

SE Deer Goal Setting – 2014 Background on Process and Recommendation Development

Deer Permit Area 344

Brief summary of background information

This permit area is unique in southeastern Minnesota in that a large portion of the unit is comprised of the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area. This permit area is smaller than most permit areas, has a high proportion of public land and high hunting pressure. The area is managed for higher deer densities than adjacent permit areas, and there are a few complaints of damage to standing crops. Habitat quality is good due to forest cover and ample winter food sources for wildlife.

Public perceptions regarding population and desires regarding management

- 47% of surveyed hunters felt the population was about right, 42% felt that the population was too low.
- 51% of surveyed hunters desired an increase in the current population while 30% desired no change.
- Within the landowner survey, the greatest proportion of respondents in all strata, except large landowners in the south, reported that the deer population on their property and surrounding area was about right. The greatest proportion on large landowners in the south felt that deer populations were too high.
- Within the landowner survey, the greatest proportion of respondents (44%) indicated that the level of deer population should not be changed.
- While over 40% of landowners who did not hunt deer believed deer populations should be decreased by at least 10%, only 27% of hunting landowners believed deer populations should be decreased.

Public comment

Individuals who participated in public comment (questionnaires) indicated that the deer population was too low (71%) and most (68%) wanted a population increase in DPA 344.

Implication for population management

If the advisory team's recommended goal (see goal recommendations document) is approved, deer densities in this permit area will be managed to maintain current levels.

[Click here to view the citizen advisory team's goal](#)

Continue to the document that details the recommended goal for this permit area.