

Goal

The NCWRC goal for deer hunting and management is to:

Use science-based decision making and biologically-sound management principles to assure long-term viability of deer populations at desirable levels of health, herd composition, and density with respect to land cover type and use, hunter satisfaction, and overall social acceptance.

Achievement of this goal would be reflected by a well-managed herd that:

- may be managed with hunting as the primary tool,
- carries with it a primarily positive resource value, with acceptable levels of long-term negative impacts to people, property, and other natural resources,
- is capable of supporting a broad range of traditional and new hunting opportunities,
- is capable of accommodating diverse landholder deer management goals,
- does not exceed the land's ability to sustain it, and
- can be evaluated using the following biological parameters:
 1. a viable population is maintained within nutritional carrying capacity,
 2. all age classes of bucks and does are adequately represented,
 3. adult sex-ratios are balanced during breeding season to increase the likelihood of synchronized breeding and parturition,
 4. yearling buck dispersal is adequate,
 5. standing genetic diversity is maintained,
 6. the herd is free-ranging, and
 7. the risk of disease introduction and transmission is minimal.

Biological Evaluation of Proposed Deer Regulation Change

Proposal Number:

Area and regulation(s):

In regard to achieving, moving towards, or maintaining biological objectives, is the direction of current trends expected to be **improved**, **worsened**, or **not affected** by this proposed rule change? Points should be awarded based on the average effect over the entire proposed change area. Objectives 1-6 receive no points if the effect is not expected to be quantifiable through reported harvest or biological data collected within a 5-year period following the change. No partial score is given for any objective. *If harvest is below 1.0 antlered buck/mi² any year within the last 3 years, then Objectives 2 and 4 automatically receive no points.

Biological Objective	For the area considered, what is the 3-year average and trend?	Points awarded based on above criteria			
		Improved	Worsened	Not Affected or No Data	Points
1. Sustained harvest of 1.0 to 3.6 antlered buck/mi ² , or if less than 1.0 buck/mi ² the area has a stable or increasing trend.		20	-20	0	
*2. Total adult doe harvest (i.e., excluding fawns) is comprised of 25-35% yearling does (1.5 years old).		10	-10	0	
3. Total antlered buck harvest (i.e., excluding button bucks) is comprised of no more than 30% yearling bucks (1.5 years old).		10	-10	0	
*4. Total harvest is comprised of at least 45% does.		10	-10	0	
5. Sex composition of harvest that occurs prior to peak breeding is comprised of at least 50% does.		10	-10	0	
6. No more than 20% of total antlered buck harvest (i.e., excluding button bucks) occurs before the time of peak breeding.		10	-10	0	
7. Deer are a naturally occurring product of the landscape. There is no genetic manipulation and movements are not restricted.		15	-15	0	
8. The risk of disease transmission is reduced.		15	-15	0	
Explanation of Score: A positive (+) score indicates an overall expected improvement over current regulations. A negative score (-) indicates an expectation that the proposed change will hinder meeting biological objectives. The highest possible score is +100 and the lowest possible score is -100.		Biological Score <u> 0 </u> <i>(sum of points)</i>			
If the biological score is neutral or positive, please note areas of biological concern within the larger proposed change area if they exist:					

Evaluation of Non-Biological Issues Related to Proposed Deer Regulation Change

Proposal Number:
Area and regulation(s):

In considering whether to support this proposed regulation, what is the current level of support or expected impact for the following parameters?

		Direction and Magnitude of Support or Impacts						Source of Information	Comments
		Positive		Neutral Support or Little to No Impact	Negative		Unknown		
		Strong	Moderate		Moderate	Strong			
Parameter									
Constituent Considerations	1. Deer hunters: Expected level of support								
	2. Deer hunters: Expected impacts on hunting opportunity/long term satisfaction								
	3. Other hunters: Expected level of support								
	4. Other hunters: Expected impacts on hunting opportunity/long term satisfaction								
	5. Landowners: Impacts and/or support as noted in comments								
	6. Non-hunters: Impacts and/or support as noted in comments								
	7. Fiscal impacts to constituents								
Agency Considerations	8. Impacts on hunter retention and recruitment								
	9. Impacts on enforceability								
	10. Impacts on ability to monitor changes in the deer herd								
	11. Impacts to agency administration								
	12. Impacts on regulation complexity								
	13. Fiscal impacts to NCWRC								
	14. Other:								
15. Other:									
Comments:									