2005 SURVEY OF HUNTERS PARTICIPATING IN ANTLER POINT RESTRICTION REGULATION DEER HUNTS

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!

Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108-6124
SECTION A. The first set of questions is designed to tell us where you hunted deer. Please read the questions carefully and answer them to the best of your ability.

When you purchased your firearms license for the 2005 firearms deer season, you applied for a State Park hunt with an antler point restriction regulation. For this survey, “the Park” means the Park you applied to hunt in 2005.

1. Did you actually hunt at the Park during the 2005 firearms deer hunting season?
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO

2. If No, during the 2005 firearms deer season, which one deer permit area did you hunt most often?
   
   **DEER PERMIT AREA ___________ (write in the number)**

3. How many days did you spend scouting for deer in each of the following seasons? Write “DNH” if you Did Not Hunt during that season.
   - October Antlerless Only __________ DAYS
   - Archery __________ DAYS
   - Firearm __________ DAYS
   - Muzzleloader __________ DAYS

4. Prior to the deer season, how many days did you scout deer at the Park this year?
   
   _____ DAYS

5. How many days did you hunt deer at the Park this year?
   
   _____ DAYS

6. Including this year, how many years have you hunted deer at the Park?
   
   _____ YEARS

7. For the permit area that you hunted most often during the 2005 deer hunting season, how many years have you hunted this permit area?
   
   _____ YEARS

7a. If you hunted at the Park, please write down which one deer permit area you hunted most often besides the Park __________ (write in the number)
8. For each of the following 2005 hunting seasons, what types of property did you hunt most often? Please place a check mark in the box below the type of property you hunted most often during each season. Please check only one box per season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>Wildlife Management Area</th>
<th>State Forest</th>
<th>Other Public</th>
<th>Private Posted Land</th>
<th>Private Land Not Posted</th>
<th>Did not hunt this season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Antlerless</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzzleloader</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION B. We are now interested in learning about your experiences and opinions regarding your 2005 deer hunt at the Park.

►IF YOU DID NOT HUNT DEER AT THE PARK THIS YEAR, PLEASE SKIP TO SECTION C.

9. What was the primary reason you hunted the Park during 2005? (check only one)

☐ I NORMALLY HUNT THIS STATE PARK
☐ I WAS INTERESTED IN THE ANTLER POINT RESTRICTION REGULATION
☐ I HUNT AS A PARTY WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS
☐ I BELIEVE THE PARK HAS A HIGH DEER POPULATION, WHICH WOULD INCREASE MY CHANCES OF KILLING A DEER
☐ OTHER (Describe)

10. Which techniques did you use to hunt deer at the Park? Circle one number for each technique.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Most</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stand hunting from ground stand/blind</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalking or moving slowly</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting from elevated tree stand</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in deer drives as member of a party</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10. What was the first deer or group of deer that you saw that was within your shooting range at the Park? *(check only one)*

11.  
- [ ] ANTLERED BUCK  
- [ ] ANTLERLESS DEER  
- [ ] MIXED GROUP OF BUCKS AND ANTLERLESS DEER  
- [ ] DID NOT SEE A DEER WHILE HUNTING → **SKIP TO QUESTION 18**

12. From the first deer or group of deer you saw within shooting range at the Park, were you able to kill the deer?  

- [ ] YES  
- [ ] NO → **SKIP TO QUESTION 18**

13. If no, why were you not able to kill the first deer or group of deer you saw within shooting range at the Park? *(check all that apply)*

- [ ] I WAS UNSURE IF IT WAS A LEGAL BUCK OR COULDN’T TELL IF IT WAS ANTLERLESS  
- [ ] THE DEER DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD OR I SHOT AND MISSED THE DEER  
- [ ] IT WAS A BUCK THAT DID NOT MEET THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ANTLER POINTS  
- [ ] IT WAS AN ANTLERLESS DEER AND I DO NOT SHOOT ANTLERLESS DEER  
- [ ] OTHER (Describe)  
  ________________________________________________________________

