SURVEYS OF MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 3A AND 3B FIREARM SEASONS

Final Report

A cooperative study conducted by:

SURVEYS OF MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 3A AND 3B FIREARM SEASONS

Prepared by:

Sue Schroeder

Research Associate

Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology

University of Minnesota

Louis Cornicelli

Wildlife Research and Policy Manager

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Acknowledgements

Suggested Citation

Schroeder, S. & Cornicelli, L. (2013). *Surveys of Hunters Participating in the 2012 3A and 3B Firearm Deer Seasons*. University of Minnesota, Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology.

Contact Information

1) Sue Schroeder, Research Associate
Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
University of Minnesota
200 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
(612)624-3479 (phone)
(612)625-5299 (fax)
sas@umn.edu

Executive Summary

This study sought to gather information from hunters about deer hunting in southeast Minnesota. Specifically, the purpose of this study was to better understand deer hunting participation in southeastern Minnesota, along with opinions about deer management in that part of the state. Surveys were sent to 2,000 individuals who purchased a 2012 Minnesota firearm deer hunting license and indicated they intended to hunt in southeastern Minnesota during the 3A season, and 2,000 individuals who purchased a 2012 Minnesota firearm deer hunting license and indicated they intended to hunt in southeastern Minnesota during the 3B season. In Minnesota, an individual cannot hunt both the 3A and 3B seasons; hence, they are mutually exclusive groups. A total of 1,108 full-length 3A surveys and 1,018 full-length 3B surveys were returned. An additional 117 shortened 3A surveys and 119 shortened 3B surveys were returned, resulting in overall response rates of 63.1% for 3A and 58.6% for 3B.

Participation in 2012 Minnesota Deer Seasons

Nearly all respondents from both seasons (98%) participated in the 2012 firearm deer hunting season, hunting an average of nearly 5 days during each season (both seasons are 9 days). About half of hunters did all their hunting on private land that they did not own or lease. A greater proportion of 3A hunters than 3B hunters participated in archery or muzzleloader hunting.

Techniques used and deer bagged during 2012 firearm deer season

Respondents reported greater use of hunting from stands (either tree stands or on the ground) than stalking or deer drives. 3A hunters reported significantly greater use of tree stands, while 3B hunters reported greater use of stalking and deer drives (Figure S-1).

Figure S-1: Hunting Techniques Used
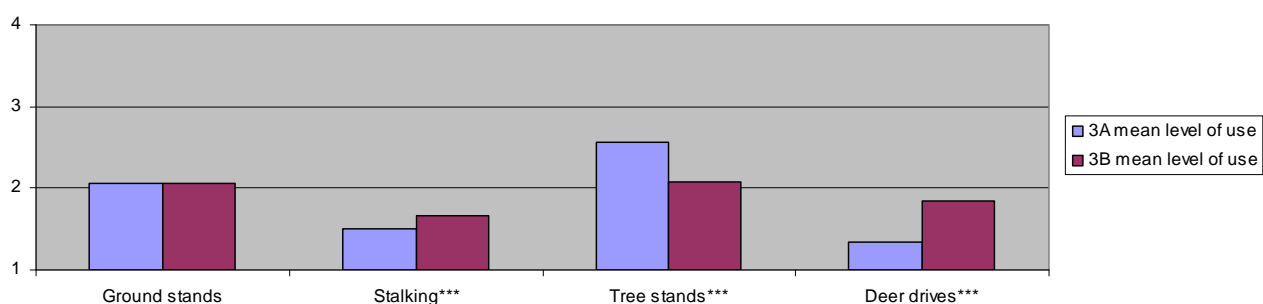
The greatest proportion of respondents from both seasons reported that the first deer they saw within shooting range was an antlerless deer. A greater proportion of respondents from 3A reported that the first deer was sub-legal or legal buck. About 20% of respondents from each season were able to kill the first deer they encountered.

On average, 3A hunters saw more legal and sub-legal bucks than 3B hunters; there was no significant difference between 3A and 3B hunters in the number of antlerless deer seen. More than one-fourth of 3A hunters (26%) reported bagging an antlered buck, compared to 13% of 3B hunters. A significantly greater proportion of 3B hunters (37%) compared to 3A hunters (23%) bagged an antlerless deer. On average, 3A hunters bagged significantly more antlered deer (0.28 versus 0.14) and 3B hunters bagged significantly more antlerless deer (0.53 versus 0.30).

Respondents were asked if they hunted in the 3A or 3B seasons in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and if so how many antlered and antlerless deer they killed. Hunters appear to consistently participate in either the 3A or 3B hunts. About three-fourths of hunters hunted the same (3A or 3B) season they currently hunt in 2009; between 75% and 80% of hunters hunted the same season they currently hunt in 2010, and over 80% of hunters hunted the same season they currently hunt in 2011. In each of the three previous seasons, 3A hunters bagged significantly more antlered deer that year, while 3B hunters bagged significantly more antlerless deer.

Satisfaction

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they heard about or saw legal bucks, their satisfaction with the number of legal bucks, quality of bucks, total number of deer and total number of antlerless deer. 3A hunters were more satisfied than 3B hunters with the quantity and quality of bucks (Figure S-2).
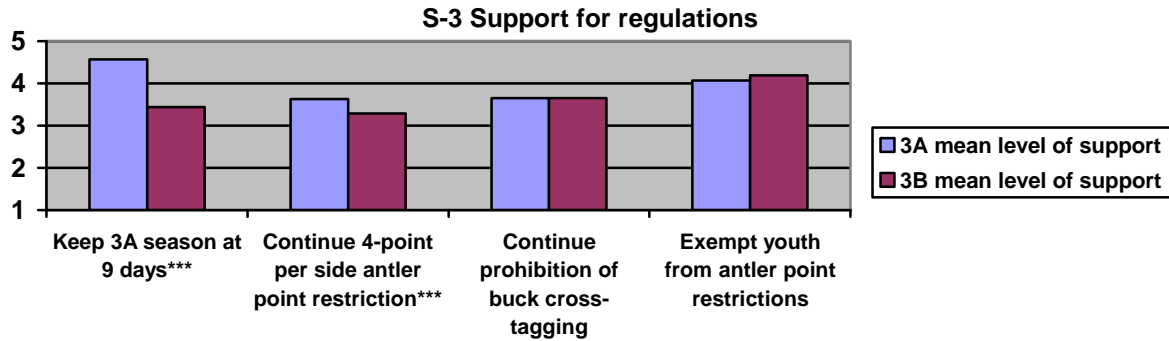
S-2 Satisfaction

Deer population

Respondents were asked to report the trend in the deer population in the area they hunt and surrounding area. Just less than half of respondents from both 3A and 3B indicated that there were more deer than 5 years ago, with a third or more indicating the same number, and just over 10% indicating fewer deer. Nearly half of respondents indicated that the deer population was about right, with about 40% indicating it was too high, and less than 10% saying too low. However, over a third of hunters wanted no change in the deer population in the area they hunted with nearly half wanting an increase. Respondents generally seem to feel that there are the same or more mature bucks in the areas they hunt compared to 5 years ago.

Support for regulations

Respondents were asked about their support for the antler point restriction regulations that were put in place starting in the 2010 deer season. 3A hunters were significantly more supportive of antler point restrictions than 3B hunters. There was no difference between the groups in support for continuing the prohibition of buck cross-tagging and exempting youth from the antler point restriction (Figure S-3).

S-3 Support for regulations

Legend: 3A mean level of support, 3B mean level of support

Categories: Keep 3A season at 9 days***, Continue 4-point per side antler point restriction***, Continue prohibition of buck cross-tagging, Exempt youth from antler point restrictions

Support for regulation changes

On average respondents were somewhat opposed to: (a) delaying the 3A deer season one week, (b) delaying the 3A deer season until late November, (c) consolidating the 3A and 3B deer seasons, (d) allowing archery deer hunters to tag an additional buck, and (e) allowing muzzleloader deer hunters to tag an additional buck. There was no significant difference between groups for these possible changes, *except* 3A hunters reported significantly less opposition to delaying the 3A season one week (Figure S-4).
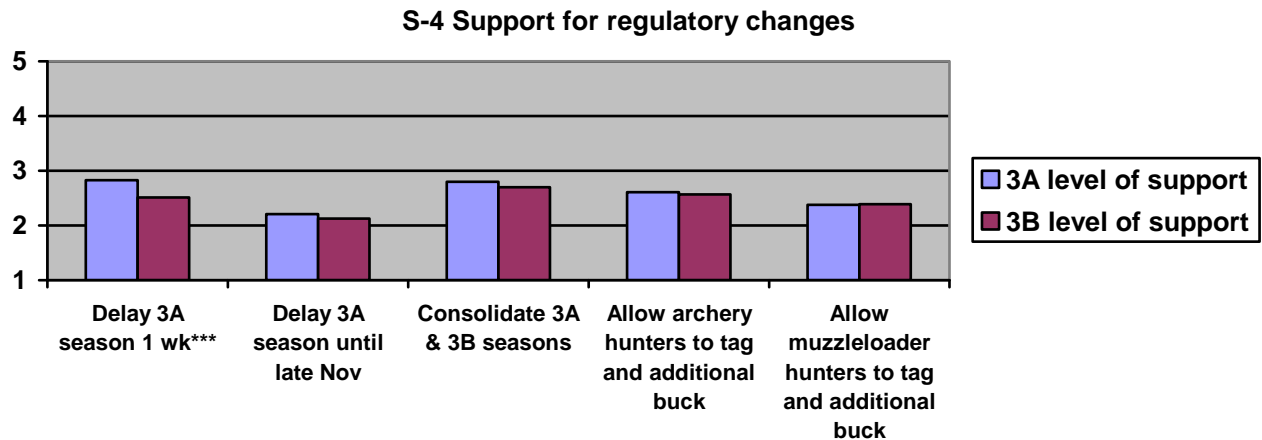
S-4 Support for regulatory changes

Legend: 3A level of support, 3B level of support

Categories: Delay 3A season 1 wk***, Delay 3A season until late Nov, Consolidate 3A & 3B seasons, Allow archery hunters to tag and additional buck, Allow muzzleloader hunters to tag and additional buck

On average, respondents disagreed that they would lose access to the property they hunt, if the 3A and 3B seasons were consolidated. A greater proportion of 3B hunters agreed that they might lose access to the property they hunt. On average, respondents supported a second deer being taken during archery or muzzleloader season; there was not significant difference in support between 3A and 3B hunters.

Reasons for supporting or opposing regulation changes

Respondents were asked to indicate how important 15 reasons were to their support or opposition to deer hunting regulations. All 15 reasons were rated important. The three most important were: (a) protect the interests of farmers and other landowners, (b) lead to a better public image of hunters and hunting, and (c) the regulations do not result in decreased access to private land. Only one reason was rated significantly differently by 3A and 3B hunters; 3A hunters rated increase my own chances of taking a large antlered buck more important than 3B hunters did.

Ideal season structure

Respondents were asked seven questions addressing their perceptions of an "ideal" deer season structure for southeast Minnesota. The majority of respondents from both the 3A and 3B samples indicated that ideally the deer season would open in early November. A large majority (84%) of 3A hunters preferred a 9-day 3A deer season, compared to 3B hunters who were more divided over preferences for a 7-day (44%), 9-day (36%), and 5-day (20%) 3A season. Similarly, a large majority (81%) of 3B hunters preferred a 9-day 3B deer season, compared to 3A hunters who were more divided over preferences for a 7-day (42%) or 9-day (59%) 3B season. About three-fourths of hunters from both samples preferred that the 3B season open one week after the 3A season, compared to between 20 and 30% of hunters who preferred that it open immediately after the 3A season. Majorities of both 3A (54%) and 3B (61%) hunters felt that cross-tagging should *not* be banned and that party hunting be allowed for both antlered and antlerless deer. Likewise, substantial majorities of both 3A (68%) and 3B (72%) hunters felt that a 4-day youth hunt should be held over MEA weekend.

Experiences important to deer hunting satisfaction

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of 21 experiences to their satisfaction with the 2012 deer season. Responses were generally similar, with the most important experiences being enjoying nature and the outdoors, good behavior among other deer hunters, getting away from crowds of people, and hunting with family. 3A hunters rated five items significantly higher than 3B hunters did: (a) thinking about personal values, (b) seeing lots of bucks, (c) getting information about hunting seasons, (d) harvesting a large buck, and (e) being on my own. 3B hunters rated three items significantly higher than 3A hunters did: (a) hunting with friends, (b) harvesting any deer for meat, (c) getting food for my family.

Agency trust

Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with six statements about the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. On average, respondents slightly agreed with all statements, and there were no significant differences between the two samples. Respondents agreed most strongly that "the MnDNR has deer managers and biologists who are well-trained for their jobs."

Table of Contents

List of Tables

Introduction

Minnesota is home to over about 1.6 million sportspeople, including 500,000 deer hunters (U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2006). Approximately 13% of Minnesota residents (16 years and older) hunt for deer (U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2006).

Study Purpose and Objectives

This study sought to gather information from hunters about deer hunting in southeast Minnesota. Specifically, the purpose of this study was to better understand deer hunting participation in southeastern Minnesota, along with opinions about deer management in that part of the state.

The questions used to address the study purpose are provided in the survey instruments (Appendix A) and discussed in more detail in the subsequent sections. This report details responses to the survey. Survey recipients were selected based on their purchase of a 2012 Minnesota firearm deer hunting license and indication that they intended to hunt in southeastern Minnesota during the 3A or 3B season.

Methods

Sampling

The survey sample was drawn from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) electronic licensing system (ELS). We drew samples of 2,000 each of Minnesota residents who purchased a 2012 Minnesota firearm deer hunting license and indicated that they intended to hunt in southeastern Minnesota during the 3A and 3B seasons. An individual cannot hunt both the 3A and 3B seasons, therefore season participants are mutually exclusive.

