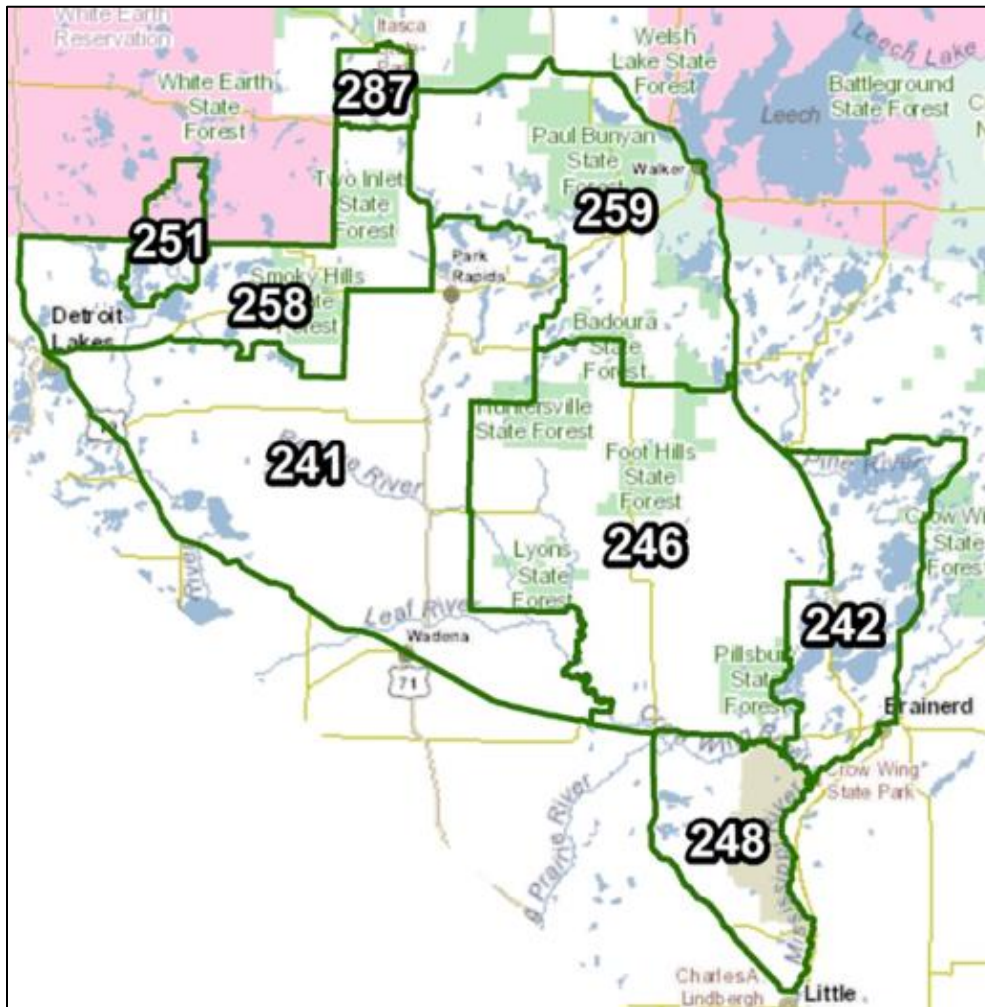


2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

Deer advisory team recommendations – Block 3: Pine Moraines

The following pages represent deer population goals recommended by the 2015 deer advisory team for Block 3: Pine Moraines (permit areas 241, 242, 246, 248, 251, 258, 259, & 287). Public comment regarding these recommendations will be accepted April 2-15, 2015. Prior to commenting on the advisory team recommendations, you may wish to review the background materials provided on the DNR Deer Management webpage (www.mndnr.gov/deer), including a description of the advisory team process.

Following each of the advisory team recommendations is a summary of factors cited by team members when making their recommendation. This information reflects the perspectives of individual team members; DNR has attempted to preserve the spirit and meaning of team members' comments and has not confirmed the accuracy of data cited.



2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

Deer Permit Area 241

Team recommendation:

No Change in the population

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 10 "Support", 2 "OK", 2 "Do Not Support", 1 "Abstain"

Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- Hunter satisfaction is 50%
- Hunters and landowners think the population is at a good level
- The mild winter will result in higher deer numbers in 2015
- Deer populations are currently at carrying capacity and should not be increased

Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- May want to revisit the boundaries of this permit area and divide to better reflect habitat and ownerships; some areas have high deer densities/too many deer
- Would like greater access to antlerless permits in this area
- This permit area has considerable agricultural land
- Prefer a decrease in the population
- Input from landowners suggests the deer population is too large

2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

Deer Permit Area 242

Team recommendation:

