

# Deer Management Budget Initiatives 13 – 15

## Budget Initiative Summary's

### Update Land Cover Assessment

GIS Coordination

- Updated land cover data is a critical element of evaluating and clearly understanding a changing landscape.
- Specific to deer management in Wisconsin, updating the land cover data will significantly improve land cover assessments, deer density evaluations, and habitat suitability models around the state.

### Statewide Trail Camera Monitoring Project

Research/GIS Coordination

- This project involves the development of a predator monitoring program by creating a standardized statewide citizen science trail camera research/monitoring project.
- In addition to predator information cameras will provide another measure of fawn recruitment rates, estimates of buck densities and age structure.
- Citizen scientists would record all observations, submit photos of wolves and unique animals and enter all animal observations and photographs via an agency website.

### Buck Mortality Study

Research

- Clearly understanding population dynamics specifically as it relates to buck mortality is an important component of population growth and as a result, hunter success and enjoyment.
- This budget provision would supplement the Federal funding which allows for a 2 year continuation of the buck mortality study that is on-going in the Northeast portion of the state near Shiocton as well as in the Northern portion of the state near Winter.

### Fawn Predation Study

Research

- Changing predator populations have spurred an interest in understanding both the cause and rate of fawn mortality and how that mortality may impact the population growth of Wisconsin's Deer herd.
- This budget provision would supplement the Federal funding and allow for a 2-year continuation of the fawn mortality study that is on-going in the Northeast portion of the state near Shiocton as well as in the Northern portion of the state near Winter. This was recommended by the Deer Trustee Report as well as numerous sporting groups.

### Herd Health Metrics to Assess Deer Population Status

Research

- Historically, the DNR used the Sex-Age-Kill (SAK) model to re-create the deer population following harvest and evaluate the localized deer herd based on deer management unit goals.
- Following recommendations of the Deer Trustee Report this budget provision will assist in the development and evaluation of deer herd information used to evaluate the population status and its impacts on the ecosystem.

### Deer Management Assistance Pilot Program

DMAP

- The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) is a key recommendation of the Deer Trustee Report. The focus is on increased public outreach and interaction with public and private landowners to manage the deer herd at the landowner level.

### Research to Set Management Goals and Strategies

Research

- This budget provision would focus on developing human dimensions research and outreach at the local level to gather input for setting goals and strategies for the deer population.

### Deer Habitat Management Review Committees

Outreach

- In order to address a specific recommendation of the Deer Trustee Report to involve the public more actively in deer management decision-making at the local level, this budget proposal involves the formation of county-based committees comprised of stakeholder and tribal representatives, chaired by local Conservation Congress representatives, to annually review deer management issues.

### Baiting and Feeding Study

CWD

- The practice of baiting and feeding has been an on-going issue related to deer management for some time.
- This budget proposal involves the development and implementation of a study on the human dimensions surrounding baiting and feeding deer through the use of focus groups with current and past bait using hunters as well as those who have never used bait for the purpose of developing policy.

### Disease Response Plan

CWD

- This budget proposal involves the development of sampling protocols and the implementation of surveillance efforts to determine the spatial extent and intensity of the sampling effort and deer diseases, such as CWD and EHD.

### Citizen Monitoring Initiative

CWD

- Citizen detection and reporting of diseased deer on the landscape is viewed as one of the most important steps in detecting and managing wildlife diseases on the landscape.
- This budget proposal involves refinements to improve the sick deer reporting system that is available to the public and to reinforce and support public relations efforts to encourage the reporting of sick deer.

### Charge fees for Antlerless Tags in CWD Zone

CWD

- Based on the recommendation of the Deer Trustee Report, to implement charging fees for CWD-specific tags, this budget proposal would involve charging a fee for previously free tags.
- My budget includes a provision to use a portion of the proceeds for antlerless deer tags in counties with CWD to be used to fund testing and surveillance efforts.

### Quicker CWD Test Reporting

CWD

- An important component of an effective CWD surveillance system is quick turnaround for the hunters receiving the test results, the small businesses processing the meat and the food pantries that receive deer donated to their programs.
- In order to effectively increase reporting times, this budget proposal involves a decentralized statewide approach to improved sample collection and testing turnaround. Which will result in increased efficiencies and reduced expenditures in the long-term.

### Field Necropsies Training and Implementation

CWD

- As a recommendation of the Deer Trustee Report, this budget initiative includes the development of necropsy-oriented training program that would enable wildlife biologists to perform field necropsies.
- The funding would be used to develop the training materials, conduct the training, purchase personal protective equipment and submit samples for 10 animals per area from 46 biologists statewide.