Data Collection

Data were collected using mail-back surveys following the process outlined by Dillman (2000) to enhance response rates. We constructed two relatively straightforward questionnaires, created personalized cover letters, and made multiple contacts with the targeted respondents. Potential study respondents were contacted four times between November 2012 and March 2013. In the initial contact, a cover letter, survey booklet, and business-reply envelope were mailed to all potential study participants. The personalized cover letter explained the purpose of the study and made an appeal for respondents to complete and return the survey. Approximately 3 weeks after the first mailing, a second mailing that included a personalized cover letter and replacement questionnaire with business-reply envelope, was sent to all individuals with valid addresses who had not yet replied. Approximately 3 weeks after the second mailing, a third mailing that included a personalized cover letter and replacement questionnaire with business-reply envelope, was sent to all individuals with valid addresses who had not yet replied. In March 2013, mailings including a shortened one-page, two-sided survey and a business reply envelope were sent to people who had not responded to gauge nonresponse bias. Surveys were collected through April 24, 2013.

Survey Instruments

The data collection instrument for deer hunters in both regions was a self-administered survey with four sections of questions (Appendix A). The questionnaire included the following subjects:

- Your 2012 3A or 3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season;
- Experiences and Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3A or 3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season;
- Deer Populations and Harvest Management Strategies in Southeastern Minnesota;
- Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations.

Data Entry and Analysis

Data were keypunched in Excel 2010 and analyzed on a personal computer using the Statistical Program for the Social Sciences (SPSS for Windows 19, 21). We computed basic descriptive statistics and frequencies for the results.

The study sample was drawn using a stratified random sample with 3A and 3B season deer hunters defining the two study strata. For this reason the data had to be weighted to reflect the proportion of hunters participating in the two seasons when making combined estimates.

Survey Response Rate

Of the 2,000 full-length questionnaires mailed to 3A hunters, 50 were undeliverable. Of the remaining 1,950 surveys, a total of 1,108 full-length surveys were returned, resulting in an overall response rate of 56.8%. Of the 2,000 full-length questionnaires mailed to 3B hunters, 56 were undeliverable. Of the remaining 1,944 surveys, a total of 1,018 full-length surveys were returned, resulting in an overall response rate of 52.4%. In order to examine nonresponse bias, shortened surveys were sent to the individuals who had not responded to the first two full-length survey mailings. We received 117 responses to the follow-up survey for 3A hunters and 119 responses from 3B hunters. Total response rates, including response to nonresponse surveys were 63.1% for 3A and 58.6% for 3B. Differences between early and late responses are described below.

Nonresponse Check

The average age of full-length survey respondents was 47.7 years for 3A and 46.4 years for 3B, compared to the average age of 44.2 for the 3A sample and 42.4 for the 3B sample. Respondents to the 3A survey were significantly older than the 3A sample ($t = 7.965$, $p < 0.001$), and respondents to the 3B survey were also significantly older ($t = 8.387$, $p < 0.001$).

We compared responses to the full-length survey to those from the shortened survey to gauge nonresponse. We generally found that late respondents were younger and somewhat less active in deer hunting. We also found that, compared to the main groups of respondents, late 3A respondents were less supportive of the regulations to increase the proportion of mature bucks, while late 3B respondents were more supportive.

Respondents to the shortened surveys were somewhat younger than earlier respondents (45.5 versus 47.7 for 3A; $t = 4.875$, $p < 0.001$) (43.4 versus 46.4 for 3B; $t = 6.199$, $p < 0.001$). A significantly smaller proportion of late respondents had actually hunted during the 2012 deer seasons (3A: 97.4% for late survey vs. 98.4% for main survey, $\chi^2 = 4.923$, $p < 0.05$) (3B: 91.5% vs. 98.5%, $\chi^2 = 65.980$, $p < 0.001$). Late respondents to the 3B survey hunted significantly fewer days during the season (4.56 vs. 4.87, $t = 4.537$, $p < 0.001$), but there was no difference in days hunted for 3A hunters. Similarly, late respondents to the 3B survey had hunted significantly fewer years in the 3B season (16.1 vs. 17.7, $t = 3.969$, $p < 0.001$), but there was no difference in years hunting the 3A season for 3A hunters. Late respondents to both surveys had been deer hunting significantly fewer total years in Minnesota (22.06 versus 25.35 for 3A; $t = 7.380$, $p < 0.001$) (20.10 versus 24.41 for 3B; $t = 9.339$, $p < 0.001$).

Late respondents to the 3A survey reported less support for regulations, while late respondents to the 3B survey reported more support for regulations, compared to the main groups of respondents for the surveys. Specifically, late 3A respondents reported less support for a regulation to increase the proportion of antlered bucks in the area they hunted most often (3.43 vs. 3.85, t = 9.246, p < 0.001), while late 3B respondents reported more support (3.77 vs. 3.52, t = 5.086, p < 0.001). Late 3A respondents reported less support for keeping the 3A season at 9 days (4.35 vs. 4.57, t = 6.462, p < 0.001), while late 3B respondents reported more support (3.83 vs. 3.44, t = 6.336, p < 0.001). Late 3A respondents also reported less support for continuing the 4-point to one side antler point restriction (3.37 vs. 3.63, t = 5.003, p < 0.001), while late 3B respondents reported more support (3.74 vs. 3.29, t = 7.678, p < 0.001). Likewise, late 3A respondents reported less support for continuing the prohibition on buck cross-tagging (3.42 vs. 3.65, t = 3.785, p < 0.001), while late 3B respondents reported more support (4.04 vs. 3.65, t = 5.598, p < 0.001). Finally, late 3B respondents reported more support for exempting youth from the antler point restriction (4.51 vs. 4.19, t = 6.250, p < 0.001), but there was no difference between late and early 3A respondents on this question. Compared to the main groups of respondents, greater proportions of late respondents from both groups felt that there were fewer mature bucks now than 5 years ago (3A: 24.5% for late survey vs. 18.1% for main survey, χ^2 = 256.792, p < 0.001) (3B: 22.6% vs. 18.5%, χ^2 = 88.817, p < 0.001).

3

Section 1: 2012 3A and 3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Seasons

Findings:

Participation in 2012 Minnesota Deer Seasons

Nearly all respondents (98%) participated in their respective firearm deer hunting season; there was no significant difference in participation by season (i.e. 3A versus 3B) (Table 1-1). There were, however, significant differences between 3A and 3B hunters in the permit areas they hunted most often (Table 1-2). On average, respondents hunted nearly 5 days during the 2012 3A/3B seasons (Table 1-3), and had hunted an average of 17-18 years during the 3A and 3B seasons and 24-25 years total deer hunting in Minnesota (Table 1-4). There was no significant difference between the seasons in the number of days hunting during the season, number of years hunting the 3A/3B season, nor the number of years deer hunting in Minnesota. A greater proportion of 3A hunters than 3B hunters participated in the 2012 archery (30.5% versus 20.5%) and muzzleloader (22.6% versus 10.3%) deer seasons (Table 1-5).

Hunting locations

Respondents rated how much of their hunting they did on: (a) private land they own, (b) private land they lease for hunting, (c) private land they do not own or lease, and (d) public land, using the scale none, some, most, or all. About half of hunters from both 3A and 3B did all their hunting on on private they do not own or lease (Tables 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, and 1-9). Hunters who hunted private land were asked who hunted the private land they hunted during the season they did not hunt (i.e. either 3A or 3B) (Tables 1-10, 1-11). Those who leased hunting land were asked why they leased private land for deer hunting (Table 1-12), and how many acres they leased (Table 1-13).

Section 1: 2012 3A and 3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Seasons

Table 1-1: Hunting during the 2012 3A and 3B Minnesota deer hunting seasons.

Season	n	% who hunted
3A season	1092	98.4%
3B season	1027	98.5%
	χ^2 = n.s.	

Table 1-2: Which ONE deer permit area did you hunt most often during the 2012 3A/3B firearm deer season.

Season	338	339	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	602
3A season	7.5%	4.5%	10.9%	12.1%	9.3%	6.5%	7.3%	9.2%	8.2%	9.1%	10.9%	4.5%
3B season	6.4%	4.4%	10.7%	11.2%	7.0%	5.6%	10.9%	10.8%	8.5%	8.2%	14.3%	2.0%
	χ^2 =28.345**, V = 0.119											

Table 1-3: Number of days hunting during the 2012 3A and 3B Minnesota firearm deer hunting seasons.

Season	Mean days
3A season	4.75
3B season	4.87
	t = n.s.

Table 1-4: Number of years hunting in Minnesota overall, and years hunting during the 3A and 3B Minnesota firearm deer hunting seasons.

Season	Mean years hunting 3A/3B seasons	Mean years MN deer hunting
3A season	16.64	25.35
3B season	17.71	24.41
	t = n.s.	t = n.s.

Section 1: 2012 3A and 3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Seasons

Table 1-5: Hunted or intended to hunt during the 2012 Minnesota archery and muzzleloader deer seasons.

Season	% who hunted MN archery deer season	% who hunted MN muzzleloader deer season
3A season	30.0%	22.6%
3B season	20.5%	10.3%
	χ^2 = 24.872***, V = 0.109	χ^2 = 89.036***, V = 0.206

Table 1-6: Amount of deer hunting on <u>private land that I own</u> during the 2012 3A/3B deer hunting seasons.

Season	n	None	Some	Most	All	Don't know	Mean[1]
3A season	1050	69.0%	5.0%	6.2%	19.8%	0.1%	1.78
3B season	977	75.7%	6.2%	7.1%	10.8%	0.1%	1.54
	χ^2=31.557***, V=0.125						t=4.643***

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.

n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 1-7: Amount of deer hunting on <u>private land that I lease for hunting</u> during the 2012 3A/3B deer hunting seasons.

Season	n	None	Some	Most	All	Don't know	Mean[1]
3A season	1038	95.5%	1.1%	1.2%	2.2%	0.1%	1.11
3B season	963	95.6%	1.0%	1.3%	1.8%	0.2%	1.11
	χ^2= n.s.						t=n.s.

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.

n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 1-8: Amount of deer hunting on <u>private land that I do not own or lease</u> during the 2012 3A/3B deer hunting seasons.

Season	n	None	Some	Most	All	Don't know	Mean[1]
3A season	1056	29.5%	10.2%	10.8%	49.2%	0.2%	2.81
3B season	993	18.8%	9.5%	13.8%	57.7%	0.2%	3.12
	χ^2= 35.057***, V = 0.131						t=5.406***

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.

n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 1: 2012 3A and 3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Seasons

Table 1-9: Amount of deer hunting on <u>public land</u> during the 2012 3A/3B deer hunting seasons.

Season	n	None	Some	Most	All	Don't know	Mean[1]
3A season	1046	78.6%	10.6%	3.5%	6.9%	0.4%	1.41
3B season	972	77.7%	11.6%	3.9%	6.5%	0.3%	1.41
	χ^2= n.s.						t=n.s.

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.

n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 1-10: If hunted on <u>private land that you did not own</u> during the 2012 3A/3B deer hunting seasons, who hunted on this land.

Season	The landowner and/or their immediate family	Hunter who <u>is not a relative of</u> the landowner	Hunter who <u>is a relative</u> of the landowner	Nobody else hunts on this property during the 3A/3B season	Don't know
3A season	27.9%	31.1%	18.9%	22.9%	21.9%
3B season	42.1%	36.2%	25.1%	12.4%	11.8%
	χ^2=35.118*** V=.148	χ^2=4.600* V=.054	χ^2=8.703** V=.074	χ^2=30.060*** V=.138	χ^2=29.172*** V=.135

n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 1-11: If hunted on <u>private land that you own</u> during the 2012 3A/3B deer hunting seasons, who hunted on this land.

Season	Another party that also owns the property	Friends that do not own the property	Family that does not own the property	Any hunter who asks permission	Nobody hunts my property during the 3A/3B season	Don't know
3A season	9.8%	31.3%	29.8%	5.8%	38.5%	12.8%
3B season	18.6%	39.3%	30.2%	12.8%	28.3%	18.4%
	χ^2=9.312** V=.128	χ^2=4.090* V=.084	χ^2=n.s.	χ^2=8.637** V=.123	χ^2=6.699* V=.105	χ^2=n.s.

n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 1: 2012 3A and 3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Seasons

Table 1-12: If <u>leased land that you do not own</u> during the 2012 3A/3B deer hunting seasons, reasons for leasing.

Season	I lease a parcel myself so I can manage for mature bucks	I am one of group of people leasing so we can manage for mature bucks	I lease a parcel myself so that I have a place to hunt every year	I lease a parcel with friends so my group has a place to hunt every year	I lease because I was unable to get permission on private land	Other
3A season	12.2%	28.6%	16.3%	39.6%	6.4%	17.0%
3B season	7.1%	20.5%	16.3%	47.6%	0.0%	19.1%
	χ^2=n.s.	χ^2=n.s.	χ^2=n.s.	χ^2=n.s.	χ^2=n.s.	χ^2=n.s.

n.s.=not significant, *P $\leq$ 0.05, **P $\leq$ 0.01, ***P $\leq$ 0.001

Table 1-13: If <u>leased land that you do not own</u> during the 2012 3A/3B deer hunting seasons, total number of acres leased.

Season	n	Mean days
3A season	44	268.16
3B season	42	272.12
		t=n.s.

Section 2: Experiences & Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3A/3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

Findings:

Techniques used to hunt deer during 2012 firearm deer season

Respondents were asked to indicate how much they used the following hunting techniques: (a) stand hunting from a ground stand or blind, (b) stalking or moving slowly, (c) hunting from an elevated tree stand, and (d) using deer drives as member of a party. Response was on the scale none, some, most, or all of the time. Respondents reported greater use of hunting from stands (either tree stands or on the ground) than stalking or deer drives. 3A hunters reported significantly greater use of tree stands, while 3B hunters reported greater use of stalking and deer drives (Tables 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4).

Deer encountered and bagged

The greatest proportion of respondents from both seasons reported that the first deer they saw within shooting range was an antlerless deer. A greater proportion of respondents from 3A reported that the first deer was sub-legal or legal buck (Table 2-5). About 20% of respondents from each season were able to kill the first deer they encountered (Table 2-6). Respondents who were not able to kill the first deer were asked to indicate the reason why. The greatest proportion of respondents indicated that the deer did not present a good shot, so they did not shoot (Table 2-7).

