



Deer Trustee Report Public Action Teams

Implementation Proposals for DTR Recommendations

April 6 – July 20, 2013 Stevens Point, Wisconsin

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) was tasked with implementing the recommendations contained in the June 2012 Deer Trustee Report (DTR) submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Administration by a three person Deer Trustee Committee led by Dr. James C. Kroll. The overarching goal of the report was to enhance white-tailed deer hunting, management and research in Wisconsin through improved communication and by addressing areas of concern expressed by the hunting public and further involving them in the decision-making process.

As the initial step in the implementation process, 62 recommendations from the DTR Executive Summary were categorized into five consistently-themed groupings identified as follows:

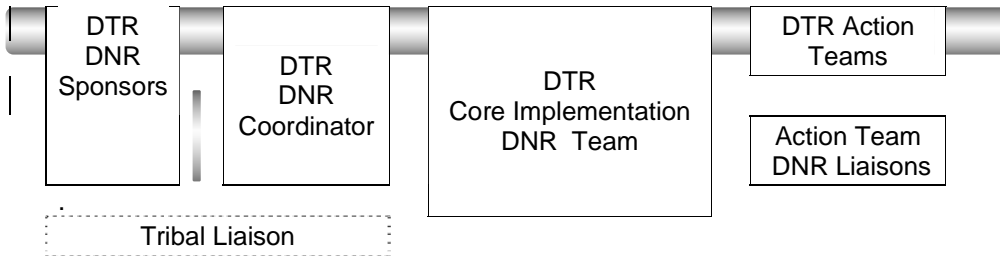
- Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)
- Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- Regulations & Season Structure
- Science & Research
- Administrative

The first four groupings as listed above were assigned to publicly-driven Action Teams consisting of volunteers from around the state. Participation on the Action Teams was open to any member of the public representing themselves, or as a representative of an organization. The Action Teams were formed following a March 9, 2013 public meeting held at the University of Stevens Point, Dreyfus University Center, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The purpose of each Teams was to review and digest the background information related to the recommendations of the DTR and develop implementation proposals for the Department to consider when drafting administrative rules.

The Administrative group of recommendations were assigned to internal WDNR Action Teams as some of these recommendations were significant enough to require an independent public involvement process, involved internal process or were simply statements that did not require further public refinement.

As with many natural resource oriented issues, several of the recommendations were not stand-alone issues as any change in one area would have ramifications to other aspects of deer management. As a result, there were a number of recommendations that did not fit exclusively into one Action Team over another and were assigned to two Teams to consider.

The formation of the Action Teams was part of a larger WDNR effort to process and implement the recommendations contained in the DTR. After the release of the DTR in 2012, the WDNR developed a DTR Implementation Approach that was approved by the Deer Trustee, tribal interests, and representatives from several deer management stakeholder group. It identified four sponsors from WDNR Administration to oversee the effort, assigned a DTR Implementation Coordinator to coordinate and lead the effort, and formed an eleven member Core Team of WDNR staff plus tribal representation to assist the public Action Teams.



To help facilitate the Action Team meetings, the WDNR contracted with two Wisconsin-based firms to provide independent third-party facilitators to assist with meeting planning, providing visual aids and maintaining a positive and productive meeting environment for team members to discuss and deliberate alternative implementation proposals.

The complete Action Team meeting schedule was approximately every third Saturday starting April 6th and concluding July 20th. The schedule including the initial March meeting is below:

March 9, 2013	Introduction and Invitation to Participate
April 6, 2013	Action Team meetings with presentations relevant to each Team's assigned recommendations
April 27, 2013	Action Team meetings to develop implementation proposals
May 18, 2013	Action Team meetings to develop implementation proposals
June 8, 2013	Mid-Process check-in common session followed by Action Team meetings to develop proposals
June 29, 2013	Action Team meetings
July 20, 2013	Action Team meetings. Final wrap-up with report outs.

As of June 8th, the four public Action Teams have developed and submitted **33** implementation proposals addressing 39 of the 49 recommendations.

Status of Implementation Proposals

The Action Teams' implementation proposal status is shown in the table below. The description of the recommendations is abbreviated to conserve page space. A more complete wording of each recommendation is found in the attached documents.

The numbering of the recommendations in the table includes an assigned numeric prefix indicating the section of the DTR report the recommendation was made to assist in correlating the implementation proposal with each recommendation.