14. Did you kill an antlerless deer at the Park during 2005?  

- [ ] YES → **SKIP TO QUESTION 16**  
- [ ] NO → **SKIP TO QUESTION 18**

15. If no, what was the reason for not killing an antlerless deer at the Park? *(Check only one)*

- [ ] I DID NOT SEE AN ANTLERLESS DEER  
- [ ] I ALREADY SHOT A DEER EARLIER IN THE YEAR SO I WAS HUNTING FOR BUCKS  
- [ ] I SAW ANTLERLESS DEER BUT THE DEER DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD SHOT OR I SHOT AND MISSED THE DEER  
- [ ] I COULD NOT TELL IF IT WAS AN ANTLERLESS DEER OR A SUB-LEGAL BUCK  
- [ ] I DO NOT SHOOT ANTLERLESS DEER  
- [ ] OTHER (DESCRIBE WHY)  
  ________________________________________________________________
16. Did you kill an antlered buck at the Park during 2005?

- YES
- NO

17. If no, what was the reason for not killing an antlered buck at the Park? (Check only one)

- I DID NOT SEE A LEGAL BUCK
- THE BUCK DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD SHOT OR I SHOT AND MISSED THE BUCK
- IT DID NOT MEET THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ANTLER POINTS
- I WAS UNSURE IF THE DEER WAS LEGAL TO SHOOT
- I ALREADY SHOT A DEER EARLIER IN THE YEAR SO I HAD ENOUGH VENISON
- IT WAS A LEGAL BUCK BUT NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR ME TO SHOOT
- OTHER (DESCRIBE WHY)

18. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your 2005 State Park deer hunt. (Circle one number for each item)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Slightly Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was satisfied with the number of legal bucks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was satisfied with the quality of bucks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I heard about or saw legal bucks while hunting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was satisfied with the total number of antlerless deer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was satisfied with the total number of deer I saw while hunting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
19. In total, how many deer did you observe while hunting at the Park during the 2005 deer season? (Write the number of deer you saw in each blank below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of deer</th>
<th>Deer seen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal bucks (at least one antler with the minimum number of points)</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-legal bucks (for example, spike or fork horn)</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antlerless Deer (for example, doe or button buck)</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer that I couldn’t identify as legal, sub-legal, or antlerless</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. At the Park, how many antlered and antlerless deer did you personally kill during the past three deer seasons?

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 at the Park during a particular year, check the appropriate box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Antlered Deer you killed</th>
<th>Number of Antlerless Deer you killed</th>
<th>I did not hunt at the Park that year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In 2003 I killed…</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2004 I killed…</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2005 I killed…</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. The antler point restriction regulation was put in place at the Park to protect approximately 50% of the 1½ year old buck population, which should put more harvest pressure on antlerless deer. The intent of the regulation is to lower deer populations at the Park it might increase the proportion of mature bucks. After hunting under this regulation at the Park, do you support or oppose the antler point restriction regulation? (Check only one)

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT OR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON’T KNOW
22. If the antler point restriction regulation is continued for the 2006 deer season, how likely are you to apply at the Park next year? (Check only one)

☐ I WILL DEFINITELY APPLY AT THE PARK NEXT YEAR
☐ I WILL PROBABLY APPLY AT THE PARK NEXT YEAR
☐ UNDECIDED
☐ I PROBABLY WILL NOT APPLY AT THE PARK NEXT YEAR
☐ I DEFINITELY WILL NOT APPLY AT THE PARK NEXT YEAR

23. Overall, how satisfied were you with your hunting experience at the Park during 2005?

☐ VERY SATISFIED
☐ SLIGHTLY SATISFIED
☐ NEITHER SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED
☐ SLIGHTLY DISSATISFIED
☐ VERY DISSATISFIED
☐ DON’T KNOW

SECTION C. We are now interested in learning about your experiences and opinions regarding deer hunting in Minnesota.