A significantly greater proportion of 3B hunters (37.4%) compared to 3A hunters (23.4%) bagged an antlerless deer (Table 2-8). The most commonly reported reason for not shooting an antlerless deers was that one did not present a good shot (Table 2-9). More than one-fourth of 3A hunters (26.4%) reported bagging an antlered buck, compared to 12.8% of 3B hunters (Table 2-10). The most commonly reported reason for not shooting an antlered buck was that they did not see a legal buck (Table 2-11). On average, 3A hunters saw more legal and sub-legal bucks than 3B hunters; there was no significant difference between 3A and 3B hunters in the number of antlerless deer seen (Table 2-12). On average, 3A hunters bagged significantly more antlered deer (0.28 versus 0.14) and 3B hunters bagged significantly more antlerless deer (0.53 versus 0.30) (Table 2-13).

Previous 3A/3B seasons

Respondents were asked if they hunted in the 3A or 3B seasons in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and if so how many antlered and antlerless deer they killed. About three-fourths of hunters hunted the same (3A or 3B) season they currently hunt in 2009. On average, 3A hunters bagged significantly more antlered deer that year, while 3B hunters bagged significantly more antlerless deer (Table 2-14). Between 75% and 80% of hunters hunted the same (3A or 3B) season they currently hunt in 2010. Again, on average, 3A hunters bagged significantly more antlered deer that year, while 3B hunters bagged significantly more antlerless deer (Table 2-15). Over 80% of hunters hunted the same (3A or 3B) season they currently hunt in 2011. Again, on average, 3A hunters bagged significantly more antlered deer that year, while 3B hunters bagged significantly more antlerless deer (Table 2-16).

Section 2: Experiences & Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3A/3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

Satisfaction

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they heard about or saw legal bucks, and their satisfaction with the number of legal bucks, quality of bucks, total number of deer and total number of antlerless deer. Over half of respondents indicated that they heard about or saw legal bucks while hunting (Table 2-19). Over half of 3A respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the number and quality of bucks, compared to between 30 and 40% of 3B respondents (Tables 2-17, 2-18). About half of respondents from both groups were satisfied with the number of antlerless deer and the total number of deer seen while hunting (Tables 2-20, 2-21).

Section 2: Experiences & Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3A/3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

Table 2-1: Techniques used to hunt deer during the 2012 firearm deer hunting seasons: Stand hunting from ground stand/blind.

Season	n	None of the time	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	Don't know	Mean[1]
3A season	1079	37.9%	29.5%	20.9%	11.7%	0.0%	2.06
3B season	1004	32.2%	40.3%	17.0%	10.5%	0.0%	2.06
	χ^2 = 27.476***, V = 0.115						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-2: Techniques used to hunt deer during the 2012 firearm deer hunting seasons: Stalking or moving slowly.

Season	n	None of the time	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	Don't know	Mean[1]
3A season	1079	55.8%	40.5%	2.4%	1.2%	0.1%	1.50
3B season	1004	44.0%	47.6%	5.9%	2.5%	0.0%	1.67
	χ^2 = 41.313***, V = 0.141						t = 5.802***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-3: Techniques used to hunt deer during the 2012 firearm deer hunting seasons: Hunting from elevated tree stand.

Season	n	None of the time	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	Don't know	Mean[1]
3A season	1079	23.8%	19.6%	32.5%	24.1%	0.0%	2.57
3B season	1004	39.8%	24.6%	23.1%	12.5%	0.0%	2.08
	χ^2 = 103.015***, V = 0.222						t = 10.298***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-4: Techniques used to hunt deer during the 2012 firearm deer hunting seasons: Participated in deer drives as member of a party.

Season	n	None of the time	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	Don't know	Mean[1]
3A season	1078	70.6%	25.0%	3.6%	0.7%	0.0%	1.35
3B season	1004	45.3%	31.5%	16.8%	6.3%	0.1%	1.85
	χ^2 = 203.096***, V = 0.312						t = 14.655***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 2: Experiences & Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3A/3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

Table 2-5: First deer or group of deer that you saw that was within your shooting range during the 3B deer season.

Season	n	Sub legal buck	Legal buck	Antlerless deer	Mixed group of bucks and antlerless deer	Did not see a deer while hunting
3A season	1053	20.0%	16.1%	44.5%	12.6%	6.6%
3B season	980	18.2%	7.8%	50.9%	11.1%	12.0%
	$\chi^2 = 51.729$***, V = 0.160					

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-6: From the first deer or group of deer that you saw, were you able to kill the deer?

Season	n	% Yes
3A season	998	19.7%
3B season	880	21.3%
	χ^2 = n.s.	

Table 2-7: If you were not able to kill the first deer or group of deer that you saw, why not?

Season	n	I was unsure if it was a legal buck or couldn't tell if it was antlerless	The deer did not present a good shot so I did not shoot	I shot and missed the deer	It was a buck that did not meet the minimum number of antler points	It was a legal buck, but it was not big enough for me to want to shoot it	It was an antlerless deer and I do not shoot antlerless deer
3A season	652	11.7%	29.0%	7.5%	22.4%	16.1%	13.3%
3B season	590	14.6%	37.6%	16.1%	23.4%	4.6%	3.7%
	χ^2= 100.194***, V = 0.284						

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-8: Kill an antlerless deer during the 2012 3A/3B season?

Season	n	% Yes
3A season	981	23.4%
3B season	860	37.4%
	χ^2= 42.762***, V = 0.152	

Section 2: Experiences & Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3A/3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

Table 2-9: If you did not kill an antlerless deer during the 2012 3A/3B season, why not?

Season	n	I did not see an antlerless deer	The deer did not present a good shot so I did not shoot	I shot and missed the 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
3A season	511	14.1%	34.2%	11.2%	4.9%	6.5%	29.2%
3B season	412	13.3%	47.8%	24.3%	0.7%	6.8%	7.0%
	χ^2 = 104.532***, V = 0.337						

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-10: Kill an antlered buck during the 2012 3A/3B season?

Season	n	% Yes
3A season	999	26.4%
3B season	880	12.8%
	χ^2 = 53.841***, V = 0.169	

Table 2-11: If you did not kill an antlered buck during the 2012 3A/3B season, why not?

Season	n	I had already shot a buck during the archery season	I did not see a legal buck	The buck did not present a good shot so I did not shoot	I shot and missed the deer	It did not meet the minimum number of antler points	It was a legal buck, but it was not big enough for me to want to shoot it	I was unsure if the deer was legal to shoot deer
3A season	640	1.9%	31.6%	16.7%	8.8%	9.7%	20.8%	10.6%
3B season	679	1.0%	43.6%	16.1%	7.2%	12.5%	9.6%	10.0%
	χ^2= 45.383***, V = 0.185							

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 2: Experiences & Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3A/3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

Table 2-12: Mean number of deer seen during 3A/3B season.

Season	Legal buck	Sub-legal buck	Antlerless deer	Deer I couldn't identify as legal, sub-legal, or antlerless
3A season	2.25	2.49	8.50	1.97
3B season	1.37	1.89	8.57	2.10
	t = 6.837***	t = 4.417***	t = n.s.	t = n.s.

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 2-13: During the 3A/3B season, how many deer did you personally kill?

Season	Antlered deer	Antlerless deer
3A season	0.28	0.30
3B season	0.14	0.53
	t = 5.915***	t = 4.750***

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 2-14: Hunting deer in southeastern Minnesota in 2009.

Season	2009				
	None	Hunted 3A	Hunted 3B	Number of antlered deer killed	Number of antlerless deer killed
3A season	11.7%	75.7%	12.6%	0.40	0.49
3B season	12.6%	10.1%	77.2%	0.30	0.76
	χ^2= 909.912***, V = 0.695			t = 3.879***	t = 6.072***

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Section 2: Experiences & Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3A/3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

Table 2-15: Hunting deer in southeastern Minnesota in 2010.

Season	2010				
	None	Hunted 3A	Hunted 3B	Number of antlered deer killed	Number of antlerless deer killed
3A season	10.8%	78.3%	10.8%	0.28	0.50
3B season	12.0%	9.0%	79.0%	0.18	0.66
	χ^2= 997.454***, V = 0.730			t = 4.469***	t = 3.916***

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-16: Hunting deer in southeastern Minnesota in 2011.

Season	2011				
	None	Hunted 3A	Hunted 3B	Number of antlered deer killed	Number of antlerless deer killed
3A season	9.4%	82.9%	7.7%	0.27	0.40
3B season	10.5%	8.3%	81.3%	0.14	0.50
	χ^2= 1137.906***, V = 0.781			t = 6.224***	t = 2.826**

[1] t=n.s.. Mean is based on the scale: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = most 4 = all.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-17: Satisfaction with the number of legal bucks.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	1986	29.0%	18.7%	12.8%	20.6%	18.9%	2.82
3A season	1036	27.6%	17.4%	11.7%	22.2%	21.1%	2.92
3B season	949	31.7%	21.2%	15.0%	17.6%	14.5%	2.62
	χ^2 = 27.834***, V = 0.118						t = 4.451***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 2: Experiences & Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3A/3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

Table 2-18: Satisfaction with the quality of bucks.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	1971	22.0%	16.0%	16.0%	24.6%	21.3%	3.07
3A season	1028	19.8%	14.9%	15.4%	26.4%	23.5%	3.19
3B season	942	26.2%	18.0%	17.3%	21.3%	17.1%	2.85
	$\chi^2 = 28.033^{***}$, V = 0.119						t = 5.165***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-19: I heard about or saw legal bucks while hunting.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	1978	16.5%	10.9%	10.8%	29.1%	32.7%	3.50
3A season	1023	14.8%	10.8%	9.3%	30.1%	35.1%	3.60
3B season	961	19.9%	11.2%	13.6%	27.2%	28.1%	3.32
	$\chi^2 = 24.993^{***}$, V = 0.112						t = 4.228***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-20: Satisfaction with the total number of antlerless deer.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2015	19.0%	17.4%	10.7%	26.3%	26.6%	3.09
3A season	1040	18.2%	17.0%	11.3%	25.9%	27.6%	3.28
3B season	983	20.7%	18.0%	9.4%	27.2%	24.8%	3.17
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 2-21: Satisfaction with the total number of deer I saw while hunting.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2043	23.3%	17.7%	9.8%	25.3%	23.9%	3.09
3A season	1055	22.6%	17.5%	10.0%	25.0%	24.9%	3.12
3B season	996	24.7%	18.1%	9.5%	25.7%	22.0%	3.02
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 3: Deer Populations & Harvest Management Strategies in Southeastern Minnesota

Findings:

Deer population

Respondents were asked to report the trend in the deer population in the area they hunt and the surrounding area. Just less than half of respondents from both 3A and 3B indicated that there were more deer than 5 years ago, with a third or more indicating the same number, and just over 10% indicating fewer deer. There was no significant difference between the groups in perceived trends in the deer population (Table 3-1). Nearly half of respondents indicated that the deer population was about right, with about 40% indicating it was too high, and less than 10% saying too low (Table 3-2). However, over a third of hunters wanted no change in the deer population in the area they hunted with nearly half wanting an increase (Table 3-3). Respondents generally seem to feel that there are the same or more mature bucks in the areas they hunt compared to 5 years ago (Table 3-4).

Support for regulations

Respondents were asked a variety of questions about their support for antler point restrictions. Across the board, 3A hunters were more supportive than 3B hunters (Tables 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10). However, there was no difference between the groups in support for continuing the prohibition of buck cross-tagging and exempting youth from the antler point restriction (Tables 3-11, 3-12).

Section 3: Deer Populations and Harvest Management Strategies in Southeastern Minnesota

Table 3-1: Trend in the deer population in the area hunted and the surrounding area.

Season	n	Fewer deer than 5 yrs. ago	About the same number of deer as 5 yrs. ago	More deer than 5 yrs. ago	Don't know
Combined[1]	2101	46.1%	35.8%	11.2%	6.9%
3A season	1084	44.4%	37.4%	11.3%	7.0%
3B season	1025	49.3%	33.0%	11.1%	6.6%
χ^2 = n.s.					

[1] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001, #Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.

Table 3-2: Deer population in the area hunted and the surrounding area.

Season	n	Too low	About right	Too high	Don't know
Combined[1]	2101	40.2%	48.6%	6.0%	8.3%
3A season	1085	40.8%	49.8%	4.8%	4.6%
3B season	1024	39.2%	46.3%	8.1%	6.4%
χ^2 = 13.959**, V = .081					

[1] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001, #Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.

Table 3-3: Management of deer population in the area hunted and the surrounding area.

Season	n	Decrease 50%	Decrease 25%	Decrease 10%	No Change	Increase 10%	Increase 25%	Increase 50%	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2080	2.8%	5.3%	6.8%	36.8%	20.9%	20.2%	7.1%	4.57
3A season	1073	2.4%	4.9%	7.2%	36.3%	21.1%	20.2%	7.9%	4.61
3B season	1016	3.5%	6.0%	6.1%	37.8%	20.6%	20.3%	5.7%	4.50
χ^2 = n.s.									t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = significant decrease (50%), 2 = moderate decrease (25%), 3 = slight decrease (10%), 4 = no change, 5 = slight increase (10%), 6 = moderate increase (25%), 7 = significant increase (50%).
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001, #Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.

Table 3-4: Trend in the number of mature bucks over the past 5 years. deer population in the area hunted in zone 3A/3B.

Season	n	Fewer mature bucks now than 5 yrs. ago	About the same number of mature bucks now as 5 yrs. ago	More mature bucks now than 5 yrs. ago	Don't know
Combined[1]	2096	18.2%	30.55	34.7%	16.5%
3A season	1081	18.1%	28.6%	37.1%	16.2%
3B season	1024	18.5%	34.2%	30.2%	17.2%
χ^2 = 13.068**, V = .079					

[1] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001, #Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.

Section 3: Deer Populations and Harvest Management Strategies in Southeastern Minnesota

Table 3-5: Support or opposition to a regulation that would increase the proportion of antlered bucks in the deer area you hunt most often.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2087	14.6%	7.5%	16.1%	19.2%	36.8%	5.8%	3.74
3A season	1075	13.5%	5.8%	15.4%	18.7%	40.7%	5.9%	3.85
3B season	1022	16.6%	10.8%	17.2%	20.2%	29.5%	5.8%	3.52
	$\chi^2 = 39.948^{***}$, V = .138							t = 4.923***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 3-6: Support or opposition to 2010 regulations to protect yearling bucks, before the 2010 season.

