DEER PROGRAM REPORT

PREPARED BY MDWFP DEER COMMITTEE

2012

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

Mississippi Deer Program Report 2012

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
1505 Eastover Drive • Jackson, MS 39211

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2011 Wheelin' Sportsman

Deer Hunt for Kids with Disabilities

By Chad Dacus

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, National Wild Turkey Federation, Bass Pro Shops, Primos Hunting Calls, Outback Steakhouse, Mississippi Braves, and Mazzio's co-hosted the Sixth Annual Wheelin' Sportsmen Deer Hunt for Youth with Disabilities on Nov. 11-13. This year there were 91 youths from Mississippi and Louisiana participating in the event.

On Friday, all the hunters checked in at Bass Pro Shops in Pearl and received their hunting license which was provided by the Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Then they visited the Magnolia Rifle and Pistol Club where MDWFP Conservation Officers and biologists assisted them with sighting in their rifles. Activities at Bass Pro Shops included MDWFP Fisheries Bureau helping with fishing, NWTF Jake's Take Aim BB gun shooting, the Jackson Zoo Mobile with critters, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science with snakes and turtles, and MDWFP Wildlife Bureau with an airboat and a couple of alligators.

Friday night activities included a concert by Crossin' Dixon at Trustmark Park and dinner provided by Outback Steakhouse. Santa even made a special trip from the North Pole to give every hunter a goodie bag.

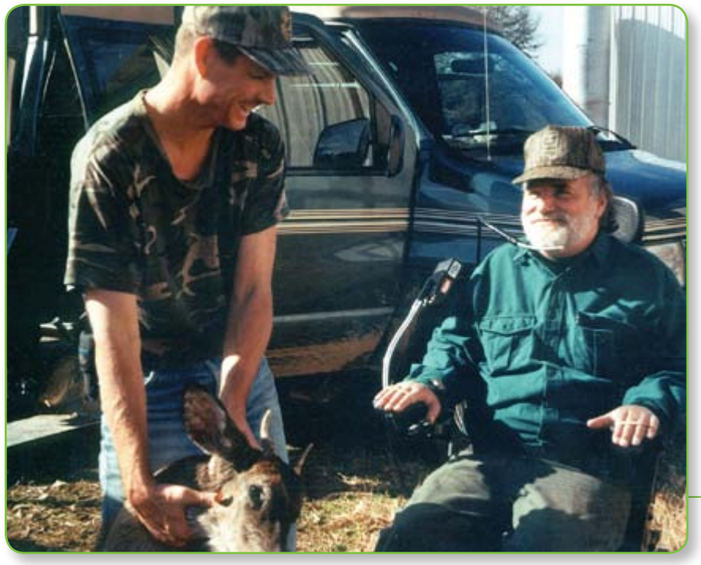
The kids hunted all day Saturday and spent time at the various hunting camps. Sunday concluded with testimonials by the kids, guides, and parents of the fun-filled weekend. Church service was given by Dogwood Outdoors and lunch was provided by Mazzio's Pizza.

WEEKEND STATISTICS:

- 91 hunters participated
- Total Deer: 60
- Bucks: 27
- Does: 33
- 10 hunters harvested their first deer
- 30 landowners / hunting clubs donated the use of their properties.

Chad Dacus is Assistant Director of MDWFP Wildlife Bureau.

Photo Spread: Courtesy



In Memory of

Bill Lunceford

1945-2007

This Deer Data Book is dedicated to Bill Lunceford.

On September 20, 2007, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and the sportsmen of Mississippi lost a hero. William (Bill) Lunceford passed away as a result of complications due to a previous injury. Bill became a quadriplegic after a diving accident in 1979. After rehabilitation, he came back to work with the MDWFP as the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Coordinator. He filled this role until his retirement on June 30, 2006. The work he completed in his position is immeasurable. Using a mouthpiece, wooden dowel, and large eraser, he typed faster than most of the staff. His knowledge of computer programs combined with deer management experience made the rest of the staff's roles easier. He combined the DMAP data for the entire state annually and produced reports to assist field biologists in making better deer management decisions. The data and reports eventually became the Deer Program Report. His work has impacted millions of acres of deer habitat in the state. He also assisted other states with the implementation of DMAP programs.

Bill was a man of Christian values, strong work ethic, and immense knowledge. It was impossible to not make friends with him. After his accident, he continued his passion of hunting deer. He designed a rifle mounted on a football helmet, with trigger activation by solenoid from a mouthpiece. He was a crack shot with this weapon, bagging several deer, and designed several versions in different calibers.

Bill traveled the state to give motivational speeches. He proved that adversity can be overcome. You just have to want to. Many lives have been touched, and changed, by Bill's time on Earth. As a firm believer, Bill can now walk again.

You will be missed.

Acknowledgments

Numerous people are responsible for the information presented in this report. The vision and work of Mississippi Game and Fish Commission patriarchs like Fannie Cook and Bill Turcotte initiated plans in the 1930's that ultimately provided Mississippi Sportsmen with the deer population we enjoy today.

Leaf River Refuge Manager Quinton Breeland, Upper Sardis Refuge Manager Garald Mize, and other dedicated Commission employees protected, trapped, and relocated hundreds of deer throughout the state during the days of Mississippi's deer restoration. In addition, game wardens of the deer restoration era protected a growing deer population through the early period of wildlife conservation. During this time in the history of Mississippi's Wildlife Management Agency, game wardens provided their own gun and vehicle. Mobile communication with other officers was little more than a futuristic dream. Wildlife enforcement, or the game warden that interfered with the "jacklighting" of deer and illegal harvest of game, was not a welcome sight to some hunters at that time. Refuge managers and game wardens of the restoration era are pioneers of the deer population restoration success of today.

Today the conservation officer is considered differently. Most men and women who enjoy the bountiful wildlife that exist today regard the conservation officer as a partner in wildlife conservation. As those who are responsible for the deer populations we treasure are remembered, the conservation officers of today should not be forgotten.

The Mississippi Legislature is also to be thanked for their historic and sustained funding of this agency. Since the establishment of the Game and Fish Commission in the days of the Great Depression, the Mississippi Legislature has funded efforts necessary for the wildlife conservation success story of the white-tailed deer.

The Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) Executive Committee is to be commended for the foresight and vision to allow the Wildlife Bureau the ability to assemble a team of dedicated deer biologists.

Mississippi landowners have made deer in the Magnolia State a reality. Without landowner desire to have deer, most agency efforts would have proved ineffective. Those of us who hunt, study, or admire the white-tailed deer truly thank you.

This report would not have been possible without the efforts and cooperation of the MDWFP Wildlife Bureau technical staff and field personnel. An extra-special appreciation is extended to Tosha Jordan for assistance with many aspects of producing and mailing this report and to Kourtney Wong who was responsible for the report layout and design. A special thanks to Rick Dillard who coordinates the Magnolia Records Program on his own time. Also, a special thanks to Ashley Gary and Amy Blaylock, and to all the other biologists who had a part in developing this report. Finally, a very special thank you to Jason Price for assistance with generating reports and the development of the XNet analysis program.

Additionally, Mississippi's deer hunters deserve special recognition. Your data collection efforts, concern, and support for white-tailed deer are vital to the success of the White-tailed Deer Program.

Look for this information on *www.mdwfp.com/deer*. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Cover photo courtesy of Justin Thayer.

Special thanks and recognition goes out to Bill Lunceford. Bill had the vision and foresight to put the first DMAP Annual Report together in 1988. In 1993 the report changed to the Mississippi Deer Data book. Without Bill's vision of the DMAP program and the Deer Data Book, today's report would not have been possible.

David Graves
Regional Deer Biologist

William T. McKinley
Regional Deer Biologist

Justin Thayer
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Lann Wilf
Regional Deer Biologist

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

A PITTMAN-ROBERTSON FUNDED PROJECT

This report is produced by the Technical Guidelines Project, Statewide Wildlife Development Project and Statewide Wildlife Investigations Project and is primarily funded by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration.

Claragrace Bozeman with a 4-year old buck harvested on a DMAP property in Madison County. The buck scored 149 6/8 gross and netted 139 2/8 typical.

Mark Allison with a 4 year old buck taken on a DMAP club in Monroe County.

The first Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) report was completed in 1982. The DMAP report evolved into the Mississippi Deer Program Report in 1992. Since its inception, the purpose of this report was to consolidate all deer-related information obtained by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) personnel. Compilation of these data provides managers the opportunity to analyze trends in deer harvest and physiological condition. In the future, managers will have a chronicled reference to more effectively critique effects of changes in season framework, hunter success, and climatic conditions on the deer population.

Decision makers such as the Mississippi Legislature and the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks have served the sportsmen of the state well. Deer harvest and management opportunities exist today that were considered far-fetched thirty years ago.

Deer hunting regulations are subject to change each year, and often do. This was the third year of new antler criteria for legal bucks and the creation of three deer management zones.

Annual mail surveys are used to monitor trends in hunter harvest and effort in Mississippi. Historical mail survey data from 2006 – 2010 has been inconsistent, and no survey was conducted following the 2009 – 2010 season. This Deer Program Report will contain harvest estimates from two surveys. The 2010 – 2011 mail survey was completed after the 2010 – 2011 Deer Program Report was compiled, so the data is summarized in this Report. Also, the survey format was changed for the 2011 – 2012 hunting season. The current harvest survey was conducted by Responsive Management in a phone survey format. This method provided harvest estimates much earlier than the previous surveys. Hopefully, the MDWFP can continue to use more progressive survey methods to acquire harvest estimates much sooner, which will assist in making management decisions.

After the 2011 deer herd health evaluation season, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) lost key personnel that analyzed blood serum for the annual Hemorrhagic Disease (HD) serology report. Unfortunately, annual serology updates for HD will not be available until SCWDS staff increases.

The MDWFP began using a computer summary program (XtraNet) to enter and analyze all DMAP and WMA data in 2004 – 2005. Data from 2001 – 2012 was analyzed using XtraNet, while data prior to 2001 was analyzed using DeerTrax. This may be the cause for differences in some numbers between 2000 and 2001. Statewide Compiled DMAP summary tables and graphs include harvest reports from Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) that collect deer harvest data. Soil region summary tables only include data from private lands on DMAP to give managers a better representation of expectations for their property.

Sample methods were unchanged for the following data sets:

- Hunter effort and harvest information collected on state-operated WMAs
- Employee observations of deer mortality due to motor vehicle collisions
- Enforcement Bureau monitoring of deer hunting-related citations
- CWD monitoring and data collection
- Deer research projects conducted in cooperation with Mississippi State University Forest and Wildlife Research Center

Department wildlife biologists continued to inform and educate sportsmen relative to deer management needs and issues. Our goals are to provide insight into current deer management needs while providing the leadership to identify and guide future issues. All known media sources were utilized in this process. In addition, public presentations were made to hunting, civic, and conservation groups throughout the state. This report captures a portion of the informational and educational efforts.

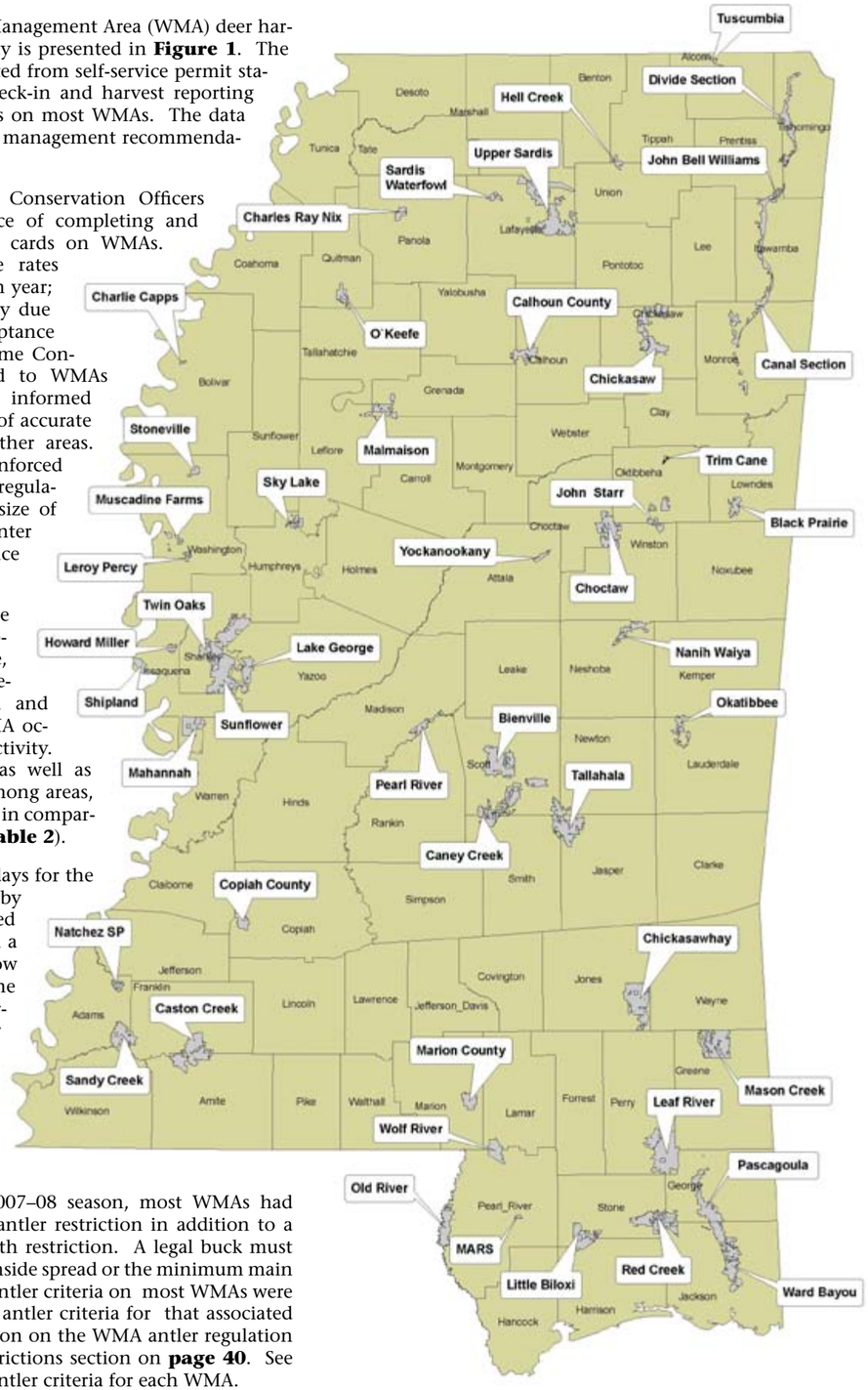
A summary of Wildlife Management Area (WMA) deer harvest and hunter activity is presented in **Figure 1**. The majority of data was collected from self-service permit stations. Mandatory deer check-in and harvest reporting is required from all hunters on most WMAs. The data collected is used in making management recommendations for each WMA.

Throughout the year, Conservation Officers monitor hunter compliance of completing and returning daily-use permit cards on WMAs. Differences in compliance rates among WMAs are seen each year; these differences are mainly due to the degree of hunter acceptance of the check-in system. Some Conservation Officers assigned to WMAs have more aggressively informed hunters of the importance of accurate check-in than those on other areas. Also, some officers have enforced the mandatory check-in regulation more diligently. The size of a WMA and control of hunter access also affects compliance rates.

Some WMAs provide more restrictive hunting opportunities due to area size, habitat type, and management objectives. Location and soil region in which a WMA occurs impacts deer productivity. Because of these factors, as well as other unique differences among areas, caution should be exercised in comparing data between WMAs (**Table 2**).

Reported hunter man-days for the 2011–12 season increased by 16,329 man-days compared to last year. There has been a gradual increase since the low in 2005 caused by Hurricane Katrina. Total reported harvest increased by 439 deer compared to last season (**Figure 1**). Average success rate also increased slightly across WMAs with an average of 40 man-days per deer harvested.

Beginning with the 2007–08 season, most WMAs had a minimum inside spread antler restriction in addition to a minimum main beam length restriction. A legal buck must meet either the minimum inside spread or the minimum main beam length. This season, antler criteria on most WMAs were decreased to the state legal antler criteria for that associated region. For more information on the WMA antler regulation changes, see the antler restrictions section on **page 40**. See **Table 1** to determine the antler criteria for each WMA.



Wildlife Management Areas 2011-2012

WMA DATA

The MDWFP has recognized the need to change management strategies on our WMAs regarding timber management by becoming more proactive in managing upland pine and mixed pine-hardwood forests as well as bottomland hardwood forest. Management prescriptions will include more aggressive timber harvests and prescribed fire application. Timber harvests will be necessary to open the canopy to allow sunlight to reach the forest floor and encourage the growth of desirable plants, nesting cover, and hardwood regeneration. Prescribed fire will be applied to control undesirable plants, promote early successional growth, and create a desired understory plant structure that provides high quality forage and habitat for a multitude of forest dwelling species.

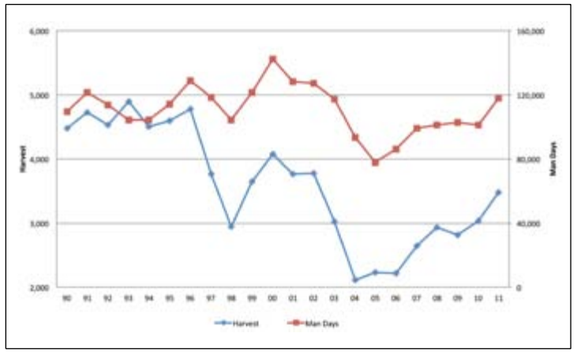


Figure 1. Wildlife Management Area Reported Deer Harvest and Hunter Man-days

Table 1. Changes in Wildlife Management Area Antler Criteria

Wildlife Management Area	2011-2012 Antler Criteria	Prior Antler Criteria	Change +/-
Bienville	10/13	12/15	-
Black Prairie	15/18	12/15	+
Calhoun County	10/13	12/15	-
Canal/John Bell	10/13	12/15	-
Caney Creek	10/13	12/15	-
Caston Creek	10/13	12/15	-
Charles Ray Nix	12/15	15/18	-
Chickasaw	10/13	12/15	-
Chickasawhay	10/13	12/15	-
Choctaw	10/13	12/15	-
Copiah County	12/15	12/15	same
Divide Section	10/13	12/15	-
Hell Creek	10/13	12/15	-
John Starr	10/13	12/15	-
Lake George	12/15	15/18	-
Leaf River	10/13	12/15	-
Leroy Percy	12/15	15/18	-
Little Biloxi	10/13	12/15	-
Mahannah	16/20	16/20	same
Malmaison	12/15	15/18	-
Marion County	12/15	12/15	same
Mason Creek	10/13	12/15	-
Nanih Waiya	10/13	12/15	-

Wildlife Management Area	2011-2012 Antler Criteria	Prior Antler Criteria	Change +/-
Natchez State Park	12/15	12/15	same
Okatibbee	10/13	12/15	-
O'Keefe	15/18	15/18	same
Old River	10/13	12/15	-
Pascagoula	10/13	12/15	-
Pearl River	10/13	12/15	-
Red Creek	10/13	12/15	-
Sandy Creek	10/13	12/15	-
Sardis Waterfowl	Hardened Antler Above Hairline	Hardened Antler Above Hairline	same
Shipland	12/15	15/18	-
Sky Lake	12/15	15/18	-
Stoneville	12/15	15/18	-
Sunflower	12/15	15/18	-
Tallahala	10/13	12/15	-
Theodore A. Mars, Jr.	Hardened Antler Above Hairline	Hardened Antler Above Hairline	same
Trim Cane	10/13	12/15	-
Tuscumbia	10/13	12/15	-
Twin Oaks	16/20	15/18	+
Upper Sardis	10/13	12/15	-
Ward Bayou	10/13	12/15	-
Wolf River	10/13	12/15	-
Yockanookany	10/13	12/15	-

*1st number indicates Inside Spread *2nd number indicates Main Beam Length

Table 2. Wildlife Management Area Harvest Information for the 2011-2012 Season

Wildlife Management Area	Acreage	Total Harvest	Acres/ Deer	Buck Harvest	Acres/ Buck	Doe Harvest	Acres/ Doe	Total Mandays	Mandays/ Deer	Mandays/ Acre
Bienville	26,136	254	103	119	220	135	194	3,169	12	0.12
Black Prairie	5,673	39	145	9	630	30	189	293	8	0.05
Calhoun County	10,900	107	102	47	232	60	182	1,622	15	0.15
Canal Section	28,930	78	371	40	723	38	761	5,391	69	0.19
Caney Creek	28,000	123	228	64	438	59	475	3,827	31	0.14
Caston Creek	27,785	42	662	29	958	13	2,137	3,297	79	0.12
Charles Ray Nix	4,000	83	48	43	93	40	100	1,317	16	0.33
Chickasaw	27,259	138	198	71	384	67	407	6,700	49	0.25
Chickasawhay	29,048	79	368	50	581	29	1,002	4,225	53	0.15
Choctaw	24,314	97	251	52	468	45	540	2,646	27	0.11
Copiah County	6,583	147	45	82	80	65	101	4,007	27	0.61
Divide Section	15,337	32	479	16	959	16	959	2,594	81	0.17
Hell Creek	2,284	25	91	7	326	18	127	233	9	0.10
John Bell Williams	2,930	6	488	3	977	3	977	580	97	0.20
John Starr	8,244	64	129	39	211	25	330	1,232	19	0.15
Lake George	8,383	68	123	32	262	36	233	2,038	30	0.24
Leaf River	41,780	187	223	115	363	72	580	7,552	40	0.18
Leroy Percy	1,642	9	182	5	328	4	411	400	44	0.24
Little Biloxi	14,540	39	373	17	855	22	661	2,618	67	0.18
Mahannah	12,675	243	52	86	147	157	81	2,487	10	0.20
Malmaison	9,696	79	123	23	422	56	173	1,595	20	0.16
Marion County	7,200	117	62	73	99	44	164	2,295	20	0.32
Mason Creek	28,000	31	903	26	1,077	5	5,600	2,259	73	0.08
Nanih Waiya	7,295	58	126	17	429	41	178	1,377	24	0.19
Natchez State Park	3,425	84	41	46	74	38	90	1,193	14	0.35
Okatibbee	6,883	21	328	9	765	12	574	743	35	0.11
O'Keefe	6,239	91	69	56	111	35	178	1,702	19	0.27
Old River	14,764	79	187	48	308	31	476	2,550	32	0.17
Pascgoula River	36,994	74	500	44	841	30	1,233	12,733	172	0.34
Pearl River	6,925	29	239	15	462	14	495	1,531	53	0.22
Red Creek	22,954	25	918	15	1,530	10	2,295	2,102	84	0.09
Sandy Creek	16,407	104	158	82	200	22	746	4,050	39	0.25
Sardis Waterfowl	4,000	25	160	12	333	13	308	127	5	0.03
Shipland	3,642	22	166	16	228	6	607	811	37	0.22
Sky Lake	4,306	21	205	10	431	11	391	194	9	0.05
Stoneville	2,500	16	156	10	250	6	417	1,621	101	0.65
Sunflower	58,480	252	232	116	504	136	430	7,761	31	0.13
Tallahala	28,120	161	175	77	365	84	335	2,699	17	0.10
Theodore A. Mars Jr.	900	1	0	0	0	1	0	16	0	0.02
Trim Cane	891	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Tuscumbia	2,436	10	244	1	2,436	9	271	255	26	0.10
Twin Oaks	5,675	109	52	23	247	86	66	899	8	0.16
Upper Sardis	42,274	113	374	44	961	69	613	7,639	68	0.18
Ward Bayou	13,234	22	602	12	1,103	10	1,323	2,902	132	0.22
Wolf River	10,194	61	167	29	352	32	319	2,347	38	0.23
Yockanookany	2,379	9	264	5	0	4	595	190	21	0.08
TOTAL	672,256	3,474		1,735		1,739		117,819		
AVERAGE	**14,614**	**76**	**242**	**38**	**495**	**38**	**616**	**2,561**	**40**	**0.19**

Bienville WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	100	54	253	469	3,169
2008 – 2009	88	39	288	649	1,755
2009 – 2010	85	88	298	333	2,755
2010 – 2011	79	72	331	363	1,719
2011 – 2012	119	135	220	194	4,424

Bienville WMA (BWMA) is 26,136 acres within the Bienville National Forest located north of Morton. Bucks legal for harvest must have an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

Deer harvest resulted in 117 bucks and 134 does. Total harvest increased 69% from the previous year and hunter effort increased by 57%. The increase in harvest and man-days is likely due to the increase in days to harvest antlerless deer as well as the change in antler criteria from a minimum inside spread of at least 12 inches and one main beam length of at least 15 inches to the current criteria.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	**0.5**	**1.5**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**4.5+**	**Total**
Bucks	3	8	54	37	15	117
Does	16	17	31	35	35	134

Habitat conditions on BWMA have improved over the years due to management for the Red-cockaded woodpecker, which is an endangered species that resides on the WMA.

The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.4 inches. The average main beam length on 3.5 year old bucks was 16.4 inches.

Fifty-two percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing. There was an excellent acorn crop in 2011 and seemed to improve body weights of both buck and does.

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on March 6 & 14, 2012. A total of 4 does were collected with all 4 does being 2.5+ years old. The average dressed body weight was 78 pounds, which is slightly below the Blackland Prairie soil region average of 82 pounds. The average kidney fat index was 55% which is slightly below the expected soil region average of 67%. The average reproductive potential was 1.75 and is slightly below the soil region average of 1.86. Conception dates ranged from December 21 to January 24.

Black Prairie WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	12	30	473	189	244
2008 – 2009	8	18	709	315	162
2009 – 2010	13	18	436	315	243
2010 – 2011	24	33	236	172	282
2011 – 2012	9	30	630	189	293

Black Prairie WMA (BPWMA) is a 5,673-acre area located in Lowndes County near Brooksville. The WMA is located within the Blackland Prairie soil region and is owned and managed by the MDWFP.

Black Prairie offers an October/early November gun hunt by special permit only. This hunt has provided very high success rates during the past several years. Hunters who check in a legal doe during their permitted hunt have the opportunity to harvest one legal buck during their hunt or during a special December bucks only hunt. Archery and youth gun is open to the public during a late January hunt. This is the first year legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or main beam length of at least 18 inches. Previous antler criterion was a minimum inside spread of at least 12 inches or main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	**0.5**	**1.5**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**4.5+**	**Total**
Bucks	1	1	2	2	2	8
Does	0	3	11	10	5	29

The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 12.5 inches while average main beam length was 15.8 inches.

The percent of does harvested that were 3.5+ years old is slightly down this year at 52%. This suggests that the deer population is increasing.

There has been an increase in habitat improvements on the area. There has been an increase in number of acres prescribed burned over the last 2 years. Work is also being done to remove invasive fescue and promote more desirable plants.

Calhoun County WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Calhoun County WMA (CCWMA) is 9,130 acres of loblolly pine plantation and hardwood draws located fifteen miles west of Calhoun City. The area is privately owned, and Timbercorp, LLC manages the forest. The MDWFP regulates hunting and

manages existing wildlife openings. Deer hunting is allowed using archery gear, primitive weapons, and rifles during respective seasons. A special deer season for youth is offered. Youth may use any weapon during primitive weapon season. The use of dogs to hunt deer is allowed on this area.

Antler criteria for legal bucks on CCWMA were changed from inside spread or main beam length of 12 and 15 inches and reduced to the statewide criteria requiring a legal buck to have a minimum inside spread of 10 inches or a minimum main beam length of 13 inches for the 2011 – 2012 deer season. During the 2011 – 2012 season, 76% of harvested bucks measured met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 14 inches while average main beam length was 16 inches.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	30	15	330	659	1,950
2008 – 2009	40	22	247	449	1,914
2009 – 2010	45	42	220	235	2,093
2010 – 2011	44	43	248	253	1,323
2011 – 2012	47	60	194	152	1,622

Thirty-six percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This was a nine-season high for CCWMA.

Total harvest was at a ten-season high despite a very mild winter this past season. Hunter concentration due to a reduction in WMA acreage and decreased minimums for antler criteria may have contributed to increased harvest. Hunters seemed to experience success in hardwood drains, which provided deer with the only significant source of acorns.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	5	13	15	5	3	41
Does	5	13	9	1	15	43

Although not geared toward maximizing habitat quality, forest management on CCWMA provides some habitat benefits. Regeneration areas and annual row thins in pine plantations create some habitat as a bi-product. There are some indications that the local deer population rebounded from poor conditions in 2009 and 2010 due to improved habitat and an early spring in 2011.

Canal Section WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Canal Section WMA (CSWMA) is 27,500 acres that stretch approximately 54 linear miles along the west side of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. The WMA is located in Prentiss, Itawamba, and Monroe counties. Canal Section WMA is owned by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and managed by the MDWFP. Deer hunting is allowed using archery gear, primitive weapons, and rifles during respective seasons. A special deer season for youth is offered. Youth may use any weapon during primitive weapon season.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	111	54	260	535	4,512
2008 – 2009	52	64	556	452	3,660
2009 – 2010	59	49	490	590	4,760
2010 – 2011	68	74	425	391	5,080
2011 – 2012	40	38	688	724	5,391

Antler criteria for legal bucks on CSWMA changed from inside spread or main beam length of 12 and 15 inches to the statewide criteria of 10 and 13 inches for the 2011-12 deer season. Data collected increased significantly this season as a result of mandatory deer check in. During the 2011 – 2012 season, 84% of harvested bucks measured met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 13.1 inches while average main beam length was 15.2 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	5	9	10	8	32
Does	3	1	4	7	9	24

Sixty-seven percent of the does harvested on CSWMA were 3.5+ years old. The large number of older age class does harvested suggests continued herd growth.

Total man-days recorded during the 2011 – 2012 deer season on CSWMA was a five season high. Unfortunately, harvest was a five season low. This could have been due to very mild winter temps and one of the best mast crops in recent memory. These factors seemed to reduce deer movement tremendously.

A prescribed burn was conducted during the winter of 2012 on approximately 300 acres of the area to improve wildlife habitat. As prescribed burn acreage increases, so will more desirable food and cover resources for the local deer herd. The Corps of Engineers has coordinated thinning within a 100-acre pine plantation on the south end of the WMA. This will continue to enhance habitat on CSWMA.

