	10.0%
Weather events caused increased deer movement	167	1.6%
Predators	2,144	20.7%

Question 29. Please check all of the factors that may have limited the amount of time you spent **deer** hunting this fall. (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Limited access to a place to hunt	577	6.3%
Other interests or hobbies	515	5.6%
Not enough deer in my area to hunt	1,767	19.1%
Other time commitments (work and family)	1,778	19.3%
Length of season	225	2.4%
Cost of transportation and/or lodging	286	3.1%
Cost of licenses	410	4.4%
Cost of deer processing	195	2.1%
Not enough freezer space	44	0.5%
Decreased hunting pressure	356	3.9%
No place to donate deer	16	0.2%
Wanted to save deer till next year	561	6.1%
Deer harvest was limited by the landowner	81	0.9%
Weather conditions during the season	906	9.8%
Limited number of permits available (all tags were filled)	164	1.8%
Other concurrent hunting season	171	1.9%
No one to hunt with	152	1.7%
Health related issues	230	2.5%
Deer registration is too inconvenient	97	1.1%
Nothing limited my time deer hunting	697	8.6%

Question 30. If any of the above factors limited your deer hunting this fall, which **TWO** factors were most influential in limiting the amount of time you hunted?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Limited access to a place to hunt	347	6.4%
Other interests or hobbies	250	4.6%
Not enough deer in my area to hunt	1,500	27.8%
Other time commitments (work and family)	1,324	24.5%
Length of season	110	2.0%
Cost of transportation and/or lodging	120	2.2%
Cost of licenses	139	2.6%
Cost of deer processing	35	0.7%
Not enough freezer space	13	0.2%
Decreased hunting pressure	136	2.5%
No place to donate deer	5	0.1%
Wanted to save deer till next year	328	6.1%
Deer harvest was limited by the landowner	28	0.5%
Weather conditions during the season	543	10.1%
Limited number of permits available (all tags were filled)	92	1.7%
Other concurrent hunting season	91	1.7%
No one to hunt with	62	1.2%
Health related issues	170	3.2%
Deer registration is too inconvenient	16	0.3%
Nothing limited my time deer hunting	94	1.7%