Season	n	Strongly opposed	Slightly opposed	Neither	Slightly supported	Strongly supported	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2102	19.7%	13.9%	14.7%	17.4%	29.0%	5.3%	3.38
3A season	1084	17.6%	12.4%	14.0%	17.7%	33.2%	5.1%	3.52
3B season	1027	23.5%	16.7%	16.1%	16.7%	21.2%	5.7%	3.13
	$\chi^2 = 45.658^{***}$, V = .147							t = 5.582***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 3-7: How satisfaction with deer hunting experience in southeastern Minnesota has changed over time after hunting under the antler point restriction regulations.

Season	n	Much less satisfied	Somewhat less satisfied	Slightly less satisfied	No change	Slightly more satisfied	Somewhat more satisfied	Much more satisfied	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2097	17.8%	9.0%	10.9%	22.2%	12.5%	12.4%	15.2%	4.00
3A season	1080	16.1%	7.9%	10.4%	20.3%	13.6%	13.5%	18.2%	4.21
3B season	1027	21.0%	11.2%	11.8%	25.7%	10.5%	10.2%	9.5%	3.62
	$\chi^2 = 58.153^{***}$, V = .166								t = 6.787***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = much less satisfied, 2 = somewhat less satisfied, 3 = slightly less satisfied, 4 = no change, 5 = slightly more satisfied, 6 = somewhat more satisfied, 7 = much more satisfied.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 3: Deer Populations and Harvest Management Strategies in Southeastern Minnesota

Table 3-8: How support for antler point regulations in southeastern Minnesota has changed over time after hunting under the antler point restriction regulations.

Season	n	Much less support	Somewhat less support	Slightly less support	No change	Slightly more support	Somewhat more support	Much more support	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2097	18.5%	6.1%	6.1%	24.1%	13.3%	9.7%	22.1%	4.25
3A season	1079	16.8%	5.4%	5.2%	23.6%	13.3%	9.9%	25.9%	4.44
3B season	1028	21.8%	7.5%	7.8%	24.9%	13.3%	9.4%	15.3%	3.90
		$\chi^2 = 45.025$***, V = .146							t = 6.009***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = much less support, 2 = somewhat less support, 3 = slightly less support, 4 = no change, 5 = slightly more support, 6 = somewhat more support, 7 = much more support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 3-9: Support or opposition to regulations: Keeping the 3A season at 9 days.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2093	10.4%	7.0%	8.9%	11.6%	59.7%	2.5%	4.18
3A season	1086	3.8%	3.8%	5.5%	10.6%	75.0%	1.4%	4.57
3B season	1010	23.0%	13.0%	15.1%	13.4%	31.0%	4.6%	3.44
		$\chi^2 = 459.247$***, V = .468						t = 16.299***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 3-10: Support or opposition to regulations: Continue the 4-point to one side antler point restriction.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2093	24.9%	9.1%	5.2%	15.0%	44.8%	0.9%	3.51
3A season	1085	22.6%	8.1%	4.9%	14.7%	49.3%	0.5%	3.63
3B season	1012	29.3%	11.1%	5.9%	15.5%	36.4%	1.8%	3.29
		$\chi^2 = 44.060$***, V = .145						t = 4.330***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Section 3: Deer Populations and Harvest Management Strategies in Southeastern Minnesota

Table 3-11: Support or opposition to regulations: Continue the prohibition of buck cross-tagging.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2064	19.4%	11.5%	19.8%	10.5%	31.9%	6.8%	3.65
3A season	1069	18.8%	11.3%	19.4%	10.1%	34.6%	5.8%	3.65
3B season	1000	20.5%	11.9%	20.7%	11.2%	26.9%	8.8%	3.65
	χ^2 = 18.319**, V = .094							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 3-12: Support or opposition to regulations: Exemption of youth from the antler point restriction.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2083	11.6%	6.5%	10.3%	11.1%	58.3%	2.2%	4.11
3A season	1081	12.1%	6.9%	10.3%	10.5%	58.4%	1.9%	4.07
3B season	1006	10.5%	5.8%	10.4%	12.2%	58.1%	3.0%	4.19
	χ^2 = n.s.							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Findings:

Support for regulation changes

On average respondents were somewhat opposed to: (a) delaying the 3A deer season one week (Table 4-1), (b) delaying the 3A deer season until late November (Table 4-2), (c) consolidating the 3A and 3B deer seasons (Table 4-3), (d) allowing archery deer hunters to tag an additional buck (Table 4-4), and (e) allowing muzzleloader deer hunters to tag an additional buck (Table 4-5). There was no significant difference between groups for these possible changes, *except* 3A hunters reported significantly less opposition to delaying the 3A season one week (Table 4-1). On average, respondents disagreed that they would lose access to the property they hunt, if the 3A and 3B seasons were consolidated. A greater proportion of 3B hunters agreed that they might lose access to the property they hunt (Table 4-6). On average, respondents supported a second deer being taken during archery or muzzleloader season; there was not significant difference in support between 3A and 3B hunters (Table 4-7).

Reasons for supporting or opposing regulation changes

Respondents were asked to indicate how important 15 reasons were to their support or opposition to deer hunting regulations (Tables 4-8 through 4-23). All 15 reasons were rated important, on average. The three most important were: (a) protect the interests of farmers and other landowners, (b) lead to a better public image of hunters and hunting, and (c) the regulations do not result in decreased access to private land. The three least important were: (a) increase hunting opportunity for bowhunters, (b) increase hunting opportunity for muzzleloader hunters, and (c) do not result in an increased doe harvest (Table 4-23). Only one reason was rated significantly differently by 3A and 3B hunters; 3A hunters rated increase my own chances of taking a large antlered buck more important than 3B hunters did (Table 4-15).

Ideal season structure

Respondents were asked seven questions addressing their perceptions of an "ideal" deer season structure for southeast Minnesota. The majority of respondents from both the 3A and 3B samples indicated that ideally the deer season would open in early November, with a significantly greater proportion of 3A hunters preferring middle November (Table 4-24). A large majority (84.2%) of 3A hunters preferred a 9-day 3A deer season, compared to 3B hunters who were more divided over preferences for a 7-day (43.5%), 9-day (36.1%), and 5-day (20.4%) 3A season (Table 4-25). Similarly, a large majority (80.8%) of 3B hunters preferred a 9-day 3B deer season, compared to 3A hunters who were more divided over preferences for a 7-day (41.5%) or 9-day (58.5%) 3B season (Table 4-26). About three-fourths of hunters from both samples preferred that the 3B season open one week after the 3A season, compared to between 20 and 30% of hunters who preferred that it open immediately after the 3A season (Table 4-27). Majorities of both 3A (54.3%) and 3B (61.3%) hunters felt that cross-tagging should *not* be banned and that party hunting be allowed for both antlered and antlerless deer (Table 4-28). Likewise, substantial majorities of both 3A (67.8%) and 3B (72.2%) hunters felt that a 4-day youth hunt should be held over MEA weekend (Table 4-29).

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Experiences important to deer hunting satisfaction

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of 21 experiences to their satisfaction with the 2012 deer season (Tables 4-30 through 4-51). Responses were generally similar, with the most important experiences being enjoying nature and the outdoors, good behavior among other deer hunters, getting away from crowds of people, and hunting with family (Table 4-51). 3A hunters rated five items significantly higher than 3B hunters did: (a) thinking about personal values (3.77 vs. 3.64) (Table 4-49), (b) seeing lots of bucks (3.50 vs. 3.09) (Table 4-41), (c) getting information about hunting seasons (3.38 vs. 3.25) (Table 4-40), (d) harvesting a large buck (3.29 vs. 2.81) (Table 4-45), and (e) geing on my own (2.99 vs. 2.86) (Table 4-33). 3B hunters rated three items significantly higher than 3A hunters did: (a) hunting with friends (3.87 vs. 3.69) (Table 4-34), (b) harvesting any deer for meat (3.53 vs. 3.16) (Table 4-32), (c) getting food for my family (3.12 vs. 2.96) (Table 4-39).

Changes in hunting location

Respondents were asked about changes in their deer hunting location. The large majority of respondents from both samples typically hunt the same area every year (Table 4-52).

Membership in deer organizations

Respondents were asked about memberships in organized deer-hunting groups. The large majority of respondents from both samples were not members of organized groups (Table 4-53, Table 4-54).

Agency trust

Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with six statements about the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Tables 4-55 through 4-61). On average, respondents slightly agreed with all statements, and there were no significant differences between the two samples. Respondents agreed most strongly that "the MnDNR has deer managers and biologists who are well-trained for their jobs."

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-1: Support or opposition about potential deer management changes: Delay the 3A deer season one week.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2083	38.8%	14.0%	13.7%	13.3%	17.9%	2.4%	2.72
3A season	1078	35.4%	13.6%	13.2%	15.2%	20.7%	1.9%	2.83
3B season	1011	45.0%	14.5%	14.6%	9.8%	12.7%	3.4%	2.51
	$\chi^2 = 49.800$***, V = .154							t = 4.056***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-2: Support or opposition about potential deer management changes: Delay the 3A deer season until late November.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2083	56.7%	11.5%	10.4%	7.8%	11.6%	2.0%	2.18
3A season	1078	55.5%	11.3%	10.5%	8.4%	12.7%	1.6%	2.21
3B season	1011	59.0%	11.8%	10.2%	6.6%	9.6%	2.9%	2.13
	$\chi^2 = 11.981$*, V = .076							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-3: Support or opposition about potential deer management changes: Consolidate the 3A and 3B deer seasons.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2088	43.2%	8.9%	8.9%	15.3%	21.4%	2.3%	2.77
3A season	1082	41.7%	9.4%	9.3%	15.2%	22.1%	2.2%	2.80
3B season	1011	46.0%	7.9%	8.2%	15.3%	20.1%	2.5%	2.70
	$\chi^2 = $ n.s.							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-4: Support or opposition about potential deer management changes: Allowing archery deer hunters to tag an additional buck.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2097	46.3%	10.9%	8.8%	11.8%	20.4%	1.8%	2.60
3A season	1087	46.0%	10.5%	8.2%	12.0%	22.1%	1.3%	2.61
3B season	1015	46.9%	11.6%	10.0%	11.5%	17.2%	2.8%	2.57
	χ^2 = 14.499*, V = .083							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-5: Support or opposition about potential deer management changes: Allowing muzzleloader deer hunters to tag an additional buck.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2094	49.6%	12.8%	11.0%	11.1%	13.3%	2.1%	2.39
3A season	1084	50.0%	12.4%	10.6%	10.6%	14.6%	1.8%	2.38
3B season	1015	49.0%	13.6%	11.6%	12.1%	11.0%	2.7%	2.39
	χ^2 = n.s.							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-6: Agreement or disagreement with statement: "If the 3A and 3B deer seasons were consolidated into one 16-day season, I (and/or my hunting party) would lose access to the property we currently hunt."

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2094	39.5%	9.7%	13.6%	22.8%	14.4%	2.63
3A season	1086	42.2%	9.4%	14.1%	18.9%	15.5%	2.56
3B season	1012	34.5%	10.2%	12.7%	30.1%	12.5%	2.76
	χ^2 = 39.817***, V = .138						t = 2.981**

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-7: Level of support or opposition for allowing a second deer to be taken either during the archery or muzzleloader season.