Caney Creek WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Caney Creek WMA (CCWMA) is 28,000 acres within the Bienville National Forest located near Forest. Bucks legal for harvest must have an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age,

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	57	45	499	632	2,674
2008 – 2009	51	50	558	569	1,926
2009 – 2010	65	65	437	437	2,828
2010 – 2011	30	55	933	509	1,364
2011 – 2012	64	59	438	475	3,827

any antlered buck is a legal buck. Deer harvest numbers consisted of 64 bucks and 59 does. Total harvest increased by 45% from last year and hunter effort increased by 81%.

Measures are being taken to improve habitat conditions on the area. The U.S. Forest Service conducted timber harvest operations on CCWMA and continue spring prescribed burns, which should increase available browse for deer and other wildlife.

The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.2 inches while average main beam length was 16.2 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	5	25	21	5	58
Does	1	14	10	15	16	56

Fifty-five percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

Caston Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Caston Creek WMA (CCWMA) consists of 27,785 acres located within the Homochitto National Forest near Meadville, in Franklin and Amite counties. Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are defined as those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, outside of gun seasons with dogs, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	17	8	1,634	3,473	3,469
2008 – 2009	47	23	591	1,208	4,286
2009 – 2010	22	6	1,263	4,631	4,164
2010 – 2011	29	14	958	1,985	3,397
2011 – 2012	29	13	958	2,137	3,297

One hundred percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for CCWMA. The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 12.5 inches and average main beam length was 15.2 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	2	6	4	12
Does	0	1	3	3	1	8

Fifty percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

Charles Ray Nix WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Charles Ray Nix WMA (CRNWMA) is 4,000 acres of fields and upland hardwood savannahs located eight miles west of Sardis. The area is owned and managed by the MDWFP. Deer hunting is allowed using archery gear and primitive weapons by permit, during respective seasons. Youth who accompany a permitted hunter are allowed to use any weapon. Also, 2 special deer seasons for youth are offered as well as special access and hunting opportunity for handicapped individuals.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	15	35	267	114	1,305
2008 – 2009	32	50	125	80	1,107
2009 – 2010	24	41	167	98	1,047
2010 – 2011	39	48	103	83	1,207
2011 – 2012	43	40	93	100	1,317

Antler criteria for legal bucks on CRNWMA changed from inside spread or main beam length of 15 and 18 inches to the statewide criteria of 12 and 15 inches for the 2011 – 2012 deer season. During the 2011 – 2012 season, 97% of harvested bucks met the minimum antler criteria. The average spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 12.6 inches while average main beam length was 16.1 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	8	19	5	32
Does	6	8	6	3	9	32

Thirty-six percent of the does harvested were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the herd is stable.

Despite a very mild winter, total harvest remained consistent and success rates were higher compared to statewide harvest. Hunters seemed to experience success in hardwoods which provided deer with a significant source of acorns. The increase in harvest could also be explained by an increase in hunter participation. Increased hunter participation was most likely a result of the newly instituted fee-based draw hunt application process. The past season's buck harvest was the highest since the 2005 – 2006 season, which was the inaugural deer season at CRNWMA.

Intense management of natural vegetation across the WMA through burning, disking, and herbicide use continues to provide good food and cover for the local herd. Managers began establishing perennial clover in new areas during the fall of 2011 with additional areas designated for planting in 2012. Approximately 1,300 acres were improved using prescribed fire on CRNWMA in 2011. An additional 100 acres of forest may be thinned during late summer of 2012. This will improve habitat quality within those stands.

Chickasaw WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	45	29	622	966	6,305
2008 – 2009	51	73	549	384	6,864
2009 – 2010	35	47	800	596	6,431
2010 – 2011	44	62	620	440	5,983
2011 – 2012	71	67	394	418	6,700

Chickasaw WMA (CWMA) is 27,259 acres located within the Tombigbee National Forest near Houston in Chickasaw and Pontotoc counties. Chickasaw WMA is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. The MDWFP manages wildlife openings and regulates hunting. Deer hunting is allowed using archery gear, primitive weapons, and rifles during respective seasons. A special deer season for youth is offered. Youth may use any weapon during primitive weapon season.

Antler criteria for legal bucks on CWMA changed from inside spread or main beam length of 12 or 15 inches to the regional criteria of 10 and 13 inches for the 2011 – 2012 deer season. This area offers opportunity to both still and dog hunters. Dog hunting is allowed on the designated area north of Hwy 32.

Data was collected from 75% of the deer harvested on CWMA. The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 12.3 inches while average main beam length was 14.3 inches. Ninety-three percent of the bucks harvested whose antlers were measured met the minimum antler criteria.

Fifty-three percent of does harvested were 3.5+ years old, which is slightly higher than last season. The large number of older age class does harvested this season suggests continued herd growth.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	1	12	19	16	49
Does	3	15	8	10	19	55

Total harvest for the 2011 – 2012 season was a ten-season high and total man-days were a three-season high. Recorded buck and doe weights were below average. Antler measurements among harvested bucks exhibited a slight downward trend which could be attributed to changes in antler criteria on the WMA.

As late winter burning and thinning of designated pine stands continues to be conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, habitat conditions such as browse and cover should continually improve.

Chickasawhay WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	17	14	2,059	2,500	3,245
2008 – 2009	44	15	795	2,333	2,712
2009 – 2010	28	28	1,250	1,250	3,758
2010 – 2011	22	39	1,320	745	3,476
2011 – 2012	50	29	700	1,207	4,225

Chickasawhay WMA (CWMA) is an approximately 35,000-acre tract located in Jones County, south of Laurel. The WMA is located within the Chickasawhay Ranger District of Desoto National Forest.

Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck. Deer hunting with dogs is not allowed.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	3	2	7	18	19	49
Does	3	5	5	4	7	24

Eighty-eight percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for CWMA. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.2 inches and average main beam length was 14.9 inches.

Forty-six percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is stable or slowly increasing.

Choctaw WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	54	54	463	463	3,542
2008 – 2009	66	58	379	431	3,121
2009 – 2010	90	49	270	496	3,644
2010 – 2011	44	89	553	273	3,247
2011 – 2012	52	45	468	540	2,646

Choctaw WMA is 24,314 acres located within the Tombigbee National Forest near Ackerman in Choctaw County. Choctaw WMA is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and managed by the MDWFP.

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 12.8 inches, while average main beam length was 15.9 inches.

Fifty-two percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old which is slightly lower than last season. Even though the percentage of 3.5+ years old does harvested is slightly lower than last year, this percentage still suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

2011-2012 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

WMA NARRATIVES

Prescribed burning is conducted annually by the U.S Forest Service which helps improve wildlife habitat.

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on March 13, 2012. A total of 8 does were collected with 7 does being 2.5+ years old. The average dressed body weight was 80 pounds, which is average compared to the Upper Coastal Plain soil region average of 79 pounds. The average kidney fat index was 91%, which is above average compared to the expected soil region average of 67%. The average reproductive potential was 2.0 and is slightly above the soil region average of 1.86. Conception dates ranged from December 5 to January 17.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	4	14	20	11	49
Does	1	10	4	9	7	31

Copiah County WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	70	66	94	100	3,383
2008 – 2009	64	95	103	69	3,936
2009 – 2010	69	64	95	103	3,585
2010 – 2011	70	98	94	67	2,949
2011 – 2012	82	65	80	101	4,007

Copiah County WMA (CWMA) is a 6,583-acre tract located west of Hazlehurst. The WMA is owned by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. The WMA consists primarily of pine and mixed pine/hardwood stands. Numerous permanent openings throughout the WMA are maintained with native vegetation and supplemental plantings.

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck. Also, for management purposes, hunters could obtain a tag that would allow them to harvest any antlered buck, and 15 were reported as being used.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	7	22	17	21	7	74
Does	4	15	11	6	22	58

Thirty - nine of the bucks with harvest data did not meet the antler criteria for CWMA. Of these, 13 were harvested by youth hunters and 15 were harvested with special buck tags. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.6 inches and the average main beam length was 16.6 inches.

Forty-eight percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

In 2011, WMA personnel conducted prescribed burns and approximately 120 acres of dense pine stands were thinned on the WMA.

Divide Section WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	10	51	1,533	300	2,713
2008 – 2009	15	39	1,022	393	2,423
2009 – 2010	11	26	1,394	589	2,369
2010 – 2011	7	21	2,191	730	2,247
2011 – 2012	16	16	956	956	2,594

Divide Section WMA (DSWMA) is 15,337 acres and lies along both sides of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway from the northwest side of Bay Springs Lake northward to MS Hwy. 25 near Pickwick Lake. A small portion of the area is in Prentiss County and the remainder is in Tishomingo County. Divide Section WMA is owned by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and managed by the MDWFP.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	1	4	0	1	7
Does	1	2	3	2	0	8

Approximately 950 acres of this area is devoted to youth and handicapped-only deer hunting. Youth and handicapped hunters may use rifles. Prior to the 2011 – 2012 season, the WMA was a primitive weapon-only area for deer with a season bag limit of two antlerless deer and one legal antlered buck. Regional season structure, bag limits, weapon use, and antler criteria were adopted for the 2011 – 2012 season. Antler criteria for legal bucks changed from inside spread or main beam length of 12 and 15 inches to the regional criteria of 10 and 13 inches for the 2011 – 2012 deer season. The 2011 – 2012 season marks the first year that deer data collection was mandatory on DSWMA.

Data was collected from 47% of the deer harvested on DSWMA. Current deer data is based on a small sample size. During the 2011 – 2012 season, 6 of 8 harvested bucks measured met the minimum antler criteria. No 3.5 year old buck data was collected this season. Data from four 2.5 year old bucks indicated an average inside spread of 13.1 inches and an average main beam length of 16.3 inches.

Twenty-five percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. Man-days were the highest since the 2007 – 2008 season and harvest was up compared to the 2010 – 2011 season. Doe weights were average to above average for the soil region. More data will be needed to identify weight, age structure, and antler trends.

Habitat improvements continue to be made on DSWMA. Approximately 200 acres of prescribed burning in old fields and pine stands took place in 2011 – 2012. Plans are to expand the use of prescribed burning on DSWMA to improve forage and cover for deer.

Hell Creek WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	2	9	1,142	253	95
2008 – 2009	5	17	456	134	146
2009 – 2010	3	13	761	175	202
2010 – 2011	3	18	761	127	183
2011 – 2012	7	18	326	127	233

Hell Creek WMA (HCWMA) is 2,284 acres located near New Albany in Tippah and Union counties. Hell Creek WMA is owned and managed by the MDWFP. Deer hunting opportunity with gun on this area is allowed by special permit only. The area also has youth gun and archery opportunities that are open to the public.

Antler criteria for legal bucks changed from inside spread or main beam length of 12 and 15 inches to the regional criteria of 10 and 13 inches for the 2011 – 2012 deer season. Also new for the 2011 – 2012 HCWMA season, a 1.5 year old or older doe must be harvested to qualify for special buck hunts.

Data was collected from 84% of the deer harvested on HCWMA. No data was collected on 3.5 year old or older bucks this past season. The average inside spread for 2.5 year old bucks was 13 inches and average main beam length was 14.5 inches. Five of seven bucks measured met the new minimum antler criteria.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	1	2	0	3
Does	0	4	6	4	2	16

Forty percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years of age which was similar to last season. Data from harvested bucks and does indicate weights are average to above average for the soil region.

Total man-days and harvest for HCWMA was a 10-season high. The increase in harvest could also be explained by an increase in hunter participation. Increased hunter participation was most likely a result of the newly instituted fee-based draw hunt application process.

Habitat conditions have improved over the last few years due to timber thinning and intense prescribed fire management. The agricultural farming on the area is also beneficial in providing supplemental forage for deer.

John Bell Williams WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

John Bell Williams WMA (JBWMA) is 2,930 acres located in Prentiss County near Booneville. JBWMA is owned by the Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District and managed by MDWFP. Deer hunting is allowed using archery gear, primitive weapons, and rifles during respective seasons. A special deer season for youth is offered. Youth may use any weapon during primitive weapon season.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2010 – 2011	4	5	733	586	470
2011 – 2012	3	3	977	977	580

Antler criteria for legal bucks on JBWMA were changed from inside spread or main beam length of 12 and 15 inches to the regional criteria of 10 and 13 inches for the 2011 – 2012 deer season. Youth only season for deer was increased from 1 to 2 weeks. Weight, age, antler and lactation measurements were taken for the first time this past season from deer harvested on JBWMA as a result of mandatory deer check in. This will give managers more information to make future deer management decisions. Data was collected from 83% of the deer harvested on JBWMA. During the 2011 – 2012 season, all 3 harvested bucks met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 12.6 inches and average main beam length was 16.4 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	1	2	0	3
Does	0	0	0	1	1	2

Both does harvested on JBWMA were 3.5+ years old. Recorded weights from harvested bucks and does were generally above soil region averages. As more data is collected, managers will be able to identify parameter trends.

Total man-days recorded during the 2011 – 2012 deer season on JBWMA increased from last year, however harvest was low. This could have been due to very mild winter temps and one of the best mast crops in recent memory. These factors reduced deer movement tremendously.

Approximately 80 acres of hardwood timber will hopefully be thinned by the end of 2012. An additional 100 acres may be designated for thinning at the same time. Forest management will drastically improve habitat conditions for the local deer herd. Continued cooperation with the Tombigbee Water Management District and the Forestry Commission in timber management will benefit all wildlife on JBWMA.

2011-2012 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

WMA NARRATIVES

John Starr Forest WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	22	31	374	265	1,763
2008 – 2009	29	41	284	201	1,879
2009 – 2010	18	31	458	265	1,479
2010 – 2011	12	29	687	284	1,375
2011 – 2012	39	25	211	330	1,232

John Starr Forest WMA is 8,244 acres located near Starkville in Oktibbeha and Winston counties. The WMA is owned by Mississippi State University and managed by the MDWFP.

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 13.3 inches while average main beam length was 16.4 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	5	9	7	4	25
Does	5	1	4	3	3	16

Thirty-eight percent of does harvested were 3.5+ years old which is about average compared to last season. This suggests that the deer herd is being maintained at a constant level.

Total deer harvest has increased this season compared to the last two seasons, however man-days have exhibited a decreasing trend over the past four seasons. This could be due to a decrease in Mississippi State University student hunters.

Lake George WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	344
2008 – 2009	11	8	727	1,000	548
2009 – 2010	7	7	1,143	1,143	909
2010 – 2011	20	42	419	200	1,613
2011 – 2012	32	36	250	222	2,038

Lake George WMA is an 8,383-acre tract owned by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and managed by the MDWFP. It is located near Holly Bluff in Yazoo County. This area consists primarily of 20 year old replanted bottomland hardwood timber.

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. This was the first year under these antler criteria; it had been 15 or 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal. Archery, gun, and primitive weapon seasons are available on the area.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	11	8	6	6	31
Does	13	6	4	4	9	36

The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 14.7 inches and average main beam length was 16.8 inches.

Thirty-six percent of the does harvested were 3.5 years old or older which suggest a relatively stable population.

Leaf River WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	42	36	952	1,111	7,706
2008 – 2009	77	58	519	690	9,769
2009 – 2010	85	70	471	571	9,051
2010 – 2011	73	95	572	440	7,771
2011 – 2012	115	72	348	556	7,552

Leaf River WMA (LRWMA) consists of approximately 40,000 acres located within the Desoto National Forest in Perry County. Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, outside of gun seasons with dogs, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

Eighty-seven percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for LRWMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.0 inches and average main beam length was 14.7 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	4	2	40	32	25	103
Does	2	17	11	8	28	66

Fifty-five percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

There was a deer herd health evaluation conducted on LRWMA on March 27, 2012. Eight 2.5+ year old does were taken along with one doe that was 1.5 years old.

The average dressed weight of the 2.5+ year old does was 67 pounds. The Kidney Fat Index was 85.44%, which is higher than the 44.2% regional average for does in the LCP. The reproductive potential of 2 fetuses per doe was higher than the average of 1.71. The average conception date was January 21.

Leroy Percy WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Leroy Percy WMA (LPWMA) is 1,642-acres located about 5 miles west of Hollandale on MS Hwy 12 in Washington County. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed for deer hunting. Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. Prior to this season, the antler criteria had been 15 or 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	9	4	244	550	540
2008 – 2009	6	4	367	550	382
2009 – 2010	5	5	440	440	356
2010 – 2011	3	6	547	274	441
2011 – 2012	5	4	336	550	400

All of the bucks that we received harvest data on met the antler criteria for LPWMA. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 16.1 inches and main beam length was 18.4 inches.

Twenty-five percent of the does harvested were 3.5 years old or older.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	4	2	0	6
Does	0	1	2	0	1	4

Little Biloxi WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Little Biloxi WMA (LBWMA) is a 14,450-acre tract located in Stone and Harrison Counties. The WMA is located on Desoto National Forest and on lands owned by Weyerhaeuser Company. Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	8	9	1,806	1,606	1,965
2008 – 2009	13	19	1,112	761	2,619
2009 – 2010	13	11	1,112	1,314	3,620
2010 – 2011	6	22	2,408	657	2,733
2011 – 2012	17	22	850	657	2,618

Eighty-eight percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for LBWMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 14.1 inches and the average main beam length was 17.3 inches.

Forty-seven percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	2	4	5	5	16
Does	2	7	1	3	6	19

Mahannah WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Mahannah WMA (MWMA) is 12,675 acres located approximately 12 miles north of Vicksburg. The area is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and managed by the MDWFP. Deer hunting is allowed by draw hunt only, except for the January archery hunt which is open to the public. Archery, gun, and primitive weapon seasons are available on the area.

Legal bucks are those with a minimum 16 inch inside spread or a minimum 20 inch main beam length. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal. Also, hunters could obtain a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler, and 24 were reported as being used.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	51	74	247	170	1,646
2008 – 2009	73	120	173	105	1,792
2009 – 2010	40	137	315	92	1,389
2010 – 2011	92	141	138	90	1,996
2011 – 2012	86	157	138	81	2,487

All but one of the bucks that we received harvest data on, except for the 17 harvested with special buck tags and 30 bucks harvested by youth hunters, met the antler criteria for MWMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 14.8 inches and average main beam length was 18.1 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	31	12	23	16	84
Does	7	38	42	33	33	153

Forty-three percent of the does that we received harvest data on were 3.5 years old or older.

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on MWMA on March 14 and 15, 2012. Four 2.5+ year old does were taken along with one doe that was 1.5 years old. The average dressed weight of the 2.5+ year old does was 103.5 pounds, which was better than the 100-pound Delta soil region average. The Kidney Fat Index (KFI) was 140.8%, which is better than the 108.6% expected KFI for does in the Delta. The Reproductive Potential of 2 fetuses per doe was slightly higher than the expected 1.91. The conception dates ranged from December 8 to January 7. The sample size was

low for this HHE, however the trends are consistent with recent HHE results. Herd Condition indices are equal to or better than historical levels. A selective timber harvest that was started in 2006 to increase browse and an increased antlerless harvest program that was also started in 2006 coupled with a year of good acorn production may have helped improve the herd health indices to well within the expected ranges for the WMA and Delta region.

Malmaison WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Malmaison WMA is 10,000 acres of bottomland and upland hardwoods located eight miles west of Grenada. The area is owned and managed by the MDWFP. Deer hunting is allowed using archery, primitive weapons, and rifles during respective seasons. A special deer season for youth is offered.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	31	66	323	152	2,025
2008 – 2009	32	88	312	114	2,461
2009 – 2010	27	65	370	154	2,047
2010 – 2011	20	48	485	202	2,108
2011 – 2012	23	56	476	196	1,595

Legal bucks are those with a minimum inside spread of 12 inches or one main beam length of 15 inches. Prior to this season, the antler criteria had been 15 or 18 inches. During the 2011-12 season, all but one of the bucks we received data on met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 14.1 inches and average main beam length was 16.9 inches.

Fifty-five percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This, coupled with the 46% and 56% over the last 2 years, indicates the deer herd is increasing. Total deer harvest was higher than last year but lower than the previous 4 seasons.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	1	2	10	6	20
Does	7	10	6	14	14	51

Marion County WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Marion County WMA (MCWMA) is 7,125-acres located southeast of Columbia. The WMA is owned by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. The WMA consists primarily of longleaf pine stands and mixed pine/hardwood stands along the creeks and drains. Numerous permanent openings throughout the WMA are maintained with native vegetation and supplemental plantings.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	40	33	178	216	2,334
2008 – 2009	29	59	246	121	2,604
2009 – 2010	52	52	137	137	2,384
2010 – 2011	35	55	204	130	2,292
2011 – 2012	73	44	98	162	2,295

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal. Also, for management purposes, hunters could obtain a tag that would allow them to harvest any antlered buck, and 14 were reported as being used.

Eighteen bucks with harvest data did not meet the antler criteria for MCWMA. Additionally, 14 bucks were harvested using the special buck tags for a total of 32 bucks harvested on MCWMA that did not meet the antler criteria. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.0 inches and the average main beam length was 15.3 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	4	14	20	16	16	70
Does	2	9	9	11	13	44

Fifty-five percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

In 2011, WMA personnel conducted numerous prescribed burns on the WMA.

Mason Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Mason Creek WMA (MCWMA) is an approximately 28,000-acre tract located in Greene County near Sandhill. The WMA is located within the Chickasawhay Ranger District of Desoto National Forest. Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, outside of gun seasons with dogs, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	24	13	1,167	2,154	2,117
2008 – 2009	33	20	848	1,400	2,771
2009 – 2010	33	16	848	1,750	2,654
2010 – 2011	18	10	1,556	2,800	1,833
2011 – 2012	26	5	1,077	5,600	2,259

One-hundred percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for MCWMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.2 inches and average main beam length was 13.9 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	0	9	13	22
Does	0	0	0	2	0	2

Nanih Waiya WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Nanih Waiya WMA (NWWMA) consists of 8,040 acres along the Pearl River located near Philadelphia in Neshoba County. The area is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is managed by the MDWFP for wildlife mitigation purposes. This bottomland hardwood WMA offers archery and primitive weapon hunting opportunity for deer. Legal bucks for harvest are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or having one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	38	62	201	123	1,794
2008 – 2009	29	50	264	153	1,927
2009 – 2010	12	36	638	213	1,264
2010 – 2011	23	60	317	122	1,608
2011 – 2012	17	41	473	196	1,377

The average main beam length and inside spread for 3.5 year-old bucks harvested on NWWMA this season was 16.8 inches and 12.9 inches, respectively.

Fifty percent of the does for which data was collected were 3.5 years old or older. This percentage is slightly higher than last season.

Deer hunting pressure and success on NWWMA is highly dependent upon the water level of the Pearl River. Total deer harvest for the 2011–12 season decreased from the previous year, while hunting man-days decreased 17%. The sharp decrease in deer harvest and hunting man-days was the result of wet conditions in the fall and winter and restricted hunter access and harvest opportunity.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	4	2	4	3	3	16
Does	6	10	4	10	10	40

After thirteen hunting seasons on NWWMA, deer hunting potential remains high and is aided by the development and maintenance of an extensive road and trail system, which allows hunters access to this bottomland area. The early successional habitat which comprised most of NWWMA at its inception is disappearing. The abundant deer forage provided by this type of habitat is decreasing as the young hardwood timber reaches a closed-canopy stage over the majority of NWWMA. Openings created by Hurricane Katrina and smaller isolated storms have provided a short-term extension in the amount of deer browse available. In an effort to manage for healthy deer populations with decreasing habitat productivity and carrying capacity, liberal doe harvest opportunity has existed on NWWMA. To provide optimum deer habitat in the future, hardwood forests will be managed to produce forest conditions that are sustainable over time. Proper management of the forests on NWWMA to produce the greatest diversity in structure and plant species composition will insure that the habitat needs of deer will be met.

Natchez State Park
Written by: Joshua Moree

Natchez State Park (NSP) is approximately 3,000 acres located in Adams County near Natchez. The park is owned by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	16	16	188	188	N/A
2008 – 2009	21	33	143	91	544
2009 – 2010	27	32	111	94	954
2010 – 2011	23	35	130	86	1,012
2011 – 2012	46	38	65	79	1,193

Approximately 2,300 acres of the park are open to limited deer hunting. Hunters are allowed only by special permit through a random drawing held each fall. Youth gun, handicapped gun, archery, and muzzleloader hunts are available.

Only Mississippi residents may apply for the youth gun, archery, and muzzleloader hunts. Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck. Also, for management purposes, hunters could obtain a tag that would allow them to harvest any antlered buck.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	13	10	6	15	46
Does	3	9	3	9	14	38

Fifty percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for NSP. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.2 inches and average main beam length was 17.4 inches.

Sixty-one percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

2011-2012 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

WMA NARRATIVES

Okatibbee WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Okatibbee WMA (OWMA) consists of 6,883 acres located near Collinsville in Lauderdale County. This area is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and managed by the MDWFP for wildlife mitigation purposes. Seasons available for hunting deer on OWMA include archery, primitive weapon, and gun, with gun being limited to shotguns with slugs only. Deer hunting on OWMA is still hunting only. Legal bucks for harvest are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or having one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	10	19	688	362	1,057
2008 – 2009	7	16	983	430	929
2009 – 2010	8	12	860	574	801
2010 – 2011	5	22	1,377	313	888
2011 – 2012	9	12	765	574	743

The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 13.7 inches while average main beam length was 16.4 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	3	3	1	7
Does	1	1	5	1	3	11

Thirty-six percent of the does for which data was collected were 3.5+ years old. Although the sample size representing this harvest percent is relatively low (11), it tends to indicate that the deer herd is stable.

Storm damage from Hurricane Katrina continues to have impacts upon OWMA. Timber damage has opened much of the previously closed-canopy, mature stands. For the past six years, the more open forests have provided increased browse production for deer. This early successional habitat scattered throughout OWMA will be diminishing, however, as the canopy closes and reduces the sunlight available on the forest floor. Downed timber and dense thickets scattered throughout OWMA have provided quality deer habitat while limiting hunter access on OWMA. Area personnel maintain multiple trails for hunting access.

O'Keefe WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

O'Keefe WMA (OWMA) is 5,648 acres of bottomland hardwoods and fields located 8 miles south of Marks in Quitman County. The area is owned and managed by the MDWFP. Deer hunting is allowed using archery gear, primitive weapons, and rifle during respective seasons. A special deer season for youth is offered.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	32	26	176	217	1,652
2008 – 2009	37	50	153	113	1,886
2009 – 2010	28	36	202	157	1,817
2010 – 2011	46	30	136	208	1,742
2011 – 2012	56	35	101	161	1,702

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or one main beam length of at least 18 inches. Also, hunters could obtain a tag that would allow them to harvest one buck of choice, and 6 were reported as being used.

During the 2011–12 season, all of the bucks except 2 that we received data on, met the minimum antler criteria, except for the 6 bucks harvested with the special buck tags and 15 bucks harvested by youth hunters. The average spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 16.4 inches and average main beam length was 19.9 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	3	20	11	18	5	57
Does	5	7	9	8	5	34

Thirty-eight percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old.

Forest habitat improvement thins were implemented on 270 acres of designated forest stands on OWMA during 2011. These thins will increase natural browse, fawning cover, acorn production, and promote hardwood regeneration.

Old River WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Old River WMA (ORWMA) is an approximately 13,000-acre tract of bottomland hardwoods located in Pearl River County near Poplarville. The WMA is owned by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	28	14	464	929	1,099
2008 – 2009	22	12	591	1,083	1,562
2009 – 2010	22	14	591	929	1,543
2010 – 2011	32	21	406	619	2,472
2011 – 2012	48	31	271	419	2,550

Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length

of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal.

Ninety-two percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for ORWMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.0 inches and average main beam length was 15.0 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	3	6	15	23	47
Does	0	7	10	8	4	29

Forty-one percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is stable.

Pascagoula River WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Pascagoula River WMA (PRWMA) is an approximately 37,000-acre tract of bottomland hardwoods stretching along the Pascagoula River in George and Jackson Counties. The WMA is owned by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	84	16	440	1,423	3,466
2008 – 2009	103	19	359	1,947	6,506
2009 – 2010	32	12	1,156	3,083	5,251
2010 – 2011	47	19	787	1,947	12,691
2011 – 2012	44	30	841	1,233	12,733

Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, outside of gun seasons with dogs, any antlered buck is legal.

Ninety-three percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for PRWMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.7 inches and the average main beam length was 15.2 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	3	14	6	18	41
Does	0	7	4	3	16	30

Seventy-three percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

Pearl River WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Pearl River WMA is located six miles southeast of Canton and 20 miles northeast of Jackson in Madison County. The area is adjacent to the northwest portion of the Ross Barnett Reservoir. It consists of approximately 6,925 acres owned by the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District. The MDWFP implements regulations necessary for managed public hunting, provides habitat management recommendations through consultation on forest management plans, and provides law enforcement support for resource protection. Legal bucks are those with a minimum 10 inch inside spread or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	13	3	462	2,000	1,585
2008 – 2009	13	6	462	1,000	1,602
2009 – 2010	6	12	1,000	500	1,298
2010 – 2011	20	24	346	289	1,635
2011 – 2012	15	14	462	495	1,531

The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 15.1 inches and average main beam length was 18.7 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	5	4	5	1	15
Does	4	0	1	4	4	13

Sixty-two percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

There was an excellent acorn crop in 2011 which likely caused deer to move less, however the fawn crop in 2012 should be good.

Red Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

*WMA reduced to approximately 23,000 acres.

Red Creek WMA (RCWMA) consists of approximately 23,000 acres located within the Desoto National Forest in Stone, George, and Jackson Counties. Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	14	1	6,357	89,000	3,419
2008 – 2009	6	8	3,833	2,875	1,341
2009 – 2010	6	16	3,833	1,438	1,551
2010 – 2011	18	16	1,278	1,438	1,473
2011 – 2012	15	10	1,533	2,300	2,103

years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck. Deer hunting with dogs is not allowed.

