

**Alternative Deer Management Questionnaire
September 2004**

Interviewer: _____

Respondent ID#: _____

(ENTER ONLY FOR THOSE WHO RESPOND "YES" TO QUESTION 2).

1. **Hi, I'm _____ . I'm calling from the University of Minnesota. We are conducting a study of deer hunters for the Minnesota DNR. May I please speak to _____ ?**

IF WRONG NUMBER—THANK THEM FOR THEIR TIME.

IF DEER HUNTER IS NOT AVAILABLE TRY TO IDENTIFY A TIME TO CALL BACK.

ONCE YOU ARE SPEAKING TO THE CORRECT PERSON. Say...

2. **Mr./Ms. _____ . I'm calling from the University of Minnesota. We are conducting a study of deer hunters for the Minnesota DNR. The purpose of our study is to understand hunter support or opposition to potential changes in the deer hunting regulations. Would you be willing to answer a few questions for us on this issue? It will take about 10 minutes. Your participation is completely voluntary and all your responses will be kept confidential.**

- YES
 NO

3. **Did you hunt deer during the firearm season last year?**

- YES
 NO → SKIP TO QUESTION 9

4. During the firearm season last year, did you hunt by yourself or with 1 or more other hunters? If self-, go to Question 4b, else go to Question 5.

- Self** → a. How many antlered male deer did you kill during the firearm season last year?

Enter #: _____

- b. How many antlerless deer did you kill during the firearm season last year?

Enter #: _____

SKIP TO QUESTION 9

- Others**

↓
Minnesota hunting regulations allow ‘parties’ of 2 or more licensed hunters to shoot and tag deer for each other if party members are all using the same weapon type and hunting in the field together at the time the deer was killed.

5. During the firearm deer season last year, did you kill a deer for another hunter?

- Yes
 No

6. For the firearm season last year, we want to know how many deer you personally killed? Please include ALL deer you killed even if they were tagged by another hunter.

How many antlered males did you kill? _____

How many antlerless deer did you kill? _____

7. During the firearm season last year, did you use your tag on a deer that another hunter killed?

- Yes
 No → SKIP TO QUESTION 9

8. During the firearm season last year, how many of your tags were used by other hunters to tag...

ANTLERED MALES? _____

ANTLERLESS DEER? _____

9. Would you support or oppose a party hunting regulation that would prohibit tagging another hunter's deer? Would you say...(read choices)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

10. Would you support or oppose a party hunting regulation that would prohibit tagging another hunter's buck but would allow tagging another hunters' antlerless deer? Would you say...(read choices)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

11. In general, would you support or oppose a regulation that would increase the proportion of antlered bucks in local deer herds? Would you say...(read choices)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

Currently, in intensive permit areas in Minnesota, hunters are encouraged to kill antlerless deer. If hunters selectively kill antlerless deer, the proportion of antlered bucks surviving the hunting season might increase.

The next series of questions addresses specific methods of increasing the kill of antlerless deer and possibly increasing the proportion of antlered bucks in the deer population.

I'll describe each method and ask you the degree to which you support using that method in Minnesota. I want to emphasize that these methods are NOT currently being used in Minnesota.

12. The first method would limit the number of buck licenses available to hunters during the firearm season. Under this scenario, the standard firearm license would be valid for antlerless deer only. Hunters interested in killing antlered bucks would need to apply for a permit through a lottery system. Only lottery winners would be eligible to hunt antlered deer. Unsuccessful applicants would be restricted to hunting antlerless deer during the current year, but would gain preference points in the lottery which would improve their chance of getting drawn for a buck license in future years.

Would you support or oppose this type of regulation that would limit the number of buck licenses available to hunters during the firearm season. Would you say...(read choices)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

13. Would you continue to hunt antlerless deer if you were not able to obtain a buck license through the lottery?

- YES
- NO
- DON'T KNOW

14. The second method would protect bucks with less than 4 antler points on at least one side. Under this scenario, buck hunters could only kill adult males that had 4 points or more on one antler. Hunters would first have to identify the animal as a legal buck before shooting at the deer. As a result of this regulation, a greater proportion of 1 and a half year old males would survive to the 2 and a half year age-class and would be available to hunters the following year. In addition, harvest rates on antlerless deer should increase for at least the first year.

Would you support or oppose this type of regulation to restrict harvest of bucks with less than a 4-point antler on one side? Would you say...(read choices)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

15. Would you prefer to see an antler restriction regulation applied statewide, in the zone you hunt, in a zone you don't hunt, in the permit area you hunt, in a permit area you don't hunt, or not at all? Would you say...(read choices)

- Statewide
- The zone you hunt
- A zone you don't hunt
- The permit area you hunt
- A permit area you don't hunt
- Not at all

16. A third method would move the firearm deer season outside of the rut. Under this scenario, the season would begin in late November or early December. As a result of this regulation, bucks may be less vulnerable and harvest rates might be reduced. However, because the season occurs later in the year, snow and cold temperatures may limit hunting opportunity for antlered and antlerless deer.

Would you support or oppose this type of regulation that would move the firearm season dates outside of the rut. Would you say...(read choices)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

17. A fourth method would require all deer hunters to kill an antlerless deer before killing an antlered buck. Under this scenario, hunters will have to pass up all antlered deer until they first kill and register an antlerless deer. As a result of this regulation, harvest rates on antlerless deer should increase and harvest rates on antlered deer should decrease, resulting in a greater proportion of older, antlered males in the population.

Would you support or oppose this type of regulation that would require hunters to kill an antlerless deer before killing an antlered deer? Would you say...(read choices)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

18. A fifth method would reduce the number of days hunters could kill bucks during the firearm deer season. Under this scenario, hunters would only be able to kill antlered males during certain days of the season. As a result of this regulation, harvest rates on antlerless deer should increase and harvest rates on antlered males should decrease.

Would you support or oppose this type of regulation that would reduce the number of days to hunt bucks? Would you say...(read choices)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

19. Another method would eliminate the 2-buck limit in the 5-county area of northwestern Minnesota. Under this scenario, a hunter could kill only one buck each year, which should reduce harvest rates of antlered males.

Would you support or oppose eliminating the 2-buck limit in the 5-county area? Would you say...(read choices)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

20. Suppose a new antlerless-only season was offered in addition to the regular firearm deer season that you normally hunt. The timing of the antlerless-only season would be either October or December. The seasons would not last more than a week and killing an antlerless deer during this new season would not affect your regular firearms licenses.

Would you participate in a new antlerless-only season?

- YES
- NO → SKIP TO QUESTION 22

21. Which season would you most likely participate in?

- In October, before the regular firearm season
- In December, after the muzzleloader season
- Doesn't matter, you would participate in either season
- Don't know

22. Finally, are you a member of any of the following deer-hunting organizations?

- f. Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Yes No
- g. Bluffland Whitetails Association Yes No
- h. Minnesota Quality Deer Management, Inc. Yes No
- i. Quality Deer Management Association Yes No
- j. Whitetails Unlimited Yes No

How about any others? (list)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY! Your answers are very helpful. Have a good evening.