

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

Deer Permit Area 346

Brief summary of background information

This permit area has the highest deer densities in southeastern Minnesota. Habitat quality is excellent, with a good mix of forest interspersed with agricultural land. The population has been well above goal since 2005 when the goal was established. Deer damage complaints to standing crops, stored forage and orchards are common and localized harvest strategies have been used to reduce deer numbers in areas with several complaints. There is little public land available and access to private land is difficult to obtain.

Public perceptions regarding population and desires regarding management

- 56% of surveyed hunters felt the population was about right, 35% felt that the population was too low.
- 50% of surveyed hunters desired an increase in the current population while 35% 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 (58%) and most (66%) wanted a population increase in DPA 346.

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 decrease by approximately 50%.

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

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