Eighty-seven percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for RCWMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.1 inches and average main beam length was 15.1 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	2	2	4	7	15
Does	0	2	1	0	7	10

Seventy percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

Sandy Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Sandy Creek WMA (SCWMA) is a 16,407-acre tract located within the Homochitto National Forest near Natchez in Adams and Franklin Counties. Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck. Deer hunting with dogs is not allowed.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	62	19	265	864	4,007
2008 – 2009	59	40	278	410	4,137
2009 – 2010	66	32	249	513	4,014
2010 – 2011	51	23	322	713	3,258
2011 – 2012	82	22	200	746	4,050

Ninety-three percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for SCWMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.5 inches and average main beam length was 15.1 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	3	18	18	18	57
Does	0	4	4	4	5	17

Fifty-three percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

Sardis Waterfowl WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Sardis Waterfowl WMA (SWMA) is 2,480 acres of upland forest and fields located eight miles north of Oxford. The area is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and managed by the MDWFP. SWMA was originally established as a wildlife refuge, primarily for waterfowl. Through the years, limited hunting opportunity for youth has been developed on the area. Deer hunting is allowed using archery, primitive weapons, or rifles. This WMA provides draw hunt opportunity exclusively to hunters 15 years of age and younger. Any buck is a legal buck on SWMA. A youth hunter who harvests a doe during their draw hunt qualifies for the special youth hunt drawing in December. An additional weekend of deer hunting was added this season bringing the total number of hunting days on the area to 8. This was done to increase opportunity to hunt and hopefully increase harvest on the area.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	5	9	496	276	171
2008 – 2009	9	10	276	248	146
2009 – 2010	23	21	108	118	160
2010 – 2011	11	27	364	148	106
2011 – 2012	12	13	207	191	127

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	2	2	0	2	8
Does	4	3	1	3	2	13

During the 2011 – 2012 season, 43% of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This data suggests a slowly increasing deer herd. However, 5 years of data indicate a decreasing trend in harvest numbers of 3.5+ old does. Buck and doe weights are still below average for the soil region. However, weights were above SWMA average and may be ticking upwards slowly over time.

Cover and forage for deer continue to improve on the area with increases in prescribed burning and thinning within 70 acres of pine plantation in 2010. Ten acres of supplemental forages were planted during the fall of 2011 with another 6 designated for the fall of 2012. Improved habitat coupled with increased harvest should improve the local herd.

Shipland WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Shipland WMA (SWMA) consists of 3,642 acres and is the only state-owned land in the Batture soil region. The west boundary is the Mississippi River. The WMA consists of bottomland hardwood and an approximately 100-acre sand field. Timber thinning in the recent past has greatly increased the browse and escape cover on SWMA. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	12	6	304	607	619
2008 – 2009	8	15	455	243	1,079
2009 – 2010	12	7	304	520	594
2010 – 2011	4	9	911	405	451
2011 – 2012	16	6	228	607	811

for deer hunting. Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. Prior to this season, the antler criteria had been 15 or 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

All of the bucks that we received harvest data on met the minimum antler. Thirty-three percent of the does harvested were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is stable.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	0	1	3	2	7
Does	0	1	1	1	0	3

There was a record flood on the Mississippi River in 2011 that impacted the deer herd on SWMA during the late spring and early summer. The water completely covered SWMA, but had receded off most of the area by June 1. The browse responded like it would in early spring and provided excellent food for the deer throughout the rest of the summer. Weights on both bucks and does were down somewhat due to the early stress of the flood.

Sky Lake WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Sky Lake Wildlife Management Area (SLWMA) is a 4,306 acre parcel located in Humphries and Leflore Counties, between Belzoni and Itta Bena on Highway 7. The MDWFP owns 737 acres and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers own 3,569 acres of SLWMA. The 3,569 acres were acquired by the Corps of Engineers for mitigation purposes of the Upper Yazoo and Upper Steele Bayou Projects and is managed by the MDWFP under a memorandum of understanding and license. This area is dominated by regenerated bottomland hardwood forest with abundant browse and escape cover.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2009 – 2010	5	1	861	4,306	123
2010 – 2011	9	3	478	1,435	139
2011 – 2012	10	11	431	391	194

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. Prior to this season, the antler criteria had been 15 or 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal. Deer hunting on SLWMA is by draw hunt only and is restricted to archery and primitive weapons only.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	1	4	5	10
Does	1	2	1	1	4	9

All of the bucks from which we received harvest data met the minimum antler criteria. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.6 inches and average main beam length was 15.8 inches.

Fifty-six percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

Stoneville WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Stoneville WMA (SWMA) is a 2,500 acre parcel located in Washington County approximately five miles north of Leland. Stoneville WMA is owned by Mississippi State University and is located on the Mississippi State University Delta Branch Experiment Station in Stoneville. The MDWFP implements regulations necessary for managed public hunting, and provides law enforcement support for resource protection.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	4	3	625	833	698
2008 – 2009	6	6	416	416	328
2009 – 2010	8	8	312	312	613
2010 – 2011	12	10	208	250	852
2011 – 2012	10	6	250	417	1,621

Deer hunting is restricted to archery and primitive weapon seasons on SWMA. Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. Prior to this season, the antler criteria had been 15 or 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal.

All of the bucks that we received harvest data on met the minimum antler criteria. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.8 inches and average main beam length was 16.4 inches

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	1	1	2	2	6
Does	3	0	1	1	0	5

Twenty percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This suggests that the deer herd is decreasing, but an increased sample size is needed for more accurate data.

Sunflower WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Sunflower WMA (SWMA) is a 60,000 acre area located approximately eight miles east of Rolling Fork in Sharkey County. The area is owned by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and is the Delta National Forest, which is managed under their multiple-use concept. The USFS and the MDWFP operate SWMA under a memorandum of understanding between the two agencies. The MDWFP implements regulations necessary for managed public hunting, provides habitat management recommendations through consultation on forest management plans and the Forest Stewardship Program, and provides law enforcement support for resource protection.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	86	31	677	1,879	3,752
2008 – 2009	44	54	1,324	1,079	1,870
2009 – 2010	57	47	1,022	1,239	4,936
2010 – 2011	80	54	731	1,083	3,776
2011 – 2012	116	136	517	441	7,761

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. Prior to this season, the antler criteria had been 15 and 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck was legal. There are archery, gun, and primitive weapon seasons on SWMA.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	7	16	18	8	51
Does	7	7	4	3	19	40

All but one of the bucks that we received harvest data on, except for 6 bucks harvested by youth hunters, met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 14.4 inches and average main beam length was 17.4 inches.

Fifty-five percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This, coupled with the 61% and 52% the last two years, indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

Tallahala WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Tallahala WMA (TWMA) is 28,120 acres within the Bienville National Forest located near Montrose. Bucks must have a minimum inside spread of 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	78	53	359	528	2,844
2008 – 2009	65	61	431	459	2,871
2009 – 2010	84	65	333	431	2,848
2010 – 2011	50	70	562	402	1,431
2011 – 2012	77	84	365	335	2,699

Deer harvest consisted of 77 bucks and 84 does. Total harvest increased 33% from last year. Deer hunters accounted for 2,699 man-days which increased significantly from last season but is about average compared to previous seasons.

The U.S. Forest Service continues to conduct spring prescribed burns and timber management on TWMA. This will enhance browse production.

The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.0 inches and average main beam length was 15.1 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	7	5	14	22	13	61
Does	7	12	17	15	24	75

Fifty-two percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

Theodore A. Mars Jr. WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Theodore A. Mars Jr. WMA (TMWMA) is a 900-acre tract located south of Poplarville in Pearl River County. The property was recently acquired by MDWFP and public hunting opportunity began in 2007. The property consists of upland pine stands with scattered hardwood bottoms. The property was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Plans are underway to convert the current loblolly pine stands back to a native longleaf pine ecosystem, which will improve the overall habitat across TMWMA. MDWFP began harvesting timber and replanting longleaf pine seedlings in 2008. Additional habitat improvements include implementing a prescribed fire regime and controlling invasive cogongrass that is frequent across TMWMA.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2008 – 2009	1	0	900	N/A	34
2009 – 2010	0	1	N/A	900	27
2010 – 2011	0	0	N/A	N/A	11
2011 – 2012	0	1	N/A	900	16

Deer hunting on TMWMA is limited to youth hunters by a special permit draw. Only one doe was reported harvested for the 2011 – 2012 season.

Trim Cane WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2008 – 2009	4	5	222	178	19
2009 – 2010	1	3	891	297	14
2010 – 2011	2	5	446	178	11
2011 – 2012	0	0	0	0	0

Trim Cane WMA is 891 acres located in Oktibbeha County about four miles north of Starkville. The area has been developed primarily for waterfowl hunting. Due to the small size of the area, deer hunting is restricted to wheelchair bound hunters using a random drawing for special permits. Three wheelchair accessible shooting houses are placed on winter food plots across the area. Hunting is limited to eight Saturday afternoon hunts, where three hunters are drawn per day.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Does	0	0	0	0	0	0

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

There were no hunters that applied for the handicapped hunts this year and therefore there was no deer harvest to be reported.

Deer habitat should begin increasing over the next few years. Approximately 200 acres were burned on the area during February – March 2012. Work is also being started to provide additional early successional habitat.

Tuscumbia WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	4	6	609	406	265
2008 – 2009	5	11	487	221	372
2009 – 2010	8	10	304	243	319
2010 – 2011	2	8	1,218	305	295
2011 – 2012	1	9	2,436	271	255

Tuscumbia WMA (TWMA) is located in Alcorn County near Corinth. The area comprises 2,436 acres, which consists primarily of abandoned agricultural fields and swamp bottomland. The area is divided geographically into two separate units. Unit 1 (1,400 acres) is located north of County Rd. 750 consisting of primarily flooded slash. The wet conditions make the area complicated for hunters to access. Unit 2 (1,200 acres) is located south of County Rd. 750 and is made up of abandoned agricultural fields and waterfowl impoundments. This unit also floods frequently during the winter months. Deer hunting is allowed using archery gear, primitive weapons, and rifles during respective seasons. A special deer season for youth is offered. Youth may use any weapon during primitive weapon season.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	0	1	0	1
Does	0	3	1	1	4	9

New for the 2011 – 2012 season, archery season on Unit 2 was expanded by 2 months and allowed on Sundays through Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. A self-service deer check-in station was installed on the area. Bucks and does were legal for harvest during the first gun season instead of bucks only.

Antler criteria for legal bucks on TWMA changed from an inside spread or main beam length of 12 and 15 inches to the statewide criteria of 10 and 13 inches for the 2011 – 2012 deer season. Youth only season for deer was increased from 1 to 2 weeks. The term "doe" was replaced by "antlerless deer" prior to the 2011 – 2012 season. Weight, age, antler, and lactation measurements were taken for the first time this past season from deer harvested on TWMA as a result of mandatory deer check in. This will give managers more information to make future deer management decisions specific to the area. Data was collected from 100% of the deer harvested on TWMA. During the 2011 – 2012 season, the only buck harvested met the minimum antler criteria. The inside spread for the 3.5 year old buck was 13.3 inches. The average main beam length was 18.1 inches.

Five of the 9 does harvested were 3.5+ years old. The large percentage of older age class does harvested this season likely suggests continued herd growth. However, doe weights were above average for the soil region. Total deer harvest remains low and total man-days were at a 5 season low.

Future plans include habitat improvement within old fields through burning, disking, and herbicide treatments to improve cover and forage for deer. Local row crop production and remnant bottomland hardwoods provide a substantial source of forage. The lack of hunter access and water will likely continue to impede adequate seasonal harvest. However, because of the area's size, shape, and low elevation; the local deer herd is probably more transient, which reduces management ability.

2011-2012 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

WMA NARRATIVES

Twin Oaks WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	28	49	207	118	1,206
2008 – 2009	30	53	193	109	1,060
2009 – 2010	19	57	305	102	739
2010 – 2011	21	61	270	93	769
2011 – 2012	23	86	252	67	899

Twin Oaks WMA is 5,675 acres of bottomland hardwood five miles southeast of Rolling Fork. The area is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and managed by the MDWFP. Deer hunting is allowed using archery and primitive weapons. Deer hunting is allowed only by special permit through a random drawing except for the January archery hunt, which is open to the public.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	3	12	1	0	5	21
Does	12	16	17	12	21	78

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 16 inches or one main beam length of at least 20 inches. Prior to this season, the antler criteria had been 15 or 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is legal. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed for deer hunting. Also, hunters could obtain a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler, and 14 were reported as being used.

The average spread on 4.5+ year old bucks was 18.1 inches and average main beam length was 20.4 inches.

Forty-two percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This, coupled with the 52% and 48% the last two years, indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

Upper Sardis WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	47	71	915	606	9,708
2008 – 2009	55	81	782	531	8,055
2009 – 2010	48	64	896	672	7,438
2010 – 2011	45	60	939	705	6,479
2011 – 2012	44	69	977	623	7,639

Upper Sardis WMA (USWMA) is 43,000 acres of pine and hardwoods located 12 miles east of Oxford. The area is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The MDWFP regulates hunting and manages existing wildlife openings. Deer hunting is allowed using archery equipment, primitive weapons, and rifles during respective seasons. A special deer season for youth is offered.

Antler criteria for legal bucks on USWMA were changed from inside spread or main beam length of 12 and 15 inches to the statewide criteria of 10 and 13 inches for the 2011 – 2012 deer season. Youth only season for deer was increased from 1 to 2 weeks. Archery season was expanded through January 31st and youth gun season was expanded to run from Nov. 5 – Jan. 31 on the Graham Lake Waterfowl Area portion of USWMA. Data were collected from 90% of the deer harvested on USWMA. During the 2011 – 2012 season, 81% of harvested bucks whose antlers were measured met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 13.4 inches and average main beam length was 16.5 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	6	19	12	5	44
Does	5	17	14	10	12	58

Thirty-eight percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This represents the lowest percentage of older age class does in the harvest since data collection began in 2002. Buck and doe weights have generally been above average for the soil region and WMA over the past three seasons. Some concern remains about low hunter success which is probably a function of low carrying capacity and possibly reduced hunter compliance. Because USWMA is so large and has numerous roads, a number of harvested deer may be leaving the area unchecked. Another reason for poor hunter success during the 2011 – 2012 season may be related to very mild winter conditions and one of the best mast crops in recent memory. Both serve to reduce deer movements. Despite these concerns, trends in weight and doe age structure indicate a stable, healthy herd that appears to be within carrying capacity.

Besides management of wildlife openings, the U.S. Forest Service burns thousands of acres annually and is able to thin a few stands annually within the boundary of USWMA. Both activities help to improve cover and food resources for the local herd.

Ward Bayou WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	8	4	1,625	3,250	1,571
2008 – 2009	9	7	1,444	1,857	1,893
2009 – 2010	5	5	2,600	2,600	1,466
2010 – 2011	8	7	1,625	1,857	2,859
2011 – 2012	12	10	1,083	1,300	2,902

Ward Bayou WMA (WBWMA) is an approximately 13,000-acre tract located in Jackson County near Vancleave. The WMA is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The majority of the WMA is comprised of bottomland hardwood and wetland habitat.

Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, outside of gun seasons with dogs, any antlered buck is legal.

One-hundred percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for WBWMA. Fifty-six percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	**0.5**	**1.5**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**4.5+**	**Total**
Bucks	0	0	0	1	4	5
Does	1	2	1	1	4	9

Wolf River WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Wolf River WMA (WRWMA) consists of approximately 10,000 acres located in Lamar and Pearl River Counties near Poplarville. The WMA is owned by Weyerhaeuser Company and consists of various aged pine plantations interspersed with minor stream bottoms.

Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season, legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	31	19	323	526	2,961
2008 – 2009	43	40	233	250	3,946
2009 – 2010	42	44	238	227	3,296
2010 – 2011	25	19	400	526	2,267
2011 – 2012	29	32	345	313	2,347

Eighty-four percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for WRWMA. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 11.1 inches and the average main beam length was 14.2 inches.

Fifty-seven percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This suggests that the deer herd is increasing.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	**0.5**	**1.5**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**4.5+**	**Total**
Bucks	1	3	10	5	6	25
Does	1	6	5	5	11	28

Yockanookany WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Yockanookany WMA is 2,379 acres located in Attala County along the Yockanookany River approximately 12 miles east of Kosciusko. Archery and primitive weapon opportunities are by draw only.

The Yockanookany River system is prone to frequent flooding and limits hunter access. Yockanookany WMA is predominantly forested with stands of bottomland hardwoods.

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 10 inches or one main beam length of at least 13 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, any antlered buck is a legal buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2007 – 2008	9	15	264	158	199
2008 – 2009	7	8	339	297	220
2009 – 2010	4	6	594	396	253
2010 – 2011	0	13	0	183	176
2011 – 2012	5	4	476	595	190

The average inside spread of 3.5 year old bucks was 12.6 inches and the average main beam length was 16.7 inches. The percentage of does harvested that were 3.5+ years old was 50%. Because of the low sample size, no determinations can be made determining the population level.

Future plans are to enhance the habitat by creating more openings, improving accessibility, and conducting timber thinnings to allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor.

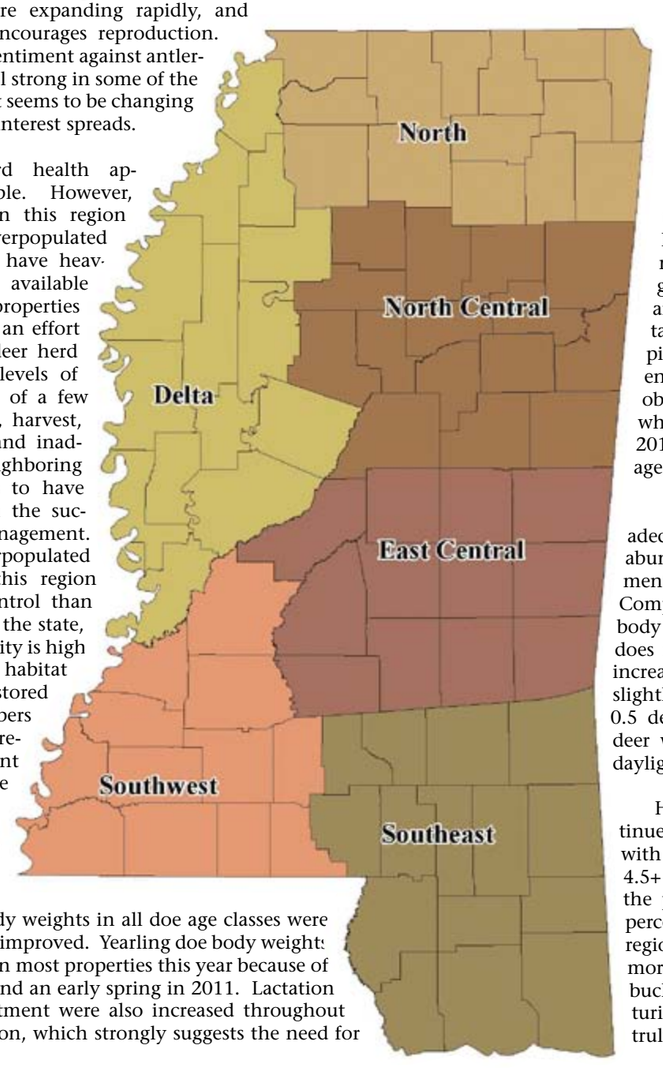
Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	**0.5**	**1.5**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**4.5+**	**Total**
Bucks	0	0	2	3	0	5
Does	1	1	0	1	1	4

North Region
Written by: Lann M. Wilf

The 2011-2012 deer season was frustrating for many hunters in the North Region. The past year's mast crop was likely one of the heaviest in recorded history, which obviously adversely effected deer movement. In addition, weather was extremely warm throughout most of the winter, which further negatively impacted deer activity. The result was little deer movement, which caused low deer visibility. The best available estimate suggests that harvest fell about 10% Region wide. Although, in pine dominated landscapes, harvest was stable.

Data and harvest rates on some properties suggest the contrary. There is strong evidence that deer herds in the North Region are expanding rapidly, and heavy harvest encourages reproduction. Unfortunately, sentiment against antlerless harvest is still strong in some of the north region, but seems to be changing as management interest spreads.

Overall herd health appears to be stable. However, site visits within this region have revealed overpopulated deer herds that have heavily stressed the available habitat. The properties that are making an effort to control the deer herd have sustained levels of harvest unheard of a few years ago. Also, harvest, both adequate and inadequate, on neighboring properties tends to have an influence on the success of herd management. Fortunately, overpopulated deer herds in this region are easier to control than in other areas of the state, and the soil fertility is high enough to allow habitat quality to be restored after deer numbers are reduced. Therefore, management potential in the North Region is almost as high as any region of the state.



Regional body weights in all doe age classes were stable or slightly improved. Yearling doe body weights were improved on most properties this year because of abundant mast and an early spring in 2011. Lactation and fawn recruitment were also increased throughout most of the Region, which strongly suggests the need for increased harvest in the upcoming season.

Buck harvest continues to target 2 – year old bucks (33% of total DMAP harvest). However, the percentage of harvested 4 – year old and older bucks continues to slowly increase, which suggests that hunters are realizing that having an older buck age structure is the primary way to improve antler quality. The majority of the bucks harvested (57%) are in the 2 and 3 year-old age classes, which is indicative of a quality buck management program. The percentage of 4 – year old and older bucks in the harvest (25%) continues to improve, but is still lower than most of the state.

North Central Region
Written by: William T. McKinley

The 2011 – 2012 deer season was one that many hunters would just as soon forget. A very warm winter, coupled with one of the largest acorn crops on record yielded poor deer movement throughout the majority of the season. Many surveyed hunters noted that it was the worst season their club has ever experienced. Food plot use was very poor over most of North Central MS. Plots grew tall and rank. Most clubs saw and harvested fewer deer, with total deer harvest in this region dropping by 13%. This was quite different from the high deer movement observed in the 2010 – 2011 season, when deer were stressed from a severe 2010 drought, mast was poor to average, and deer were hungry.

However, an early spring in 2011, adequate summer rainfall, and the abundant acorns provided improvements in overall herd parameters. Compared to the 2010 – 2011 season, body weights increased on bucks and does in all age classes. Lactation rates increased. Antlers remained stable or slightly increased on bucks. Harvest of 0.5 deer (fawns) increased, as younger deer were the most likely to move in daylight hours.

Hunter selection in this region continues to move toward older age bucks, with 35% of the buck harvest being 4.5+ years old. This is an increase from the previous year, and is the highest percentage of 4.5+ year old bucks this region has ever harvested. More and more hunters are passing younger bucks in the goal to grow bucks to maturity. In addition, there were more truly huge bucks, 160"+, reported har-

vested last season than any year in history. More and more deer across central MS are being allowed to approach their potential.

Hemorrhagic Disease (HD), aka Blue-Tongue, reports were low in 2011 – 2012; however, many early reports have already been documented from the summer of 2012. After two very light years, we are expecting a heavier outbreak of HD in 2012.

Expectations for the 2012 – 2013 season are high. Many older bucks should be in the herd. In addition, spring herd health evaluations revealed deer herds in excellent condition. Adequate summer rainfall has contributed to good antler development and high fawn production rates. We are expecting an above average fawn crop and above average antlers for next season.

East Central Region
Written by: William T. McKinley

The East Central region did not suffer as much from the heavy acorn crop of the 2011 – 2012 deer season. Deer movement was poor on the western side of this region, but the eastern side is predominantly pine, and a heavy acorn crop actually helped the deer harvest. The warm winter did suppress deer movement throughout the majority of the season. Many surveyed hunters noted that it was the worst season their club has ever experienced. Food plot use was average to poor over most of East Central MS. Many plots grew tall and rank. Many clubs in this region observed and harvested fewer deer, but properties with mainly pine habitat had average to above average harvest. Total deer harvest in this region remained stable.

An early spring in 2011, adequate summer rainfall, and the abundant acorns provided improvements in some herd parameters. Compared to the 2010 – 2011 season, body weights increased on bucks and does in younger age classes. Older deer weights remained relatively constant. Lactation rates increased. Antlers measurements remained stable on bucks. Harvest of 0.5 deer (fawns) increased, as younger deer were the most likely to move in daylight hours.

Hunter selection in this region shows less desire for older bucks than other regions in the state, with only 23% of the buck harvest being 4.5+ years old. This is a tie with the SE region for the lowest percentage of 4.5+ year old bucks in the state, but is still a large improvement from years ago.

The East Central region shows a huge disparity in deer management from east to west. Harvest rates are more than double and buck age structure is much older in the western counties in this region. The difference in deer management is quite evident in herd health parameters as well. When comparing a western and eastern county, Madison and Lauderdale, doe and buck body weights in the western county are 21 lbs. and 35 lbs. heavier, respectively. The western county is harvesting 247% more deer per acre than the eastern county. The eastern portion of this region has fell drastically over the years in antler quality, with many mature bucks just making the 10/13 minimum antler criteria. Harvest needs to increase drastically in the eastern counties.

Hemorrhagic Disease (HD), aka Blue-Tongue, reports were low in 2011 – 2012; however, many early reports have already been documented from the summer of 2012. After two very light years, we are expecting a heavier outbreak of HD in 2012.

Expectations for the 2012 – 2013 season are high. Many older bucks should be in the herd. In addition, spring herd health evaluations revealed deer herds in excellent condition. Adequate summer rainfall has contributed to good antler development and high fawn production rates. We are expecting an above average fawn crop and above average antlers for next season.

Delta Region
Written by: Lann M. Wilf

The past deer season was a bit challenging in the Delta Region. Obviously, harvest in the 2011 – 2012 deer season dropped to roughly equal to harvests in 2009 – 2010 and 2008 – 2009. The common theme in all of these years was heavy spring flooding. Harvest in the Delta and along the Mississippi River will plummet on any heavy flood year, whether reduced harvest is a biological need or not. Many hunters and managers will tend to panic on flood years and will either cease or significantly reduce antlerless harvest. Often, hunters forget that deer along the River have been dealing with flooding for hundreds of years and have adapted to fluctuating water levels. Most properties that were evaluated in late summer did not lose many deer due to the historical flood of 2011. The properties that did lose some deer were grossly overpopulated prior to the flood because of inadequate historical harvest. In these cases, the flood tended to help more than it hurt.

Mast crops were good throughout most of the Delta and Batture Region. Decent mast crops were reported region wide, even in areas that were inundated for weeks. Food plot performance was good because of consistent fall rains, but, for the most part, food plot use was limited because of abundant mast.

For the past several hunting seasons, average body weights for bucks and does have remained stable. This year was no exception. Buck body weights were stable or slightly improved as were doe body weights. Also, lactation was slightly improved from last year. This is most likely related to deer populations being displaced into production agriculture during peak times of fawning and antler production. In many cases, forage quality in the agricultural fields adjacent to the levee was higher than native browse in stressed habitats behind the levee. This is likely due to multiple years of panic reductions in harvest.

Buck harvest in the past season was concentrated on the 3 and 4 – year old age classes, with 49% being 4 – years old or older. This is indicative of the Delta and is a result of the high interest in trophy buck management in the Region. Large numbers of bucks are being recruited into older age classes. As a result, some properties have nearly as many bucks as does. In some extreme cases, properties can be overpopulated with bucks. Unfortunately, these tend to be bucks with antler qualities that are below the soil region average. Some properties in the Delta should consider methods to remove these older

bucks that do not have antler qualities that meet their harvest criteria. This situation is property specific and should not be applied everywhere. However, stockpiling of older bucks is becoming a more common issue on properties that consistently get bucks to maturity.

Most of the Delta Region has had intermittent rainfall through summer, which should provide an above average mast crop. Also the early spring should have provided extra foraging opportunities for deer. Overall deer body condition should be stable, but in some cases weights may be lower than last year. This is because of deer returning to home ranges with stressed habitat after the flood. Hopefully, hunters and managers will increase harvest this year to make up for reductions last season.

Southwest Region
Written by: David Graves

The 2011 – 2012 hunting season proved to be challenging. Rainfall amounts for the 2011 growing season in the Southwest Region were lower than normal, but did spike during the critical months necessary for early successional plant growth. This provided needed nutrients for antler growth and fawning. However, environmental conditions turned extremely dry during August and October but September reported above average rainfall. This limited the growth of many hunters' food plots. While supplemental plantings did grow well in some areas of the region, others did not until mid-November due to lack of October rain.

Hunters reported decreased success throughout most of the hunting season. Warmer than average temperatures paired with abundant acorns decreased deer movement, which reduced deer sightings and harvest opportunities. Analysis of DMAP harvest data indicated that deer harvest during the 2011 – 2012 season decreased compared to the 2010 – 2011 season, with 1 deer per 56 acres harvested. This is the lowest seasonal deer harvest in the past 5 years. Lactation rates for adult does increased when compared to the 2010 – 2011. However, the 2010 – 2011 season showed a decrease from the 2009 – 2010 season. This increase was most likely due to improved growing conditions in summer, the heavy acorn crop, and last year's early spring

Swayze Bozeman with a 4-year old giant harvested with a bow on a DMAP property in Madison County. The buck scored 164 gross and netted 157 2/8 non-typical.

Compared to other regions of the state, the Southwest Region continues to have increased success in the harvest of mature bucks. During the 2011 – 2012 hunting season, harvest of 3.5+ year old bucks were at another 5-year high for the region with 76% of the buck harvest being 3.5 years old or older.

Several notable bucks were harvested in the Southwest Region during the 2011 – 2012 hunting season. The first buck was harvested by Thomas Adam Steele in Pike County with a firearm. The buck grossed 179 2/8 inches and netted 173 2/8 inches as a typical and met the minimum requirements for the Boone and Crockett record book. The second buck was harvested by Jimmy Riley in Adams County with a bow. Jimmy's buck grossed 175 3/8 inches and netted 158 inches also as a typical and met the minimum requirements for the Pope and Young record book.

A third buck harvested during the 2011 – 2012 season by Laren Christian with a firearm grossed 171 7/8 and netted 168 1/8. This buck also met the minimum requirements for the Boone and Crockett record book. The Southwest Region has held several state records in recent years for trophy bucks. This is proof of deer management success and deer herd potential within the Southwest Region.

Low numbers of hemorrhagic disease have been reported for the Southwest region. Due to the disease's cyclic nature, an increase in prevalence is expected in the near future. Samples were collected once again for chronic wasting disease testing. All samples tested negative for the disease and chronic wasting has not been found in Mississippi.