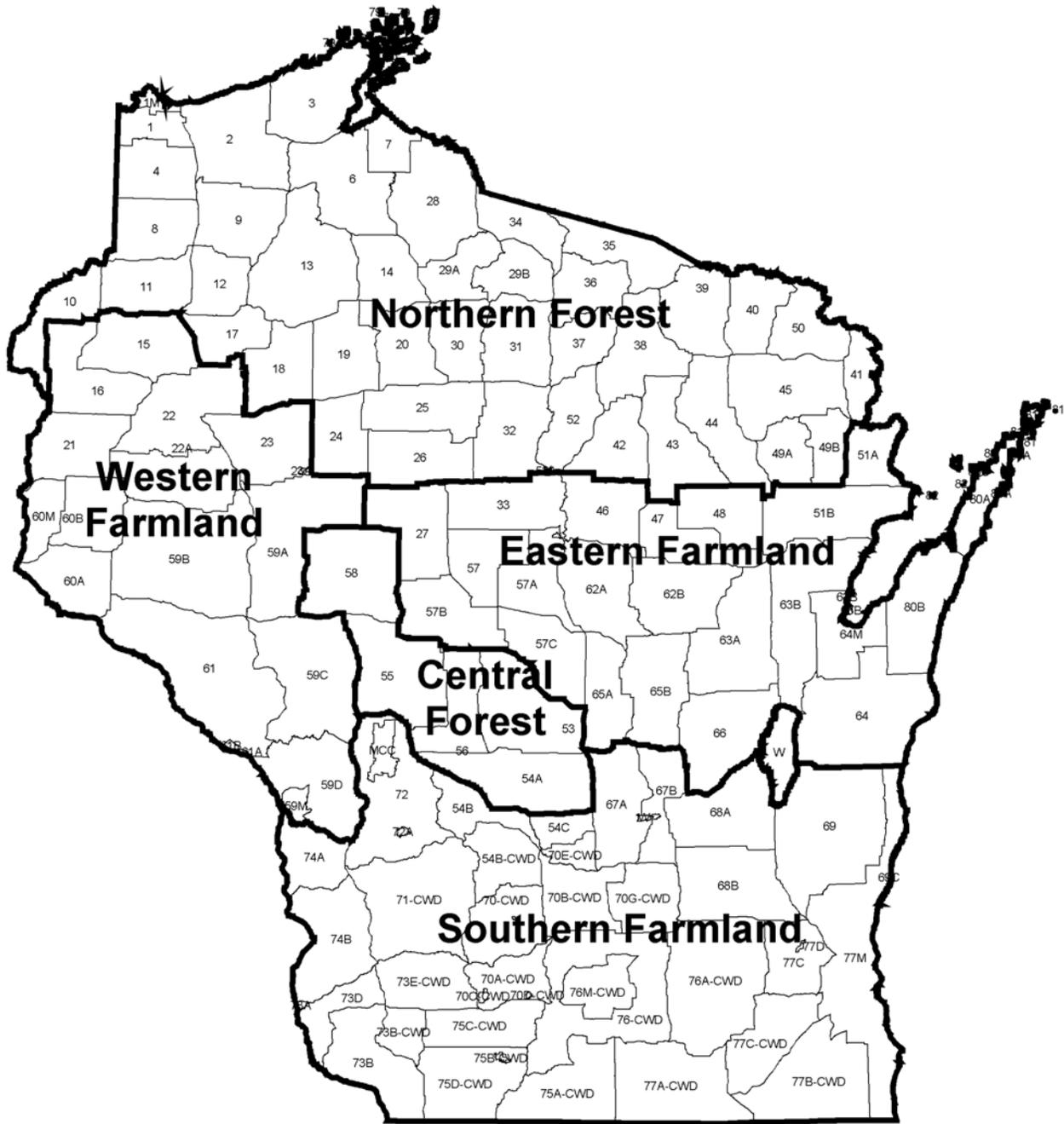


Figure 1. Deer management units grouped by region.

Dear Fellow Deer Hunter:

By completing and returning this survey, you are an integral part of the DNR deer management program. Responses to this survey are voluntary and are used to assess your impressions of the deer population, hunting pressure, and hunter satisfaction. This information is also used to develop management direction and hunting season structure. Your response is important regardless of how much or where you hunted. Even if you didn't hunt at all, providing that information is important to proper deer management. Please report only on your hunting experiences in Wisconsin, not those of other members of your party or family or friends.

Reverse the flap on the questionnaire when you are finished and tape the edge and mail. Using your stamp will save DNR funds for wildlife management although no postage is required to return the questionnaire. Your cooperation is appreciated and will help us continue the long tradition of quality deer hunting in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

*Keith Warnke*

Keith Warnke  
Big Game Specialist  
Bureau of Wildlife Management

This survey is available **online**, please go to:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/survey.htm>  
Click on the **Mail-Selected Surveys** tab,  
and click on the link **Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire**  
Enter the following when prompted:  
**Password: deerhunting**

**Filling out the questionnaire online will save the department dollars that can be used for management**

<p>1. What is your county of residence?  _____</p>	<p>8. Did you participate, as a hunter or a mentor, in the (9-10) October youth deer season? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>2. Did you place any "trail camera(s)" for scouting for deer this fall? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No  If yes, please estimate the number of cameras and days you used them.       _____ # of cameras used       _____ # of days cameras were used       _____ # of days you spent setting/tending trail cameras</p>	<p>9. Did you participate in the 4-day October Antlerless only <b>Gun</b> deer hunt? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No  If yes, how many days did you hunt? _____       # of Antlerless deer killed: _____</p>
<p>3. Do you support the use of archery equipment during the 9-day gun season? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>10. Do you use the internet and the Wisconsin DNR website for finding information about deer hunting in Wisconsin? <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use either <input type="checkbox"/> I use both the DNR website and other websites <input type="checkbox"/> I only use the DNR website <input type="checkbox"/> I only use websites other than the DNR</p>
<p>4. Do you support making the crossbow a legal weapon for use during the archery deer season for any Wisconsin archery hunter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>11. The Wisconsin DNR is mandated by law to manage the deer herd to overwinter goals. Overwinter goals are based on the land's ability to sustain a healthy deer population without causing long-term effects to the habitat or causing human/deer conflicts. When deer routinely exceed this overwinter goal, negative effects occur on the landscape. In past years a mid-October antlerless-only gun deer hunt has been implemented as a way to reduce the deer population in units that are above their population goals. How strongly do you oppose or support a 4-day antlerless-only hunt in mid-October for management units 20% or more above goal? <b>(circle ONE number)</b> 1      2      3      4      5      6      7 Strongly      Neither      Strongly oppose      oppose      support                  nor support</p>
<p>5. Do you plan on hunting the statewide antlerless only deer season (9 - 12 December)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>12. Did you hunt the "<b>Regular</b>" 9-day gun deer season of Nov. 20-28? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>6. Do you plan on hunting the 2010 muzzleloader season which immediately follows the 2010 "<b>Regular</b>" 9-day gun deer season? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No  6a. If yes, are you going to use a scope on your muzzleloader rifle (now legal during muzzleloader season)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>7. The Wisconsin DNR's plan to minimize CWD in the deer herd has been: <b>(Check only ONE)</b> (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Not aggressive enough (2) <input type="checkbox"/> About right (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Too aggressive (4) <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know enough about the plan to have an opinion</p>
<p><b>If you answered NO, please stop here and return the survey.</b></p>	