DTR Report Section Letter Designation	
A	Population Management
B	Hunting Regulations, Seasons and Bag Limits
C	Predator Studies
D	Chronic Wasting Disease
E	Harvest Data, Herd Health and Productivity
F	Habitat
G	People
H	DNR Research and Technical Publications
I	Conservation Congress
J	Personnel

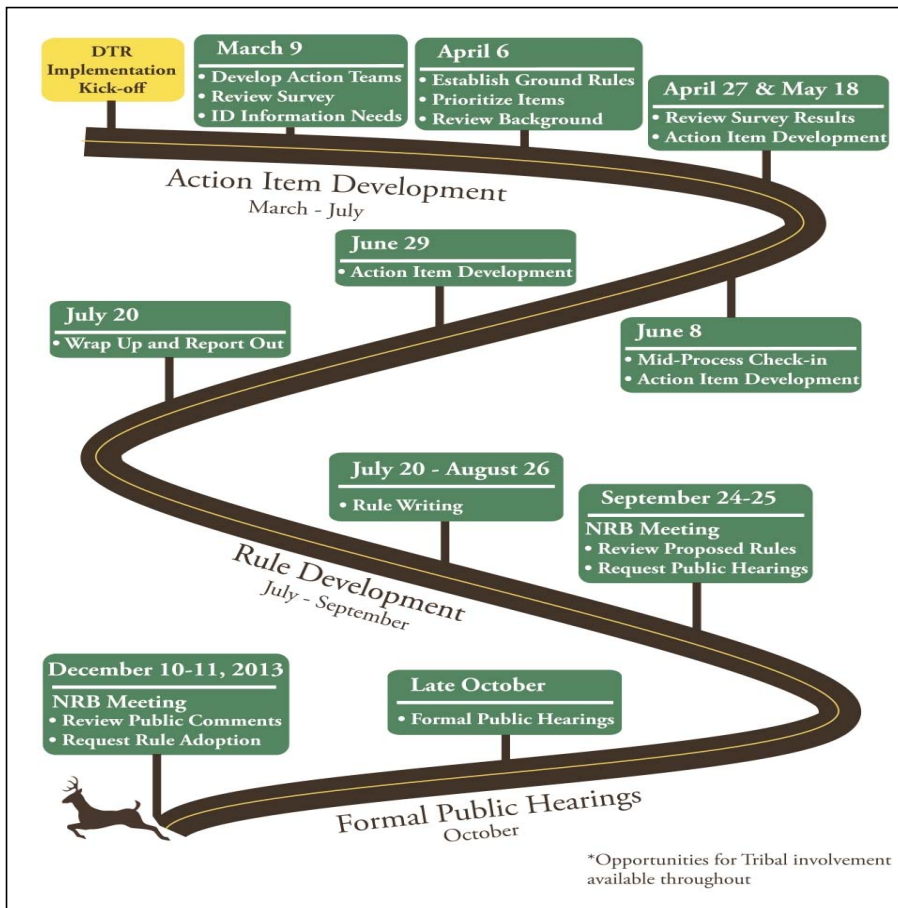
Recommendation	Assigned Team(s)	Proposal Status
A.1. Limit use of SAK accounting style models	Science / Research	Draft
A.2. Do away w/pop goals & estimates @ DMU level	Science / Research	Draft
A.3. Replace current DMU population goal definition	Science / Research	
A.4. Develop metrics for DMU pop goal monitoring	Science / Research	
A.5. Reduce # of DMUs, combine Farmland regions	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
A.5. Reduce # of DMUs, combine Farmland regions	Science / Research	Draft
B.1. Simplify regulatory process, 3-5 year cycle	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
B.10. Maintain Bonus Buck regulation in CWD Zone	Herd / Health CWD	
B.10. Maintain Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD Zone	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
B.11. Resolve cross-bow season issue	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
B.12. Resolve baiting/feeding issue outside CWD affected area	Regulations / Seasons	Draft