Southeast Region

Written by: Justin Thayer

The Southeast Region has a tough reputation of poor soils, heavy hunting pressure, lower deer densities, and an affinity to natural disasters and exotic species like cogon grass and the famous Chinese tallow tree. On the other hand, the Southeast boasts a hunting heritage with deep roots, resilient residents, and passionate hunters. While the sandy coastal soils may be limiting to some, they are capable of great results with the right amount of lime and love. The same can be said of the Southeast's pine-dominated ecosystem: with the right amount of work in your property, achieving incredible results in a well planned deer management program is possible. Unlike some of the highly fertile soils in the State, the coastal habitats of Southeast Mississippi require more work to make them right for optimal deer nutrition and growth. Lime, prescribed fire, a timber management plan, sound data collection, herbicides, and a selective harvest are all key ingredients for a good deer management plan in Southeast MS.

As for the 2011-2012 season, many hunters were frustrated with low deer sightings across the State. Record setting mast production from the State's oaks had many deer hung up in the woods with little daily movement needed to find all the groceries they needed. Although much of the Southeast Region is dominated by industrial pine lands, hardwood drains and streamside management zones held enough mast to keep deer movement to a minimum.

Although harvest and sightings were down for most, the early and wet spring of 2011 helped the State's bucks recover quickly from the breeding season and winter conditions. The faster bucks can get back in shape post-rut, the better off they are when it comes to the next year's antler production. That seemed to play out as reports of trophy bucks were through the roof in the 2011-2012 season. Overall, while deer harvest and sightings were down across the board, quality was sky high.


Justin Thayer

Justin Thayer was hired to coordinate deer program activities for Southeast Mississippi and will be the primary point of contact for those seeking whitetail advice in the coastal plains of Mississippi. Thayer should be a valuable asset to a region of the state that has not had a local biologist in many years.

Looking forward, the need for additional data in the Southeast Region is paramount. Through no fault but our own, the Deer Program's limited presence in the Southeast Region gradually led to a decline in the number of SE MS DMAP cooperators over the past decade. As you likely know, the data collected by DMAP cooperators is summarized here in the Deer Program Report and is used as a powerful reference tool. In that scope, a continual decline in DMAP cooperators in the Southeast Region will affect the statistical strength of the Southeast Region's data. With a Biologist now in the region, existing DMAP relationships will be cherished, some lost connections may be rekindled, and hopes of new partnerships will be abound.

Since 1997, MDWFP personnel have monitored statewide deer road kill in an effort to gain trend information about population levels and to compare rates over time. All dead deer observed on or adjacent to roads and highways are recorded during the personnel's regular course of travel from October 1 – January 31. The cause of death of these animals is assumed to be a vehicle collision. The specific location by county is recorded for every deer observed. Personnel also record their monthly mileage. In the past the average number of deer observed per 10,000 miles was calculated by district. However, with changing district lines and MDWFP personnel routinely traveling outside their home district, we have changed this to a statewide average and not district averages.

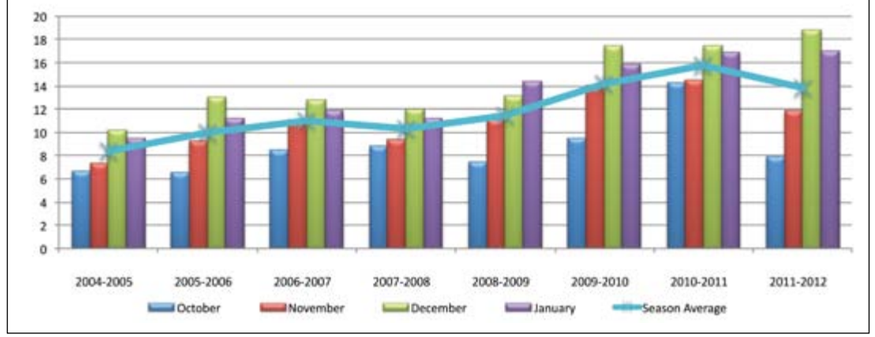
Graphical monthly statewide summaries of these data are presented in **Figure 2**. The precise value and accuracy of this method of data collection has not been critically evaluated. No evaluation has been made to determine if number of vehicles on the highways has increased, decreased, or remained constant. Therefore, any inferences or interpretation of these data should be approached cautiously. Every effort has been made to standardize sampling protocol.

When these data are examined graphically, fluctuations over time are apparent. Certain assumptions may be logical. For example, an increase in observed deer vehicular related mortality is a result of an increase in deer activity. Data are currently collected from October through January. Mortality peaked during the fall and winter around breeding seasons, when deer activity is at its highest.

A second assumption is that observations of road kills by MDWFP personnel may reflect fluctuations in annual population numbers with high population years reporting high road kills and vice versa. In addition to increasing or expanding deer herds, road kill observations may be heavily influenced by weather conditions and mast availability. During the 2011-2012 deer season, observed road kills were higher than any year that data was collected prior to 2009-2010, but the season average was less than the previous two years. This year's observed road kill season average was 1.9 deer less than the record setting year of 2010-2011. This decrease was most likely related to one of the greatest mast crops in recorded history and mild weather. The observed road kill averages for December and January were increased or comparable to the last two record setting seasons, but October and November were reduced.

Hunters throughout the state had great difficulty in observing and harvesting deer. This led to a great drop in harvest at a time when harvest needed to increase. The potential exists for herds to be at an all time high. When the abundant mast, warm weather, and limited deer movement are considered, these data suggest that the deer herd continues to expand.

Figure 2. Statewide Averages (Deer/10,000 Miles Driven)



MDWFP also collects road-kill data from State Farm Insurance Company. According to State Farm's estimates there were 16,004 deer-vehicle collisions in Mississippi during 2011 – 2012, which is an increase from 14,971 in 2010 – 2011 and 14,738 in 2009 – 2010. At first glance this estimate contradicts the decreasing trend from MDWFP personnel's road-kill observations. However, the fact that observed road kills were almost equal to the 2009 – 2010 season average, which is the second highest year in history, suggests that the deer density was not reduced. Also, the 2011 – 2012 averages of observed road kills in December and January were the highest in the history of the program. So, in 2011 – 2012, observed road kills were significantly lower in October and November, but escalated to record levels in December and January. Therefore, the 2011 – 2012 road kill data is logically supported by the State Farm data. Also, Mississippi ranked 24th in the nation in total deer-vehicle collisions. Pennsylvania had the highest with 115,571 total deer-vehicle collisions, and Michigan followed having 97,586. Claims in both states increased as well. The deer-vehicle collisions in these states are a result of exceedingly high deer densities and a high number of vehicles on the roads. The statewide deer density in Mississippi seems to be expanding when road kill and deer-vehicle collision data are analyzed.

Observed road kill has increased consistently since data collection began in 1997. The data from 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 showed the highest observed road kill averages ever recorded. This year's averages were slightly below these two years, which suggests that the upcoming year may show another record breaking trend.

Table 3. Statewide Averages (Deer/10,000 Miles Driven)

Month	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Avg. All Years
October	6.6	6.5	8.4	8.8	7.4	9.5	14.2	7.9	8.7
November	7.3	9.2	11.1	9.3	11.1	14.0	14.5	11.8	11.0
December	10.1	13.0	12.8	12.0	13.1	17.4	17.4	18.8	14.3
January	9.5	11.2	11.8	11.2	14.3	15.8	16.9	17.0	13.5
Season Avg.	8.4	10.0	11.0	10.3	11.5	14.2	15.8	13.9	11.9

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a progressively degenerative fatal disease that attacks the central nervous system of members of the deer family. To date, it has been diagnosed in elk, mule deer, black-tailed deer, white-tailed deer, and moose. CWD is one of a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). These diseases are characterized as transmissible because they can be transmitted from an infected animal to a noninfected animal. They are further classified as spongiform due to the "spongy-like" areas which form in the brain of the infected animal, hence the encephalopathy portion of the name.

The scientific community generally accepts that the infectious agents of CWD are prions. Prions are abnormal proteins that seem to have the ability to alter the structure of normal proteins found in the body of the animal they enter. Logical natural methods of prion transmission include, but may not be limited to, secretions and excretions from infected animals. A study conducted at Colorado State University found that CWD can be transmitted experimentally from saliva and blood. Also, human activity contributes to environmental prion contamination. Prions are hideously durable and impervious to most disinfectants and natural conditions, remaining in the environment for years.

Animals suffering from CWD typically behave abnormally by separating themselves from their usual social group. They often stand alone, with a drooped posture, and may not respond to human presence. As the disease progresses, they will appear very skinny on close examination and will salivate, drink, and urinate excessively.

A deer from Wisconsin with CWD

The goal for the 2011 – 2012 monitoring period was to test approximately 1,200 deer statewide. Routine testing involved Mississippi hunters in this disease monitoring effort. Hunters throughout the state were asked to voluntarily submit the heads of harvested deer for CWD testing. Additionally, samples were obtained from taxidermists and deer processing facilities. Most of these samples came from wildlife management areas, national wildlife refuges, Choctaw Tribal Lands, and Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) cooperators.

A total of 565 samples were taken from free-ranging white-tailed deer in Mississippi during the 2011 – 2012 sampling period. Samples were obtained from hunter-harvested animals, spring herd health evaluations, target animal surveillance, and road-killed animals. Samples were obtained from 58 counties (**Figure 3**). The samples were submitted to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia following the 2011 – 2012 hunting season and each of those samples were tested for evidence of the CWD agent using immunohistochemistry. Evidence of CWD was not detected in any of the tested samples.

Additionally, 64 samples were taken from white-tailed deer within high-fenced enclosures and submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories for testing. Evidence of CWD was not detected in any of the enclosure samples. See **Page 41** for more information regarding CWD surveillance for high-fenced enclosures.

The MDWFP, in cooperation with the Mississippi Board of Animal Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Veterinary Services will continue target animal surveillance. A target profile animal is any adult cervid that is emaciated and shows some neurological disorder. These target animals should be reported to the local county conservation officer, who has been trained to properly handle them and coordinate their transport to the appropriate laboratory for CWD testing. Most deer exhibiting symptoms of CWD are actually suffering from other conditions or diseases common to white-tailed deer in Mississippi. Malnutrition, hemorrhagic disease, brain abscesses, and other conditions may cause some of the same symptoms. However, due to the seriousness of CWD and the importance of early detection and control, it is necessary to test target animals for infection. The ability to diagnose disease is dependent on quick reporting because deer carcasses deteriorate rapidly in Mississippi's climate.

As of July 2012, CWD has been diagnosed in 19 states and 2 Canadian Providences. CWD is currently present in wild cervid populations in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Illinois, Utah, New York, West Virginia, Kansas, Virginia, Missouri, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, Maryland, Minnesota, Alberta and now most recently, Texas. CWD has currently been found to be present in captive cervid populations in Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, Colorado, and Nebraska. See **Figure 4** for the current distribution of CWD in North America.

All public health officials maintain that venison is safe for human consumption. However, hunters who wish to take additional steps to avoid potential unnecessary contact with prions or environmental contamination can do the following:

- Contact the MDWFP at 601-432-2199 if you see or harvest an animal that appears sick.
- Wear latex gloves when field dressing or processing deer.
- Avoid eating or contact with brain, spinal cord, spleen, lymph nodes, or eyes.
- Cut through the spinal cord only when removing the head. Use a knife designated solely for this purpose.
- Bone out meat to avoid cutting into or through bones. Remove all fat and connective tissue to avoid lymph nodes.
- Dispose of all carcass material, including the head, in a landfill or pit dug for carcass disposal purposes.
- Either process your animal individually or request that it be processed without adding meat from other animals.
- Disinfect knives and other processing equipment in a 50% bleach solution for a minimum of one hour.
- Discontinue baiting and feeding which unnaturally concentrate deer.

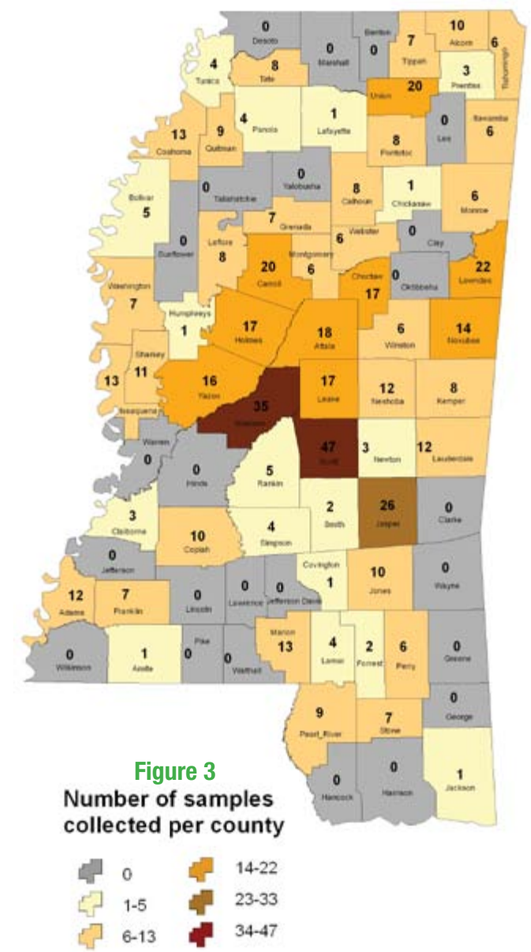


Figure 3
Number of samples collected per county

* CWD has not been found in Mississippi.

Jacob Brumfield

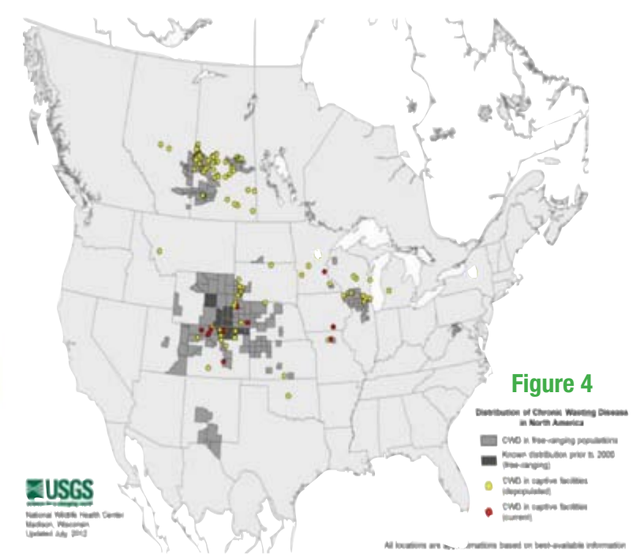


Figure 4

Hemorrhagic Disease (HD), sometimes referred to as Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) or Bluetongue (BT), is considered the most important viral disease of white-tailed deer in the United States. Different subtypes of two closely related viruses cause HD: EHD and BT. To make it more complex, there are technically five subtypes of BT virus and two subtypes of EHD virus. A distinguishable difference does not visually exist between these diseases, so wildlife managers normally group the symptoms into one category and refer to the condition as HD.

Biting midges of the genus *Culicoides* transmit HD; therefore the disease is seasonal, based on the abundance of midge vectors. Normal occurrence of HD is late summer through fall (approximately late July – November). Deer that become infected with the HD virus may exhibit a variety of outward symptoms. Some mildly infected deer will exhibit few symptoms. Others which contract a more potent form of the virus will appear depressed, become feverish, have swollen areas around the head or neck, and may have trouble breathing. Those contracting the potent form of the virus can die within 1 to 3 days. Normal population mortality rates from HD are usually less than 25 percent. However, mortality rates greater than 50 percent of the population have been documented. On a brighter note, HD has destroyed no free-ranging deer population.

HD is first suspected when unexplained deer mortality is observed in late summer or early fall. Typically, archers who are scouting during late September are the first to observe suspect carcasses in the woods. On some occasions, HD deer are found dead during the late summer in or adjacent to water. The fever produced by the disease causes the infected deer to seek water. These deer may subsequently succumb to the disease in or near creeks and ponds.

Biting Midge (*Culicoides* spp.) transmits EHD

Mouth Lesions from EHD

Hoof Sloughing from EHD

Hunters will most frequently encounter the evidence of HD while observing harvested deer during the winter months. During the high fever produced by HD, an interruption in hoof growth occurs. This growth interruption causes a distinctive ring around the hoof, which is readily identifiable upon close examination. Hoof injury, as well as bacterial or fungal infection can cause a "damaged" appearance on a single hoof. HD is not considered unless involvement is noticed on two or more hooves.

Fortunately, people are not at risk of contracting HD. Handling infected deer or eating the venison from infected deer is not a public health risk. Even being bitten by the midge carrying the virus is not a cause of concern for humans. Deer which develop bacterial infections or abscesses secondary to HD may not be suitable for consumption.

The case is not as clear regarding domestic livestock. A small percentage of BT infected cattle can become lame, have reproductive problems, or develop sore mouths. Variations exist between BT and EHD virus infection in cattle and domestic sheep. Sheep are usually unaffected by EHD but can develop serious disease symptoms with the BT virus.

Occasionally, over-population of a deer herd has been blamed for outbreaks of HD. Abnormally high deer populations are expected to have greater mortality rates because the deer are in sub-optimal condition. Furthermore, the spread of the virus would be expected to be greater in dense deer herds. However, an outbreak of HD cannot be directly attributed to an overpopulated deer herd.

HD can be diagnosed several ways. A reliable tentative diagnosis can be made after necropsy by a trained biologist or veterinarian. A confirmed diagnosis can only be made by isolating one of the viruses from refrigerated whole blood, spleen, lymph node, or lung from a fresh carcass.

MDWFP biologists have been monitoring the presence of HD in Mississippi by several methods: through investigation of sudden, unexplained high deer mortality during late summer and early fall, necropsy diagnosis, isolation of EHD or BT virus, and observation of hoof lesions on hunter-harvested deer. HD or previous HD exposure is always present in Mississippi deer herds. Similar to disease resistance in humans, previous exposure without mortality yields the development of antibodies that afford the animal protection against future exposure to a disease. Without the antibody presence, significant mortality would occur.

A low occurrence of HD was observed during the 2011 – 2012 hunting season, with evidence of HD reported in 24 deer across 12 counties (**Figure 5**). This is reduced from the 31 reported deer scattered across 16 counties during the 2010 – 2011 hunting season. Most reports from both seasons have been in the central portion of the state. Researchers have documented a distinctive 2 – 3 year cycle in HD outbreaks. Assuming that these cyclic outbreaks occur, we can expect a higher occurrence of HD during the 2012 – 2013 hunting season in north and south MS. Central MS should continue to see a lower occurrence.

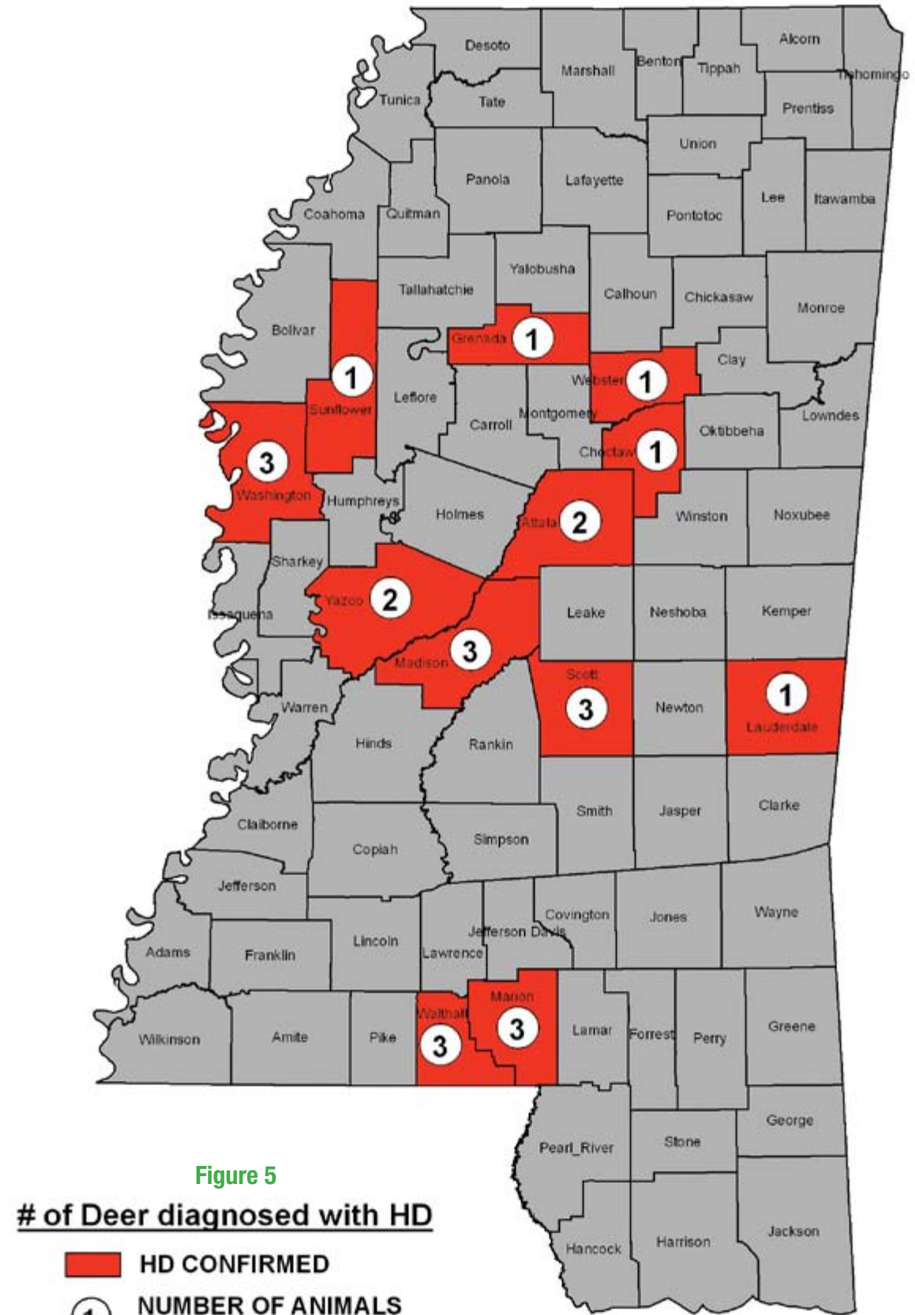


Figure 5

# of Deer diagnosed with HD

HD CONFIRMED

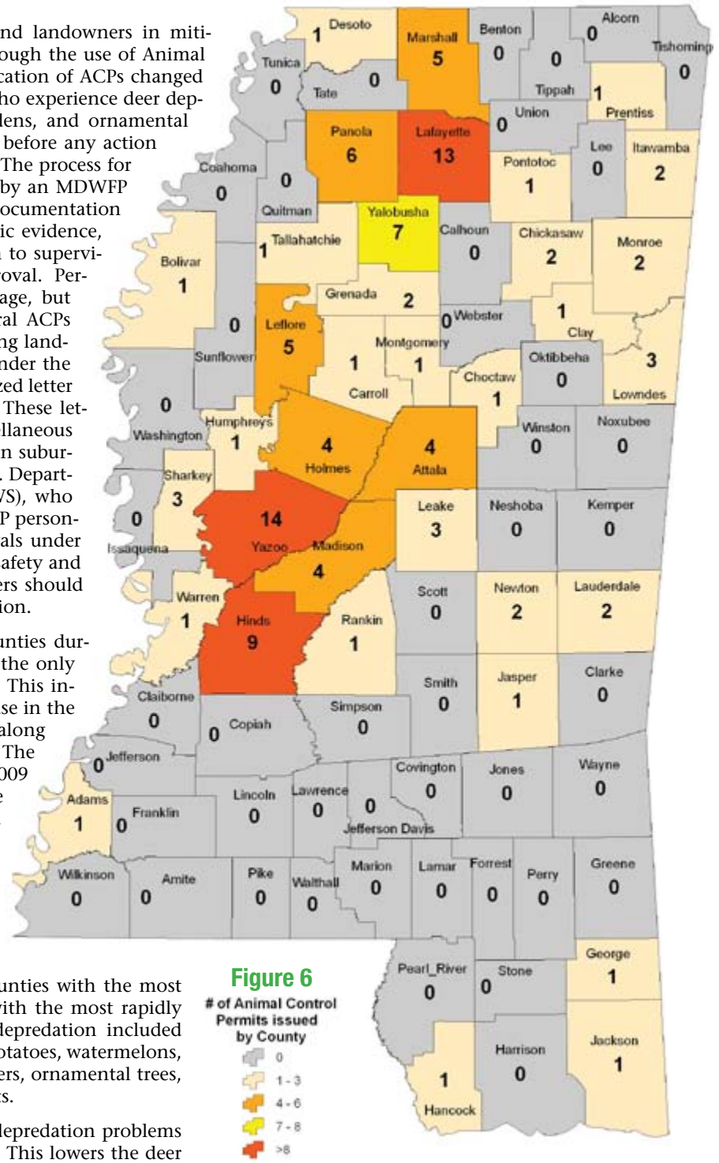
(1) NUMBER OF ANIMALS CONFIRMED WITH HD

Animal Control Permits

Conservation officers often assist farmers and landowners in mitigating agricultural depredation by deer through the use of Animal Control Permits (ACPs). The method for application of ACPs changed significantly in the fall of 2009. Landowners who experience deer depredation problems on agricultural plants, gardens, and ornamental landscaping are required to apply for a permit before any action is taken to harass or remove problem animals. The process for permit issuance includes an on-site evaluation by an MDWFP officer to verify the occurrence of depredation, documentation of damage or safety concerns with photographic evidence, followed by submission of the ACP application to supervisors and administrative personnel for final approval. Permits are issued primarily for agricultural damage, but ornamental vegetation is included. Agricultural ACPs must include a notarized letter from all adjoining landowners within ½ mile of fields to be covered under the ACP and in the case of leasing the land, a notarized letter from the landowner must be attached as well. These letters must state their approval of the ACP. Miscellaneous problems such as deer on airport runways and in suburban areas also occur and are handled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Wildlife Services (USDA/WS), who are issued permits to conduct removals. MDWFP personnel are not permitted to conduct lethal removals under an ACP within an urban/suburban area due to safety and liability concerns. Additionally, property owners should know that permits are not issued in every situation.

A total of 109 ACPs were issued in 36 counties during 2011. This was a significant increase over the only 57 permits issued in 22 counties during 2010. This increase in 2011 may be associated with an increase in the number of deer within the state's deer herd along with a reduction of their natural food sources. The reduction in the number of ACPs issued from 2009 to 2010 was most likely associated with a more rigorous application process being implemented late in 2009.

The ability to associate trends in deer abundance with the number of ACPs issued may have been lost until people adjusted to the new application process. Counties where ACPs were issued and the number of permits issued by county are shown in **Figure 6**. Counties with the most depredation problems are generally counties with the most rapidly expanding deer populations. Cases of deer depredation included damage to soybeans, corn, cotton, peas, sweet potatoes, watermelons, gourds, numerous garden and truck crops, flowers, ornamental trees, shrubs, landscaping, and interference on airports.



The preferred method of controlling deer depredation problems is adequate hunter harvest during deer season. This lowers the deer population to levels that are in balance with the environmental carrying capacity of the habitat. Normally this involves cooperation with adjoining landowners and hunting clubs.

Alternative direct methods used to solve depredation problems include scare or harassment tactics, assorted chemical applications, electric fencing, and traditional fencing at a height that eliminates deer access. High fencing around gardens and small problem areas is costly but provides assured control on a long-term basis with little or no maintenance.

In some instances, after other control measures have been exhausted, deer will be lethally removed. This process seldom provides a long-term solution but is used in some problem situations.

Depredation problems will continue to occur in Mississippi as long as abundant deer populations exist. Extensive problems with agricultural depredation can be controlled with adequate antlerless harvest. Instances of urban conflicts with deer are increasing due to escalating deer numbers and urban sprawl. Urban deer problems are magnified in cities where bowhunting has been banned.

2012 Deer Herd Health Evaluations

Deer herd health evaluations are conducted by MDWFP biologists annually. Evaluation sites are selected each year based on a specific need for additional information which cannot be obtained from hunter-harvested deer. These sites may be DMAP cooperator lands, WMAs, open public lands, or areas with a specific deer management concern. Some sites are sampled annually, others on a rotational schedule of two – three years, and some locations on an as-needed basis.

Time constraints normally limit the number of locations biologists sample each year. Deer collections are conducted during the months of February, March, and April. Collection timing must be late enough to insure that all does have been bred, but early enough to precede spring green-up when foliage density reduces the ability to readily observe and identify deer. The sampling window is most critical in the southern portion of the state where late breeding is a chronic problem and early green-up of native vegetation occurs.

Biologists complete an application for approval to conduct each herd health evaluation during a specific time period. The MDWFP Deer Committee reviews these applications and denies or grants approval. Other agency personnel assist the biologist in charge of the deer collection. When non-agency personnel are participating in the process, specific prior approval is obtained on the application.

During a typical herd health evaluation, biological data regarding reproduction, body condition, and disease are collected from mature females. A minimum of 10 mature females are desired to obtain an adequate sample size to assess herd parameters. Mature does are collected during the late afternoon on existing food plots or at night with the aid of a light and truck platform, which has been designed specifically for this purpose. Other deer are occasionally taken by mistake during the collection process. Data are obtained from all deer but the purpose of the evaluation is to obtain reproductive, physical condition, and disease data from mature females. All measurements and data are obtained from the deer on site or at a convenient nearby location. All deer are donated to a charitable institution or to an individual determined needy by agency personnel. Neither deer nor portions thereof are utilized by any MDWFP employees. Receipts are obtained from every deer donated. Rarely, instances have occurred where deer had to be disposed of in a manner where human utilization was not possible.

Reproduction

Reproductive data collected during herd health evaluations include conception dates, fawning dates, number of corpus lutea per doe, and number of fetuses per doe. Conception dates and fawning dates are determined using a fetal aging scale. Fetal length is measured on the fetal aging scale and the length is used to calculate conception date and fawning date. Breeding date ranges for Mississippi are presented in **Figure 4**. Data from the 2012 statewide deer herd health evaluations are given in **Table 4**. Data were collected from 106 deer on 11 sites across the state.