**Figure 2.** 2010 Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire.

13. How many days did you hunt during the 2010 "Regular" 9-day gun deer season? (Do not include days hunted during the muzzleloader season.) \_\_\_\_\_

14. What type of firearm did you use most?  
 (1)  Rifle  
 (2)  Shotgun  
 (3)  Muzzleloader  
 (4)  Handgun

15. How many additional antlerless permits did you purchase this season? \_\_\_\_\_

16. During the entire 2010 9-day gun deer season how many deer did you register that were killed on either private or public/industrial forest land?  
 Antlered deer registered from private land # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Antlerless deer registered from private land # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Antlered deer registered from public/industrial forest land # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Antlerless deer registered from public/industrial forest land # \_\_\_\_\_

17. If you hunted deer with a gun during the "Regular" 9-day deer season, fill in the table below.  
 Write in the management unit number for each day you hunted. (See Map.) If you hunted in more than one unit on a given day, list only the unit in which you spent the most time. Also, please specify the type of land on which you hunted.  
 REGULAR SEASON

Date 2010	Unit Number	Private	Public	Industrial	Forest Tax
Nov. 20 (Sat.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 21 (Sun.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 22 (Mon.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 23 (Tues.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 24 (Wed.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 25 (Thurs.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 26 (Fri.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 27 (Sat.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 28 (Sun.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. Thinking about the previous 5 gun deer seasons, please check each year that you hunted the above mentioned DMU(s).  
 (1)  2009-last year (4)  2006  
 (2)  2008 (5)  2005  
 (3)  2007

19. If you hunted privately-owned land on **OPENING DAY** of gun deer season, how did you obtain access to the land? **(Check only ONE)**  
 (1)  I own the land. (Go to Question 19a)  
 (2)  I lease the land. (Go to Question 19a)  
 (3)  I hunted land owned by a relative or member of my family. (Go to Question 20)  
 (4)  I hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land. (Go to Question 19b)  
 (5)  I obtained permission from a non-related landowner. (Go to Question 19b)  
 (6)  I hunted unposted private land. (Go to Question 20)  
 (7)  Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

19a. Approximately how many acres of land do you own/lease in Wisconsin?  
 (1)  Less than 20  
 (2)  20-39  
 (3)  40-79  
 (4)  80 acres or more  
 (Go to Question 20)

19b. Were you denied hunting access to any land that you had asked permission to hunt?  Yes  No  
 Did you pay for access to private land?  Yes  No  
 If yes, how many acres? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How much did you pay for the hunting lease? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Go to Question 20)

20. Did you hunt in a unit where baiting was legal?  
 Yes  No  Unsure  
 If YES, did you bait for deer?  
 Yes  No

**Consider the DMU you hunted most frequently during the opening weekend of the 2010 9-day gun season.**

21. In your hunting area, how have deer numbers changed from the last year? **(Check only ONE)**  
 (1)  Deer numbers went up  
 (2)  Deer numbers went down  
 (3)  About the same  
 (4)  I did not hunt the same areas as last year  
 (5)  Unsure

22. The DNR's population estimate of the deer herd in the area you hunted is:  
 (1)  Too Low  
 (2)  About Right  
 (3)  Too High  
 (4)  I Don't Know the Estimate for My Area

23. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2010 "Regular" 9-day gun deer hunt? **(Check only ONE)**  
 (1)  Very High (4)  Fairly Low  
 (2)  Fairly High (5)  Very Low  
 (3)  About Average

24. Please rank the factors that most influence your perception of a "quality" deer hunt. Enter a value of 1 through 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on a "quality" hunting experience.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ An opportunity to shoot a deer  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Seeing deer  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Seeing bucks  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Weather  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Not seeing other hunters  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Spending time with friends and family  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Killing a deer  
 (please continue on back)

Figure 2. 2010 Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire (continued).