Season	n	Strongly oppose	Slightly oppose	Neither	Slightly support	Strongly support	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2095	21.0%	8.9%	16.9%	20.7%	26.1%	6.4%	3.41
3A season	1085	22.8%	8.6%	14.9%	20.6%	26.7%	6.5%	3.39
3B season	1015	17.7%	9.6%	20.7%	20.9%	24.9%	6.2%	3.44
	χ^2 = 17.645**, V = .092							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly oppose, 2 = slightly oppose, 3 = neither, 4 = slightly support, 5 = strongly support.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-8: Importance that deer hunting regulations: Do <u>not</u> result in an increased total buck harvest.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2048	8.2%	10.6%	35.5%	13.0%	27.1%	5.6%	3.74
3A season	1064	8.7%	10.2%	35.2%	12.9%	27.9%	5.1%	3.71
3B season	987	7.3%	11.1%	36.3%	13.2%	25.6%	6.5%	3.78
	χ^2 = n.s.							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-9: Importance that deer hunting regulations: Do <u>not</u> result in an increased doe harvest.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2044	10.0%	17.3%	38.5%	12.6%	16.6%	5.0%	3.39
3A season	1061	9.5%	17.1%	39.5%	12.7%	16.4%	4.8%	3.38
3B season	986	10.9%	17.6%	36.7%	12.3%	17.0%	5.5%	3.40
	χ^2 = n.s.							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-10: Importance that deer hunting regulations: <u>Increase</u> DNR's ability to control the deer population.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2011	9.5%	10.8%	33.5%	21.3%	20.4%	4.5%	3.59
3A season	1045	9.2%	10.6%	34.9%	20.9%	20.7%	3.7%	3.56
3B season	969	10.1%	11.1%	30.9%	22.1%	19.8%	6.0%	3.66
χ^2 = n.s.								t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-11: Importance that deer hunting regulations: <u>Increase</u> hunting opportunity for bowhunters.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2049	11.6%	12.3%	37.0%	13.3%	20.0%	5.6%	3.52
3A season	1063	12.0%	12.0%	36.9%	13.1%	20.7%	5.3%	3.50
3B season	990	10.8%	12.9%	37.4%	13.8%	18.7%	6.4%	3.55
χ^2 = n.s.								t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-12: Importance that deer hunting regulations: <u>Increase</u> hunting opportunity for muzzleloader hunters.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2040	9.9%	12.8%	43.3%	12.5%	16.0%	5.5%	3.45
3A season	1060	9.8%	13.3%	43.2%	11.5%	16.9%	5.3%	3.44
3B season	982	10.1%	11.8%	43.6%	14.3%	14.4%	5.9%	3.46
χ^2 = n.s.								t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-13: Importance that deer hunting regulations: <u>Increase</u> hunting opportunity for firearm hunters.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2042	6.4%	9.8%	37.7%	18.2%	24.2%	3.6%	3.66
3A season	1058	6.1%	10.1%	38.8%	17.9%	23.9%	3.2%	3.63
3B season	989	6.9%	9.3%	35.7%	18.8%	24.9%	4.4%	3.72
	χ^2 = n.s.							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-14: Importance that deer hunting regulations: Increase <u>my own</u> chances of taking an antlered buck.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2047	6.4%	9.0%	31.7%	18.4%	31.5%	3.0%	3.77
3A season	1062	6.0%	7.7%	32.7%	18.3%	32.5%	2.8%	3.80
3B season	989	7.0%	11.5%	29.9%	18.6%	29.7%	3.2%	3.72
	χ^2 = 11.273*, V = .074							t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-15: Importance that deer hunting regulations: Increase <u>my own</u> chances of taking a large antlered buck.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2043	6.4%	6.9%	26.6%	15.3%	42.0%	2.8%	3.96
3A season	1059	5.9%	5.1%	25.5%	14.4%	46.6%	2.6%	4.07
3B season	988	7.4%	10.4%	28.5%	17.0%	33.5%	3.1%	3.78
	χ^2 = 46.846***, V = .151							t = 4.335***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-16: Importance that deer hunting regulations: Increase <u>my own</u> chances of taking antlerless deer.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2031	4.8%	6.6%	42.1%	18.3%	25.1%	3.1%	3.71
3A season	1054	4.6%	6.0%	45.7%	17.2%	23.5%	2.9%	3.67
3B season	981	5.2%	7.7%	35.4%	20.3%	28.1%	3.3%	3.78
		$\chi^2 = 23.016$***, V = .106						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-17: Importance that deer hunting regulations: Encourage new people to take up deer hunting.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2052	5.8%	7.1%	34.9%	16.6%	31.0%	4.7%	3.88
3A season	1062	5.4%	6.6%	37.0%	16.8%	29.8%	4.4%	3.86
3B season	996	6.7%	8.0%	30.8%	16.2%	33.1%	5.1%	3.92
		$\chi^2 = 11.211$*, V = .074						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-18: Importance that deer hunting regulations: Lead to a better public image of hunters and hunting.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2041	4.2%	4.9%	28.2%	17.0%	41.4%	4.3%	4.12
3A season	1059	3.8%	4.8%	29.4%	16.6%	41.2%	4.2%	4.12
3B season	985	5.0%	5.1%	26.1%	17.7%	41.9%	4.3%	4.12
		χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-19: Importance that deer hunting regulations: Protect the interests of farmers and other landowners.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2052	5.1%	4.6%	24.7%	19.7%	41.7%	4.2%	4.14
3A season	1065	4.9%	4.4%	24.7%	20.1%	41.9%	4.0%	4.14
3B season	991	5.4%	4.8%	24.6%	19.1%	41.4%	4.6%	4.14
χ^2 = n.s.								t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-20: Importance that deer hunting regulations: Protect areas so that deer do not cause forest and other habitat damages.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2059	5.4%	6.8%	33.8%	21.4%	27.4%	5.1%	3.90
3A season	1069	5.1%	6.0%	34.2%	22.1%	27.1%	5.5%	3.93
3B season	993	6.0%	8.5%	32.8%	20.2%	28.0%	4.4%	3.82
χ^2 = n.s.								t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-21: Importance that deer hunting regulations: Reduce crowding of hunters on public lands.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2062	5.9%	5.9%	34.1%	16.3%	31.7%	6.0%	3.98
3A season	1069	6.0%	5.3%	33.2%	16.0%	34.0%	5.5%	4.00
3B season	997	5.7%	7.0%	35.8%	17.0%	27.5%	7.0%	3.96
χ^2 = 12.632*, V = .078								t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-22: Importance that deer hunting regulations: The regulations do not result in decreased access to private land.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2062	6.0%	4.3%	35.4%	14.3%	32.4%	7.7%	4.09
3A season	1070	6.4%	4.2%	36.0%	13.5%	32.4%	7.6%	
3B season	998	5.2%	4.5%	34.2%	15.8%	32.4%	7.9%	
		χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-23: Importance that deer hunting regulations.

The deer hunting regulations…	3A Mean[1]	3B Mean[1]
Protect the interests of farmers and other landowners.	4.14	4.14
Lead to a better public image of hunters and hunting.	4.12	4.12
The regulations do not result in decreased access to private land.	4.07	4.13
Increase **my own** chances of taking a large antlered buck. ***	4.07	3.78
Reduce crowding of hunters on public lands.	4.00	3.96
Protect areas so that deer do not cause forest and other habitat damages	3.93	3.82
Encourage new people to take up deer hunting.	3.86	3.92
Increase **my own** chances of taking an antlered buck.	3.80	3.72
Do **not** result in an increased total buck harvest.	3.71	3.78
Increase **my own** chances of taking antlerless deer.	3.67	3.78
Increase hunting opportunity for firearm hunters.	3.63	3.72
Increase DNR's ability to control the deer population.	3.56	3.66
Increase hunting opportunity for bowhunters.	3.50	3.55
Increase hunting opportunity for muzzleloader hunters.	3.44	3.46
Do **not** result in an increased doe harvest.	3.38	3.40

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-24: Ideal deer season structure in southeastern Minnesota: Season should open in…

Season	n	Early November	Middle November	Late November
Combined[1]	2017	62.5%	27.7%	9.8%
3A season	1045	59.3%	31.3%	9.4%
3B season	977	68.4%	21.1%	10.5%
	$\chi^2 = 27.126$***, V = .116			

[1] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-25: Ideal deer season structure in southeastern Minnesota: The 3A season should be open…

Season	n	5 days	7 days	9 days
Combined[1]	2019	9.5%	23.1%	67.4%
3A season	1042	3.6%	12.2%	84.2%
3B season	985	20.4%	43.5%	36.1%
	$\chi^2 = 493.346$***, V = .493			

[1] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-25: Ideal deer season structure in southeastern Minnesota: The 3B season should be…

Season	n	7 days	9 days
Combined[1]	2019	33.6%	66.4%
3A season	1035	41.5%	58.5%
3B season	997	19.2%	80.8%
	$\chi^2 = 119.946$***, V = .243		

[1] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-26: Ideal deer season structure in southeastern Minnesota: The 3B season should start…

Season	n	Immediately after the 3A season ends	One week after the 3A season ends
Combined[1]	1998	25.6%	74.4%
3A season	1026	28.0%	72.0%
3B season	983	21.3%	78.7%
		χ^2 = 12.161***, V = .078	

[1] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-27: Ideal deer season structure in southeastern Minnesota: During both the 3A and 3B seasons, the DNR …

Season	n	Should implement an antler point restriction to protect yearling bucks	Should not implement an antler point restriction to protect yearling bucks
Combined[1]	2022	67.5%	32.5%
3A season	1043	71.3%	28.7%
3B season	987	60.3%	39.7%
		χ^2 = 27.573***, V = .117	

[1] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-28: Ideal deer season structure in southeastern Minnesota: The DNR …

Season	n	Should ban cross-tagging of bucks, but allow party hunting for antlerless deer	Should not ban cross-tagging of bucks, and allow party hunting for both antlered and antlerless deer
Combined[1]	2023	43.3%	56.7%
3A season	1041	45.7%	54.3%
3B season	992	38.7%	61.3%
		χ^2 = 10.243**, V = .071	

[1] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-29: Ideal deer season structure in southeastern Minnesota: The DNR …

Season	n	Should hold a 4-day youth hunt over the MEA weekend (Thursday – Sunday)	Should not hold a 4-day youth hunt over the MEA weekend (Thursday – Sunday)
Combined[1]	2007	69.4%	30.6%
3A season	1032	67.8%	32.2%
3B season	986	72.2%	27.8%
		$\chi^2 = 4.607^*$, V = .048	

[1] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, $^*P \leq 0.05$, $^{**}P \leq 0.01$, $^{***}P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-30: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Harvesting at least one deer.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2026	10.2%	14.7%	27.0%	28.2%	19.8%	3.33
3A season	1045	11.1%	14.7%	27.5%	26.9%	19.8%	3.30
3B season	989	8.6%	14.8%	26.2%	30.6%	19.8%	3.38
		χ^2 = n.s.					t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, $^*P \leq 0.05$, $^{**}P \leq 0.01$, $^{***}P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-31: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Access to a lot of different hunting areas.

Season	N	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2012	24.3%	13.8%	27.4%	22.7%	11.9%	2.84
3A season	1036	26.0%	12.9%	27.6%	21.5%	12.0%	2.81
3B season	986	21.3%	15.3%	27.0%	24.7%	11.7%	2.90
		χ^2 = n.s.					t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, $^*P \leq 0.05$, $^{**}P \leq 0.01$, $^{***}P \leq 0.001$

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-32: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Harvesting any deer for meat.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2014	14.2%	14.1%	23.2%	25.9%	22.7%	3.29
3A season	1036	16.7%	15.2%	24.5%	23.2%	20.5%	3.16
3B season	988	9.6%	12.1%	20.6%	30.9%	26.7%	3.53
	χ^2 = 45.422***, V = .150						t = 6.395***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-33: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Being on my own.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	1994	22.5%	13.3%	26.3%	23.1%	14.7%	2.94
3A season	1033	21.8%	13.1%	25.6%	23.7%	15.9%	2.99
3B season	966	23.9%	13.8%	27.7%	21.9%	12.6%	2.86
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = 2.179*

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-34: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Hunting with friends.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2011	6.7%	8.1%	18.8%	36.0%	30.3%	3.75
3A season	1037	7.4%	8.8%	20.1%	35.1%	28.6%	3.69
3B season	983	5.5%	6.8%	16.6%	37.7%	33.4%	3.87
	χ^2 = 13.312*, V = .081						t = 3.487***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-35: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Developing my skills and abilities.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2016	8.2%	10.0%	26.0%	34.1%	21.7%	3.51
3A season	1040	8.6%	9.4%	26.2%	33.4%	22.5%	3.52
3B season	984	7.6%	11.2%	25.7%	35.4%	20.1%	3.49
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P $\leq$ 0.05, **P $\leq$ 0.01, ***P $\leq$ 0.001

Table 4-36: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Hunting with family.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2019	6.0%	4.8%	11.0%	32.0%	46.2%	4.08
3A season	1042	6.4%	5.0%	11.9%	31.5%	45.2%	4.04
3B season	985	5.2%	4.4%	9.3%	33.0%	48.1%	4.15
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = 2.090*

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P $\leq$ 0.05, **P $\leq$ 0.01, ***P $\leq$ 0.001

Table 4-37: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Enjoying nature and the outdoors.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2028	0.7%	1.4%	6.9%	29.6%	61.4%	4.50
3A season	1046	0.8%	1.5%	7.1%	27.9%	62.7%	4.50
3B season	990	0.5%	1.2%	6.7%	32.7%	58.9%	4.48
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P $\leq$ 0.05, **P $\leq$ 0.01, ***P $\leq$ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-38: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Getting away from crowds of people.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	1044	2.1%	3.9%	12.6%	29.8%	51.7%	4.25
3A season	1042	1.6%	4.0%	12.2%	29.2%	53.0%	4.28
3B season	987	2.8%	3.5%	13.5%	30.9%	49.2%	4.20
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P $\leq$ 0.05, **P $\leq$ 0.01, ***P $\leq$ 0.001

Table 4-39: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Getting food for my family.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2026	21.1%	16.5%	22.8%	18.7%	20.9%	3.02
3A season	1044	22.1%	17.2%	22.5%	18.6%	19.5%	2.96
3B season	991	19.3%	15.1%	23.3%	18.9%	23.4%	3.12
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = 2.507*

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P $\leq$ 0.05, **P $\leq$ 0.01, ***P $\leq$ 0.001

Table 4-40: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Getting information about hunting seasons.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2017	8.7%	15.7%	28.7%	27.6%	19.4%	3.33
3A season	1038	8.1%	15.7%	27.4%	28.0%	20.8%	3.38
3B season	989	9.7%	15.6%	31.0%	26.9%	16.8%	3.25
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = 2.306*

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P $\leq$ 0.05, **P $\leq$ 0.01, ***P $\leq$ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-41: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Seeing a lot of bucks.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2024	9.4%	13.3%	31.2%	24.5%	21.5%	3.35
3A season	1043	7.6%	10.9%	29.9%	27.1%	24.4%	3.50
3B season	990	12.8%	17.8%	33.5%	19.7%	16.2%	3.09
	$\chi^2 = 61.669$***, V = .174						t = 7.691***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-42: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Good behavior among other deer hunters.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2029	1.1%	2.0%	8.2%	30.4%	58.3%	4.43
3A season	1048	1.0%	2.2%	7.7%	29.8%	59.3%	4.44
3B season	988	1.2%	1.5%	9.1%	31.6%	56.6%	4.41
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-43: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Having a long deer season.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2027	10.2%	17.0%	31.6%	22.8%	18.4%	3.22
3A season	1047	9.6%	16.6%	31.2%	23.3%	19.2%	3.26
3B season	987	11.3%	17.6%	32.3%	21.8%	16.9%	3.15
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-44: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Hunting areas open to the public.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2009	22.3%	14.6%	24.5%	20.2%	18.5%	2.98
3A season	1034	22.1%	14.3%	24.3%	20.0%	19.2%	3.00
3B season	985	22.5%	15.1%	24.9%	20.4%	17.1%	2.94
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-45: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Harvesting a large buck.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2018	17.2%	15.3%	28.3%	16.7%	22.5%	3.12
3A season	1043	14.3%	13.3%	28.3%	17.7%	26.4%	3.29
3B season	981	22.6%	19.1%	28.4%	14.7%	15.2%	2.81
	χ^2 = 62.590***, V = .176						t = 7.937***

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-46: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Reducing tension and stress.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	1997	6.4%	7.0%	22.1%	29.6%	34.9%	3.79
3A season	1031	6.2%	6.8%	21.1%	29.6%	36.3%	3.83
3B season	974	6.9%	7.5%	23.8%	29.6%	32.2%	3.73
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-47 Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Seeing a lot of deer.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2029	2.8%	7.3%	29.0%	34.6%	26.4%	3.74
3A season	1047	2.8%	6.9%	28.6%	33.8%	28.0%	3.77
3B season	990	2.9%	8.1%	29.7%	36.0%	23.3%	3.69
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-48: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Sharing my hunting skills and knowledge.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2026	7.1%	11.7%	29.1%	29.9%	22.3%	3.49
3A season	1046	7.0%	11.4%	29.7%	29.4%	22.5%	3.49
3B season	988	7.3%	12.2%	27.8%	30.8%	21.9%	3.48
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-49: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Thinking about personal values.