In **Table 4**, conception date ranges, averages, and corresponding fawning dates are given for each collection site. The earliest conception date (1-December) was detected at Bozeman Property in Madison County. The latest conception date (13-March) was detected at Leaf River WMA in Perry County. Mean fawning dates based on the conception dates ranged from 24-June on Hell Creek WMA in Tippah County to 11-August on Camp Shelby in Perry and Forrest Counties. The statewide average conception date was 8-January and the corresponding state average fawning date was 24-July.

Sample sizes for each collection site are given as N1 or N2. Different groupings by age and sex are mandatory to accurately interpret condition and reproductive data. Total 1½+ year old fecund (capable of breeding) does are represented as N1. Mature 2½+ year old does are represented as N2. Both N1 and N2 deer are utilized to calculate conception dates, but only N2 deer are considered in the sample when reproductive rates and condition data are compared.

Data comparing conception ranges and mean conception dates are self-explanatory. Average number of corpus lutea (CLs) is determined by examination of the ovaries of each N2 deer in the sample and counting the number of CLs present at the time of collection. A CL is a structure in the ovary which forms when an egg is released. The CL functions to maintain pregnancy by the release of hormones. As in domestic livestock, healthy deer on a high plane of nutrition will produce more eggs than deer in poor condition. Therefore, CL data provide a quantitative index to gauge not only reproductive performance at a specific site but also provide a general index to overall herd condition. CL data ranged from a low of 1.75 CLs per doe at Leaf River WMA in Perry County to a high of 2.25 CLs per doe on Bienville WMA in Scott County.

Average number of fetuses are also self-explanatory, but will, in most instances, be a lower number than average number of CLs because all CLs do not represent a viable fetus. As the average number of CLs provides an index to reproductive rates and herd condition, the average number of fetuses per doe provides an additional index to determine site-specific herd health. Average number of fetuses per doe ranged from a low of 1.75 at Leaf River WMA in Perry County, Bienville WMA in Scott County, and Hell Creek WMA in Tippah County, to a high of 2.14 on Davis Island in Warren County.

Body Condition

Body condition data collected during herd health evaluations include dressed weight and kidney fat index (KFI). Average dressed weight only includes N2 deer. A wide range of weights are apparent due to soil type, deer herd condition, and habitat type. In general, dressed weight is a reliable indicator to help gauge herd condition but should not be used to compare different sites unless all soil and habitat types are uniform.

KFI provides a quantitative index to energy levels within a deer herd. KFI is calculated by expressing the weight of the kidney fat as a percentage of the kidney weight. Substandard kidney fat levels were found at several areas. The highest value during 2012 was seen on Davis Island in Warren County.

Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples were also taken on most of the deer collected during the 2012 herd health evaluations. There was no incidence of CWD found in any samples.

Table 4. 2012 Deer Herd Health Evaluation Summary

Soil Area	Site ID	Collection Site	Date	N1	N2	Range of Conception: Minimum Conception Date	Range of Conception: Maximum Conception Date	Average Conception Date	Average Fawning Date	Average # CLs	Average # Fetuses	Average Weight	Average KFI
BP	14	Bienville WMA	14-Mar	4	4	21-Dec	24-Jan	7-Jan	22-Jul	2.25	1.75	76.75	54.6
UThin	231	Big Black Association	13-Mar	8	6	6-Dec	25-Jan	1-Jan	20-Jul	1.83	1.83	79	50.27
UThick	218	Bozeman Property	8-Mar	6	6	1-Dec	12-Jan	23-Dec	8-Jul	2	2	96	105.13
UThick	27	Cameron Plantation	22-Feb	14	6	23-Dec	12-Jan	2-Jan	19-Jul	2.17	1.83	100.17	161.75
LCP	30	Camp Shelby	26-Mar	18	12	15-Jan	2-Feb	24-Jan	11-Aug	1.92	1.92	70.25	69.17
UCP	45	Choctaw WMA	13-Mar	8	7	5-Dec	6-Jan	22-Dec	6-Jul	1.86	2	80	91.37
B	56	Davis Island	6-Mar	8	7	10-Dec	10-Jan	26-Dec	4-Jul	2.14	2.14	103.29	174.03
IF	81	Hell Creek WMA	27-Feb	9	4	4-Dec	12-Dec	8-Dec	24-Jun	2	1.75	93.75	142.08
LCP	110	Leaf River WMA	27-Mar	9	8	3-Jan	13-Mar	8-Feb	6-Aug	1.75	1.75	66.88	85.44
D	217	Mahannah WMA	15-Mar	5	4	8-Dec	7-Jan	23-Dec	8-Jul	2	2	103.5	140.83
D	194	Yazoo NWR	20-Mar	7	6	20-Dec	15-Jan	1-Jan	16-Jul	2	1.83	98.67	131.38
			Total:	**96**	**70**		**Average:**	**8-Jan**	**24-July**	**1.99**	**1.89**	**88**	**109.64**

N1=Number of females 1.5+ years old N2=Number of females 2.5+ years old


Chad Dacus

2012 Deer Herd Health Evaluations

HERD HEALTH

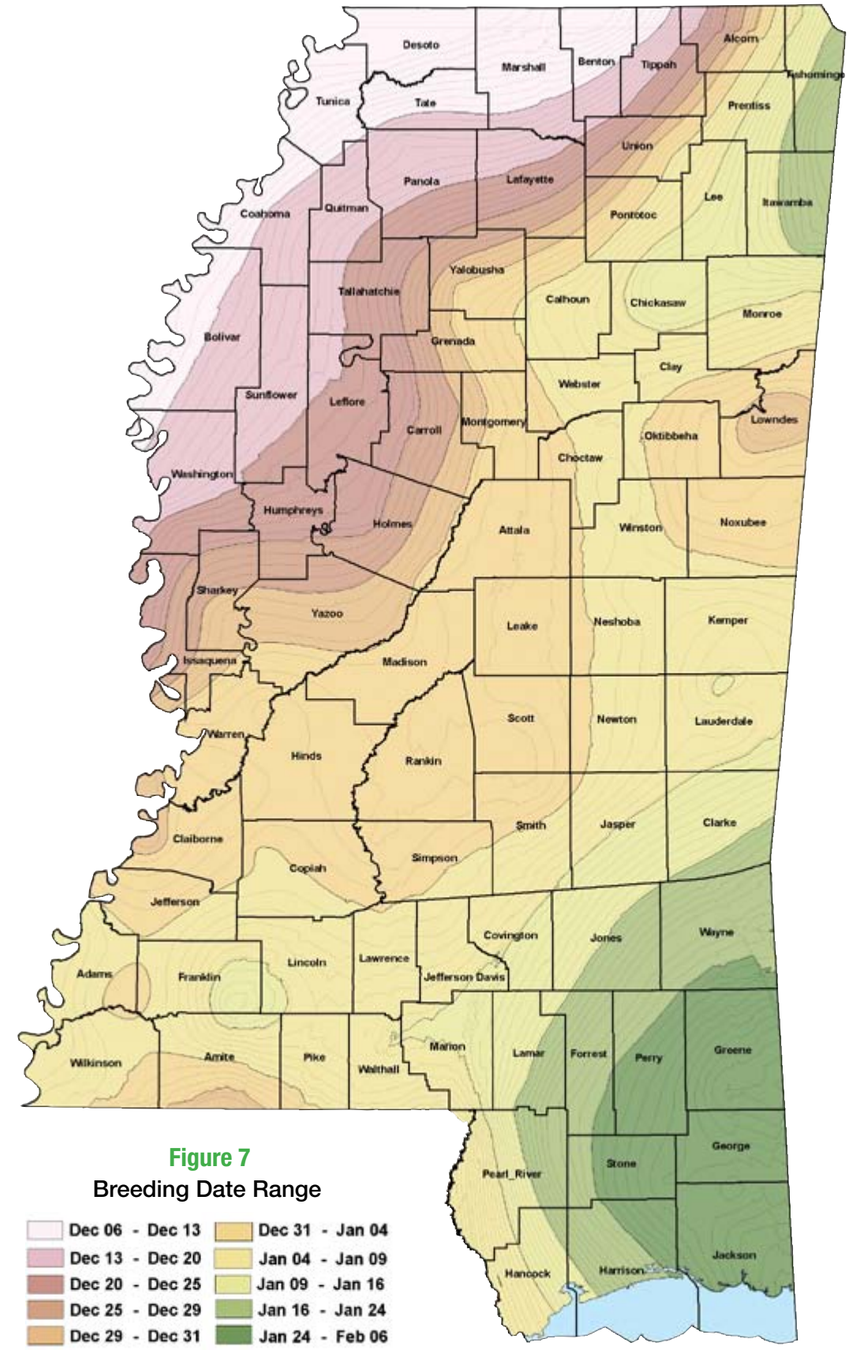


Figure 7
Breeding Date Range

Survey methods changed beginning with the 2011 – 2012 season. Prior to this year, data was collected from an annual mail survey. This year, we collected data through a telephone survey from Responsive Management. Care should be used when comparing the 2011 – 2012 season to previous seasons. However, the reduction in harvest from the 2010 – 2011 season was supported by a heavy mast crop, mild winter, and hunter concerns.

In the past, the mail survey results from the previous hunting season were not complete by the submission of the Deer Program Report. The Responsive Management telephone surveys results arrived much earlier. Thus, this report will contain the hunter survey results from two hunting seasons.

Resident Hunter Survey Results

Tables 5 & **6** display the deer harvest results from the 2010 and 2011 Survey of Mississippi Resident and Non-resident Hunters. Changes between the two surveys are displayed in **Table 7**.

Total resident deer hunters by user group (gun, archery, and primitive weapons) are shown in **Figure 8**. Archery and primitive hunter numbers increased substantially while gun hunter numbers declined slightly.

Deer hunting man-days by user group are shown in **Figures 9** & **13**. A long-term evaluation of hunter man-days reveals a declining trend that began in the mid 1980s. Last season, however, appears to have reversed that trend for total man-days, as hunter man-days increased substantially in archery and primitive weapons hunters. Gun hunter participation continued to show decline.

Total resident and non-resident deer harvest for the 2010 – 2011 and 2011 – 2012 seasons are depicted in **Figures 10** & **12**. This graph includes the harvest of bucks and does from archery, primitive weapon, and gun deer seasons. Total resident deer harvest in the 2011 – 2012 season decreased by over 51,000 compared to the 2010 – 2011 season. Also, the percentage of successful hunters decreased by 11%. This large drop in harvest coincides with an abundant acorn crop and extremely mild winter in 2011. Many hunters reported the worst season they had ever experienced. The average seasonal harvest dropped substantially to 1.79 deer per hunter.

Archery and primitive weapon hunters harvested 42% of total harvest and 49% of total doe harvest. Archery and primitive weapon hunters harvested more does than bucks. On average it took archery hunters 18.2 days, primitive weapons hunters 14.8 days, and gun hunters 14.5 days to harvest a deer.

Non-Resident Hunter Survey Results

Total hunter numbers increased significantly from the 2010 – 2011 season (**Figure 11**). Buck harvest increased and doe harvest decreased (**Figure 12**). Man-days increased substantially for all weapon types (**Figure 13**). However, success rates for non-resident hunters decreased from the 2010 – 2011 season.

2011 – 2012 Summary (Resident and Non-Resident Combined)

The total number of deer harvested decreased by about 50,000 from the 2010 – 2011 season. This is one of the largest drops in harvest every recorded. A total of 152,057 deer hunters spent 4,185,522 man-days deer hunting and harvested 131,502 bucks and 140,773 does, for a total of 272,275 deer. It took an average of 15.4 man-days per deer harvested. Hunters spent an average of 27.5 man-days hunting during the season.

Table 5. Mail Survey Summary for the 2011-2012 Season

	Total Harvest			Total Hunters			Average Seasonal Harvest		Total Man-days			Percent Successful Hunters		Deer Per Hunter
	Resident	Non-Resident	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Resident	Non-Resident	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	
Total Deer	236,428	35,847	272,275	122,835	29,222	152,057	1.92	1.23	3,588,299	597,223	4,185,522	66.0	57.0	1.79
Buck	114,668	16,834	131,502				0.93	0.58				48.0	36.0	0.86
Doe	121,760	19,012	140,773				0.99	0.65				50.0	39.0	0.93
Archery Total	39,548	4,583	44,130	45,674	9,665	55,339	0.87	0.47	719,439	114,997	834,436	46.0	31.0	0.80
Buck	13,648	1,951	15,599				0.30	0.20				18.0	13.0	0.28
Doe	25,900	2,632	28,531				0.57	0.27				38.0	23.0	0.52
Primitive Total	59,214	7,714	66,928	77,376	15,655	93,031	0.77	0.49	878,284	131,479	1,009,763	48.0	36.0	0.72
Buck	25,255	2,859	28,113				0.33	0.18				24.0	15.0	0.30
Doe	33,960	4,855	38,815				0.44	0.31				33.0	25.0	0.42
Gun Total	137,666	23,550	161,216	113,163	26,772	142,612	1.22	0.88	1,990,576	350,747	2,341,323	60.0	53.0	1.15
Buck	75,764	12,025	87,789				0.70	0.45				43.0	34.0	0.62
Doe	61,901	11,525	73,427				0.55	0.43				36.0	30.0	0.51

Mail Survey Data 2010-2011 and 2011-2012

MAIL SURVEY DATA

Table 6. Mail Survey Summary for the 2010-2011 Season

	Total Harvest			Total Hunters			Average Seasonal Harvest		Total Man-days			Percent Successful Hunters		Deer Per Hunter
	Resident	Non-Resident	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Resident	Non-Resident	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	
Total Deer	287,673	34,614	322,287	125,028	19,802	144,830	2.30	1.75	2,669,289	311,693	2,980,982	77.2	74.8	2.23
Buck	128,584	14,087	142,671				1.03	0.71				59.7	49.2	0.99
Doe	159,089	20,527	179,616				1.27	1.04				57.9	56.7	1.24
Archery Total	39,943	5,152	45,095	40,080	4,709	44,789	1.00	1.09	441,481	42,392	483,873	53.2	59.0	1.01
Buck	11,627	1,529	13,156				0.29	0.32				23.9	23.9	0.29
Doe	28,316	3,622	31,938				0.71	0.77				43.3	47.0	0.71
Primitive Total	63,471	6,198	69,669	63,471	7,325	70,796	1.00	0.85	485,971	51,931	537,902	61.4	61.0	0.98
Buck	22,023	2,093	24,116				0.35	0.29				30.6	25.8	0.34
Doe	41,448	4,105	45,553				0.65	0.56				45.3	44.5	0.64
Gun Total	184,259	23,264	207,523	115,999	17,025	133,024	1.59	1.37	2,160,626	289,510	2,450,136	73.3	72.8	1.56
Buck	94,933	10,465	105,398				0.82	0.61				56.1	46.1	0.79
Doe	89,325	12,799	102,124				0.77	0.75				45.8	49.4	0.77

Dwayne Fuller

Table 7. Changes in Mail Survey Data from 2010-2011 Season to the 2011-2012 Season

	Total Harvest			Total Hunters			Average Seasonal Harvest		Total Man-days			Percent Successful Hunters		Deer Per Hunter
	Resident	Non-Resident	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Resident	Non-Resident	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	
Total Deer	-51,245	1,233	-50,012	-2,193	9,420	7,227	-0.38	-0.52	919,010	285,530	1,204,540	-11	-18	-0.43
Buck	-13,916	2,747	-11,169				-0.10	-0.13						
Doe	-37,329	-1,515	-38,843				-0.28	-0.39						
Archery Total	-395	-569	-965	5,594	4,956	10,550	-0.13	-0.62	277,958	72,605	350,563	-7	-28	-0.21
Buck	2,021	422	2,443				0.01	-0.12				-6	-11	-0.01
Doe	-2,416	-990	-3,407				-0.14	-0.50				-5	-24	-0.20
Primitive Total	-4,257	1,516	-2,741	13,905	8,330	22,235	-0.23	-0.36	392,313	79,548	471,861	-13	-25	-0.26
Buck	3,232	766	3,997				-0.02	-0.11				-7	-11	-0.04
Doe	-7,488	750	-6,738				-0.21	-0.25				-12	-20	-0.23
Gun Total	-46,593	286	-46,307	-2,836	9,747	9,588	-0.37	-0.49	-170,050	61,237	-108,813	-13	-20	-0.41
Buck	-19,169	1,560	-17,609				-0.12	-0.16				-13	-12	-0.18
Doe	-27,424	-1,274	-28,697				-0.22	-0.32				-10	-19	-0.25

Figure 8. Total Deer Hunters – Resident

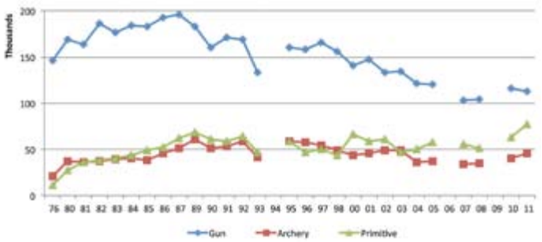


Figure 9. Total Man-days – Resident

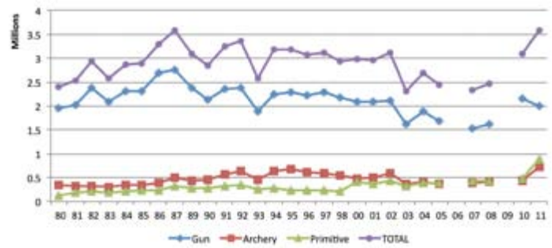


Figure 10. Total Deer Harvest – Resident

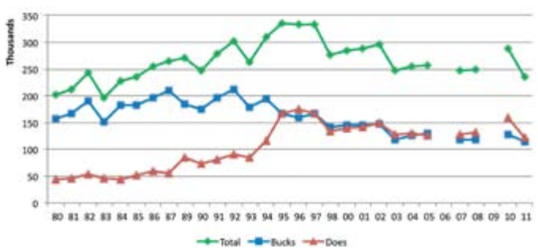


Figure 11. Total Deer Hunters – Non-resident

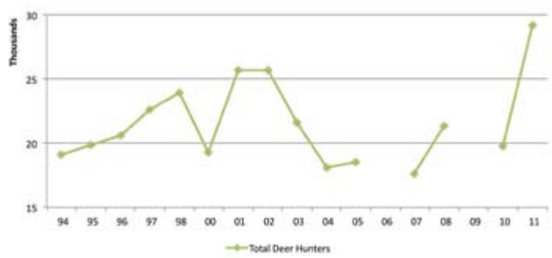


Figure 12. Total Deer Harvest – Non-resident

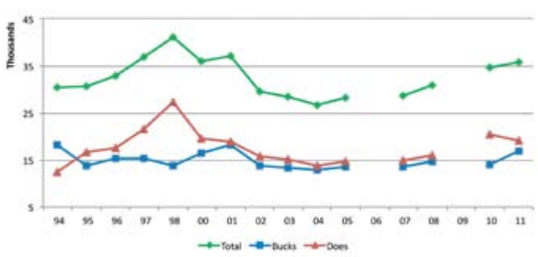
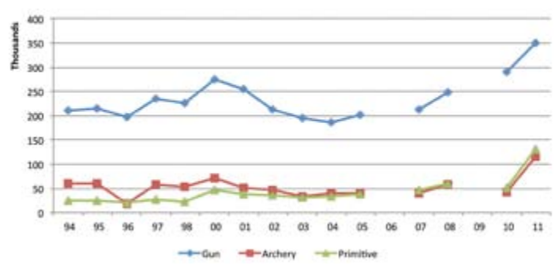


Figure 13. Total Man-days – Non-resident



The MDWFP began distributing Bowhunter Observation Books during the 2005 – 2006 deer archery season. Efforts to increase distribution of the books increased during the following years. Bowhunter Observation Books were distributed through sporting goods stores, feed stores, and were available online. Participating bowhunters observed 2852 total deer yielding 1.12 deer per hour. Bowhunters recorded 2542.4 hours in 39 counties. A description of deer observed is shown in **Table 8**. Total hours of observation by county are presented in **Figure 14**. Data collected was not sufficient to estimate sex ratio and fawn crop by county.


Chad Dacus

Bowhunter Observation Books produced very similar statewide estimates for the past six years (**Table 9**). According to this data, Mississippi had about 2.19 does for every buck, and about 1 fawn for every 2 does going into the 2011 hunting season. A 1:2.19 buck to doe ratio is not bad, but it is certainly not great. The goal of most deer managers is to keep the sex ratio between 1:1 and 1:2. A healthy herd should be producing nearly 1 fawn for every doe in the population. According to the observations, Mississippi is producing only about 0.5 fawns for every doe.

Moving forward, we do not plan to continue distributing the Bowhunter Observation Books. We are currently looking toward other methods to gain this data. We would like to say thank you to all bowhunters who have assisted in collecting this data.

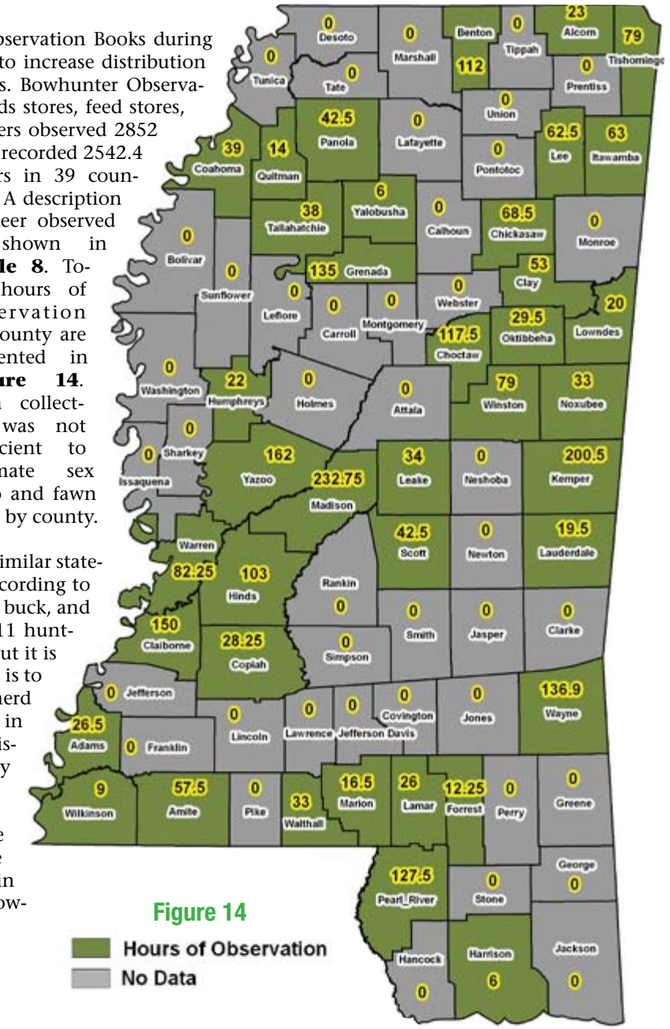


Figure 14

Table 8. Total Hours and Deer Observed in 2011

Total Hours	2-3 Points	4-7 Points	8+ Points	Does	Fawns	Unknown Deer
2,542.4	285	199	146	1,382	583	257

Table 9. Bowhunter Observation Results 2005-2011

Year	Total Hours	Total Deer Observed	Buck to Doe Ratio	Fawn to Doe Ratio	Deer Observed Per Hour
2005	1,489.25	1262	1 Buck : 2.40 Does	0.60 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.06
2006	3,431.75	3803	1 Buck : 2.69 Does	0.52 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.11
2007	5,669.75	6008	1 Buck : 2.92 Does	0.43 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.06
2008	6,425.25	7343	1 Buck : 2.50 Does	0.48 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.14
2009	3,919.5	3833	1 Buck : 2.33 Does	0.47 Fawns : 1 Doe	0.98
2010	3,154.2	3404	1 Buck : 2.80 Does	0.48 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.08
2011	2,542.4	2852	1 Buck : 2.19 Does	0.42 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.12

The 2011 – 2012 hunting season was the third year using the antler criteria and management zones developed and implemented prior to the 2009 – 2010 hunting season. Also this was the third year that Zone 3 existed and the former Zone 1 was reduced. Zone lines are based on soil regions using highways and interstates as dividing boundaries. See **Figure 15** for zone boundaries. Within each Deer Management Zone, hunting opportunity was allowed as follows:

1) Zone 1 allowed hunting opportunity from October 1 through January 31. Legal bucks were those having a minimum 10 inch inside spread or a minimum 13 inch main beam.

2) Zone 2 allowed hunting opportunity from October 15 through February 15. Legal bucks were those having a minimum 10 inch inside spread or a minimum 13 inch main beam.

3) Zone 3 allowed hunting opportunity from October 1 through January 31. Legal bucks were those having a minimum 12 inch inside spread or a minimum 15 inch main beam.

The objective of these Deer Management Zones was to protect most 1½ year old bucks statewide. This protection was intended to prevent over-harvest of young bucks and improve antler size as bucks get older. In order to accomplish this, the antler criteria needed to be easy to use, yet unique for each soil region because some soil regions grow significantly bigger deer than others. Therefore, the three Deer Management Zones were implemented using specific antler criteria and season structure for the respective zone. All three zones had the same season structure as in previous years. Biological data did not warrant changes in season structure. Hunting opportunity was allowed in Zones 1 and 3 from October 1 through January 31. Hunting opportunity was allowed in Zone 2 from October 15 through February 15. Zone 2 opened two weeks later to take into consideration the late fawning dates of the coastal soils. Additionally, buck hunting opportunity was extended through February 15 to allow additional hunting opportunity during the later breeding period of the southeast (See breeding date map, **page 35**). This shifted season is based on Deer Herd Health Evaluation Data which illustrates later breeding within Zone 2 during January through Mid-February.

Inside spread antler restrictions placed on many Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are in their sixth year of existence. Antler regulations on most WMAs were amended for the 2007 – 2008 hunting season to include a minimum main beam length restriction while dropping the 4-point restriction. Under the new antler regulations, legal bucks must meet either the minimum inside spread or the minimum main beam length. Results from studies on the effects of the "four-point law" and apparent over-harvest of bucks on some WMAs gave support to the change in antler regulations on WMA's and also helped lead to changes in statewide antler regulations. After the 2008 – 2009 season, Wildlife Management Areas offering exclusive youth opportunities were the only areas not required to have antler restrictions.

The only major change to antler regulations during the 2011-2012 season occurred within many of the WMA's. Antler criteria were lowered in 36 of 45 WMA's, increased on 2, and stayed constant on 7 WMA's. Antler criteria were lowered on many WMA's in an effort to increase harvest opportunity and hunter-use. Changes in WMA antler criteria can be seen in **Table 1**. These regulations were implemented under the premise that they will undergo a 3-year evaluation period to research changes in buck harvest and hunter-use. The 3-year evaluation period will end following the 2013-2014 season.

Beginning in the 2003 – 2004 hunting season, management buck tags were issued to WMAs and DMAP properties allowing additional harvest of sub-optimal bucks. For more information on management buck tags, see the Deer Tags section of this report on **page 42**.

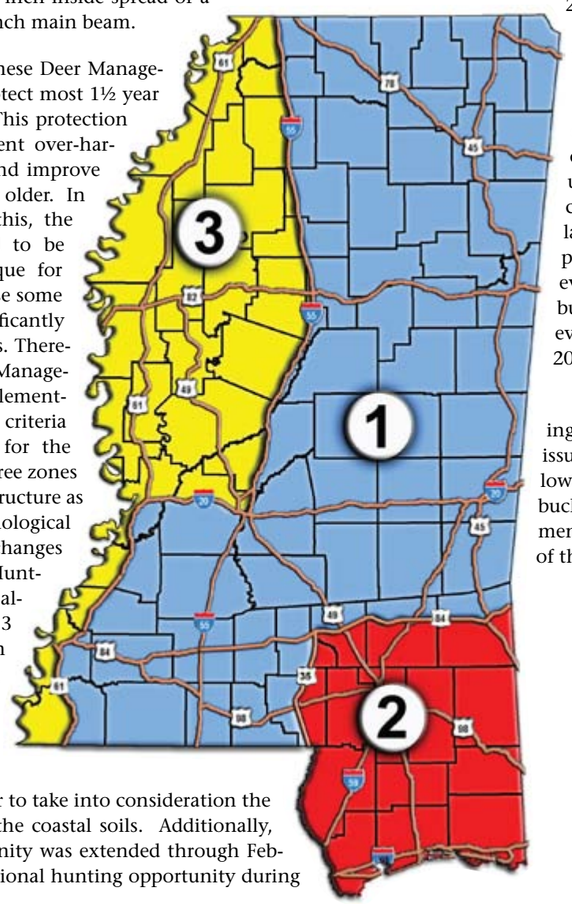


Figure 15.
Deer Management Zones

Legal Bucks			
Zone	Inside Spread	OR	Main Beam
1	10″	OR	13″
2	10″	OR	13″
3	12″	OR	15″

Permits

Public Notice W1-3780 requires owners of enclosures containing white-tailed deer to obtain an annual Facility Permit from the MDWFP. The permit is valid from July 1 through June 30. For the 2011– 2012 permit year, 103 facility permits were issued totaling 76,011 acres.

Public Notice W1-3780 allows white-tailed deer breeding pens within enclosures of at least 300 acres. For the 2011 – 2012 permit year, 16 white-tailed deer breeder permits were issued along with 315 metal ear tags which are to be inserted in all deer being held in a breeding facility. As allowed by Public Notice W1-3780, 12 intrastate white-tailed deer transport permits were issued.

As described in Section 49-11-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, the MDWFP may issue operating licenses to any person, partnership, association, or corporation for the operation of commercial wildlife enclosures. Each commercial wildlife enclosure shall contain a minimum of 300 acres in one tract of leased or owned land. During the 2011– 2012 permit years, 21 big game commercial wildlife enclosure licenses were issued.

Enclosure Management Assistance Program

As required by Public Notice W1-3780, all permitted high-fenced enclosures containing white-tailed deer must be enrolled in the Enclosure Management Assistance Program (EMAP). The owner of a permitted high-fenced enclosure must work with an MDWFP approved wildlife biologist to manage the white-tailed deer herd within the enclosure. The wildlife biologist must submit an annual management plan for the permitted high-fenced enclosure, which is incorporated into the Annual Facility Permit Application.

