

# 2005 SURVEY OF HUNTERS PARTICIPATING IN ANTLER POINT RESTRICTION REGULATION DEER HUNTS



**A cooperative study conducted by the University of Minnesota  
for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

**Your help on this study is greatly appreciated!**

*Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed  
envelope. The envelope is self-addressed and no postage is  
required. Thanks!*

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**SECTION A. The first set of questions is designed to tell us where you hunted deer. Please read the questions carefully and answer them to the best of your ability.**

When you purchased your firearms license for the 2005 firearms deer season, you applied for a State Park hunt with an antler point restriction regulation. For this survey, "the Park" means the Park you applied to hunt in 2005.

**1. Did you actually hunt at the Park during the 2005 firearms deer hunting season?**

YES

NO →

**2. If No, during the 2005 firearms deer season, which **one** deer permit area did you hunt most often?**

DEER PERMIT AREA \_\_\_\_\_ (write in the number)

**3. How many days did you spend scouting for deer in each of the following seasons? Write "DNH" if you Did Not Hunt during that season.**

October Antlerless Only \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS

Archery \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS

Firearm \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS

Muzzleloader \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS

Skip to  
Question 7

**4. Prior to the deer season, how many days did you scout deer at the Park this year?**

\_\_\_\_\_ DAYS

**5. How many days did you hunt deer at the Park this year?**

\_\_\_\_\_ DAYS

**6. Including this year, how many years have you hunted deer at the Park?**

\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS

**7. For the permit area that you hunted most often during the 2005 deer hunting season, how many years have you hunted this permit area?**

\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS

**7a. If you hunted at the Park, please write down which **one** deer permit area you hunted most often besides the Park \_\_\_\_\_ (write in the number)**

8. For each of the following 2005 hunting seasons, what types of property did you hunt most often? Please place a check mark in the box below the type of property you hunted most often during each season. Please check only one box per season.

SEASON	Wildlife Management Area	State Forest	Other Public	Private Posted Land	Private Land Not Posted	Did not hunt this season
Early Antlerless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Firearm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muzzleloader	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SECTION B.** We are now interested in learning about your experiences and opinions regarding your 2005 deer hunt at the Park.

► **IF YOU DID NOT HUNT DEER AT THE PARK THIS YEAR, PLEASE SKIP TO SECTION C.**

9. What was the primary reason you hunted the Park during 2005? (*check only one*)

- I NORMALLY HUNT THIS STATE PARK
- I WAS INTERESTED IN THE ANTLER POINT RESTRICTION REGULATION
- I HUNT AS A PARTY WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS
- I BELIEVE THE PARK HAS A HIGH DEER POPULATION, WHICH WOULD INCREASE MY CHANCES OF KILLING A DEER
- OTHER (Describe)

10. Which techniques did you use to hunt deer at the Park? Circle one number for each technique.

Method	None	Some	Most	All	Don't Know
Stand hunting from ground stand/blind	1	2	3	4	9
Stalking or moving slowly	1	2	3	4	9
Hunting from elevated tree stand	1	2	3	4	9
Participated in deer drives as member of a party	1	2	3	4	9

10. What was the first deer or group of deer that you saw that was within your shooting range at the Park? (*check only one*)

11.

- ANTLERED BUCK
- ANTLERLESS DEER
- MIXED GROUP OF BUCKS AND ANTLERLESS DEER
- DID NOT SEE A DEER WHILE HUNTING → **SKIP TO QUESTION 18**

12. From the first deer or group of deer you saw within shooting range at the Park, were you able to kill the deer?

YES

NO

13. If no, why were you not able to kill the first deer or group of deer you saw within shooting range at the Park? (*check all that apply*)

- I WAS UNSURE IF IT WAS A LEGAL BUCK OR COULDN'T TELL IF IT WAS ANTLERLESS
- THE DEER DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD OR I SHOT AND MISSED THE DEER
- IT WAS A BUCK THAT DID NOT MEET THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ANTLER POINTS
- IT WAS AN ANTLERLESS DEER AND I DO NOT SHOOT ANTLERLESS DEER
- OTHER (Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

14. Did you kill an antlerless deer at the Park during 2005?

YES → **SKIP TO QUESTION 16**

NO

15. If no, what was the reason for not killing an antlerless deer at the Park? (*Check only one*)

- I DID NOT SEE AN ANTLERLESS DEER
- I ALREADY SHOT A DEER EARLIER IN THE YEAR SO I WAS HUNTING FOR BUCKS
- I SAW ANTLERLESS DEER BUT THE DEER DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD SHOT OR I SHOT AND MISSED THE DEER
- I COULD NOT TELL IF IT WAS AN ANTLERLESS DEER OR A SUB-LEGAL BUCK
- I DO NOT SHOOT ANTLERLESS DEER
- OTHER (DESCRIBE WHY) \_\_\_\_\_