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2025	5.4%	8.5%	23.8%	32.7%	29.6%	3.72
3A season	1047	5.0%	7.9%	23.4%	32.7%	31.0%	3.77
3B season	985	6.3%	9.5%	24.7%	32.7%	26.8%	3.64
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = 2.519*

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-50: Importance of experiences to satisfaction with 3A/3B firearms deer season: Using my deer hunting equipment (gun, stands, etc.).

Season	n	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2030	6.7%	11.2%	27.0%	30.9%	24.1%	3.55
3A season	1047	6.6%	10.5%	26.4%	32.4%	24.2%	3.57
3B season	991	6.9%	12.6%	28.3%	28.2%	24.1%	3.50
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-51: Importance of experiences to satisfaction.

Experiences	3A Mean[1]	3B Mean[1]
Enjoying nature and the outdoors	4.50	4.48
Good behavior among other deer hunters	4.44	4.41
Getting away from crowds of people	4.28	4.20
Hunting with family	4.04	4.15
Reducing tension and stress	3.83	3.73
Seeing a lot of deer	3.77	3.69
Thinking about personal values*	3.77	3.64
Hunting with friends***	3.69	3.87
Using my deer hunting equipment (gun, stands, etc.)	3.57	3.50
Developing my skills and abilities	3.52	3.49
Seeing a lot of bucks***	3.50	3.09
Sharing my hunting skills and knowledge	3.49	3.48
Getting information about hunting seasons *	3.38	3.25
Harvesting at least one deer	3.30	3.38
Harvesting a large buck***	3.29	2.81
Having a long deer season	3.26	3.15
Harvesting any deer for meat***	3.16	3.53
Hunting areas open to the public	3.00	2.94
Being on my own*	2.99	2.86
Getting food for my family*	2.96	3.12
Access to a lot of different hunting areas	2.81	2.90

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = not at all important, 2 = slightly important, 3 = somewhat important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-52: Where typically hunt.

Season	n	Almost never hunt the same area every year	Change hunting location every 1 to 2 years	Change hunting location every 3 to 5 years	Typically hunt the same area every year
3A season	1051	2.0%	3.5%	4.7%	89.8%
3B season	999	2.5%	1.9%	4.2%	91.4%
	χ^2 = n.s.				

n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-53: Member of an organized deer-hunting group?

Season	n	Yes	No
3A season	1050	10.6%	89.4%
3B season	994	10.8%	89.2%
	χ^2 = n.s.		

n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-54: If a member of an organized deer-hunting group, which one(s)?

Season	MN Deer Hunters Association	Bluffland Whitetails Association	Quality Deer Management Association	Whitetails Unlimited	Local Sportsman Group
3A season	2.8%	2.3%	0.9%	3.2%	2.3%
3B season	3.9%	1.8%	1.3%	4.4%	2.0%
	t = n.s.	t = n.s.	t = n.s.	t = n.s.	t = n.s.

n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-55: Feelings about MN DNR: The MnDNR does a good job of managing deer in Minnesota.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2098	7.1%	12.9%	32.2%	39.8%	8.0%	3.29
3A season	1086	7.8%	12.6%	31.8%	39.2%	8.6%	3.28
3B season	1017	5.7%	13.4%	33.0%	40.9%	7.0%	3.30
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-56: Feelings about MN DNR: When deciding about deer management in Minnesota, the MnDNR will be open and honest in the things they do and say.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2088	5.4%	13.1%	35.9%	35.5%	10.1%	3.32
3A season	1081	6.0%	13.3%	34.8%	36.0%	9.9%	3.30
3B season	1012	4.2%	12.7%	37.9%	34.7%	10.5%	3.35
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-57: Feelings about MN DNR: The MnDNR can be trusted to make decisions about deer management that are good for the resource.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2093	5.7%	15.6%	32.6%	38.6%	7.5%	3.27
3A season	1084	5.8%	16.3%	31.4%	38.7%	7.8%	3.26
3B season	1014	5.5%	14.2%	34.9%	38.5%	6.9%	3.27
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Table 4-58: Feelings about MN DNR: The MnDNR will make decisions about deer management in a way that is fair.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2088	6.2%	14.1%	34.2%	37.5%	8.0%	3.27
3A season	1080	6.5%	13.7%	33.7%	37.4%	8.7%	3.28
3B season	1014	5.6%	14.8%	35.2%	37.6%	6.8%	3.25
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, ***P ≤ 0.001

Section 4: Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

Table 4-59: Feelings about MN DNR: The MnDNR has deer managers and biologists who are well-trained for their jobs.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2090	3.4%	5.5%	43.7%	37.8%	9.7%	3.45
3A season	1084	3.6%	5.7%	43.2%	37.5%	10.1%	3.45
3B season	1010	3.1%	5.0%	44.8%	38.3%	8.9%	3.45
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-60: Feelings about MN DNR: The MnDNR listens to deer hunters' concerns.

Season	n	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean[1]
Combined[2]	2087	7.9%	15.0%	34.5%	34.5%	8.0%	3.20
3A season	1081	7.6%	15.3%	33.6%	34.9%	8.7%	3.22
3B season	1011	8.5%	14.6%	36.3%	33.9%	6.6%	3.16
	χ^2 = n.s.						t = n.s.

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.
[2] Data are weighted to reflect population proportions.
n.s.=not significant, *$P \leq 0.05$, **$P \leq 0.01$, ***$P \leq 0.001$

Table 4-61: Trust in Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

	3A Mean[1]	3B Mean[1]
The MnDNR has deer managers and biologists who are well-trained for their jobs.	3.45	3.45
When deciding about deer management in Minnesota, the MnDNR will be open and honest in the things they do and say.	3.30	3.35
The MnDNR does a good job of managing deer in Minnesota.	3.28	3.30
The MnDNR will make decisions about deer management in a way that is fair.	3.28	3.25
The MnDNR can be trusted to make decisions about deer management that are good for the resource.	3.26	3.27
The MnDNR listens to deer hunters' concerns.	3.22	3.16

[1] Mean is based on the scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neither, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.

References

Dillman, D. (2000). *Mail and Internet surveys: The tailored design method.* New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. (2006). *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*.

Appendix 1: Survey Instruments

SURVEY OF MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 3A FIREARM SEASON

A study of hunters' opinions and activities

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!

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

Part I. Your 2012 3A Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

The first set of questions will tell us how you hunted deer. When you purchased your 2012 firearm deer license, you indicated you intended to hunt in southeastern Minnesota during the 3A season. For reference, the 3A season refers to the 9-day firearm season in the 300-series deer permit areas (including 602) that began on November 3rd. *Please read the questions carefully and answer them as accurately as you can.*

1. **Did you hunt during the 2012 3A deer season?**
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ No (*Please skip to Question 22.*)

2. **Which ONE deer permit area did you hunt most often during the 2012 3A firearm deer season?** *(Check one.)*
   - ❑ 338
   - ❑ 339
   - ❑ 341
   - ❑ 342
   - ❑ 343
   - ❑ 344
   - ❑ 345
   - ❑ 346
   - ❑ 347
   - ❑ 348
   - ❑ 349
   - ❑ 602

3. **How many days did you hunt during the 2012 firearm deer season in Zone 3A?**

   _____ Days

4. **Including 2012, how many years have you hunted deer during the 3A Minnesota firearm deer season?**

   _____ Years

5. **Including 2012, how many years have you been hunting deer in Minnesota?**

   _____ Years

6. **Although the archery season is not over yet, did you hunt deer during the 2012 Minnesota archery season?**
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ No

7. **Do you plan on hunting the 2012 Minnesota muzzleloader deer season?**
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ No
   - ❑ Maybe

Please answer the following questions about the area you hunted most often during the 2012 Zone 3A firearm deer season (area checked in question 2 above). This is the area that you took the most trips or where you spent the majority of your time firearm hunting.

8. **How much of your deer hunting did you do on each of the following types of land during the 2012 3A deer hunting season?** *(Circle one number for each item.)*

	None	Some	Most	All	Don't Know
Private land that I own	1	2	3	4	9
Private land that I lease for hunting	1	2	3	4	9
Private land that I do **not** own or lease	1	2	3	4	9
Public land*	1	2	3	4	9

*If you only hunted public land, please skip to question 12.

48

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

9. **If you hunted on <u>private land</u> that you <u>did not own </u>during the 3A season, to the best of your knowledge <u>who hunted that land during the 3B season</u>?** (*If you did not hunt private land you do not own, skip to Question 10.*) (*Check all that apply.*)

   - ❑ The landowner and/or their immediate family
   - ❑ Hunter who <u>is not a relative</u> of the landowner
   - ❑ Hunter who <u>is a relative</u> of the landowner
   - ❑ Nobody else hunts on this property during the 3B season
   - ❑ Don't know

10. **If you hunted on <u>private land</u> that <u>you own</u> during the 3A season, <u>who hunted on your property during the 3B season</u>?** (*If you did not hunt private land you own, skip to Question 11.*) (*Check all that apply.*)

    - ❑ Another party that also owns the property
    - ❑ Friends that do not own the property
    - ❑ Family that does not own the property
    - ❑ Any hunter who asks permission
    - ❑ Nobody hunts my property during the 3B season
    - ❑ Don't know

11. **If you <u>leased private land that you did not own</u>, please check the primary <u>reason you decided to lease property for deer hunting</u>. Also, please indicate the number of acres you lease.** (*If you did not lease land for hunting, skip to Question 12.*) (*Check all that apply.*)

    - ❑ I lease a parcel myself so I can manage for mature bucks
    - ❑ I am one of group of people leasing so we can manage for mature bucks
    - ❑ I lease a parcel myself so that I have a place to hunt every year
    - ❑ I lease a parcel with friends so my group has a place to hunt every year
    - ❑ I lease because I was unable to get permission on private land
    - ❑ Other (please list): _____

    How many total <u>acres</u> of land did you <u>lease</u> during the 3A firearm deer season?

    _____ Acres

Part II. Experiences & Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3A Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

We are now interested in learning about your experiences and opinions regarding your 2012 3A deer hunt.

12. **Which techniques did you use to hunt deer during the firearm season?** (*Circle one number for each technique.*)

Method	None of the time	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	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

13. What was the <u>first deer or group of deer</u> that you saw that was <u>within your shooting range</u> during the 3A deer season? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)

- ❏ Sub legal buck (less than 4 points on one side)
- ❏ Legal buck
- ❏ Antlerless deer
- ❏ Mixed group of bucks and antlerless deer
- ❏ Did not see a deer while hunting → *Skip to question 22.*

14. From the <u>first deer or group of deer</u> you saw within shooting range this season, <u>were you able to kill the deer</u>?

- ❏ Yes → *Skip to question 16.*
- ❏ No

> **15. If no, <u>why</u> were you <u>not able to kill</u> the first deer or group of deer you saw within shooting range? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)**
>
> - ❏ I was unsure if it was a legal buck or couldn't tell if it was antlerless
> - ❏ The deer did not present a good shot so I did not shoot
> - ❏ I shot and missed the deer
> - ❏ It was a buck that did not meet the minimum number of antler points
> - ❏ It was a legal buck, but it was not big enough for me to want to shoot it
> - ❏ It was an antlerless deer and I do not shoot antlerless deer
> - ❏ Other (*Describe.*)
>
>   _____

16. Did you <u>kill an antlerless deer</u> during the 2012 3A deer season?

- ❏ Yes → *Skip to question 18.*
- ❏ No

> **17. If no, what was the reason for <u>not killing an antlerless deer</u> during the 3A season? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)**
>
> - ❏ I did not see an antlerless deer
> - ❏ The deer did not present a good shot so I did not shoot
> - ❏ I shot and missed the 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.*) _____

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

18. Did you <u>kill an antlered buck</u> during the 2012 3A deer season?

❑ Yes → *Skip to question 20.*
❑ No

> **19. If no, what was the reason for <u>not killing an antlered buck</u> during the 2012 3A season? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)**
>
> ❑ I had already shot a buck during the archery season
> ❑ I did not see a legal buck
> ❑ The buck did not present a good shot so I did not shoot
> ❑ I shot and missed the deer
> ❑ It did not meet the minimum number of antler points
> ❑ It was a legal buck, but it was not big enough for me to want to shoot it
> ❑ I was unsure if the deer was legal to shoot
> ❑ Other (describe why) _____

20. In total, <u>how many deer did you see</u> while hunting during the 2012 3A 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 4 points)	_____
Sub-legal bucks (for example, spike, fork horn, 3-point on one side)	_____
Antlerless Deer (for example, doe or button buck)	_____
Deer that I couldn't identify as legal, sub-legal, or antlerless	_____

21. During the 2012 3A deer season, how many <u>antlered and antlerless deer</u> did you <u>personally kill</u>?

_____ Antlered Bucks

_____ Antlerless Deer

22. Please check which <u>southeastern Minnesota deer seasons you hunted between 2009 and 2011</u>. Then, indicate and how many antlered and antlerless deer you <u>personally killed</u> during those previous <u>southeastern Minnesota firearm deer seasons</u>?

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 in the southeast during a particular year, please check the appropriate box.

