

# Charter: Deer Advisory Committee

DATE APPROVED: August 11, 2025

APPROVED BY:

Dave Trauba, Wildlife Section Manager

## I. Purpose

To enhance dialogue between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and deer management stakeholders on the state of Minnesota's deer management program.

## II. Functions and Scope

1. The committee will provide input on deer management in Minnesota, including the priorities identified in the 2019-2028 Minnesota White-tailed Deer Management Plan.
2. The committee will:
  - Represent the breadth of deer management interests;
  - Learn about and contribute to understanding biological, social and economic aspects of deer management, including stakeholder group perspectives (excluding population goal setting);
  - Identify and inform DNR of significant deer management issues;
  - Facilitate dialogue between the public and DNR regarding issues;
  - Advise DNR on potential approaches to respond to issues; and
  - Advise on effective and publicly acceptable deer policies, research and monitoring priorities, programs and regulations.
3. The DNR will support the committee by:
  - Providing relevant information (e.g., available data, potential management alternatives);
  - Engaging them on deer plan implementation and program implementation/innovation;
  - Addressing issues deemed significant by the committee; and
  - Fostering dialogue, including feedback on how public and committee input influences decisions.

## III. Desired Outcomes

- Shared understanding among members, the DNR, and the public on issues and potential solutions.
- Effective and well-supported actions to address identified deer management issues.
- Enhanced public-agency collaboration and partnership to collectively achieve deer management goals.

## **IV. Authorization and Authority**

The committee is authorized by the DNR Wildlife Section Manager and established in support of the 2019-2028 Minnesota White-tailed Deer Management Plan.

The committee is not a decision-making body and has no authority on deer management policy, research or operations. The DNR will seek recommendations and feedback from the committee, which the DNR will strive to incorporate into their decision making.

## **V. Membership**

There are two types of Deer Advisory Committee (DAC) members: at-large members and organizational members.

Any Minnesota resident can apply to be an at-large member. At-large members will be appointed to three-year terms. At the end of the each term, the DNR will solicit nominations for the next round of at-large members. Existing at-large members in good standing (i.e., attend meetings and productively participate) may reapply but may serve no more than two consecutive terms (six years).

Organizational members serve on DAC as a representative of their deer-related stakeholder organization. Key deer-related stakeholder organizations will be invited to nominate a representative to serve on DAC. Organizational members in good standing may serve more than two consecutive terms if that is the preference of their stakeholder organization. Organizational members will not exceed 50% of DAC membership.

DNR staff will review at-large member applications and organizational member nominations and make recommendations to the Wildlife Section Manager. The DNR may remove a member from the committee based on conduct or inability to participate. The DNR may extend terms or leave terms vacant.

Each member of DAC is expected to show:

1. An interest in deer management; and
2. The ability to have effective and respectful working relationships with people with different experiences, backgrounds and perspectives.

Each cohort of DAC members will include:

1. Representation from all geographic regions in Minnesota;
2. Diverse deer management interests, e.g., hunting, recreation, conservation, rehabilitation, habitat, land management, socioeconomic;
3. Representation from hunting organizations; and
4. Representation from agriculture, forestry, conservation, environmental public health and/or other stakeholder organizations.

## **VI. Evaluation and Suspension**

The DNR will evaluate the committee annually. The Wildlife Section Manager may suspend the committee if its purpose is not being met, membership cannot be maintained as defined above, or per their discretion. The Wildlife Section Manager must reauthorize the committee at the endpoint (2028) of the deer plan, or the committee will sunset.

## **VII. Meetings**

Meetings will occur quarterly, convened by the DNR. Additional, ad-hoc meetings may be held, as needed, to address emergent issues that cannot be addressed during the quarterly meetings. To meet the needs of members situated across the state, meetings will normally be held virtually.

DNR staff will develop agendas and organize meetings in consultation with committee members. Committee members are strongly encouraged to suggest agenda items. DNR staff will prepare technical information to inform discussion, including facilitating assistance from subject matter experts as needed. The DNR will also provide meeting summaries, which may be made available to the public. Committee business shall take place at DNR- convened meetings only.

## **VIII. Participation and Communication**

Members must attend the majority of meetings and arrive familiar with the agenda and any pre-work. Members will provide advance notice if they are unable to attend. Organizations may select an alternate to participate intermittently or short term on their members' behalf, as long as the alternate coordinates with the main representative. Members must disclose conflicts of interest (e.g., if a member stands to benefit financially from a decision item).

The Big Game Program Supervisor is the main point of contact for the committee. Dialogue is also encouraged among committee members and with other DNR staff.

Committee members are expected to coordinate with the organizations or stakeholder interests they represent and discuss issues and information from the committee in their local communities. For external communications, including social media, members are free to express their views as private citizens; however, they should be clear that they do not speak for or represent the committee. Media requests involving the committee should be directed to the Big Game Program Supervisor or the Fish and Wildlife Outreach Section Manager.

## **IX. Charter Maintenance**

The DNR may amend the charter as needed. The committee may suggest charter updates to the DNR.