**16. Did you kill an antlered buck at the Park during 2005?**

- YES  
 NO

**17. If no, what was the reason for not killing an antlered buck at the Park?**  
*(Check only one)*

- I DID NOT SEE A LEGAL BUCK  
 THE BUCK DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD SHOT OR I SHOT AND MISSED THE BUCK  
 IT DID NOT MEET THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ANTLER POINTS  
 I WAS UNSURE IF THE DEER WAS LEGAL TO SHOOT  
 I ALREADY SHOT A DEER EARLIER IN THE YEAR SO I HAD ENOUGH VENISON  
 IT WAS A LEGAL BUCK BUT NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR ME TO SHOOT  
 OTHER (DESCRIBE WHY)
- 

**18. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your 2005 State Park deer hunt. (Circle one number for each item)**

	Strongly Agree	Slightly Agree	Neither	Slightly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
I was satisfied with the number of legal bucks	1	2	3	4	5	9
I was satisfied with the quality of bucks	1	2	3	4	5	9
I heard about or saw legal bucks while hunting	1	2	3	4	5	9
I was satisfied with the total number of antlerless deer	1	2	3	4	5	9
I was satisfied with the total number of deer I saw while hunting	1	2	3	4	5	9

19. In total, how many deer did you observe while hunting at the Park during the 2005 deer season? (Write the number of deer you saw in each blank below).

Type of deer	Deer seen
Legal bucks (at least one antler with the minimum number of points)	_____
Sub-legal bucks (for example, spike or fork horn)	_____
Antlerless Deer (for example, doe or button buck)	_____
Deer that I couldn't identify as legal, sub-legal, or antlerless	_____

20. At the Park, how many antlered and antlerless deer did you personally kill during the past three deer seasons?

Include all deer you killed, regardless of whether you tagged the deer or another hunter tagged the deer. Write in the number of deer you killed in each blank below. If you did not hunt deer at the Park during a particular year, check the appropriate box.

Year	Number of Antlered Deer you killed ▼	Number of Antlerless Deer you killed ▼	I did not hunt at the Park that year ▼
In 2003 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
In 2004 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
In 2005 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. The antler point restriction regulation was put in place at the Park to protect approximately 50% of the 1½ year old buck population, which should put more harvest pressure on antlerless deer. The intent of the regulation is to lower deer populations at the Park it might increase the proportion of mature bucks. After hunting under this regulation at the Park, do you support or oppose the antler point restriction regulation? (Check only one)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT OR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

22. If the antler point restriction regulation is continued for the 2006 deer season, how likely are you to apply at the Park next year? (*Check only one*)

- I WILL DEFINITELY APPLY AT THE PARK NEXT YEAR
- I WILL PROBABLY APPLY AT THE PARK NEXT YEAR
- UNDECIDED
- I PROBABLY WILL NOT APPLY AT THE PARK NEXT YEAR
- I DEFINITELY WILL NOT APPLY AT THE PARK NEXT YEAR

23. Overall, how satisfied were you with your hunting experience at the Park during 2005?

- VERY SATISFIED
- SLIGHTLY SATISFIED
- NEITHER SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED
- SLIGHTLY DISSATISFIED
- VERY DISSATISFIED
- DON'T KNOW

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► **SECTION C. We are now interested in learning about your experiences and opinions regarding deer hunting in Minnesota.**

24. Which ONE of the following best describes how you deer hunted deer during the 2005 REGULAR FIREARMS deer hunting season in Minnesota? Would you say you: (*Check only one*)

- HUNTED FOR LARGE ANTLERED BUCKS DURING THE ENTIRE SEASON
- HUNTED FOR LARGE ANTLERED BUCKS EARLY SEASON AND SHOOT ANY LEGAL DEER LATER
- SHOOT ANY ANTLERED BUCK
- SHOOT THE FIRST LEGAL DEER (EITHER ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS) THAT OFFERED A GOOD SHOT
- SHOOT ONLY ANTLERLESS DEER
- DON'T KNOW

25. How many antlered and antlerless deer did you kill in each of Minnesota's deer seasons during 2005? Include all deer you killed by archery, rifle, and muzzleloader, regardless of whether you tagged the deer or another hunter tagged the deer. Write in the number of deer you killed in each blank below. If you did not hunt deer in a season, check the appropriate box.