Year	I hunted the 3A season that year ▼	I hunted the 3B season that year ▼	Number of Antlered Deer you killed ▼	Number of Antlerless Deer you killed ▼	I did not hunt deer in southeastern Minnesota that year ▼
In 2009 I killed…	☐	☐	_____	_____	☐
In 2010 I killed…	☐	☐	_____	_____	☐
In 2011 I killed…	☐	☐	_____	_____	☐

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

23. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your 2012 3A firearm deer hunt. (*Circle one number for each item.*)

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

Part III. Deer Populations & Harvest Management strategies in Southeastern Minnesota

The next section addresses deer populations and harvest management strategies in southeastern Minnesota. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability, even if you are not entirely familiar with the deer regulations. The regulations we refer to in this survey include:

- A 4-point to one side antler point restriction regulation for all deer seasons
- A prohibition on buck cross-tagging
- The 3A season was lengthened to 9 days (from 7).
- Youth hunters (17 or younger) are exempt from the regulation and can take any buck

24. Over the past 5 years, what <u>trend</u> have you seen in the <u>deer population</u> in the <u>area you hunt and the surrounding area</u>?
- ❑ More deer now than 5 years ago
- ❑ About the same number of deer now as 5 years ago
- ❑ Fewer deer now than 5 years ago
- ❑ Don't Know

25. In thinking about the <u>area you hunt and the surrounding area</u>, would you say the <u>deer population</u> is:
- ❑ Too High
- ❑ About Right
- ❑ Too Low
- ❑ Don't Know

26. In thinking about the <u>area you hunt and the surrounding area</u>, at what level do you think the <u>deer population</u> should be managed? (*Please circle one.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Decrease 50% (Significant)	Decrease 25% (Moderate)	Decrease 10% (Slight)	No Change	Increase 10% (Slight)	Increase 25% (Moderate)	Increase 50% (Significant)

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

27. **Which statement best describes the <u>number of mature bucks over the past 5 years</u> in the Zone 3A <u>area you hunted</u>. (This time period is from 2008 to 2012, beginning 2 years before the antler point restriction was enacted.)** (*Check <u>one</u>.*)

   ❑ Fewer mature bucks now than 5 years ago
   ❑ About the same number of mature bucks now as 5 years ago
   ❑ More mature bucks now than 5 years ago
   ❑ Don't know

28. **To what extent would you <u>support or oppose a regulation</u> that would <u>increase the proportion of antlered bucks</u> in the deer <u>area you hunt most often</u>?** (*Check <u>one</u>.*)

   ❑ Strongly Oppose
   ❑ Slightly Oppose
   ❑ Neither Oppose nor Support
   ❑ Slightly Support
   ❑ Strongly Support
   ❑ Don't Know

29. **The regulations that were put in place in southeastern Minnesota in 2010 were designed to put more harvest pressure on antlerless deer and at the same time protect a large percentage of yearling bucks. Thinking back to when the regulations were announced <u>before</u> the 2010 deer season, please indicate your level of support at that time (again,** *prior* **to the 2010 deer season).**

   ❑ Strongly Opposed
   ❑ Slightly Opposed
   ❑ Neither Opposed nor Supported
   ❑ Slightly Supported
   ❑ Strongly Supported
   ❑ Don't Know

30. **After hunting under the antler point restriction regulations, please indicate how your <u>overall satisfaction with your deer hunting experience in southeastern Minnesota </u>has changed over time. (*Circle <u>one</u>.*)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Much Less Satisfied	Somewhat Less Satisfied	Slightly Less Satisfied	No Change	Slightly More Satisfied	Somewhat More Satisfied	Much More Satisfied

31. **After hunting under the antler point restriction regulations, please indicate whether or not <u>your support for antler point restrictions in southeastern Minnesota</u> may have changed over time. (*Circle <u>one</u>.*)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Much Less Support	Somewhat Less Support	Slightly Less Support	No Change	Slightly More Support	Somewhat More Support	Much More Support

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

32. **In order for the antler point restriction to continue, the State Legislature must approve the regulation. Please indicate your level of support for the DNR to approach the legislature to continue each regulation. Again, no decisions have been made to continue the regulations; however, this information will be used to assess whether or not to seek approval through the Legislature.** (*Please circle one number for each item. 'Oppose' means you do not want the regulations to continue and 'Support' means you want DNR to seek approval of the regulations.*)

	Strongly Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Neither	Slightly Support	Strongly Support	Don't Know
Keeping the 3A season at 9 days	1	2	3	4	5	9
Continue the 4-point to one side antler point restriction	1	2	3	4	5	9
Continue the prohibition of buck cross-tagging	1	2	3	4	5	9
Exemption of youth from the antler point restriction	1	2	3	4	5	9

Part IV. Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

This set of questions will address your opinions towards alternative deer regulations and factors that contribute to your hunt satisfaction.

33. **Please indicate your support or opposition to the following statements regarding potential deer management changes. Responses of 'neither' mean you neither support nor oppose the proposed regulation and would continue to hunt your traditional location if regulations were changed.** (*Please circle one number on each line*.)

	Strongly Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Neither	Slightly Support	Strongly Support	Don't Know
Delay the 3A deer season one week. The 3A deer season would open the Saturday closest to November 15th. Currently, the season opens the Saturday closest to November 6th, which is about one week prior to peak rut. There would be no change to the 3B season; it would start immediately after 3A ends.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Delay the 3A deer season until late November. As a result, the Zone 3B season would also be delayed. There will also be impacts to the muzzleloader season start date.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Consolidate the 3A and 3B deer seasons. The 3A and 3B deer seasons would be consolidated into a single, 16-day season where both 3A and 3B hunters could participate. This would reflect a similar seasonal framework as Zone 1, which is a continuous 16-day season.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Allowing archery deer hunters to tag an additional buck. Currently, hunters are only allowed to tag one buck per year. This change would allow archers to take what would amount to a second buck (presuming a buck was also tagged during the firearm or muzzleloader season). Under this scenario, the total number of bucks that could be tagged is 2.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Allowing muzzleloader deer hunters to tag an additional buck. Currently, hunters are only allowed to tag one buck per year. This change would allow muzzleloader hunters to take what would amount to a second buck (presuming a buck was also tagged during the archery or firearm season). Under this scenario, the total number of bucks that could be tagged is 2.	1	2	3	4	5	9

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

34. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement, "If the 3A and 3B deer seasons were consolidated into one 16-day season, I (and/or my hunting party) would lose access to the property we currently hunt." *(Check one.)*

- ❏ Strongly Disagree
- ❏ Slightly Disagree
- ❏ Slightly Agree
- ❏ Strongly Agree
- ❏ Don't Know

35. In lottery and hunter choice deer areas, the bag limit is one deer total per year. Please indicate your level of support for allowing a second deer to be taken either during the archery or muzzleloader season. Essentially, the regulation would allow you to take 1 deer (buck or antlerless) with a firearm and 1 deer (buck or antlerless) either by archery or muzzleloader.

- ❏ Strongly Opposed
- ❏ Slightly Opposed
- ❏ Neither Opposed nor Supported
- ❏ Slightly Supported
- ❏ Strongly Supported
- ❏ Don't Know

36. 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.*)

The deer hunting regulations …	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Agree	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

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

37. We now want you to tell us what your <u>ideal deer season structure in southeast Minnesota</u> would look like. (*Please check one box for each item*.)

37a. The Zone 3A season should open in:

❑ early November

❑ middle November

❑ late November

37b. The 3A season should be open:

❑ 5 days

❑ 7 days

❑ 9 days

37c. The 3B season should be:

❑ 7 days

❑ 9 days

37d. The 3B season should start:

❑ <u>immediately after</u> the 3A season ends

❑ <u>one week after</u> the 3A season ends

37e. During both the 3A and 3B seasons, the DNR:

❑ <u>should</u> implement an antler point restriction to protect yearling bucks

❑ <u>should not</u> implement an antler point restriction to protect yearling bucks

37f. The DNR:

❑ <u>should ban cross-tagging of bucks</u>, but allow party hunting for antlerless deer

❑ <u>should not ban cross-tagging of bucks</u>, and allow party hunting for both antlered and antlerless deer.

37g. The DNR:

❑ <u>should</u> hold a 4-day youth hunt over the MEA weekend (Thursday – Sunday)

❑ <u>should not</u> hold a 4-day youth hunt over the MEA weekend (Thursday – Sunday)

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

38. Please tell us how <u>important</u> each of the following experiences was <u>to your deer hunting satisfaction</u> during the 2012 3A firearms season.

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important
Harvesting at least one deer	1	2	3	4	5
Access to a lot of different hunting areas	1	2	3	4	5
Harvesting any deer for meat	1	2	3	4	5
Being on my own	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting with friends	1	2	3	4	5
Developing my skills and abilities	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting with family	1	2	3	4	5
Enjoying nature and the outdoors	1	2	3	4	5
Getting away from crowds of people	1	2	3	4	5
Getting food for my family	1	2	3	4	5
Getting information about hunting seasons	1	2	3	4	5
Seeing a lot of bucks	1	2	3	4	5
Good behavior among other deer hunters	1	2	3	4	5
Having a long deer season	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting areas open to the public	1	2	3	4	5
Harvesting a large buck	1	2	3	4	5
Reducing tension and stress	1	2	3	4	5
Seeing a lot of deer	1	2	3	4	5
Sharing my hunting skills and knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
Thinking about personal values	1	2	3	4	5
Using my deer hunting equipment (gun, stands, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5

39. Which statement best characterizes where you hunt? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)

- ❑ 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

40. Are you a member of an organized deer hunting group?

- ❑ Yes
- ❑ No (*Please skip to Question 41.*)

If yes, which group(s) do you belong to?

- ❑ Minnesota Deer Hunters Association
- ❑ Bluffland Whitetails Association
- ❑ Quality Deer Management Association
- ❑ Whitetails Unlimited
- ❑ Local Sportsman Group
- ❑ Other: _____

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

41. Please let us know how you feel about the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. (*Please circle one response for each of the following statements.*)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The MnDNR does a good job of managing deer in Minnesota.	1	2	3	4	5
When deciding about deer management in Minnesota, the MnDNR will be open and honest in the things they do and say.	1	2	3	4	5
The MnDNR can be trusted to make decisions about deer management that are good for the resource.	1	2	3	4	5
The MnDNR will make decisions about deer management in a way that is fair.	1	2	3	4	5
The MnDNR has deer managers and biologists who are well-trained for their jobs.	1	2	3	4	5
The MnDNR listens to deer hunters' concerns.	1	2	3	4	5

If you would be willing to respond to additional questions about deer hunting in Minnesota and are willing to provide your email address, please write it below. <u>We will only use your email address for research related to deer hunting</u> and will not share it with anyone.

e-mail address: _____

Please write additional comments below or on additional sheets.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!
Please return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

SURVEY OF MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 3B FIREARM SEASON

A study of hunters' opinions and activities

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!

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

The first set of questions will tell us how you hunted deer. When you purchased your 2012 firearm deer license, you indicated you intended to hunt in southeastern Minnesota during the 3B season. For reference, the 3B season refers to the 9-day firearm season in the 300-series deer permit areas (including 602) that began on November 17th. *Please read the questions carefully and answer them as accurately as you can.*

24. **Did you hunt during the 2012 3B deer season?**
    - ❑ Yes
    - ❑ No (*Please skip to Question 22.*)

25. **Which ONE deer permit area did you hunt most often during the 2012 3B firearm deer season?** *(Check one.)*

❑ 338	❑ 345
❑ 339	❑ 346
❑ 341	❑ 347
❑ 342	❑ 348
❑ 343	❑ 349
❑ 344	❑ 602

26. **How many days did you hunt during the 2012 firearm deer season in Zone 3B?**

    _____ Days

27. **Including 2012, how many years have you hunted deer during the 3B Minnesota firearm deer season?**

    _____ Years

28. **Including 2012, how many years have you been hunting deer in Minnesota?**

    _____ Years

29. **Although the archery season is not over yet, did you hunt deer during the 2012 Minnesota archery season?**
    - ❑ Yes
    - ❑ No

30. **Do you plan on hunting the 2012 Minnesota muzzleloader deer season?**
    - ❑ Yes
    - ❑ No
    - ❑ Maybe

Please answer the following questions about the area you hunted most often during the 2012 Zone 3B firearm deer season (area checked in question 2 above). This is the area that you took the most trips or where you spent the majority of your time firearm hunting.

31. **How much of your deer hunting did you do on each of the following types of land during the 2012 3B deer hunting season?** *(Circle one number for each item.)*

	None	Some	Most	All	Don't Know
Private land that I own	1	2	3	4	9
Private land that I lease for hunting	1	2	3	4	9
Private land that I do **not** own or lease	1	2	3	4	9
Public land*	1	2	3	4	9

    If you only hunted public land, please skip to question 12.

60

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

32. **If you hunted on** <u>private land</u> **that you** <u>did not own</u> **during the 3B season, to the best of your knowledge** <u>who hunted that land during the 3A season</u>**?** (*If you did not hunt private land you do not own, skip to Question 10.*) (*Check all that apply.*)

- ❑ The landowner and/or their immediate family
- ❑ Hunter who <u>is not a relative</u> of the landowner
- ❑ Hunter who <u>is a relative</u> of the landowner
- ❑ Nobody else hunts on this property during the 3A season
- ❑ Don't know

33. **If you hunted on** <u>private land</u> **that** <u>you own</u> **during the 3B season,** <u>who hunted on your property during the 3A season</u>**?** (*If you did not hunt private land you own, skip to Question 11.*) (*Check all that apply.*)

- ❑ Another party that also owns the property
- ❑ Friends that do not own the property
- ❑ Family that does not own the property
- ❑ Any hunter who asks permission
- ❑ Nobody hunts my property during the 3A season
- ❑ Don't know

34. **If you** <u>leased private land that you did not own</u>**, please check the primary** <u>reason you decided to lease property for deer hunting</u>**. Also, please indicate the number of acres you lease.** (*If you did not lease land for hunting, skip to Question 12.*) (*Check all that apply.*)

- ❑ I lease a parcel myself so I can manage for mature bucks
- ❑ I am one of group of people leasing so we can manage for mature bucks
- ❑ I lease a parcel myself so that I have a place to hunt every year
- ❑ I lease a parcel with friends so my group has a place to hunt every year
- ❑ I lease because I was unable to get permission on private land
- ❑ Other (please list): _____

How many total <u>acres</u> of land did you <u>lease</u> during the 3B firearm deer season?