24. Which ONE of the following best describes how you deer hunted deer during the 2005 REGULAR FIREARMS deer hunting season in Minnesota? Would you say you:

(Check only one)

☐ HUNTED FOR LARGE ANTLERED BUCKS DURING THE ENTIRE SEASON
☐ HUNTED FOR LARGE ANTLERED BUCKS EARLY SEASON AND SHOOT ANY LEGAL DEER LATER
☐ SHOOT ANY ANTLERED BUCK
☐ SHOOT THE FIRST LEGAL DEER (EITHER ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS) THAT OFFERED A GOOD SHOT
☐ SHOOT ONLY ANTLERLESS DEER
☐ DON’T KNOW
25. How many antlered and antlerless deer did you kill in each of Minnesota’s deer seasons during 2005? Include all deer you killed by archery, rifle, and muzzleloader, 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 a season, check the appropriate box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Antlered Deer you killed in 2005</th>
<th>Number of Antlerless Deer you killed in 2005</th>
<th>I did not hunt in that season in 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October Antlerless</td>
<td>No Season</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzzleloader</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26. How many antlered and antlerless deer did you personally kill in Minnesota in 2003 and 2004? Include all deer you killed by archery, rifle, and muzzleloader, regardless of whether you tagged the deer or another hunter tagged the deer. In you did not hunt deer during a year, check the appropriate box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Antlered Deer you killed</th>
<th>Number of Antlerless Deer you killed</th>
<th>I did not hunt in MINNESOTA that year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In 2003 I killed…</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2004 I killed…</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
27. 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not result in an increased total buck harvest.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not result in an increased doe harvest.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase DNR’s ability to control the deer population.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase hunting opportunity for bowhunters.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase hunting opportunity for muzzleloader hunters.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase hunting opportunity for firearm hunters.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase my own chances of taking an antlered buck.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase my own chances of taking a large antlered buck.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase my own chances of taking antlerless deer.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage new people to take up deer hunting.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead to a better public image of hunters and hunting.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect the interests of farmers and other landowners.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect areas so that deer do not cause forest and other habitat damages</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce crowding of hunters on public lands.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The regulations do not result in decreased access to private land.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Background:** Minnesota hunting regulations allow ‘parties’ of 2 or more licensed hunters to shoot and tag deer for each other if party members are all using the same weapon type and hunting afield together at the time the deer was killed.

28. During any 2005 Minnesota deer season (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader), did you kill a deer for another hunter (a member of your party tagged the deer you killed).

- YES
- NO

29. During any 2005 Minnesota deer seasons (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader), did you use your tag on a deer that another hunter killed?

- YES → If yes, during the 2005 Minnesota deer seasons (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader), how many of your tags were used by other hunters?
  - ____ TAGS
- NO

30. Currently, Minnesota is one of only a few states that allow hunters to shoot deer for each other. Because hunters can kill multiple bucks per year, the cross-tagging provision might contribute to higher buck harvest rates in Minnesota than in other states. The following two questions assess your level of support for allowing hunters to kill deer for each other.

In the area you hunt most often, would you support or oppose a regulation that would allow hunters to continue to hunt together as a party, but would prohibit hunters from shooting deer for each other (both antlered bucks and antlerless deer)? *(Check one).*

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT OR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON’T KNOW
31. In the area you hunt most often, would you support or oppose a regulation that would allow hunters to continue to hunt together as a party but would prohibit shooting antlered bucks for each other? You would still be able to shoot antlerless deer for each other (Check one).

- STRONGLY SUPPORT
- MODERATELY SUPPORT
- NEITHER SUPPORT OR OPPOSE
- MODERATELY OPPOSE
- STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON’T KNOW

32. Including 2005, how many years have you hunted deer in Minnesota?

______ YEARS

33. What hunting method do you primarily use? (Check only one)

- DEER DRIVE WITH LESS THAN 5 PEOPLE
- DEER DRIVE WITH 5 OR MORE PEOPLE
- TREE STAND
- GROUND BLIND
- STILL HUNTING OR STALKING
- OTHER (PLEASE LIST) ___________________________________________

34. Which statement best characterizes where you hunt? (Check only one)

- 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

35. What is the furthest you are willing to travel from your home to hunt antlered deer?

______ (number of miles)

36. What is the furthest you are willing to travel from your home to hunt antlerless deer?

______ (number of miles)