Increase population by 25%

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 11 "Support", 3 "OK", 1 "Do Not Support"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- The population is currently below previously set (2010) goals; a 25% increase would bring the population into the low end of the previous goal range
- The general public would like to see an increase in the deer population
- Hunters would like to see an increase in the deer population
- Special hunts can be used to address deer population problems in cities/towns
- Landowners can allow hunters access if they are having depredation problems

Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- Hunters may prefer an even higher increase
- Landowners prefer a population decrease
- There is not sufficient habitat to support a high deer population
- Homeowners and landowners need relief

2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

Deer Permit Area 246

Team recommendation:

No team recommendation – see individual preferences below

Individual preferences:

- 1 team member prefers a population decrease of 50%
- 1 team member prefers a population decrease of 25%
- 3 team members prefer no change in the population
- 7 team members prefer a population increase of 25%
- 2 team member prefers a population increase of 50%
- 1 team member did not specify a recommended population goal

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- This permit area can support an increase of 50% or greater
- Numbers of deer have fallen continuously for years; an increase is needed
- With a 25% increase, the population would fall within the previous goal range
- This permit area is large and too diverse in habitat; DNR should consider splitting the permit area in two
- This area includes some of the least-populated areas of the state and some of the highest concentrations of hunting areas
- Survey data indicates that hunters want an increase and landowners think the population is about right
- The harvest has been declining, indicating fewer deer in the area
- Forestry interests suggest pine is not regenerating due to deer browse, but the lack of fire is a bigger problem (fire-dependent system)
- Forestry interests do not want an increase; the forest can't handle higher populations
- Deer populations have declined on the western edge of this permit area
- The deer population has likely declined due to severe winters over the past 2 years. With the mild 2014-2015 winter, the numbers will rebound
- Concerns about healthy habitat, and regeneration of jack pine and oak; need to prioritize good habitat and pine regeneration for a healthy future forest
- This is a hard area to hunt based on landscape features
- Based on local knowledge of the area, hunters, surveys and land managers, there is a very healthy (high) deer population
- Local residents believe forest resources are suffering as a result of too many deer

2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

Deer Permit Area 248

Team recommendation:

Increase population by 25%

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 12 "Support", 1 "OK", 2 "Do Not Support"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- People in the area would like more deer; the population is not too high to achieve an increase
- A 25% increase is better than No Change
- A 25% increase is an acceptable increase
- A 25% increase is a compromise
- A 25% increase will bring the population into the previously set goal range
- There were many public comments requesting an increase in the population

Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- Landowners would prefer a smaller (slight) increase
- There is some agricultural area as well as forestland in the DPA that will need to be considered
- Prefer no change in the population
- An increase in the deer population will result in habitat loss; the resulting future forest will be ironwood and maple, and that will not support wildlife

2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

Deer Permit Area 251 (Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge)

Team recommendation:

Increase population by 25%

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 10 "Support", 5 "OK"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- Low harvest numbers
- Survey data suggest dissatisfaction with current deer populations
- A 25% increase will improve hunter satisfaction and maintain biological diversity
- This permit area is a wildlife refuge; manage for deer but still take the forest ecosystem into account
- The habitat should be able to support an increase

Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- Prefer a 50% increase

2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

Deer Permit Area 258

Team recommendation:

Increase population by 25%

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 14 "Support", 1 "Abstain"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- Survey data indicate both hunters and landowners think the deer population is too low
- Public comments support an increase, and 50% may be too high
- Deer population estimate in this permit area is somewhat low
- The deer population has declined 25%
- A 25% increase will be consistent with previously set goals
- If the population returns to 2007 levels, the general public will be at ease (hunters and non-hunters)

Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- Prefer a 50% increase
- Prefer an increase of >50%
- Hunters want a population increase, but 75% of the antlerless deer permits were filled
- Concerned that the natural resources can't sustain an increase in deer densities without a reduction in habitat quality

2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

Deer Permit Area 259

Team recommendation:

Increase population by 50%

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 10 "Support", 3 "OK", 1 "Do Not Support", 1 "Abstain"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- A 50% increase will restore the deer population to high end of the previously set goal range
- Hunters want an increase in the deer population
- People want to see more deer
- Deer populations are very low in most of this permit area; there are some pockets of higher populations on private land
- The deer population in this area was decreased too drastically

Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- Hunter satisfaction in this deer permit area is highest among the areas in this goal block
- A 50% increase will result in too many deer

2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

Deer Permit Area 287 (Itasca State Park)

Team recommendation:

No change in the population

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 7 "Support", 6 "OK", 2 "Do Not Support"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- Manage for pine ecosystem in the park, not deer

Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- Hunters want more deer
- It is such a small permit area that any change will not be that significant
- Prefer a decrease in the population
- Park reforestation is a major concern
- DNR's Park mandate is to manage the vegetation over the deer