EMAP is a sub-level of DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Program). The starting point of EMAP is goal/objective setting by the enclosure owner to manage the white-tailed deer herd within their enclosure. Once goals and objectives are set, biological data are collected from harvested white-tailed deer, (i.e., weights, antler measurements, lactation data on does, and a jaw-bone pulled to determine the age of each deer harvested). The enclosure owner is responsible for the collection of biological data. The wildlife biologist is responsible for supplying the enclosure owner with harvest data sheets and jawbone tags.

After analyzing the harvest data and evaluating the habitat, the biologist will discuss harvest strategies with the enclosure owner to meet specific goals within limitations of maintaining a healthy herd and habitat. The wildlife biologist must submit EMAP deer harvest data to the MDWFP annually in the same manner as DMAP data are submitted. However, EMAP and DMAP deer harvest data will be maintained separately by the MDWFP.

EMAP cooperators receive a harvest summary report after each hunting season. This report contains a detailed analysis of current and historical harvest as well as graphs and charts that show trend directions while facilitating data interpretation. Progress towards the goals and objectives stated in the annual management plan will be continuously evaluated using this report.

For management of deer herds within high-fenced enclosures and upon the request of the wildlife biologist as outlined in the annual management plan, the MDWFP may issue management buck and doe tags to EMAP properties to allow the harvest of does and management bucks in excess of the annual and daily bag limits.

For the 2011 – 2012 hunting season, harvest data were submitted for 39 enclosures, with 436 bucks and 595 does harvested. For management purposes, 445 buck tags were issued to 31 enclosures with 116 buck tags reported as used, and 645 doe tags were issued to 34 enclosures.

Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance

Regulations adopted by the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (Public Notice W1-3780) allow the movement of captive white-tailed deer from one permitted high-fenced enclosure to another permitted high-fenced enclosure within Mississippi only if the high-fence enclosure from which the deer originate is participating in the *Mississippi White-tailed Deer Herd CWD Certification Program*. No person may import a live white-tailed deer into Mississippi pursuant to Section §49-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972.

It is the responsibility of the enclosure/breeding pen owner to obtain sampling supplies and collect samples. Retropharyngeal lymph nodes and obex tissue must be collected for testing.

The MDWFP supplies sampling data sheets to the enclosure/breeding pen owner. Once samples are collected, the MDWFP submits samples to the testing laboratory and supplies test results back to the enclosure/breeding pen owner. The contract laboratory for all captive CWD testing is the National Veterinary Services Laboratories. Visit www.mdwfp.com/deer for more information regarding the *Mississippi White-tailed Deer Herd CWD Certification Program*.

For the 2011 – 2012 permit year, 64 samples were taken from white-tailed deer within 5 high-fenced enclosures and submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories for CWD testing. All samples were tested and evidence of CWD was not detected in any of the samples.

Management Buck Tags

During the 2003 – 2004 hunting season, sub – 4 point bucks were legal for harvest for the first time since 1995. Sub – 4 point tags were issued by biologists to DMAP properties on a limited basis for management purposes. During the 2005 – 2006 season, tags were expanded to include management bucks. Management buck tags were issued to DMAP properties allowing additional harvest of sub-optimal bucks. Tagged bucks did not count against the annual bag limit. During the 2006 – 2007 season, tagged bucks did not count against the annual and daily bag limit. The management buck harvest criteria were for an individual property and determined by the DMAP biologist. A written management justification issued by the MDWFP must accompany any request for such a permit. Management bucks harvested under this permit must be identified with a tag immediately upon possession.

Management buck tags were issued to O'Keefe, Mahannah, and Twin Oaks WMAs for the 2011 – 2012 season. A total of 125 tags were issued to these WMAs and 44 of these tags were used. Since the 2003 – 2004 season, less than 70 tags were used by hunters annually on WMAs statewide, even though many more tags were available to hunters (**Figure 16**).

Management buck tags were issued to the following 141 DMAP properties for the 2011 – 2012 season: 22, 11 Shot, 3 Creeks, 3-Lake, Archer Island, Arkabutla COE, Ashbrook, Atwood, B&J/Sherman Hill, Barefoot, Battle Of Raymond, Bayou Boyz, BBBP. LLC, Beech Ridge, Bellweather, Big Black H.C., "Big Black WL, LLC", Big O, Big River Farms, Big Woods, Black Bayou, Black Bear Plantation, Black Prairie Outfitters, Bogue Falia, Bonanza, Box B, Bozeman Farms, Breakwater, Brierfield, Brooksville, Burke, C&F, Cameron, Carnell, Casey Jones, Casten's Creek, Caston Creek, Catfish, Cedar Ridge, Chad Bradford, Champion Hill, Chesterfield, Chief, Clark & Clark, Cobb's Crossing, Concordia, Cypress Bend, Cypress Run, Dancin Coyote, Dancin Coyote Adj, Deviney Free Range, Diddywahdiddy, Dixon Brothers, Dixon Lake, Donaldson Point HC, Double Deuce, Eastline, Elliott Lake, Filter Farms, Glascock Island, Golding Farms, Grimp, Gumbo Flats, Halifax, Hardtimes Plantation, Hartwood, Hawk's Grove, Head Hunters, Heifer Pasture, Higg's, Hightower, Hoffman, Homewood, Horseshoe, Independence, Interstate, Irwin, J. Cameron, Jeff Hunting Club, Kearney Park, Lester Spell, Magna Vista, Magna Vista Section, Mat. Arafat HC, Melrose, Melton Properties, Merigold, Millbrook, Montgomery Sligo, Montgomery Whitaker, Moore Farms, Nail's Bayou, NAS Meridian, Natchez Island, Outback, P&W, Palmer Farms, Palmyra, Palo Alto, Paradise, Pine Knot, Pinhook, Prewitt - Lodi, Primos Lease, Providence, Providence, Rabie's Retreat, Red Gate, Refuge, Richard Reid, Riverbend, Riverbend Game Club, Riverside, Rosedale, Sand Hills, Shadyside Timber, Sligo, Solitude, Steven Samson, T.F. Chaney, TCP HC, Techeva Valley, Tibby Creek , TN Bar, Togo Island, Tri Lakes , Triple Creek Game Club, Triple Oaks, Triple-C Farm, Tucker/Crosby, Ward Lake, White Oak, Whitehouse, Wildwood, Williams Farm, Willlow Oaks II, Willow Brake, Willow Oaks I, Wright's Creek, Yalobusha Farms, and Yazoo NWR.

A total of 1968 tags were issued to these DMAP properties and 650 of these tags were used. Although the number of DMAP properties issued tags increased, the number of tags used on DMAP properties actually slightly decreased when compared to the 2010 – 2011 season (**Figure 17**). However, use of these tags remains high. These tags allow the harvest of sub-optimal bucks that would otherwise be passed up by hunters because the deer would count against the daily and annual bag limit if the tags were not available. Removal of these deer aids in maintaining deer herds at or under habitat carrying capacity.

DMAP Antlerless Tags

MDWFP issues antlerless tags to DMAP properties. This allows the harvest of antlerless deer in excess of the annual and daily bag limits. These tags have been issued since the implementation of DMAP. When antlerless seasons were liberalized statewide, the need for antlerless tags was reduced. However, some landowners and managers still have the need for more antlerless harvest than state bag limits allow.

Antlerless tags are issued by DMAP biologists, based on an individual landowner's or manager's need. The tags can only be used on antlerless deer on the property to which they were issued.

DMAP biologists issued 5232 tags to 205 DMAP clubs during the 2011 – 2012 season. The increase in tags issued since the 2003 – 2004 season correlates to increased interest in deer management in Mississippi (**Figure 18**).

Fee Management Assistance Program

The Fee Management Assistance Program (FMAP) was implemented during the 1989 – 1990 season. It began as a pilot program in two north-central counties at the request of local conservation officers to control expanding deer populations. Under this program, doe tags were purchased for $10 each, at a rate of one per 50 acres. The landowner or club was required to show proof of ownership or hunting control. FMAP allowed the permittee to harvest antlerless deer in addition to the state bag limit. This program was accepted and quickly spread statewide. Sportsmen realized they could properly harvest does and still maintain a huntable population.

Initially, a large number of permits were sold. However, liberalization of antlerless opportunity has occurred throughout the state. This has decreased the need for permits in most areas to the point of considering termination of the program. There were only 31 FMAP permits sold during the 2011 – 2012 hunting season.

Continuation of the program is recommended because it provides an opportunity to harvest antlerless deer in excess of the season bag limit on specific areas that are in excess of the environmental carrying capacity.

Figure 16. Buck Tags Issued and Used on WMAs

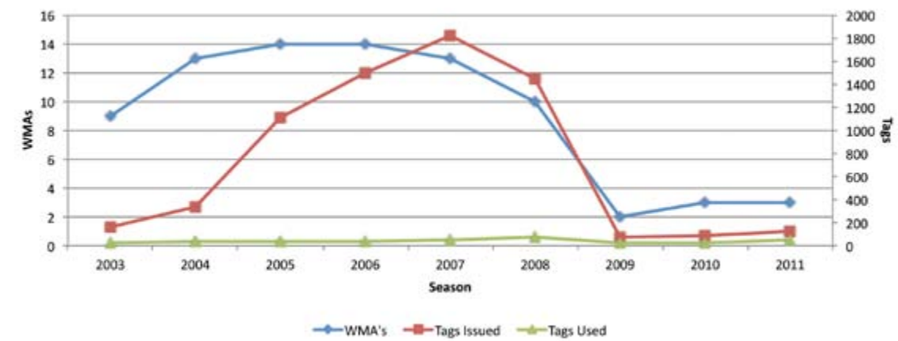


Figure 17. Buck Tags Issued and Used on DMAP Properties

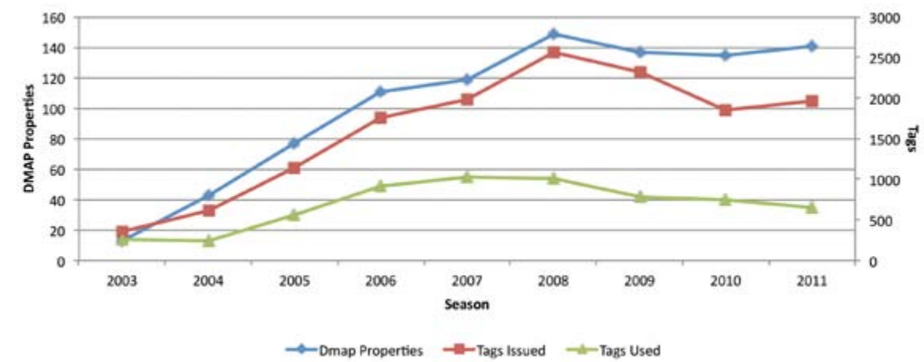
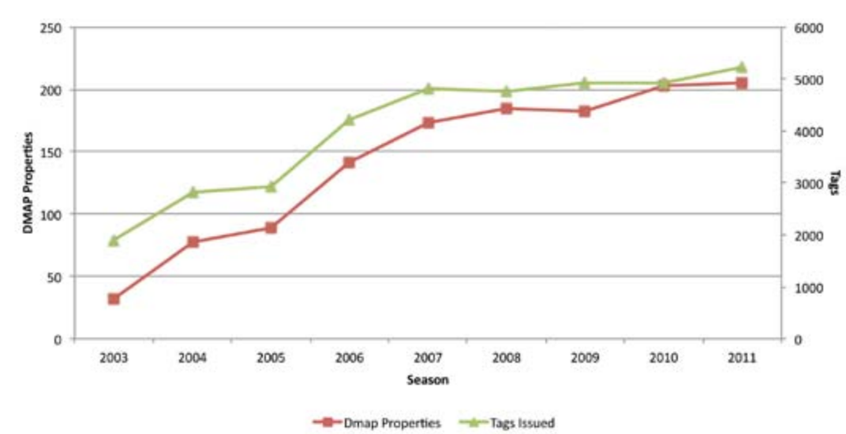


Figure 18. Antlerless Deer Tags Issued on DMAP Properties



Urban Deer Management

The 2011 deer season marked the second year of implementation of the City of Oxford's urban deer management plan. This management plan was the result of years of conflict between residents and an expanding deer herd, and was developed by the City of Oxford Emergency Management Office, United States Department of Agriculture / Wildlife Services (USDA/WS), and the MDWFP Deer Program. The goal of this plan was to ensure a safe and effective system to manage the deer population residing within the boundaries of the City of Oxford. The plan includes methods to ensure public safety and reduce property damage caused by overpopulation within urban areas.

This plan was originated because Oxford is a mix of rural and urban environments containing substantial wildlife habitat. This landscape creates the potential for conflict between residents and wildlife. The natural habitat for deer in Oxford and in the surrounding areas is being continuously reduced and encroached upon. This encroachment has increased the deer density within Oxford, which has also increased deer vehicle collisions, destruction of landscaping and yard plantings, and may alter the ecosystem in some of the less developed areas of the city.

The objectives of this plan included educating the public in an awareness program of how wildlife and humans interact and the impact that they have on each other, developing a Wildlife Task Force that will monitor and update the management plan on a regular basis, and by developing a community oriented set of controls that will limit or reduce the growth of the deer population. These objectives were carried out using the following methods:

A) Documentation of the deer density through surveys conducted on 3 different routes in problem areas of the city.

B) Decrease attractiveness of portions of the city to deer by using non-lethal techniques such as community education, habitat modification, selection of lower preference landscaping plants, use of repellents on ornamentals, construction of fences around backyards and gardens, employment of scare tactics, and a strict ban on supplementally feeding deer.

C) Annual managed archery hunts within the city limits. These hunts require hunters to be at least 30 years of age, gain access to individual properties by obtaining the landowner's permission, attend a training class, and show adequate proficiency with archery gear.

In the 2011 hunting season, archery hunting was allowed beginning on October 1. Participating hunters were required to take does prior to taking bucks and to collect biological data on each deer after harvest. The results of the 2011 hunt have not been submitted by city officials.

In the future, more municipalities will have similar challenges, especially those with significant amounts of deer habitat existing within the city limits. The MDWFP Deer Program and United States Department of Agriculture / Wildlife Services (USDA/WS) is prepared to use the example set by the city of Oxford as a template for managing urban deer herds in other municipalities.

Chad Dacus

Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

Through a cooperative research program with Mississippi State University in 1976, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks gained information which provided biologists with the ability to evaluate population density relative to carrying capacity, using condition indicators rather than population estimates or browse surveys. This Cooperative Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) directly involved hunters in management through the collection of biological data. The interpretation of these data, in consultation with a biologist, is the guiding principle of DMAP. From a two-county pilot project in its first year, DMAP grew steadily until participation peaked in 1994 at almost 1,200 cooperators with over 3.25 million acres under management.

SPECIAL NOTE: Beginning with the 2001 data, the MDWFP began using a new computer summary program (XtraNet). This may be the cause for drastic differences in some numbers. Once all of the historic data is entered into the XtraNet system the numbers are expected to fall along the same trend, thus eliminating the drastic drop currently observed in the graphs and tables. Additionally, the statewide summary table and all graphs include harvest reports from Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) that collect deer harvest data. WMA and NWR data is not included in the soil region summary tables.

Liberalized season structure and bag limits during the mid-1990's allowed land managers the flexibility to meet harvest objectives outside DMAP guidelines, which resulted in a decline in DMAP participation (**Figure 20**). This decline reduced both total acreage and number of cooperators in DMAP. Current enrollment includes 538 cooperators on 1,268,161 acres. Total DMAP cooperators have consistently declined since 2002. Total DMAP harvest has mirrored the changes in cooperators and acreage in DMAP over the past few years (**Figure 21**).

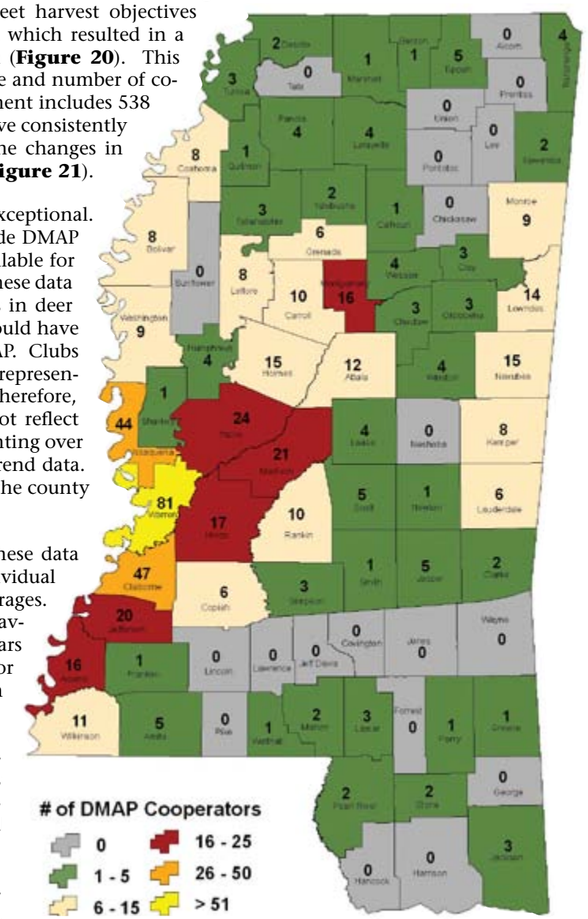
The ability to collect and analyze DMAP data has been exceptional. Hundreds of thousands of deer are now part of the statewide DMAP database. In excess of 10,000 deer have annually been available for comparative purposes since 1983 (**Figure 21**). Analysis of these data over time captured the obvious trends and subtle changes in deer herd condition and structure. These trends and changes would have gone undocumented and possibly undetected without DMAP. Clubs and landowners participating in DMAP may or may not be representative of hunter goals and objectives on a statewide basis. Therefore, deer condition and herd structure on DMAP lands may not reflect herds on un-managed lands. However, a data source representing over 1.25 million acres is credible and can be used to examine trend data. The extensive statewide coverage of private lands DMAP at the county level can be seen in **Table 10**.

All DMAP data are evaluated based on soil region. These data are presented in **Tables 15-25**. These summaries allow individual DMAP cooperators to compare their data to soil region averages. In these tables are two sets of averages as well. The first is an average from 1991 – 1994 and the second is of the last five years (2007 – 2011). The 1991 – 1994 average is the four years prior to the 4-point law. Significant differences are obvious when comparing these averages.

A significant trend in DMAP data is obvious. The average age of all harvested bucks has increased from 2.1 years old in 1991 to 3.2 years old in 2011 (**Figure 23**). In addition, these older age class bucks are being produced and harvested on a declining acreage base (**Figure 24**).

The percentage of harvested bucks in the older age classes (4½+) has increased for the last four seasons (**Figure 25**). Notice in the same graph, the corresponding decline in the percentage of 2½ year old bucks over the same time period. These changes are very evident when comparing the past 10 years to the 1991 – 1994 average. In addition, the slight increase in 1½ year old bucks since 2005 can be attributed to the more wide

Figure 19.
DMAP Cooperators by County



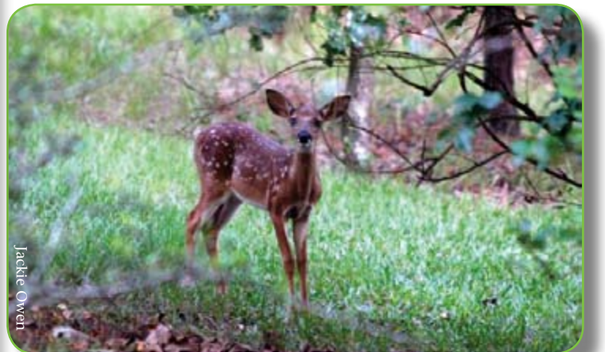
scale use of management buck tags and liberalization of youth harvest criteria for bucks.

Statewide condition data for harvested deer on WMAs, NWRs, and DMAP properties are presented in **Table 14**. This table presents trend data on various antler parameters such as spread, length, circumference, and points. Other information, such as weight and lactation data are also provided in this table.

Soil region condition data of harvested deer on private land DMAP properties only are presented in **Tables 15-25**. These tables also present trend data on various antler parameters such as spread, length, circumference, and points. Other information, such as weight and lactation data are provided in these tables as well. WMA and NWR harvested deer are not included in the soil region tables to give a better representation of the deer herd on private lands on DMAP.

A comparison of WMAs/NWRs to DMAP properties reveals some interesting trends as well. On DMAP properties, doe harvest has exceeded buck harvest since the early 1990's, but on WMAs/NWRs doe harvest has only exceeded buck harvest 6 out of the past 10 years. Since 2004, acres per deer harvested have declined on both DMAP and WMAs/NWRs. Since 2003 on WMAs/NWRs, it is taking fewer acres to produce 3½+ bucks (**Table 11**). This is most likely due to the implementation of minimum spread/main beam criteria on these WMAs/NWRs. Bucks harvested on DMAP properties on average were 0.5 years older, had 2 inch longer main beams, and inside spread was 1.5 inches wider than bucks harvested on WMAs/NWRs. The average size of bucks harvested on the WMAs declined last season, and we expect that decline to continue for at least one more year, as the antler criteria on most of the WMAs was reduced to the statewide criteria. One thing to remember about the harvest data from WMAs/NWRs is that these are minimum harvest numbers. Compliance with turning in data on some WMAs and NWRs is poor.


Chad Dacus


Jackie Owen

MS Outdoors co-host Amanda Mills with the buck she harvested on a DMAP property in Madison County.

Figure 20. DMAP Acreage & Cooperators

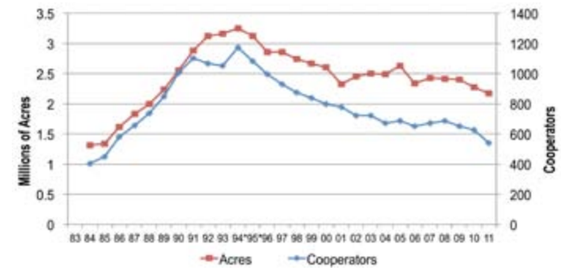


Figure 21. DMAP Deer Harvest

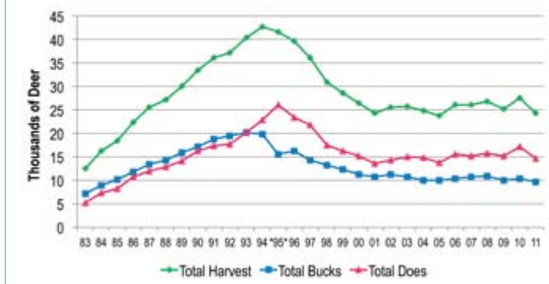


Figure 22. Acres/Deer Harvested

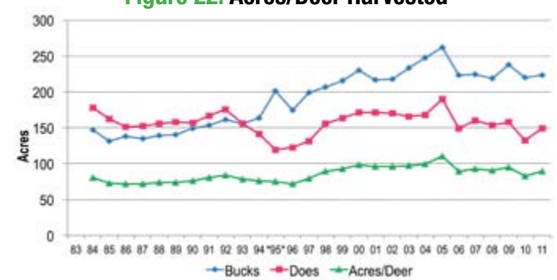


Figure 23. Average Age All Bucks

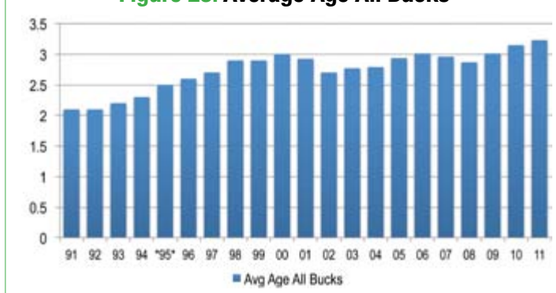


Figure 24. Acres/3.5+ Year Old Bucks

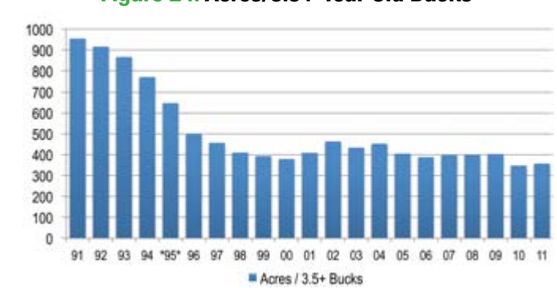


Figure 25. Percentage of Bucks by Age Class

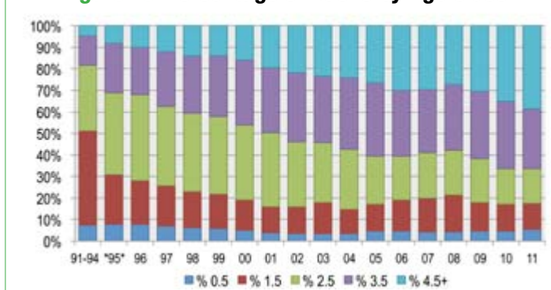


Table 10. DMAP Participation and Harvest by County During the 2010-2011 Season

County	Cooperators	Acres	Harvest		
			Bucks	Does	Total
Adams	16	46,188	332	506	838
Alcorn					
Amite	5	13,828	64	88	152
Attala	12	38,988	260	362	622
Benton	1	1,200	7	17	24
Bolivar	8	54,359	202	386	588
Calhoun	1	1,850	9	17	26
Carroll	10	15,381	112	210	322
Chickasaw					
Choctaw	3	5,617	33	38	71
Claiborne	47	72,552	675	1,023	1,698
Clarke	2	9,400	20	34	54
Clay	3	8,685	32	67	99
Coahoma	8	43,664	180	216	396
Copiah	6	15,725	102	156	258
Covington					
Desoto	2	6,537	14	17	31
Forrest					
Franklin	1	1,700	7	4	11
George					
Greene	1	1,452	3	2	5
Grenada	6	21,685	69	180	249
Hancock					
Harrison					
Hinds	17	29,844	180	393	573
Holmes	15	29,553	147	313	460
Humphries	4	9,538	28	48	76
Issaquena	44	93,249	594	755	1,349
Itawamba	2	14,675	60	79	139
Jackson	3	7,004	24	19	43
Jasper	5	6,939	29	102	131
Jefferson	20	36,540	194	488	682
Jeff Davis					
Jones					
Kemper	8	19,442	99	156	255
Lafayette	4	10,055	38	93	131
Lamar	3	5,008	12	19	31
Lauderdale	6	33,730	124	191	315
Lawrence					
Leake	4	9,890	65	86	151
Lee					

County	Cooperators	Acres	Harvest		
			Bucks	Does	Total
Leflore	8	15,390	40	99	139
Lincoln					
Lowndes	14	23,093	108	193	301
Madison	21	48,593	319	787	1,106
Marion	2	8,320	51	51	102
Marshall	1	2,300	5	5	10
Monroe	9	18,343	101	258	359
Montgomery	16	31,778	157	201	358
Neshoba					
Newton	1	3,495	24	30	54
Noxubee	15	42,683	265	384	649
Oktibbeha	3	3,527	6	24	30
Panola	4	7,530	37	134	171
Pearl River	2	3,840	7	12	19
Perry	1	1,810	7	6	13
Pike					
Pontotoc					
Prentiss					
Quitman	1	6,656	13	104	117
Rankin	10	21,500	112	166	278
Scott	5	11,560	42	101	143
Sharkey	1	424	2	1	3
Simpson	3	14,014	51	67	118
Smith	1	7,400	40	43	83
Stone	2	2,400	10	7	17
Sunflower					
Tallahatchie	3	5,066	16	45	61
Tate					
Tippah	5	19,215	76	153	229
Tishomingo	4	12,557	50	37	87
Tunica	3	9,264	17	13	30
Union					
Walthall	1	5,600	34	33	67
Warren	81	116,153	1,039	1,427	2,466
Washington	9	48,350	239	246	485
Wayne					
Webster	4	11,331	78	117	195
Wilkinson	11	37,433	269	359	628
Winston	4	9,531	41	89	130
Yalobusha	2	6,451	25	39	64
Yazoo	24	48,276	436	193	1,229
TOTAL	267	664,278	3,715	6,065	9,780

Table 11. Harvest Summary of Bucks by Age Class: WMAs, National Wildlife Refuges, and DMAP

Season	Sample	0.5 Bucks		1.5 Bucks		2.5 Bucks		3.5 Bucks		4.5+ Bucks		Avg. Age All Bucks	Total 3.5+ Bucks	Acres/ 3.5+ Bucks
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%			
1991	17,850	1,250	7.0	8,392	47.0	5,280	29.6	2,200	12.3	677	3.8	2.1	2,877	960
1992	17,631	1,410	8.0	8,025	45.5	5,154	29.2	2,255	12.8	831	4.7	2.1	3,086	847
1993	18,585	1,301	7.0	8,527	45.9	5,488	29.5	2,489	13.4	852	4.6	2.1	3,341	740
1994	19,128	1,530	8.0	7,063	36.9	6,529	34.1	3,020	15.8	1,045	5.5	2.2	4,065	685
1995	14,650	1,172	8.0	3,391	23.1	5,503	37.6	3,367	23.0	1,187	8.1	2.5	4,554	560
1996	16,350	1,308	8.0	3,246	19.9	6,489	39.7	3,601	22.0	1,697	10.4	2.3	5,298	500
1997	14,405	1,296	9.0	2,737	19.0	5,474	38.0	3,601	25.0	1,585	11.0	2.4	5,186	456
1998	13,278	1,062	8.0	2,257	17.0	4,913	37.0	3,452	26.0	1,859	14.0	2.5	5,311	410
1999	12,336	740	6.0	1,974	16.0	4,441	36.0	3,454	28.0	1,727	14.0	2.9	5,181	393
2000	11,329	566	5.0	1,586	14.0	3,965	35.0	3,399	30.0	1,813	16.0	3.0	5,211	379
2001	10,639	404	3.8	1,319	12.4	3,660	34.4	3,192	30.0	2,064	19.4	2.7	5,256	468
2002	11,258	394	3.5	1,396	12.4	3,411	30.3	3,580	31.8	2,466	21.9	2.8	6,046	438
2003	10,737	374	3.5	1,546	14.4	2,974	27.7	3,328	31.0	2,512	23.4	2.8	5,841	456
2004	10,100	362	3.6	1,121	11.1	2,818	27.9	3,373	33.4	2,424	24.0	2.9	5,797	463
2005	9,719	452	4.7	1,205	12.4	2,196	22.6	3,285	33.8	2,576	26.5	2.9	5,861	408
2006	10,246	460	4.5	1,506	14.7	2,070	20.2	3,125	30.5	3,074	30.0	3.0	6,199	387
2007	10,026	426	4.3	1,564	15.6	2,115	21.1	2,938	29.3	2,978	29.7	3.0	5,915	401
2008	10,234	438	4.3	1,750	17.1	2,129	20.8	3,142	30.7	2,763	27.0	2.9	5,905	346
2009	10,033	472	4.7	1,354	13.5	2,027	20.2	3,120	31.1	3,060	30.5	3.0	6,180	401
2010	10,341	496	4.8	1,293	12.5	1,706	16.5	3,630	35.1	3,630	35.1	3.2	7,259	347
2011	9,468	528	5.6	1,146	12.1	1,553	16.4	2,642	27.9	3,598	38.0	3.2	6,240	358

1995 Four points or better law initiated and bag limit changed from 5 bucks and 3 antlerless to 3 bucks and 5 antlerless with DMAP and FMAP participants exempt from the annual bag limit; 2 additional antlerless deer may be taken with achery equipment.