_____ Acres

Part II. Experiences & Opinions Regarding Your 2012 3B Minnesota Deer Hunting Season

We are now interested in learning about your experiences and opinions regarding your 2012 3B deer hunt.

35. **Which techniques did you use to hunt deer during the firearm season?** (*Circle one number for each technique.*)

Method	None of the time	Some of the time	Most of the time	All of the time	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

36. What was the <u>first deer or group of deer</u> that you saw that was <u>within your shooting range</u> during the 3B deer season? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)

❑ Sub legal buck (less than 4 points on one side)
❑ Legal buck
❑ Antlerless deer
❑ Mixed group of bucks and antlerless deer
❑ Did not see a deer while hunting → *Skip to question 22.*

37. From the <u>first deer or group of deer</u> you saw within shooting range this season, <u>were you able to kill the deer</u>?

❑ Yes → *Skip to question 16.*
❑ No

38. If no, <u>why</u> were you <u>not able to kill</u> the first deer or group of deer you saw within shooting range? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)

❑ I was unsure if it was a legal buck or couldn't tell if it was antlerless
❑ The deer did not present a good shot so I did not shoot
❑ I shot and missed the deer
❑ It was a buck that did not meet the minimum number of antler points
❑ It was a legal buck, but it was not big enough for me to want to shoot it
❑ It was an antlerless deer and I do not shoot antlerless deer
❑ Other (*Describe.*)

_____

39. Did you <u>kill an antlerless deer</u> during the 2012 3B deer season?

❑ Yes→ *Skip to question 18.*
❑ No

40. If no, what was the reason for <u>not killing an antlerless deer</u> during the 3B season? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)

❑ I did not see an antlerless deer
❑ The deer did not present a good shot so I did not shoot
❑ I shot and missed the 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.*) _____

41. Did you <u>kill an antlered buck</u> during the 2012 3B deer season?

❑ Yes → *Skip to question 20.*
❑ No

    42. If no, what was the reason for <u>not killing an antlered buck</u> during the 2012 3B season? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)

❑ I had already shot a buck during the archery season
❑ I did not see a legal buck
❑ The buck did not present a good shot so I did not shoot
❑ I shot and missed the deer
❑   It did not meet the minimum number of antler points
❑ It was a legal buck, but it was not big enough for me to want to shoot it
❑   I was unsure if the deer was legal to shoot
❑   Other (describe why) _____

43. In total, <u>how many deer did you see</u> while hunting during the 2012 3B 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 4 points)	_____
Sub-legal bucks (for example, spike, fork horn, 3-point on one side)	_____
Antlerless Deer (for example, doe or button buck)	_____
Deer that I couldn't identify as legal, sub-legal, or antlerless	_____

44. During the 2012 3B deer season, how many <u>antlered and antlerless deer</u> did you <u>personally kill</u>?

_____ Antlered Bucks

_____ Antlerless Deer

45. Please check which <u>southeastern Minnesota deer seasons you hunted between 2009 and 2011</u>. Then, indicate and how many antlered and antlerless deer you <u>personally killed</u> during those previous <u>southeastern Minnesota firearm deer seasons</u>?

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 in the southeast during a particular year, please check the appropriate box.

Year	I hunted the 3A season that year ▼	I hunted the 3B season that year ▼	Number of Antlered Deer you killed ▼	Number of Antlerless Deer you killed ▼	I did not hunt deer in southeastern Minnesota that year ▼
In 2009 I killed…	☐	☐	_____	_____	☐
In 2010 I killed…	☐	☐	_____	_____	☐
In 2011 I killed…	☐	☐	_____	_____	☐

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

46. **Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your 2012 3B firearm deer hunt.** (*Circle one number for each item.*)

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

Part III. Deer Populations & Harvest Management strategies in Southeastern Minnesota

The next section addresses deer populations and harvest management strategies in southeastern Minnesota. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability, even if you are not entirely familiar with the deer regulations. The regulations we refer to in this survey include:

- A 4-point to one side antler point restriction regulation for all deer seasons
- A prohibition on buck cross-tagging
- The 3A season was lengthened to 9 days (from 7).
- Youth hunters (17 or younger) are exempt from the regulation and can take any buck

42. **Over the past 5 years, what <u>trend</u> have you seen in the <u>deer population</u> in the <u>area you hunt and the surrounding area</u>?**
   - ❑ More deer now than 5 years ago
   - ❑ About the same number of deer now as 5 years ago
   - ❑ Fewer deer now than 5 years ago
   - ❑ Don't Know

43. **In thinking about the <u>area you hunt and the surrounding area</u>, would you say the <u>deer population</u> is:**
   - ❑ Too High
   - ❑ About Right
   - ❑ Too Low
   - ❑ Don't Know

44. **In thinking about the <u>area you hunt and the surrounding area</u>, at what level do you think the <u>deer population</u> should be managed?** (*Please circle one.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Decrease 50% (Significant)	Decrease 25% (Moderate)	Decrease 10% (Slight)	No Change	Increase 10% (Slight)	Increase 25% (Moderate)	Increase 50% (Significant)

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

45. Which statement best describes the <u>number of mature bucks over the past 5 years</u> in the Zone 3B <u>area you hunted</u>. (This time period is from 2008 to 2012, beginning 2 years before the antler point restriction was enacted.) (*Check <u>one</u>.*)

    ❑ Fewer mature bucks now than 5 years ago
    ❑ About the same number of mature bucks now as 5 years ago
    ❑ More mature bucks now than 5 years ago
    ❑ Don't know

46. To what extent would you <u>support or oppose a regulation</u> that would <u>increase the proportion of antlered bucks</u> in the deer <u>area you hunt most often</u>? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)

    ❑ Strongly Oppose
    ❑ Slightly Oppose
    ❑ Neither Oppose nor Support
    ❑ Slightly Support
    ❑ Strongly Support
    ❑ Don't Know

47. The regulations that were put in place in southeastern Minnesota in 2010 were designed to put more harvest pressure on antlerless deer and at the same time protect a large percentage of yearling bucks. Thinking back to when the regulations were announced <u>before</u> the 2010 deer season, please indicate your level of support at that time (again, *prior* to the 2010 deer season).

    ❑ Strongly Opposed
    ❑ Slightly Opposed
    ❑ Neither Opposed nor Supported
    ❑ Slightly Supported
    ❑ Strongly Supported
    ❑ Don't Know

48. After hunting under the antler point restriction regulations, please indicate how your <u>overall satisfaction with your deer hunting experience in southeastern Minnesota </u>has changed over time. (*Circle <u>one</u>.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Much Less Satisfied	Somewhat Less Satisfied	Slightly Less Satisfied	No Change	Slightly More Satisfied	Somewhat More Satisfied	Much More Satisfied

49. After hunting under the antler point restriction regulations, please indicate whether or not <u>your support for antler point restrictions in southeastern Minnesota</u> may have changed over time. (*Circle <u>one</u>.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Much Less Support	Somewhat Less Support	Slightly Less Support	No Change	Slightly More Support	Somewhat More Support	Much More Support

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

50. **In order for the antler point restriction to continue, the State Legislature must approve the regulation. Please indicate your level of support for the DNR to approach the legislature to continue each regulation. Again, no decisions have been made to continue the regulations; however, this information will be used to assess whether or not to seek approval through the Legislature. (*Please circle one number for each item. 'Oppose' means you do not want the regulations to continue and 'Support' means you want DNR to seek approval of the regulations.*)**

	Strongly Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Neither	Slightly Support	Strongly Support	Don't Know
Keeping the 3A season at 9 days	1	2	3	4	5	9
Continue the 4-point to one side antler point restriction	1	2	3	4	5	9
Continue the prohibition of buck cross-tagging	1	2	3	4	5	9
Exemption of youth from the antler point restriction	1	2	3	4	5	9

Part IV. Opinions About Alternative Deer Regulations

This set of questions will address your opinions towards alternative deer regulations and factors that contribute to your hunt satisfaction.

51. **Please indicate your support or opposition to the following statements regarding potential deer management changes. Responses of 'neither' mean you neither support nor oppose the proposed regulation and would continue to hunt your traditional location if regulations were changed. (*Please circle one number on each line*.)**

	Strongly Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Neither	Slightly Support	Strongly Support	Don't Know
Delay the 3A deer season one week. The 3A deer season would open the Saturday closest to November 15th. Currently, the season opens the Saturday closest to November 6th, which is about one week prior to peak rut. There would be no change to the 3B season; it would start immediately after 3A ends.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Delay the 3A deer season until late November. As a result, the Zone 3B season would also be delayed. There will also be impacts to the muzzleloader season start date.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Consolidate the 3A and 3B deer seasons. The 3A and 3B deer seasons would be consolidated into a single, 16-day season where both 3A and 3B hunters could participate. This would reflect a similar seasonal framework as Zone 1, which is a continuous 16-day season.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Allowing archery deer hunters to tag an additional buck. Currently, hunters are only allowed to tag one buck per year. This change would allow archers to take what would amount to a second buck (presuming a buck was also tagged during the firearm or muzzleloader season). Under this scenario, the total number of bucks that could be tagged is 2.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Allowing muzzleloader deer hunters to tag an additional buck. Currently, hunters are only allowed to tag one buck per year. This change would allow muzzleloader hunters to take what would amount to a second buck (presuming a buck was also tagged during the archery or firearm season). Under this scenario, the total number of bucks that could be tagged is 2.	1	2	3	4	5	9

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

52. **Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement, "If the 3A and 3B deer seasons were consolidated into one 16-day season, I (and/or my hunting party) would lose access to the property we currently hunt."** *(Check one.)*

- ❑ Strongly Disagree
- ❑ Slightly Disagree
- ❑ Slightly Agree
- ❑ Strongly Agree
- ❑ Don't Know

53. **In lottery and hunter choice deer areas, the bag limit is one deer total per year. Please indicate your level of support for allowing a second deer to be taken either during the archery or muzzleloader season. Essentially, the regulation would allow you to take 1 deer (buck or antlerless) with a firearm and 1 deer (buck or antlerless) either by archery or muzzleloader.**

- ❑ Strongly Opposed
- ❑ Slightly Opposed
- ❑ Neither Opposed nor Supported
- ❑ Slightly Supported
- ❑ Strongly Supported
- ❑ Don't Know

54. **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.*)

The deer hunting regulations …	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Agree	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

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

55. We now want you to tell us what your <u>ideal deer season structure in southeast Minnesota</u> would look like. (*Please check one box for each item.*)

37a. The Zone 3A season should open in:

❑ early November

❑ middle November

❑ late November

37b. The 3A season should be open:

❑ 5 days

❑ 7 days

❑ 9 days

37c. The 3B season should be:

❑ 7 days

❑ 9 days

37d. The 3B season should start:

❑ <u>immediately after</u> the 3A season ends

❑ <u>one week after</u> the 3A season ends

37e. During both the 3A and 3B seasons, the DNR:

❑ <u>should</u> implement an antler point restriction to protect yearling bucks

❑ <u>should not</u> implement an antler point restriction to protect yearling bucks

37f. The DNR:

❑ <u>should ban cross-tagging of bucks</u>, but allow party hunting for antlerless deer

❑ <u>should not ban cross-tagging of bucks</u>, and allow party hunting for both antlered and antlerless deer.

37g. The DNR:

❑ <u>should</u> hold a 4-day youth hunt over the MEA weekend (Thursday – Sunday)

❑ <u>should not</u> hold a 4-day youth hunt over the MEA weekend (Thursday – Sunday)

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

56. Please tell us how <u>important</u> each of the following experiences was <u>to your deer hunting satisfaction</u> during the 2012 3B firearms season.

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important
Harvesting at least one deer	1	2	3	4	5
Access to a lot of different hunting areas	1	2	3	4	5
Harvesting any deer for meat	1	2	3	4	5
Being on my own	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting with friends	1	2	3	4	5
Developing my skills and abilities	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting with family	1	2	3	4	5
Enjoying nature and the outdoors	1	2	3	4	5
Getting away from crowds of people	1	2	3	4	5
Getting food for my family	1	2	3	4	5
Getting information about hunting seasons	1	2	3	4	5
Seeing a lot of bucks	1	2	3	4	5
Good behavior among other deer hunters	1	2	3	4	5
Having a long deer season	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting areas open to the public	1	2	3	4	5
Harvesting a large buck	1	2	3	4	5
Reducing tension and stress	1	2	3	4	5
Seeing a lot of deer	1	2	3	4	5
Sharing my hunting skills and knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
Thinking about personal values	1	2	3	4	5
Using my deer hunting equipment (gun, stands, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5

57. Which statement best characterizes where you hunt? (*Check <u>one</u>.*)
- ❑ 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

58. Are you a member of an organized deer hunting group?
- ❑ Yes
- ❑ No (*Please skip to Question 41.*)

If yes, which group(s) do you belong to?
- ❑ Minnesota Deer Hunters Association
- ❑ Bluffland Whitetails Association
- ❑ Quality Deer Management Association
- ❑ Whitetails Unlimited
- ❑ Local Sportsman Group
- ❑ Other: _____

Appendix A: Survey Instruments

59. **Please let us know how you feel about the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.** (*Please circle one response for each of the following statements.*)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The MnDNR does a good job of managing deer in Minnesota.	1	2	3	4	5
When deciding about deer management in Minnesota, the MnDNR will be open and honest in the things they do and say.	1	2	3	4	5
The MnDNR can be trusted to make decisions about deer management that are good for the resource.	1	2	3	4	5
The MnDNR will make decisions about deer management in a way that is fair.	1	2	3	4	5
The MnDNR has deer managers and biologists who are well-trained for their jobs.	1	2	3	4	5
The MnDNR listens to deer hunters' concerns.	1	2	3	4	5

If you would be willing to respond to additional questions about deer hunting in Minnesota and are willing to provide your email address, please write it below. <u>We will only use your email address for research related to deer hunting</u> and will not share it with anyone.

e-mail address: _____

Please write additional comments below or on additional sheets.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!
Please return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.