

MINNESOTA WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

2019-2028



A PLAN FOR MINNESOTA'S DEER

Minnesota's White-tailed Deer Management Plan will guide deer management from 2019-2028.

The Plan benefits Minnesotans by outlining strategic direction, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) responsibilities and new ways for the agency, citizens and stakeholders to address deer management.

The Plan was finalized in 2018. It reflects input from a 19-member citizen advisory committee; dozens of public meetings and open houses; more than 1,100 survey comments; and official letters from tribal governments, hunting organizations and others.

The Plan's eight major goals support a strategic direction that focuses on:

1. Communication, information sharing and public involvement
2. Deer stakeholder satisfaction
3. Population management, monitoring and research
4. Healthy deer
5. Healthy habitat
6. Impacts of deer on other resources
7. Deer management funding
8. Deer management



The DNR encourages you to view the complete plan on its website at mndnr.gov/deerplan.

In summary, the Plan:

SETS A CLEAR VISION:

The DNR wants Minnesotans to enjoy the benefits of a thriving and disease-free deer population. Components of that vision include deer population goals, habitat priorities, abundant hunting opportunities and actions that sustain our hunting heritage while balancing societal interests.

COMMITTS TO INCREASED COMMUNICATION:

The DNR will increase two-way communication with hunters, landowners and others by creating annual deer management discussions with interested citizens at local wildlife offices. Local meetings will provide hunters and others with a forum for sharing their observations, hearing DNR management proposals and identifying opportunities to improve deer management.

CLARIFIES POPULATION AND HARVEST OBJECTIVES:

The Plan outlines goals and processes for setting deer population and harvest levels. This clarity is important because each year the DNR establishes the desired deer harvest to achieve a multi-year population objective at the deer permit area level. The DNR will also track annual harvests in relation to a statewide harvest target of 200,000 deer per year. This number reflects the approximate statewide harvest when deer populations are generally within goal range in most permit areas. This new approach provides a secondary statewide check on success in meeting population goals developed through public input.

THESE PEOPLE HELPED SHAPE THE PLAN

The DNR convened a Deer Management Plan Advisory Committee to help create this plan. The committee met 13 times. Members and alternates included:

Andrew Edwards, 1854 Treaty Authority • Ted Brenny, Jim Buchwitz, Daniel Butler, Kevin Goedtke, Yeng Moua, Bernie Overby and Becky Strand; at-large members • Marty Stubstad, Bluffland Whitetails Association • Chris Raddatz or Kevin Paap, Farm Bureau • Rod Sommerfield or Bob Marg, Farmers Union • Nate Eide, Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners • Gary Botzek or



EMPHASIZES HERD HEALTH AND HABITAT:

The Plan provides direction to eliminate chronic wasting disease in wild deer, minimize the risk of new disease introductions and enhance habitat quality across the state. A healthy deer population is a

key component of sustaining our hunting heritage. Maintaining high quality deer habitat will help sustain a healthy deer population and also provide exceptional habitat for a host of other species.

AIMS FOR HIGHER CITIZEN SATISFACTION:

As part of a commitment to increasing stakeholder support, the Plan calls for more frequent and regular deer hunter and public attitude surveys to help gauge satisfaction and identify areas that need improvement.



Art Reuck, Minnesota Conservation Federation • Craig Engwall and Dennis Quarberg, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association • Jenna Bjork, Minnesota Department of Health • Dennis Thompson, Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership • Pat Morstad or Ted Wawrzyniak, Quality Deer Management Association • Meredith Cornett, The Nature Conservancy.

SEEKS LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY:

While the Plan promotes the long-term health of deer populations and habitat; more opportunities for stakeholder input and involvement; and efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters, it also recognizes that deer can have negative impacts. The Plan identifies strategies to minimize deer damage to native plants, agricultural crops, forest regeneration or negative community impacts, such as deer/vehicle collisions and urban deer conflicts.

INCLUDES NEW AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Among new activities in the Plan are additional local public engagement opportunities, the creation of a statewide deer input group and expanded deer management performance measures. The Plan makes clear that a top priority in the near term is responding to chronic wasting disease. Looking ahead, you should also notice more



clarity on DNR decision-making timelines, habitat needs and funding priorities.

YOU ARE PART OF THE PLAN

Minnesota's White-tailed Deer Management Plan was written with you in mind. It is intended to improve state deer management by increasing agency transparency, citizen trust and stakeholder satisfaction.

It is easy to remain part of the Plan. You can be involved by:

- Talking to your local wildlife manager. Names and phone numbers are listed at mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife.

- Signing up for the DNR deer management newsletter that arrives by email. It contains timely and pertinent information, including upcoming public input opportunities. Sign up by visiting mndnr.gov/deer and entering your email address at the bottom of the page.
- Viewing the DNR's interactive deer management map. This website is updated annually with new information for every deer hunting permit area. It is a great way to view deer data for your local area. The map is at mndnr.gov/hunting/deer/map.html.
- Contacting the DNR information line at 1-888-646-6367 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. The information center staff are there to answer your questions or put you in touch with the appropriate Wildlife Section staff.



FISH AND WILDLIFE

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