Table 12. Comparison of WMAs and National Wildlife Refuges vs. Private Lands DMAP

	Acres		Total Deer		Bucks		Does		Acres/Deer		Acres/Buck		Acres/Does	
	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public
2001	1,651,465	672,467	21,362	2,934	9,162	1,571	12,200	1,363	77	229	180	428	135	493
2002	1,784,033	664,467	22,878	2,740	9,779	1,488	13,099	1,252	78	243	182	447	136	531
2003	1,819,587	684,967	23,401	2,431	9,442	1,278	13,959	1,153	78	282	193	536	130	594
2004	1,858,150	627,746	23,042	1,844	9,152	903	13,890	941	81	340	203	695	134	667
2005	1,701,621	726,346	21,585	2,310	8,912	1,148	12,673	1,162	79	314	191	633	134	625
2006	1,644,169	694,682	23,678	2,455	9,304	1,178	14,374	1,277	69	283	177	590	114	544
2007	1,671,498	756,762	23,054	3,007	9,177	1,672	13,877	1,335	73	252	182	453	120	567
2008	1,645,261	765,780	23,086	3,691	9,223	1,807	13,863	1,884	71	207	178	424	119	406
2009	1,629,220	767,216	21,853	3,461	8,450	1,658	13,403	1,803	75	222	193	463	122	426
2010	1,543,744	726,671	23,993	3,545	8,782	1,559	15,211	1,986	64	205	176	466	101	366
2011	1,336,729	803,417	19,563	4,203	7,449	2,066	12,114	2,137	68	191	179	389	110	376

Table 13. Comparison of Bucks Harvested on WMAs and National Wildlife Refuges vs. Private Lands DMAP

	Average Age		Average Points		Average Length		Average Spread		Acres/3.5+	
	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public
2001	2.7	2.4	7.2	6.8	15.9	14.1	13.0	11.3	359	1,582
2002	2.8	2.5	7.3	6.8	16.3	14.2	13.2	11.4	346	1,359
2003	2.9	2.1	7.2	5.7	16.5	12.1	13.3	10.1	346	2,429
2004	2.9	2.6	7.2	7.1	16.4	15.1	13.4	12.6	361	2,299
2005	3.0	2.4	7.2	6.2	16.6	13.6	13.6	11.3	300	2,249
2006	3.1	2.4	7.1	6.3	16.5	14.1	13.5	11.6	293	1,666
2007	3.0	2.7	7.1	6.6	16.5	14.3	13.6	11.6	311	1,024
2008	2.9	2.6	7.0	6.5	16.2	14.1	13.5	11.7	310	1,055
2009	3.1	2.7	7.3	7.0	16.8	15.0	13.8	12.4	312	1,048
2010	3.2	3.0	7.3	7.2	17.3	15.9	14.0	13.0	270	915
2011	3.3	2.8	7.4	6.9	17.1	15.0	14.1	12.4	266	915

Figure 26. Total Deer Harvest: Private vs. Public

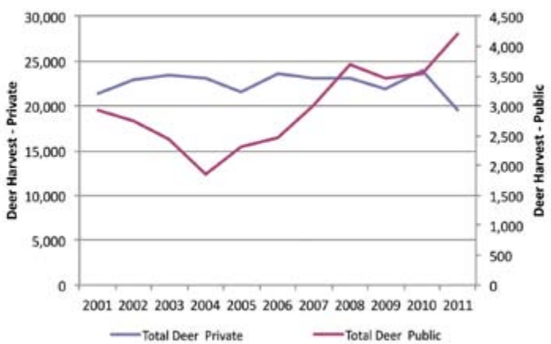


Figure 27. Acres/Deer Harvested: Private vs. Public

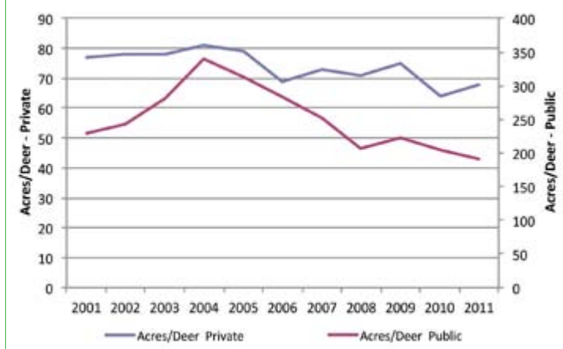


Figure 28. Acres/3.5+ Year Old Buck Harvested: Private vs. Public

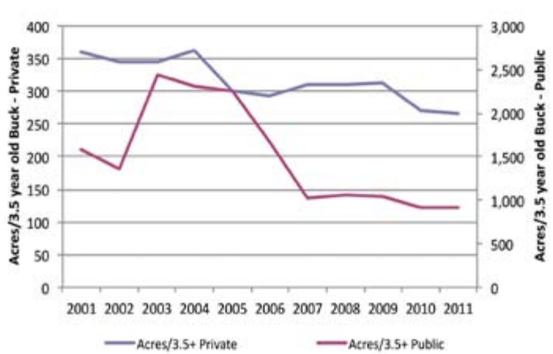


Figure 29. Average Age All Bucks: Private vs. Public

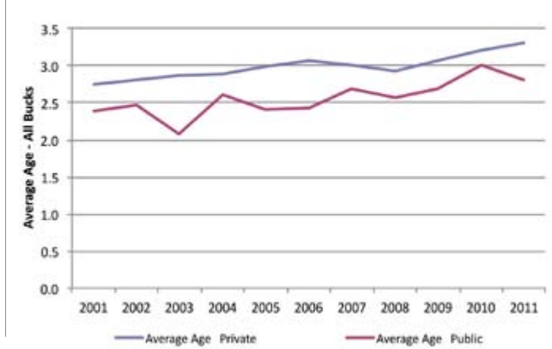


Table 14. Statewide Compiled Data (DMAP, NWR, WMA)

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'96-'11
Acres	2,127,146	2,275,245	2,396,436	2,411,041	2,428,260	2,338,851	2,427,967	2,485,896	2,504,554	2,448,500	3,105,186	2,201,196
Total Deer	23,675	27,650	25,314	26,777	26,061	26,133	23,895	24,886	25,832	25,618	39,138	25,663
Bucks	9,468	10,386	10,108	11,030	10,849	10,482	10,060	10,055	10,720	11,267	19,562	9,927
Does	14,207	17,264	15,206	15,747	15,212	15,651	13,835	14,831	15,112	14,351	19,576	15,736
Acres/Deer	90	82	95	90	93	89	102	100	97	96	79.5	86
Bucks	225	219	237	219	224	223	241	247	234	217	159	222
Does	150	132	158	153	160	149	175	168	166	171	160	140
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.22	3.15	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.2	2.75
Avg. Points ALL Bucks	7.31	7.32	7.2	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.3	4.8	7.05
Avg. Length ALL Bucks	16.7	17.09	16.6	15.9	16.2	16.3	16.4	16.4	16.0	16.0	10.4	15.81
Avg Spread ALL Bucks	13.76	13.91	13.6	13.2	13.3	13.3	13.4	13.4	13.0	13.0	8.7	12.91
Acres/ 3.5+ Bucks	358	346	403	400	398	388	405	459	452	434	808	352
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	5.58	4.8	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	7.5	5.19
Weight	67.4	63.4	62	64	67	66	73	66	71	75	63	65.08
% 1.5 Yr.	12.1	12.5	14	17	16	15	12	11	14	12	44	12.32
Weight	113.4	108.7	109	115	113	114	114	112	111	118	115	114.42
Points	2.7	2.5	2.6	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.6	4.5	3.2	3.64
Circumf.	2	2	2	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.31
Length	5.6	5.1	5.6	6.5	5.5	6.6	6.6	7.2	7.4	9.0	6.8	7.42
Spread	5.7	5.4	5.7	6.2	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.7	6.6	7.5	6.0	6.69
% 2.5 Yr.	16.4	16.5	20	21	21	20	23	28	28	30	31	16.43
Weight	146.6	148.2	147	150	148	148	149	149	148	150	148	148.08
Points	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.0	6.6	6.89
Circumf.	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.41
Length	14.5	14.9	14.9	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.7	14.0	14.47
Spread	12.1	12.1	12.3	12.2	12.0	12.0	11.9	12.0	11.7	11.9	11.4	11.81
% 3.5 Yr.	27.9	31.2	31	31	29	31	34	33	31	32	14	29.54
Weight	168	173.1	170	169	169	168	170	169	172	169	163	168.87
Points	7.8	8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.8
Circumf.	4	4.1	4.1	4	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4
Length	17.5	18.1	17.8	17.4	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.3	17.6	17.2	16.7	17.43
Spread	14.2	14.5	14.4	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.0	14.1	13.9	13.5	14.08
% 4.5+ Yr.	38	35	31	27	30	30	27	24	23	22	5	36.52
Weight	185.3	184.9	183	182	184	185	185	185	186	184	173	183.3
Points	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.33
Circumf.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.48
Length	19.6	19.9	19.8	19.4	19.9	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.5	18.6	19.59
Spread	15.6	15.7	15.8	15.5	15.8	15.8	15.7	15.7	15.6	15.5	14.9	15.6
# 4.5 Yr.	2,038	2,115	1,785	1,720	1,840	1,672	1,627	1,454	1,508	1,482	589	2,076.50
Weight	182.6	184.5	182	180	182	183	181	182	184	182	173	181.41
Points	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.28
Circumf.	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.4
Length	19.3	19.6	19.5	19	19.6	19.3	19.2	19.4	19.4	19.2	18.6	19.25
Spread	15.5	15.5	15.6	15.3	15.6	15.5	15.4	15.6	15.4	15.3	14.8	15.39

Table 14. continued

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'96-'11
# 5.5 Yr.	890	881	738	732	738	835	648	525	571	579	151	885.5
Weight	188.8	186.3	185	182	186	186	189	189	190	186	174	186.1
Points	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	7.9	8.44
Circumf.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.59
Length	19.9	20.3	20	19.8	20.1	19.9	20.4	20.2	20.2	20.0	18.9	20.04
Spread	15.8	16	16	15.7	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.0	15.9	15.9	15.1	15.9
# 6.5 Yr.	353	320	305	271	350	328	235	193	198	146	44	336.5
Weight	189.8	186.3	182	188	188	191	192	192	191	191	176	187.74
Points	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.1	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.42
Circumf.	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.66
Length	20.1	20.4	20.2	20.3	20.7	21.0	20.7	20.4	20.4	20.6	19.4	20.43
Spread	15.8	16.1	16.1	16.2	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.1	15.8	16.4	15.2	16.14
# 7.5 Yr.	93	103	70	61	80	98	77	64	70	45	18	98
Weight	197.3	184.7	184	184	189	192	192	189	190	192	168	187.98
Points	8.2	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.7	8.3	8.6	7.4	8.38
Circumf.	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.69
Length	20.4	20.3	20.7	19.9	21.3	21.0	20.6	20.8	20.6	20.2	18.3	20.47
Spread	16	15.8	16.3	16.1	16.5	16.3	16.0	16.6	16.6	15.3	15.0	16.07
# 8.5+ Yr.	52	62	48	48	63	59	46	27	34	44	11	57
Weight	179.5	174.1	185	180	189	186	195	183	185	180	171	183.19
Points	8.3	8	8	7.9	8.3	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.8	8.0	7.5	8.1
Circumf.	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.64
Length	20	19.7	20.1	19.6	20.8	20.8	19.8	18.6	19.2	20.1	18.5	19.91
Spread	15.5	15.6	15.4	15.9	16.6	16.3	15.5	15.0	15.1	15.7	14.4	15.78
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	8	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.3	6.9	6.3	6.6	12.5	7.52
% 1.5 Yr.	19.5	20.4	19.4	22.8	23.7	20.2	20.2	21.9	23.2	21.7	59.3	19.99
% 2.5 Yr.	20.7	21.3	24.6	22.5	22.6	20.5	22.2	24.7	22.8	23.4	66.0	21
% 3.5+ Yr.	51.8	51.2	48.8	47.7	46.8	52.4	50.3	46.6	47.7	48.3	69.8	51.49
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	64.2	62.5	61.1	61.1	66.3	64.0	65.1	63.8	66.8	66.4	11.3	62.88
Weight 1.5 Yr.	98	94.8	94.5	97.4	97.9	98.1	97.4	95.8	96.3	99.1	23.3	96.42
Weight 2.5 Yr.	109.7	108.7	109.1	109.4	110.4	109.4	110.6	108.7	108.2	109.9	23.5	108.64
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	115.7	115.2	114.3	115.3	116.4	116.1	116.7	115.3	116.4	115.8	42.3	115.26
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	11.4	9.8	10.2	10.4	10.9	11.4	12.5	11.3	10.1	12.3	60.0	10.94
2.5 Yr.	56	52	54.0	47.0	59.0	59.0	57.0	56.0	56.0	58.0	95.8	58.04
2.5+ Yr.	66.1	61.2	61.9	57.5	67.7	67.6	66.1	63.3	64.0	65.4	108.3	65.59
3.5+ Yr.	69.5	64.8	65.5	62.4	71.7	71.1	70.0	67.3	67.9	69.2	114.5	69.56
All Antlerless H'vst												
% 0.5 Yr. Bk Fawns	3.5	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.7	7.0	3.1
% 0.5 Yr. Doe Fawns	7.7	6.9	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.7	7.1	6.7	6.1	6.4	10.3	7.3
% 1.5 Yr. Does	18.9	19.9	18.8	22.2	23.0	19.7	19.6	21.4	22.7	21.1	21.5	19.4
% 2.5 Yr. Does	19.9	19.9	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.7	23.7	21.8	21.8	21.8	22.0	19.9
% 3.5+ Yr. Does	50	49.7	47.3	46.4	45.5	50.9	48.7	45.5	46.6	47.0	39.3	49.9

Figure 30

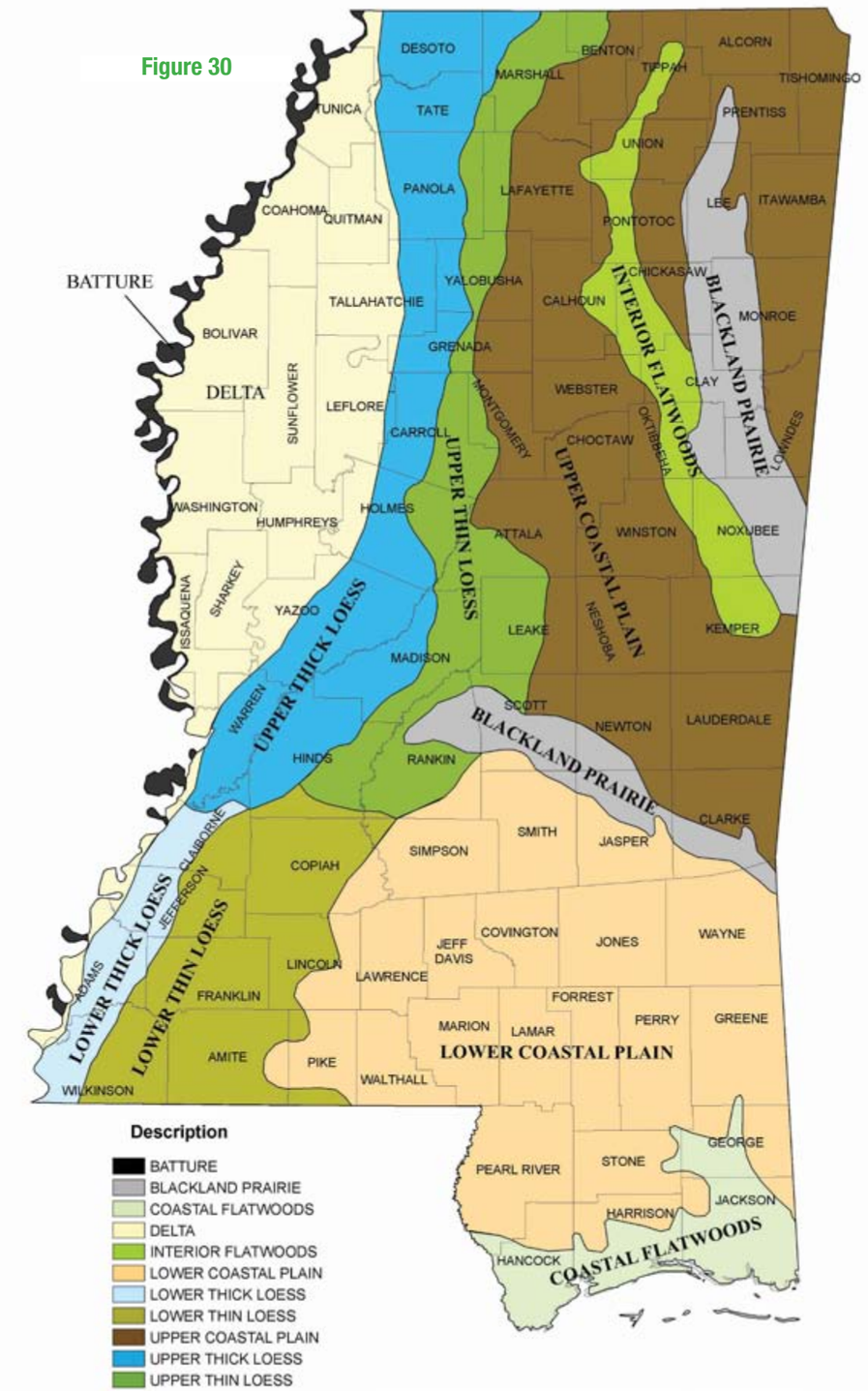


Table 15. Batture Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	262,679	296,459	284,132	267,802	270,363	261,765	266,932	254,436	243,717	248,120	172,527	276,287
Total Deer	3,451	5,364	4,112	3,881	5,313	4,710	4,551	4,338	4,754	4,771	2,906	4,424
Bucks	1,529	2,161	1,811	1,887	2,159	1,926	1,892	1,673	1,958	1,955	1,449	1,909
Does	1,922	3,203	2,301	1,994	3,154	2,784	2,659	2,665	2,796	2,816	1,457	2,515
Acres/Deer	76	55	69	69	51	56	59	59	51	52	60	62
Bucks	172	137	157	142	125	136	141	152	124	127	119	145
Acres/3.5+ Bucks	197	159	189	185	162	168	183	207	171	191	693	178
Does	137	93	123	134	86	94	100	95	87	88	120	110
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.974	3.749	3.682	3.352	3.553	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.2	2.4	3.662
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	2.1	2.2	2.2	1.2	3.6	4	3	3	4	3	6	2.3
Weight	76	69	65	65	71	69	68	71	84	73	73	69.3
% 1.5 Yr.	2.9	3.8	1.7	8.4	7.5	6	6	5	5	4	28	4.9
Weight	111	110	111	118	124	124	114	116	111	117	134	114.7
Points	2.4	2.1	2.9	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	3.9	2.4
Circumf.	2	2	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.4	2
Length	5.8	5.9	4.3	5.8	5.7	6.6	5.1	5.7	5.5	4.6	8.2	5.5
Spread	6.3	5.7	5.1	6.1	5.7	6.0	5.4	6.0	5.8	5.5	7.1	5.8
% 2.5 Yr.	8.3	7.4	12.3	16.4	13	11	15	14	14	21	49	11.5
Weight	164	174	167	165	170	166	160	167	167	166	169	168.1
Points	7	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.3
Circumf.	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.7
Length	16.4	17.3	16.4	16.2	16.9	16.9	16.4	17.1	16.8	16.6	15.5	16.7
Spread	13.8	14.3	13.6	13.6	13.9	13.9	13.4	14.0	13.8	13.6	13.0	13.8
% 3.5 Yr.	23.8	34.4	35.3	34.1	30.5	33	35	34	39	39	14	31.6
Weight	193	190	188	185	188	183	184	185	188	185	187	188.8
Points	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2	8	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2
Circumf.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
Length	19.9	19.7	19.5	19	19.3	19.4	19.8	19.6	19.6	19.1	18.7	19.5
Spread	16.2	15.8	15.9	15.6	15.7	15.5	15.7	15.8	15.6	15.3	15.4	15.8
% 4.5+ Yr.	62.9	52.1	48.6	39.8	45.4	46	42	44	38	33	4	49.8
Weight	197	195	194	193	197	193	192	193	196	194	198	195.3
Points	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5
Circumf.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Length	20.8	21	20.8	20.4	21.2	20.9	21.2	20.9	20.9	20.6	20.8	20.8
Spread	16.5	16.5	16.9	16.4	17	16.6	16.6	16.8	16.6	16.3	16.8	16.7
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	6	6	7	5	10	11	6	6	11	6	14	6.9
2.5 Yr.	58	54	56	31	69	65	52	58	55	47	58	53.5
3.5+ Yr.	74	65	67	49	77	77	67	69	65	59	68	66.4
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	6.4	3.6	5.6	2.9	7.8	7	6	6	7	6	11	5.3
% 1.5 Yr.	15.6	22.3	11.2	28.6	27.5	20	19	21	18	21	20	21
% 2.5 Yr.	27	20.6	34.1	27.6	23.6	23	27	25	27	31	30	26.6
% 3.5+ Yr.	51.1	53.5	49.1	40.8	41.2	50	49	48	47	43	39	47.1
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	65	67	65	64	71	68	68	66	68	69	68	66.4
Weight 1.5 Yr.	99	98	100	98	104	104	98	98	101	100	108	99.8
Weight 2.5 Yr.	112	115	114	113	117	114	114	112	112	114	121	114.3
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	121	120	119	122	123	121	121	119	122	123	126	121.1

Table 16. Delta Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	185,191	204,611	203,151	184,080	180,753	194,947	194,678	207,194	179,137	180,491	254,153	191,557
Total Deer	2,392	2,639	1,857	1,799	2,071	2,356	2,204	2,381	2,378	2,203	3,909	2,152
Bucks	849	969	774	820	802	889	869	897	1,000	927	1,830	843
Does	1,543	1,670	1,083	979	1,269	1,467	1,335	1,484	1,378	1,276	1,457	1,309
Acres/Deer	77	78	109	102	87	83	88	87	75	82	66	89
Bucks	218	211	262	224	225	219	224	231	179	195	140	227
Acres/3.5+ Bucks	314	278	370	361	346	358	271	363	290	329	962	334
Does	120	123	188	188	142	133	146	140	130	141	124	146
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.419	3.392	3.151	3.03	2.996	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.1	3.198
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	4.3	4.5	3.6	3.4	4.3	7	3	4	4	4	8	4
Weight	72	75	70	80	76	75	74	74	69	76	70	74.8
% 1.5 Yr.	8.8	11.1	10.6	17.2	18.5	18	7	5	6	4	41	13.2
Weight	130	130	128	126	125	125	123	130	126	133	134	127.8
Points	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.4	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.5	2.3
Circumf.	2.2	2.1	2	2.1	2	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.1
Length	5.2	5.3	5.7	5.4	4.7	5.1	4.9	7.4	7.9	8.2	7.3	5.3
Spread	5.5	5.4	5.8	5.5	4.8	5.0	5.7	7.5	7.3	8.2	6.4	5.4
% 2.5 Yr.	13.6	7.9	13.1	16	15.2	14	17	26	24	26	36	13.2
Weight	172	171	170	170	170	172	170	173	175	170	169	170.7
Points	7.8	7.2	6.8	7	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.2
Circumf.	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.6
Length	16.4	16.6	15.3	15.5	16.6	16.6	16.5	16.9	16.6	16.2	15.1	16.1
Spread	14.3	13.9	13.4	13.1	13.9	14.2	13.6	14.1	13.6	13.5	12.8	13.7
% 3.5 Yr.	30.1	31.6	38.3	29.1	27.6	31	38	36	38	39	12	31.4
Weight	197	198	192	193	194	191	189	190	192	187	187	194.6
Points	8.3	8.6	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.4
Circumf.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.3
Length	19.9	19.8	19.2	19	19.5	19.4	19.0	19.1	18.9	18.4	18.0	19.5
Spread	16	16.1	15.5	15.7	16	15.9	15.5	15.7	15.2	14.9	14.9	15.9
% 4.5+ Yr.	43.1	44.8	34.4	34.3	34.4	31	35	29	28	28	4	38.2
Weight	208	205	202	202	204	201	200	199	201	196	197	204.3
Points	8.8	8.8	8.4	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5
Circumf.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.7
Length	20.9	21	20.5	20.1	21	20.5	20.6	20.8	20.1	19.9	19.5	20.7
Spread	16.8	16.7	16.6	16.3	17.1	16.5	16.6	16.6	15.9	16.3	15.8	16.7
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	13	14	17	9	18	17	16	12	11	12	16	14.1
2.5 Yr.	63	60	62	42	64	61	60	57	59	59	58	58.2
3.5+ Yr.	68	65	66	52	71	71	68	67	68	69	71	64.5
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	8.2	7.2	5.6	4.9	7.3	10	10	9	9	8	12	6.7
% 1.5 Yr.	19.1	19.3	16.5	27	21.6	21	20	21	25	20	21	20.7
% 2.5 Yr.	26.3	21	28.2	25	25	20	23	27	24	26	27	25.1
% 3.5+ Yr.	46.5	52.5	49.6	43.1	46.1	49	47	43	43	46	41	47.6
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	72	69	72	65	70	71	69	67	73	73	66	69.6
Weight 1.5 Yr.	109	107	110	107	108	109	105	104	106	107	109	108
Weight 2.5 Yr.	119	121	120	120	120	119	119	117	120	121	121	119.9
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	129	128	127	129	129	127	126	124	128	127	129	128.3

Table 17. Upper Thick Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	220,396	224,230	231,705	231,331	242,300	272,824	277,644	243,289	245,200	229,017	210,775	229,992
Total Deer	4,642	5,333	4,725	4,892	4,281	5,152	4,439	4,055	3,976	3,450	2,732	4,775
Bucks	1,605	1,766	1,688	1,661	1,633	1,917	1,712	1,532	1,455	1,350	1,443	1,671
Does	3,037	3,567	3,037	3,231	2,648	3,235	2,727	2,523	2,521	2,100	1,457	3,104
Acres/Deer	47	42	49	47	57	53	63	60	62	66	78	48
Bucks	137	127	137	139	148	142	162	159	169	170	146	138
Acres/3.5+ Bucks	214	210	237	256	270	249	288	275	287	311	1179	237
Does	73	63	76	72	92	84	102	96	97	109	169	74
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.178	3.071	2.943	2.789	2.844	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.965
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	9.6	7.7	6.7	6.2	5.7	6	6	4	5	5	7	7.2
Weight	67	65	65	65	66	67	68	69	75	69	72	65.6
% 1.5 Yr.	18.6	20.3	21.6	21.8	21	17	15	15	12	9	53	20.7
Weight	119	113	114	122	115	115	118	114	113	124	132	116.7
Points	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.8	4.3	3.9	2.3
Circumf.	2	2	2	2.2	2	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.1
Length	5.1	4.7	4.7	6	4.5	5.4	5.8	5.7	5.9	8.5	8.1	5
Spread	5.3	4.8	4.9	6	4.9	5.1	5.6	5.4	6.0	7.4	6.9	5.2
% 2.5 Yr.	9	10.8	12.4	16.7	17.3	19	23	25	23	29	28	13.2
Weight	152	151	150	156	151	155	157	154	154	160	163	152.3
Points	6.7	6.8	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.0	6.9
Circumf.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.6
Length	14.4	15	15	15	14.7	15.0	15.1	14.7	15.0	15.3	14.9	14.8
Spread	12.4	12.4	12.7	12.4	12.2	12.4	12.5	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.5	12.4
% 3.5 Yr.	24.5	25.7	28.5	29.7	27.8	28	33	34	34	34	11	27.2
Weight	172	172	169	175	176	175	179	176	178	177	190	172.7
Points	8	8	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.8	8.0	8.0	8.1	7.9
Circumf.	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.1
Length	17.7	18	17.8	17.9	17.9	18.2	18.1	17.9	18.2	17.7	18.6	17.9
Spread	14.6	14.4	14.5	14.6	14.6	14.7	14.6	14.4	14.7	14.5	15.3	14.5
% 4.5+ Yr.	38.3	35.4	30.9	25.5	28.3	30	23	23	26	22	2	31.7
Weight	188	185	183	186	189	190	191	189	192	194	211	186.3
Points	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.4
Circumf.	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	5.0	4.6
Length	19.8	19.9	19.7	19.6	20.1	20.1	19.9	19.8	19.9	19.9	21.1	19.8
Spread	15.9	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.9	16.0	16.0	15.9	15.8	16.0	17.1	15.9
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	12	11	8	13	9	12	14	11	10	13	12	10.7
2.5 Yr.	60	55	56	55	56	59	58	57	54	66	60	56.5
3.5+ Yr.	70	68	67	67	73	71	73	68	66	70	66	68.9
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	8.5	7.8	6.8	6.5	6.4	7	7	7	7	7	12	7.2
% 1.5 Yr.	19.9	18.8	20.6	21.8	22.1	20	19	20	22	19	23	20.6
% 2.5 Yr.	19.5	20	20.3	22.1	22	20	22	23	20	22	25	20.8
% 3.5+ Yr.	52.1	53.4	52.3	49.6	49.5	54	52	49	52	52	41	51.4
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	66	62	63	62	68	66	65	65	68	65	66	64.4
Weight 1.5 Yr.	104	99	98	106	102	101	103	100	99	107	107	101.8
Weight 2.5 Yr.	113	113	112	115	115	113	116	113	113	115	120	113.6
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	120	119	118	122	122	120	123	120	122	123	128	120.3

