

2006 SURVEY OF HUNTERS PARTICIPATING IN EARN-A-BUCK 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!

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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 2006 firearms deer season, you applied for a State Park hunt with an earn-a-buck regulation. For this survey, "the Park" means the Park you applied to hunt in 2006.

1. Did you actually hunt at the Park during the 2006 firearms deer hunting season?

YES

NO →

2. If No, during the 2006 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

Skip to
Question 7

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 2006 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 2006 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.

SEASON	Wildlife Management Area	State Forest	Other Public	Private Posted Land	Private Land Not Posted	Did not hunt this season
Early Antlerless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Firearm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muzzleloader	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION B. We are now interested in learning about your experiences and opinions regarding your 2006 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 2006? (*check only one*)

- I NORMALLY HUNT THIS STATE PARK
- I HUNT AS A PARTY WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS
- I WAS INTERESTED IN THE EARN-A-BUCK REGULATION
- 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.

Method	None	Some	Most	All	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

11. What was the first deer or group of deer that you saw that was within your shooting range at the Park? (*check only one*)

- 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

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*)

- IT WAS A BUCK AND I HADN'T KILLED AN ANTLERLESS DEER YET
 - I COULDN'T TELL IF IT WAS AN ANTLERLESS DEER
 - THE DEER DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD SHOT OR I SHOT AND MISSED THE DEER
 - I DO NOT SHOOT ANTLERLESS DEER
 - OTHER (DESCRIBE WHY)
-

14. Did you kill an antlerless deer at the Park during 2006?

- YES → **SKIP TO QUESTION 16**
- NO

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 HAD ENOUGH VENISON
 - I COULD NOT TELL IF THE DEER WAS LEGAL TO SHOOT
 - I SAW ANTLERLESS DEER BUT THE DEER DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD SHOT OR I SHOT AND MISSED THE DEER
 - I DO NOT SHOOT ANTLERLESS DEER
 - OTHER (DESCRIBE WHY)
-

16. Did you kill an antlered buck at the Park during 2006?

- YES
- NO →

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

- I DID NOT KILL AN ANTLERLESS DEER FIRST
 - I DID NOT SEE AN ANTLERED BUCK
 - THE BUCK DID NOT PRESENT A GOOD SHOT OR I SHOT AND MISSED THE BUCK
 - I SHOT AN ANTLERLESS DEER AND WAS WAITING FOR A BIG BUCK
 - OTHER (DESCRIBE WHY)
-

18. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your 2006 State Park deer hunt. (Circle one number for each item)

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

19. In total, how many deer did you observe while hunting at the Park during the 2006 deer season? (Write the number of deer you saw in each blank below).

I saw a total of _____ Antlered Bucks

I saw a total of _____ Antlered Bucks that I could not shoot because I had not previously shot an antlerless deer

I saw a total of _____ Antlerless Deer

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.

Year	Number of Antlered Deer you killed ▼	Number of Antlerless Deer you killed ▼	I did not hunt at the Park that year ▼
In 2004 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
In 2005 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
In 2006 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. The earn-a-buck regulation was put in place at the Park to put more harvest pressure on antlerless deer. The intent of the regulation is to lower deer populations at the Park but it might also increase the proportion of mature bucks. After hunting under this regulation at the Park, do you support or oppose the earn-a-buck regulation? (Check only one)

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

22. If the earn-a-buck 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 2006?

- 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 2006 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 2006? 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.

	Number of Antlered Deer you killed in 2006 ▼	Number of Antlerless Deer you killed in 2006 ▼	I did not hunt in that season in 2006
October Antlerless	<u>No Season</u>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Firearms	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muzzleloader	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. How many antlered and antlerless deer did you personally kill in Minnesota in 2004 and 2005? 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.

	Number of Antlered Deer you killed ▼	Number of Antlerless Deer you killed ▼	I did not hunt in MINNESOTA that year
In 2004 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
In 2005 I killed...	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

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)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	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

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 2006 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 the 2006 Minnesota deer seasons (archery, firearm, and muzzleloader), how many deer did you personally kill? Include deer you killed but tagged by another hunter.

NUMBER OF ANTLERED BUCKS _____

NUMBER OF ANTLERLESS DEER _____

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 2006, 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)

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