Recommendation	Assigned Team(s)	Proposal Status
B.13. Simplify seasons, bag limits & youth qualifications	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
B.2. Use DMU historic demand as base for permit quotas	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
B.3. Increase cost of all antlerless tags to \$12	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
B.4. Charge fee for antlerless tags in CWD Zone	Herd / Health CWD	
B.4. Charge fee for antlerless tags in CWD Zone	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
B.5. Establish public lands antlerless permit system	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
B.6. Limit antlerless deer harvest in Reg & Herd Control Zones	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
B.7. Establish DMAP antlerless permit system	DMAP	Draft
B.8. Re-evaluate Oct antlerless season in CWD Zone	Herd / Health CWD	
B.8. Re-evaluate Oct antlerless season in CWD Zone	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
B.9. Maintain current buck limit for gun & archery	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
C.1. Continue research on impacts of predators	Science / Research	Draft
C.2. Involve public w/field-based research projects	Science / Research	Draft
C.5. Geospatial studies of predators, esp. wolves	Science / Research	Draft
D.1. Consider a more passive approach to CWD in DMZ	Herd / Health CWD	Draft
D.10. Make Charlotte the Deer - Mascot of CWD	Herd / Health CWD	Draft
D.2. Develop a new sampling protocol for CWD	Herd / Health CWD	Draft
D.2. Develop new sampling protocol for CWD	Science / Research	
D.3. Response plan focused on early detection	Herd / Health CWD	
D.4. Implement statewide DMAP program	DMAP	
D.4. Implement statewide DMAP program	Herd / Health CWD	Draft
D.5. Provide more info on humans contracting a CWD variant	Herd / Health CWD	Draft
D.6. Decrease time required for CWD test results	Herd / Health CWD	Draft
D.7. Annual meeting of DMAP Cooperators	DMAP	Draft
D.7. Annual Meeting of DMAP Cooperators	Herd / Health CWD	Draft
D.8. WDNR work closely with WCC at county level	Herd / Health CWD	
D.8. WDNR work closely with WCC at county level	Science / Research	
D.9. Be proactive, use human dimensions research	Herd / Health CWD	
D.9. Be proactive-use human dimensions research	Science / Research	
E.1. Involve public in volunteer based data	Science / Research	

Recommendation	Assigned Team(s)	Proposal Status
collection		
E.2. Conduct annual late winter field necropsy study	Science / Research	
E.4. Annual DMAP workshop, annual report	DMAP	Draft
F.1. Annual range evals to assess habitat status	DMAP	Draft
G.1. Implement a DMAP	DMAP	
G.2. DMAP cooperators receive annual report	DMAP	Draft
G.3. Develop public lands antlerless permit system	Regulations / Seasons	
G.4. Agreements with GLIFWC, also many other factors	Science / Research	
G.5. Expand public education / outreach efforts	DMAP	Draft
H.1. Establish research steering committee	Science / Research	Draft
H.2. Human Dimensions research development	Science / Research	Draft
H.5. Develop long-term research plan	Science / Research	Draft
H.6. Cooperative efforts with other agencies	Science / Research	
H.7. Research projects of an applied nature	Science / Research	Draft
H.8. Project results should be extended to public	DMAP	Draft
H.8. Project results should be extended to public	Science / Research	Draft
H.9. Develop a Wildlife Disease Unit	Herd / Health CWD	Draft
I.1. WCC more active role in deer mgmt decision-making	Regulations / Seasons	Draft
J.1. Addition of Deer Mgmt Assistance Coordinator	DMAP	Draft

Next Steps

Early in the formation and orientation process, the WDNR explained to Action Team participants that the implementation proposals submitted represented a starting point for the lengthier process of making administrative rule and legislative changes to white-tailed deer management in Wisconsin. The 'roadmap' graphic below was used to illustrate this point.



Thus, when reviewing the proposals submitted, it should be with the understanding that the Action Team’s efforts were focused on developing *concept-driven* ideas for implementing the DTR recommendations rather than creating detailed administrative rule language or guidance for legislative changes to deer management practices.

Summary

The DTR Action Teams have three meetings remaining to finalize and submit their proposals for implementing the recommendations. Although all of the implementation proposals have the potential to garner significant public interest and discussion, especially when considered collectively, a couple of noteworthy proposals include:

- Simplify the hunting season structure with the creation of 5 hunting zones.
- Encourage legislative action to ban baiting and feeding of deer statewide.
- Eliminate free antlerless tags and recommend allowing hunters to purchase them in groups of 3 tags.

- Adopt a “more passive” approach in the CWD Management Zone however continue to focus on deer population reduction to control the spread.
- Initiate a Deer Management Assistance Program with a preliminary list of mechanisms to include:
 - On site visit by a wildlife biologist and forester (initial visit/consultation is free)
 - Informational packet of DMAP related materials to be given on initial consultation. Information should be current, detailed, and relevant to deer management and DMAP.
 - Instruction on wildlife inventory and monitoring resources
 - Collection and reporting of biological harvest data
 - Annual renewal should be contingent upon submission of biological harvest data
 - Annual meetings
 - Media be used at its full potential (online, print, broadcast media, blog, YouTube videos, popular articles, sport shows, etc)
 - DMAP should be used on public lands w/ antlerless permit allocation as part of the public lands aspect

Information on the remaining meetings will be included in a final report completed by the end of July 2013, and ongoing updates can be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov>, key words: Deer Trustee Report.

The public is encouraged to continue participating in this important discussion by contributing ideas and input via email, online chat sessions and observing the Action Team meetings in person.