

2005 SURVEY OF ITASCA STATE PARK DEER HUNTERS



**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 the questions to the best of your ability.

When you purchased your firearms license for the 2005 firearms deer season, you indicated that you intended to hunt deer at Itasca State Park (Deer Permit Area 287).

1. Did you actually hunt at Itasca State 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 Itasca State Park this year?

_____ DAYS

5. How many days did you hunt deer at Itasca State Park this year?

_____ DAYS

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

_____ YEARS

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

_____ YEARS

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 Itasca State Park.

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

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

- ITASCA STATE PARK IS THE AREA I TYPICALLY HUNT
- I WAS INTERESTED IN THE ANTLER POINT RESTRICTION REGULATION
- I HUNT AS A PARTY WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS
- I BELIEVE ITASCA STATE 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 Itasca State 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

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

- 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 Itasca State 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 Itasca State Park? (*check only one*)

- 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 Itasca State Park during 2005?

- YES → SKIP TO QUESTION 16
- NO

15. If no, what was the reason for not killing an antlerless deer at Itasca State 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 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 Itasca State Park during 2005?

- YES
 NO →

17. If no, what was the reason for not killing an antlered buck at Itasca State 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 Itasca 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 see while hunting at Itasca State 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 at least three 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 Itasca State 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 Itasca State 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 but a byproduct may be an increase in the proportion of mature bucks. After hunting under this regulation at Itasca State 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 hunt Itasca State Park next year? (*Check only one*)

- I WILL DEFINITELY HUNT ITASCA STATE PARK
- I WILL PROBABLY HUNT ITASCA STATE PARK
- UNDECIDED
- I PROBABLY WILL NOT HUNT ITASCA STATE PARK
- I DEFINITELY WILL NOT HUNT ITASCA STATE PARK

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

► **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 Minnesota 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)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Do not result in an increased total buck harvest.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Do not result in an increased doe harvest.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase DNR's ability to control the deer population.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase hunting opportunity for bowhunters.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase hunting opportunity for muzzleloader hunters.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase hunting opportunity for firearm hunters.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase my own chances of taking an antlered buck.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase my own chances of taking a large antlered buck.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Increase my own 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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