	Number of Antlered Deer you killed in 2005 ▼	Number of Antlerless Deer you killed in 2005 ▼	I did not hunt in that season in 2005 ▼
October Antlerless	<u>No Season</u>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Firearms	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muzzleloader	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. How many antlered and antlerless deer did you personally kill in Minnesota in 2003 and 2004? Include all deer you killed by archery, rifle, and muzzleloader, regardless of whether you tagged the deer or another hunter tagged the deer. In you did not hunt deer during a year, check the appropriate box.

	Number of Antlered Deer you killed ▼	Number of Antlerless Deer you killed ▼	I did not hunt in <b>MINNESOTA</b> that year
In 2003 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
In 2004 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>



**27. Overall, people have different reasons for supporting or opposing new hunting regulations. Please tell us how important each of the following reasons for supporting or opposing new hunting regulations are to you**

**When I consider proposed hunting regulation changes, it is important to me that these factors are considered: (Please circle one number for each item)**

	Strong ly Agree	Agre e	Neutra l	Disagr ee	Strong ly Disagr ee	Don't Know
Do <b>not</b> result in an increased total buck harvest.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Do <b>not</b> result in an increased doe harvest.	1	2	3	4	5	9
<b>Increase</b> DNR's ability to control the deer population.	1	2	3	4	5	9
<b>Increase</b> hunting opportunity for bowhunters.	1	2	3	4	5	9
<b>Increase</b> hunting opportunity for muzzleloader hunters.	1	2	3	4	5	9
<b>Increase</b> hunting opportunity for firearm hunters.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase <b>my own</b> chances of taking an antlered buck.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase <b>my own</b> chances of taking a large antlered buck.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase <b>my own</b> chances of taking antlerless deer.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Encourage new people to take up deer hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Lead to a better public image of hunters and hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Protect the interests of farmers and other landowners.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Protect areas so that deer do not cause forest and other habitat damages	1	2	3	4	5	9
Reduce crowding of hunters on public lands.	1	2	3	4	5	9
The regulations do not result in decreased access to private land.	1	2	3	4	5	9

**Background: 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 afield together at the time the deer was killed.**

**28. During any 2005 Minnesota deer season (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader), did you kill a deer for another hunter (a member of your party tagged the deer you killed).**

- YES
- NO

**29. During any 2005 Minnesota deer seasons (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader), did you use your tag on a deer that another hunter killed?**

- YES → → → If yes, during the 2005 Minnesota deer seasons (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader), how many of your tags were used by other hunters?

\_\_\_\_\_ TAGS

- NO

**30. Currently, Minnesota is one of only a few states that allow hunters to shoot deer for each other. Because hunters can kill multiple bucks per year, the cross-tagging provision might contribute to higher buck harvest rates in Minnesota than in other states. The following two questions assess your level of support for allowing hunters to kill deer for each other.**

**In the area you hunt most often, would you support or oppose a regulation that would allow hunters to continue to hunt together as a party, but would prohibit hunters from shooting deer for each other (both antlered bucks and antlerless deer)? (Check one).**

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT OR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

**31. In the area you hunt most often, would you support or oppose a regulation that would allow hunters to continue to hunt together as a party but would prohibit shooting antlered bucks for each other? You would still be able to shoot antlerless deer for each other (Check one).**

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT OR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW

**32. Including 2005, how many years have you hunted deer in Minnesota?**

\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS

**33. What hunting method do you primarily use? (Check only one)**

- DEER DRIVE WITH LESS THAN 5 PEOPLE
- DEER DRIVE WITH 5 OR MORE PEOPLE
- TREE STAND
- GROUND BLIND
- STILL HUNTING OR STALKING
- OTHER (PLEASE LIST) \_\_\_\_\_

**34. Which statement best characterizes where you hunt? (Check only one)**

- I ALMOST NEVER HUNT THE SAME AREA EVERY YEAR
- I CHANGE MY HUNTING LOCATION EVERY 1 TO 2 YEARS
- I CHANGE MY HUNTING LOCATION EVERY 3 TO 5 YEARS
- I TYPICALLY HUNT THE SAME AREA EVERY YEAR

**35. What is the furthest you are willing to travel from your home to hunt antlered deer?**

\_\_\_\_\_ (number of miles)

**36. What is the furthest you are willing to travel from your home to hunt antlerless deer?**

\_\_\_\_\_ (number of miles)

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