25. How many deer do you and your immediate family usually eat in one year?  
\_\_\_\_\_

26. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with deer hunting in Wisconsin?  
Circle One: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

27. Think about the number of deer you saw during the ENTIRE 9-day gun season. How satisfied are you with the number of deer you saw?  
(Circle ONE number)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Very Dissatisfied		Neutral			Very Satisfied	

28. Many factors can affect the number of deer you see while hunting. Please check all of the factors below that you believe affected the number of deer you saw during your 2010 gun deer hunt. (Check all that apply)

(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Increased deer sanctuary on the landscape	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> Change in hunting strategies that don't tend to "move" deer
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Baiting and/or feeding causing a change in deer movements	(7) <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing local deer populations
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Declining local deer populations	(8) <input type="checkbox"/> Weather events caused reduced deer movement
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> Increased hunting pressure	(9) <input type="checkbox"/> Weather events caused increased deer movement
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> Decreased hunting pressure	(10) <input type="checkbox"/> Predators

29. Please check all of the factors that may have limited the amount of time you spent deer hunting this fall. (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> A. Limited access to a place to hunt	<input type="checkbox"/> K. No place to donate deer
<input type="checkbox"/> B. Other interests or hobbies	<input type="checkbox"/> L. Wanted to save deer till next year
<input type="checkbox"/> C. Not enough deer in my area to hunt	<input type="checkbox"/> M. Deer harvest was limited by the landowner
<input type="checkbox"/> D. Other time commitments (work and family)	<input type="checkbox"/> N. Weather conditions during the season
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Length of season	<input type="checkbox"/> O. Limited number of permits available (all tags were filled)
<input type="checkbox"/> F. Cost of transportation and/or lodging	<input type="checkbox"/> P. Other concurrent hunting season
<input type="checkbox"/> G. Cost of licenses	<input type="checkbox"/> Q. No one to hunt with
<input type="checkbox"/> H. Cost of deer processing	<input type="checkbox"/> R. Health related issues
<input type="checkbox"/> I. Not enough freezer space	<input type="checkbox"/> S. Deer registration is too inconvenient
<input type="checkbox"/> Decreased hunting pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> T. Nothing limited my time deer hunting

30. If any of the above factors limited your deer hunting this fall, which TWO factors were most influential in limiting the amount of time you hunted?  
List the letters: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

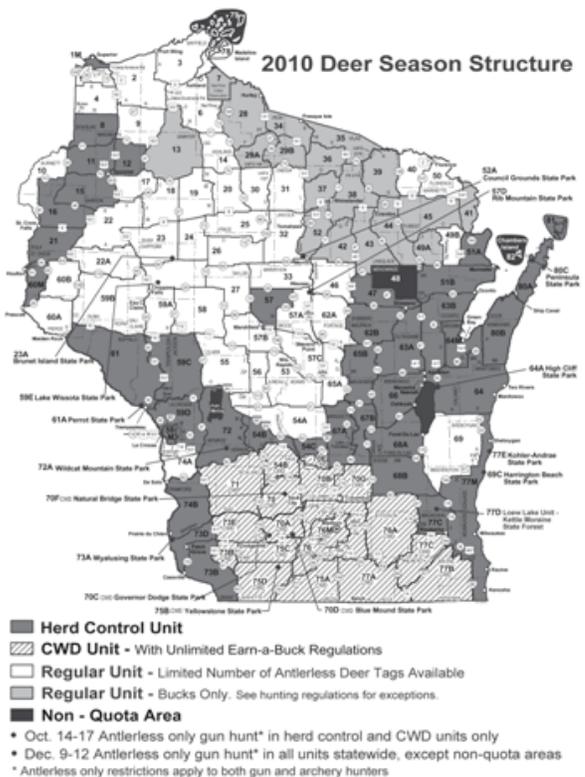


Figure 2. 2010 Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire (continued).