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

Deer Permit Area 345

Brief summary of background information

This permit area is primarily agricultural land but there are areas of good deer habitat in the bluffs along the Mississippi River. Overall deer numbers have been low in this area, but there are areas with numerous complaints of deer damage to standing crops and stored forage. DNR has used a variety of localized management tools to lower deer numbers in areas where damage is occurring.

Public perceptions regarding population and desires regarding management

- 45% of surveyed hunters felt the population was about right, 36% felt that the population was too low.
- 45% of surveyed hunters desired an increase in the current population while 33% 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 (70%) and most (69%) wanted a population increase in DPA 345.

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 increase by approximately 10-25%.

Click here to view the citizen advisory team's goal

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