



THIEF LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA NEWSLETTER

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Editors Note: If you know of others who might be interested in this information, please send us their address. If you received this newsletter as a hard copy and have an email address, please send it to us so we can add you to our electronic distribution list. We are, of course, also happy to provide hard copies to those of you without email addresses. We welcome your comments and questions too! You can reach us at:

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SPECIAL DEER HUNT

There will be a special deer hunt in Permit Area 101 (PA 101). This new permit area was set up to help reduce herd density and limit the potential spread of bovine tuberculosis (TB). Hunters may use any valid deer license to harvest deer from Dec. 29 to Jan. 13, 2008, in PA 101.

This late season hunt was set up after three of the 1,100 hunter-harvested deer sampled this past fall in Permit Area 101 tested presumptive positive for the disease.

Hunters should be prepared to hunt in winter conditions. We have 10+” of snow already and temperatures could get down to -30 degrees. Many secondary roads will not be plowed. Snowmobiles are allowed on public lands in the area.

In order to eliminate bovine TB from the deer herd, continued aggressive action is necessary. One positive aspect of our results to date is that the prevalence of the disease remains low and is confined to a small geographic region.

Details of the PA 101 special late-season hunt are:

- season dates will be Saturday, Dec. 29, to Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008
- hunters still need to obtain permission to hunt private land
- hunters can use any 2007 deer license or permit from any zone
- a hunter must have a license and use the legal

weapon for that license; for example, a hunter cannot use a rifle if he or she does not have a valid 2007 firearms license

- deer of either sex may be taken
- new or replacement licenses can be obtained at any Electronic Licensing System agent, and hunters can buy additional disease management permits for \$2.50
- deer can be tagged with any remaining unused tags from the 2007 season; for example, deer can be tagged with an unfilled firearm license, disease management permits, bonus permits or all-season tags
- all harvested deer must be registered at Olson Skime store in Skime; Riverfront Station in Wannaska; or at the Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area headquarters or at the Red Lake WMA headquarters during regular business hours.

DNR employees will staff the Skime and Wannaska registration stations during each weekend (Saturday - Monday) of the special season to examine harvested deer for clinical signs of bovine TB. If a deer is taken during the week that exhibits signs of bovine TB, such as lesions on the lungs, hunters should contact DNR staff at either the Thief Lake WMA at (218) 222-3747 or at Norris Camp at (218) 783-6861.

After the late season hunt concludes on Jan. 13, DNR staff will conduct an aerial survey of the area to determine deer distribution and abundance. Once that information is collected, sharpshooters with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Service will further reduce populations in localized areas of the core bovine TB area.

The feeding ban continues to be an important part of our efforts to control the spread of bovine TB in Minnesota's deer herd. This ban remains in effect, and will be enforced.

Check out the map of Permit Area 101 on the next page. The pink blocks are Red Lake Tribal land, the orange is WMA, and the green is State Forest land.