Table 18. Lower Thick Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	127,680	144,652	143,441	133,073	128,885	129,118	123,479	130,509	143,569	137,251	233,912	135,546
Total Deer	2,712	2,802	2,831	2,648	2,617	2,663	2,327	2,576	2,789	2,764	6,077	2,722
Bucks	1,067	1,115	1,080	974	948	1,008	1,030	1,087	1,069	1,151	2,776	1,037
Does	1,645	1,687	1,751	1,674	1,669	1,655	1,297	1,489	1,720	1,613	1,457	1,685
Acres/Deer	47	52	51	50	49	48	53	51	51	50	39	50
Bucks	120	130	133	137	136	128	120	120	134	119	84	131
Acres/3.5+ Bucks	154	190	186	205	227	200	201	187	240	205	417	192
Does	78	86	82	79	77	78	95	88	83	85	73	80
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.512	3.188	3.351	3.174	3.078	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.4	3.261
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	3.1	3.3	3.4	2.8	3.9	4	6	3	2	3	7	3.3
Weight	63	64	61	64	62	61	109	63	64	67	63	62.8
% 1.5 Yr.	8.4	13.4	7.2	12.2	11.7	9	9	9	10	9	34	10.6
Weight	110	107	111	108	107	113	111	107	112	120	117	108.6
Points	3	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.5	4.3	3.1	2.6
Circumf.	2.2	1.9	2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.2	2
Length	5.3	3.8	5.1	4.6	4.3	7.0	5.9	6.5	7.2	9.1	6.5	4.6
Spread	6.3	5.4	5.8	5.7	5.4	6.6	6.1	6.2	6.7	7.7	6.0	5.7
% 2.5 Yr.	9.1	13.6	16.1	17.3	22.2	20	19	24	31	28	38	15.7
Weight	148	148	150	145	147	147	148	146	152	150	151	147.6
Points	7.4	7	7.3	6.9	7	7.0	7.2	6.8	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.1
Circumf.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6
Length	15	14.9	15.3	14.4	14.7	14.4	14.8	14.0	14.5	14.7	14.3	14.9
Spread	12.7	12.1	12.5	12	12.2	11.7	12.0	11.8	11.9	12.0	11.8	12.3
% 3.5 Yr.	29.2	31.7	31.8	31.5	30.4	29	34	35	26	31	16	30.9
Weight	160	167	168	165	166	166	165	165	171	168	169	165.3
Points	7.7	8.1	8	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.9
Circumf.	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1
Length	17	17.9	17.6	17.3	17.5	17.5	17.2	17.2	17.5	17.1	17.1	17.5
Spread	13.8	14.4	14.1	14.1	13.9	14.0	14.0	13.6	13.9	13.7	13.8	14
% 4.5+ Yr.	50.2	38	41.4	36.3	31.8	39	32	30	31	29	5	39.5
Weight	181	177	179	176	179	181	181	183	185	184	182	178.6
Points	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.3	8.6	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.7	8.4	8.4
Circumf.	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.5
Length	19.4	19.5	19.6	18.9	19.8	19.4	19.3	19.4	20.1	19.7	19.5	19.4
Spread	15.2	15.3	15.3	15	15.4	15.4	15.2	15.3	15.5	15.6	15.4	15.2
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	11	8	12	8	9	9	9	8	6	13	9	9.8
2.5 Yr.	48	49	57	49	60	55	61	49	60	65	60	52.5
3.5+ Yr.	69	64	71	64	73	74	76	65	73	75	72	68.3
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	5.1	6	8.2	5.9	6.2	6	8	7	4	4	10	6.3
% 1.5 Yr.	18.2	21.8	16.6	20.8	24.2	21	20	24	25	23	24	20.3
% 2.5 Yr.	15.7	22.8	24	22.1	22.1	19	21	22	20	20	25	21.3
% 3.5+ Yr.	61	49.5	51.1	51.2	47.4	54	51	47	50	53	42	52
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	61	64	61	62	63	64	67	61	64	68	60	62.3
Weight 1.5 Yr.	95	93	96	94	93	98	97	94	96	101	97	94.2
Weight 2.5 Yr.	106	107	109	109	110	110	110	110	111	110	111	108
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	112	113	114	115	114	116	118	116	117	116	118	113.4

Table 19. Upper Thin Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	105,010	102,258	107,031	108,850	130,547	113,040	123,479	163,848	172,889	181,597	221,531	110,739
Total Deer	1,705	1,679	1,561	1,919	1,628	1,704	2,327	1,961	1,926	1,914	3,045	1,698
Bucks	641	547	545	730	667	638	1,030	865	836	930	1,656	626
Does	1,064	1,132	1,016	1,189	961	1,066	1,297	1,096	1,090	984	1,457	1,072
Acres/Deer	62	61	69	57	80	66	53	84	90	95	73	65
Bucks	164	187	196	149	196	177	120	189	207	195	134	177
Acres/3.5+ Bucks	303	389	420	308	403	347	201	419	457	513	1365	364
Does	99	90	105	92	136	106	95	149	159	185	163	103
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	2.868	2.761	2.662	2.638	2.671	2.8	3.2	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.72
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	8.1	8.7	6.7	6.9	6.4	5	6	4	4	7	7	7.4
Weight	65	62	66	64	66	61	109	63	66	99	63	64.6
% 1.5 Yr.	18.9	18.4	19	21.2	20.6	15	9	15	22	24	52	19.6
Weight	108	98	105	111	106	106	111	115	117	121	112	105.6
Points	2.8	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.7	4.1	4.6	3.2	2.7
Circumf.	1.8	1.5	1.7	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.2	1.8
Length	5.3	3.7	5.2	6.5	4.8	5.9	5.9	7.3	8.3	9.2	6.7	5.1
Spread	5.2	4.9	5.4	6.3	5.1	6.1	6.1	6.8	7.1	7.7	5.8	5.4
% 2.5 Yr.	16	23.1	25.2	21	22.6	26	19	33	26	31	31	21.6
Weight	145	143	146	146	144	142	148	143	148	147	144	144.9
Points	6.8	6.5	6.9	6.6	6.6	7.0	7.2	6.5	6.4	6.7	6.5	6.7
Circumf.	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4
Length	14.8	14.1	15.1	14.8	14.1	14.3	14.8	13.7	14.0	14.0	13.6	14.6
Spread	12.3	11.5	12.3	12.2	11.1	11.5	12.0	11.1	11.4	11.4	11.0	11.9
% 3.5 Yr.	28	26.1	28.1	30.5	29	30	34	35	30	25	9	28.3
Weight	163	166	159	166	159	154	165	157	158	159	164	162.5
Points	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.7	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.9	7.6
Circumf.	4	4.2	4	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.1	4
Length	17	17.6	16.9	16.7	16.1	16.0	17.2	15.8	15.8	16.2	17.3	16.9
Spread	13.7	13.8	13.9	13.6	12.9	12.7	14.0	12.7	12.9	13.3	14.0	13.6
% 4.5+ Yr.	29.1	23.7	21	20.3	21.5	25	32	13	17	14	2	23.1
Weight	170	169	169	168	169	167	181	170	172	171	174	169
Points	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.5	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.4	8.2
Circumf.	4.4	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.4
Length	18.6	18.4	18.9	18.8	18.3	18.0	19.3	18.4	18.0	18.3	19.3	18.6
Spread	14.7	14.3	14.9	15	14.5	14.4	15.2	14.4	14.3	14.6	15.4	14.7
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	18	10	13	14	10	11	9	17	9	18	9	13
2.5 Yr.	57	52	55	51	56	53	61	54	53	62	54	54.3
3.5+ Yr.	66	65	66	65	69	65	76	70	70	71	65	66.3
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	8.1	8.8	7	9.6	7.4	9	8	6	10	11	12	8.2
% 1.5 Yr.	22.2	19.9	23.5	23	23.7	22	20	23	26	25	24	22.5
% 2.5 Yr.	20.8	23.2	22.4	22.1	20.1	17	21	23	19	19	25	21.7
% 3.5+ Yr.	48.9	48.1	47.1	45.3	48.8	53	51	48	45	45	39	47.6
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	63	61	61	59	63	59	67	62	71	74	60	61.2
Weight 1.5 Yr.	95	90	93	96	92	90	97	92	96	98	93	93
Weight 2.5 Yr.	106	103	103	105	105	103	110	106	104	106	104	104.4
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	112	110	110	111	111	110	118	111	112	112	111	110.6

Table 20. Lower Thin Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	75,933	98,947	111,415	112,459	108,675	103,571	99,655	146,690	140,209	148,340	214,591	101,486
Total Deer	1,032	1,310	1,339	1,375	1,502	1,527	1,264	2,096	2,249	2,079	3,892	1,312
Bucks	334	416	472	452	530	523	460	770	793	781	1,705	441
Does	698	894	867	923	972	1,004	804	1,326	1,456	1,298	1,457	871
Acres/Deer	74	76	83	82	72	68	79	70	62	71	55	77
Bucks	227	238	236	249	205	198	217	191	177	190	126	230
Acres/3.5+ Bucks	350	515	487	483	407	333	240	301	330	336	578	448
Does	109	111	129	122	112	103	124	111	96	114	99	116
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.15	2.616	2.741	2.835	2.924	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.853
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	4.4	2.6	4.7	5.1	4.9	5	4	2	2	2	9	4.3
Weight	70	65	65	69	67	66	70	68	77	131	62	67.2
% 1.5 Yr.	11.9	19.5	16.9	15.4	12.6	15	12	10	14	13	39	15.3
Weight	116	113	114	113	112	110	117	109	115	122	110	113.6
Points	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.8	3.0	3.7	4.3	2.8	2.6
Circumf.	2	2	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.4	2.5	2.1	2
Length	5.8	5.5	6	6.1	5.6	5.5	7.9	6.5	7.6	8.9	5.8	5.8
Spread	5.2	5.2	5.8	5.6	6.1	5.8	7.1	7.7	7.1	7.8	5.6	5.6
% 2.5 Yr.	15.9	28.1	27.4	22.5	27.4	19	21	24	28	28	30	24.3
Weight	143	150	146	145	147	149	148	145	150	152	142	146.3
Points	5.9	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6	7.1	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.5
Circumf.	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3
Length	13.1	14.5	14.5	13.8	14.1	14.7	14.0	13.5	13.9	14.0	13.6	14
Spread	10.7	11.2	11.7	11.3	11.5	11.6	11.5	11.0	11.0	11.3	10.7	11.3
% 3.5 Yr.	31.6	31.4	27.8	30.1	28.5	28	37	39	33	31	16	29.9
Weight	167	173	170	171	170	166	165	162	169	168	163	170.1
Points	7.6	8	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.7
Circumf.	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.1
Length	16.7	18	17.9	17.3	17.5	16.8	16.3	16.4	16.9	17.2	16.7	17.5
Spread	13.5	14.1	14.1	14.1	13.6	13.2	12.9	13.3	13.5	13.7	13.3	13.9
% 4.5+ Yr.	36.3	18.4	23.2	26.9	26.6	33	26	26	24	27	7	26.3
Weight	179	183	184	181	181	180	178	180	181	183	176	181.6
Points	8.2	8.4	8.3	8	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2
Circumf.	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5
Length	18.7	19.1	19.6	19.4	20.1	18.9	18.7	18.8	19.1	19.4	19.2	19.4
Spread	15.1	15.4	15.4	15.3	15.5	15.2	14.7	14.8	14.9	15.0	15.0	15.4
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	11	13	15	16	13	10	9	11	10	12	11	13.7
2.5 Yr.	53	58	56	53	63	63	63	64	61	61	61	56.6
3.5+ Yr.	71	65	68	71	75	74	74	72	74	77	75	69.9
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	6	7.3	7.6	6.3	7.5	6	8	6	4	6	10	6.9
% 1.5 Yr.	21.2	21.2	20.3	20.6	21.4	19	21	26	26	25	23	21
% 2.5 Yr.	19.3	30.9	30	24	24.2	17	17	19	21	20	24	25.7
% 3.5+ Yr.	53.4	40.6	42.1	49	47	57	55	50	50	49	43	46.4
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	64	66	62	65	69	64	67	64	65	73	59	65.2
Weight 1.5 Yr.	99	97	98	99	97	97	100	96	98	101	94	97.8
Weight 2.5 Yr.	110	107	112	110	111	108	111	107	109	110	107	109.8
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	117	115	117	118	117	116	115	115	115	116	115	117

Table 21. Black Prairie Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	73,950	88,375	76,579	81,161	71,484	114,720	86,293	117,927	107,229	110,602	156,927	78,310
Total Deer	865	1,116	750	899	705	763	735	939	929	988	1,994	867
Bucks	275	369	254	321	276	288	296	357	373	420	857	299
Does	590	747	496	578	429	475	439	582	556	568	1,457	568
Acres/Deer	85	79	102	90	101	150	117	126	115	112	79	90
Bucks	269	239	301	253	259	398	292	330	287	263	186	261
Acres/3.5+Bucks	459	393	528	423	470	722	529	659	638	510	913	455
Does	125	118	154	140	167	242	197	203	193	195	139	138
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.174	3.028	2.958	3	2.892	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.4	3.01
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	11.1	6.9	2.9	6.7	1.6	2	3	2	1	3	8	5.8
Weight	65	62	58	68	78	64	73	69	62	54	64	65.9
% 1.5 Yr.	13.5	9.5	9.8	9.7	13.1	10	11	9	19	15	49	11.1
Weight	109	109	117	121	115	120	122	119	111	119	113	114.3
Points	2.2	2.9	3.2	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.4	5.0	3.3	3.2
Circumf.	2	2.3	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.2	2.4
Length	4.9	5.9	8.5	7.7	7.5	8.6	8.9	8.4	8.6	9.8	6.9	6.9
Spread	5	5.3	7.5	7.9	7.7	7.3	8.3	7.5	7.0	7.8	6.3	6.7
% 2.5 Yr.	11.5	19.2	28.2	19.7	23.3	25	25	34	31	28	23	20.4
Weight	151	149	155	156	149	147	148	151	141	146	143	152
Points	6.6	7	7.4	7	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.0	6.6	7.0	6.1	7
Circumf.	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.6
Length	14.4	15	15.2	14.9	14.6	14.6	14.6	15.2	14.1	14.2	13.7	14.8
Spread	12.8	12.3	12.6	11.9	12	11.8	12.1	12.4	11.7	11.3	10.9	12.3
% 3.5 Yr.	29.8	36.1	31.8	40.3	34.7	35	38	37	30	34	15	34.5
Weight	175	168	167	165	167	163	162	169	160	157	160	168.6
Points	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.9	8	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.8
Circumf.	4.3	4.2	4.1	4	4	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.7	4.1
Length	18.2	17.5	17.3	17.1	17.4	16.6	16.7	17.3	16.6	16.5	16.4	17.5
Spread	14.5	14.1	13.8	13.7	14.5	13.4	13.4	14.1	13.2	13.2	13.2	14.1
% 4.5+ Yr.	34.1	28.4	27.3	23.7	27.3	29	23	17	19	21	6	28.2
Weight	183	175	181	182	179	184	183	180	179	171	173	179.9
Points	8.7	8.3	8.6	8.5	8.8	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.6
Circumf.	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.5
Length	19.5	18.5	19.4	19	19.6	18.7	19.3	18.2	18.6	18.5	18.4	19.2
Spread	15	14.7	15.2	15.4	15.6	14.5	14.9	14.2	14.4	14.9	14.5	15.2
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	14	15	15	14	14	17	26	20	12	13	14	14.4
2.5 Yr.	66	49	51	51	50	54	61	58	53	62	57	53.5
3.5+ Yr.	73	64	59	64	66	73	70	70	63	71	66	65.2
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	8.4	8.5	2.3	8.1	4.9	4	7	7	2	4	12	6.4
% 1.5 Yr.	18.1	18.3	22.4	20.6	24.7	18	26	21	27	21	24	20.8
% 2.5 Yr.	21.1	23.4	24.5	22.2	20	20	19	30	23	22	19	22.2
% 3.5+ Yr.	52.4	49.8	50.8	49	50.4	58	49	42	47	53	47	50.5
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	58	61	61	62	77	60	68	67	60	53	59	63.8
Weight 1.5 Yr.	101	95	96	100	98	97	96	96	95	95	95	98.1
Weight 2.5 Yr.	110	108	109	109	110	107	108	106	107	104	105	109.2
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	115	114	115	117	118	114	117	113	112	112	113	115.7

Table 22. Upper Coastal Plain Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	282,806	293,000	331,580	330,478	335,548	325,632	367,708	379,987	402,570	404,504	879,440	314,682
Total Deer	2,959	3,486	3,638	3,801	3,332	3,337	3,502	3,534	3,370	3,572	8,488	3,443
Bucks	1,156	1,232	1,363	1,519	1,435	1,402	1,498	1,490	1,501	1,653	4,677	1,341
Does	1,803	2,254	2,275	2,282	1,897	1,935	2,004	2,044	1,869	1,919	1,457	2,102
Acres/Deer	96	84	91	87	101	98	105	108	119	113	105	91
Bucks	245	238	243	218	234	232	245	255	268	245	188	235
Acres/3.5+ Bucks	485	473	508	494	482	478	508	706	575	569	997	488
Does	157	130	146	145	177	168	183	186	215	211	237	150
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	2.861	2.754	2.709	2.609	2.694	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.725
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	7.3	6	7.1	6.4	4.3	3	4	5	2	3	7	6.2
Weight	60	56	58	60	62	58	65	65	66	63	58	59.4
% 1.5 Yr.	14	15.9	16.6	18	17	16	13	15	18	21	51	16.3
Weight	102	96	100	107	105	108	105	107	108	113	108	101.9
Points	2.8	2.6	2.9	3.7	3.4	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.7	3.2	3.1
Circumf.	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.2	2	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.1	1.9
Length	5.9	5.5	6.4	7.2	6.4	7.7	7.1	7.8	8.7	9.2	6.7	6.3
Spread	5.9	5.5	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.6	6.4	7.0	7.5	7.5	5.8	6.1
% 2.5 Yr.	26.5	24.6	26.5	29.9	27.6	30	31	41	33	32	24	27
Weight	138	136	137	140	135	137	137	140	137	140	134	137.1
Points	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.9	6.0	6.6
Circumf.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3
Length	14.2	14.2	14.2	13.9	13.7	13.7	13.2	13.7	13.4	14.1	13.2	14
Spread	11.4	11.3	11.5	11.5	11	11.0	10.8	11.0	10.7	11.4	10.5	11.3
% 3.5 Yr.	25.7	30.9	29.3	26.2	29.5	32	32	27	31	29	14	28.3
Weight	150	150	152	151	150	152	150	152	154	152	152	150.6
Points	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.0	7.3	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.5
Circumf.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8
Length	16.4	16.5	16.2	16.2	16.1	15.7	15.5	15.8	15.7	15.7	15.6	16.3
Spread	13.3	13.1	13.2	13.2	12.9	12.7	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.7	12.7	13.1
% 4.5+ Yr.	26.6	22.7	20.5	19.5	21.7	20	20	13	16	16	5	22.2
Weight	163	164	163	164	160	168	164	167	165	165	164	162.8
Points	8.1	8.1	8	8	8.2	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.8	8.0	7.6	8.1
Circumf.	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2
Length	18	18.5	18.3	18.3	18.1	17.8	17.5	17.7	17.9	18.2	17.7	18.2
Spread	14.2	14.5	14.3	14.6	14.4	14.4	14.1	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.1	14.4
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	12	10	9	9	11	12	12	12	14	14	13	10.2
2.5 Yr.	54	47	48	51	48	56	56	57	52	56	56	49.6
3.5+ Yr.	65	62	58	62	68	69	68	67	69	68	65	62.9
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	9.6	7.6	8.8	9.7	7.9	7	7	8	5	7	11	8.7
% 1.5 Yr.	20.7	19.9	23	21	22.3	20	22	22	24	23	24	21.4
% 2.5 Yr.	17.8	18.7	18.8	19.2	20.7	19	20	25	21	19	20	19
% 3.5+ Yr.	51.9	53.7	49.4	50.2	49.2	54	52	45	50	51	45	50.9
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	58	56	57	59	60	59	62	62	65	63	58	58.1
Weight 1.5 Yr.	89	84	87	89	88	89	89	89	87	90	89	87.5
Weight 2.5 Yr.	99	96	99	100	98	97	98	101	97	100	99	98.1
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	106	103	105	106	106	107	107	106	106	105	105	105.1

Table 23. Lower Coastal Plain Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	66,235	74,988	92,994	123,020	139,324	127,032	154,868	177,584	159,786	147,417	308,965	99,312
Total Deer	564	613	691	1,049	1,041	1,102	958	1,128	1,117	1,143	2,944	792
Bucks	261	281	334	508	461	488	460	422	488	587	1,467	369
Does	303	332	357	541	580	614	498	706	629	556	1,457	423
Acres/Deer	117	122	135	117	134	115	162	157	143	129	104	125
Bucks	254	267	278	242	302	260	337	421	327	251	210	269
Acres/3.5+ Bucks	425	707	762	583	704	602	790	998	1,310	801	1,098	636
Does	219	226	260	227	240	207	311	252	254	265	209	235
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	2.78	2.506	2.394	2.543	2.656	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.576
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	1.6	2.7	2.5	1.6	2.5	3	4	4	2	2	10	2.2
Weight	76	64	63	70	59	59	69	74	58	56	56	66.3
% 1.5 Yr.	14.3	13.1	18.9	17.4	12	20	12	18	16	14	47	15.1
Weight	111	107	108	111	107	112	110	106	113	115	102	109
Points	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.9	3.3	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.3	4.5	2.7	3.4
Circumf.	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.4	1.9	2.1
Length	5.9	6.7	7.2	7.7	7.1	8.7	8.8	7.3	8.5	9.0	5.4	6.9
Spread	6.2	6.6	7.1	7	6.2	7.4	7.4	6.6	7.0	7.2	5.3	6.6
% 2.5 Yr.	23.6	43.5	40.9	34.1	39.7	29	38	36	56	50	25	36.4
Weight	142	146	140	139	137	134	136	141	140	139	126	140.7
Points	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.9	5.2	6.7
Circumf.	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	2.8	3.4
Length	14.3	14	14.2	13.8	13.4	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.8	14.2	11.5	14
Spread	11.6	11.4	11.6	11.3	11.2	10.8	10.9	11.2	11.0	11.3	9.3	11.4
% 3.5 Yr.	36.8	28.5	25.4	31.6	29.3	35	30	32	18	22	14	30.3
Weight	151	160	155	148	154	144	149	151	154	146	146	153.7
Points	7.3	8.3	7.4	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.1	7.6
Circumf.	3.6	4	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.8
Length	15.5	16.7	16.2	15.6	15.9	15.4	14.8	15.3	16.1	15.4	15.0	16
Spread	12.8	13.6	13	12.8	12.8	12.3	12.4	12.7	12.8	12.6	12.1	13
% 4.5+ Yr.	23.6	12.3	12.4	15.4	16.4	13	16	11	7	13	6	16
Weight	168	169	162	158	162	158	160	157	159	156	155	163.8
Points	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.3	8.3	7.5	8.2
Circumf.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.2
Length	18.1	18.2	18.3	17.4	17.9	18.0	17.2	17.5	18.0	17.9	17.0	18
Spread	14.5	14.4	14.6	13.9	14.2	14.2	13.8	14.5	13.7	14.6	13.8	14.3
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	19	19	14	13	15	11	16	13	8	19	14	16.1
2.5 Yr.	59	56	51	50	56	59	49	53	63	62	58	54.1
3.5+ Yr.	66	69	61	65	61	62	68	66	64	66	68	64.3
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	2.8	3.5	5.8	6	5.8	5	5	5	4	4	11	4.8
% 1.5 Yr.	23.4	18.8	16.8	17.3	19.6	18	17	21	20	19	23	19.2
% 2.5 Yr.	20.6	25.6	26	20.5	23.6	22	24	28	40	31	21	23.3
% 3.5+ Yr.	53.1	52.1	51.4	56.1	51	55	55	46	37	46	45	52.8
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	65	62	61	56	61	55	62	62	58	55	54	61.1
Weight 1.5 Yr.	94	94	94	90	90	89	90	89	85	91	86	92.4
Weight 2.5 Yr.	106	106	101	101	101	101	98	98	98	98	95	103
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	108	108	105	105	105	104	102	105	104	103	100	106.3

Table 24. Coastal Flatwoods Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	7,004	7,004	12,884	26,283	21,046	12,790	10,790	26,810	18,927	18,650	46,517	14,844
Total Deer	43	42	54	136	58	74	40	35	61	82	177	67
Bucks	24	24	26	54	38	33	19	14	34	49	105	33
Does	19	18	28	82	20	41	21	21	27	33	1,457	33
Acres/Deer	163	167	239	193	363	173	270	766	310	227	526	220
Bucks	292	292	496	487	554	388	568	1915	557	381	1332	437
Acres/3.5+ Bucks	637	876	2,147	1,011	1,503	1,163	899	4,468	2,103	1,695	3,445	1,235
Does	369	389	460	321	1,052	312	514	1277	701	565	3219	434
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	2.3	2.3	2.25	2.519	2.209	2.5	3.0	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.316
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	9.1	16.7	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	17	6
Weight	57	52	58	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	36	33.3
% 1.5 Yr.	31.8	16.7	32	17.3	37.2	18	11	18	10	12	31	27
Weight	98	110	102	95	102	122	106	94	102	83	96	101.4
Points	3.5	3.5	2.6	2.5	2.8	3.4	2.0	4.5	4.7	4.0	2.5	3
Circumf.	2	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.5	0.0	2.9	2.1	2.6	1.4	2
Length	6.3	5.8	4.1	6	4.3	7.4	0.0	7.6	8.8	8.4	4.3	5.3
Spread	7.3	5.7	6.3	7.3	6.9	7.0	0.0	5.5	6.7	7.8	5.7	6.7
% 2.5 Yr.	9.1	33.3	40	32.7	30.2	39	22	47	60	65	29	29.1
Weight	122	127	128	134	139	133	114	124	122	122	120	129.9
Points	6.5	5.3	6	6	6.9	7.0	4.8	5.6	5.7	5.7	4.9	6.1
Circumf.	2.8	3	3.1	2.9	4	3.1	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.4	3.1
Length	10	12.1	12.8	14	12.7	13.6	13.3	12.4	11.8	11.8	10.0	12.3
Spread	8	9.7	11.2	11.8	10.6	10.5	10.3	9.8	9.5	9.0	7.8	10.3
% 3.5 Yr.	40.9	29.2	4	36.5	14	21	33	24	27	12	16	24.9
Weight	139	154	176	152	148	157	151	133	130	132	115	153.6
Points	5.8	7.6	8	7.3	8.2	8.5	8.0	6.8	5.6	7.0	5.1	7.4
Circumf.	3.1	4	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.5	3.6
Length	12.5	16.9	16.8	15.7	16.3	16.1	17.4	14.3	13.4	14.6	10.7	15.6
Spread	10.9	12.9	14.8	12.9	13	12.9	13.7	12.8	11.6	13.5	8.9	12.9
%4.5+ Yr.	9.1	4.2	20	13.5	18.6	18	33	12	3	10	6	13.1
Weight	148	90	165	156	175	153	160	137	141	139	116	146.7
Points	8	8	7.8	8.4	7.9	9.0	8.0	8.5	5.0	6.6	5.1	8
Circumf.	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.1	5.2	4.3	4.2	4.0	0.0	3.8	2.8	4.5
Length	19	19	17.3	17.5	18.6	17.4	19.2	16.3	8.3	14.7	11.5	18.3
Spread	15	14	14.7	13.7	15.2	14.2	14.5	12.8	6.5	12.0	9.6	14.5
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	20	0	14	15	10	0	0	0	14	0	6	11.9
2.5 Yr.	100	75	33	9	25	33	60	40	44	54	65	48.5
3.5+ Yr.	63	50	72	50	71	55	56	45	43	65	67	61.2
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	15.8	5.6	10.7	3.7	16.1	4	17	33	8	9	0	10.4
% 1.5 Yr.	26.3	16.7	28.6	17.1	35.5	21	17	11	27	13	10	24.8
% 2.5 Yr.	15.8	44.4	10.7	28	12.9	13	28	28	35	47	23	22.4
% 3.5+ Yr.	42.1	33.3	50	51.2	35.5	63	39	28	31	31	67	42.4
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	49	38	55	70	86	37	44	48	70	68	0	59.6
Weight 1.5 Yr.	76	92	89	91	89	78	88	73	82	83	41	87.2
Weight 2.5 Yr.	88	95	97	96	104	78	79	94	92	89	69	95.9
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	99	95	96	98	98	97	95	95	95	95	90	97.3

Table 25. Interior Flatwoods Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	'91-'94	'07-'11
Acres	44,738	48,457	47,757	48,293	58,168	58,745	56,441	40,168	25,016	26,956	69,015	49,483
Total Deer	676	676	654	802	864	811	642	531	280	341	1,107	734
Bucks	260	264	244	338	362	375	266	228	126	184	517	294
Does	416	412	410	464	502	436	376	303	154	157	1,457	441
Acres/Deer	66	72	73	60	67	72	88	76	89	79	63	67
Bucks	172	184	196	143	161	157	212	176	199	147	135	168
Acres/3.5+ Bucks	278	303	367	270	355	298	409	441	463	333	642	315
Does	108	118	116	104	116	135	150	133	162	172	120	112
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.013	2.984	2.747	2.704	2.729	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.835
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	7.3	4.2	3.8	6	6.1	5	4	6	5	3	9	5.5
Weight	59	63	63	60	64	61	64	63	61	59	63	61.7
% 1.5 Yr.	12.1	12.7	13.4	13	9.5	14	17	13	19	10	45	12.2
Weight	98	92	109	108	108	104	126	105	112	116	111	102.9
Points	2.2	2.5	3.2	2.2	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.8	3.7	4.9	3.0	2.5
Circumf.	1.5	1.4	2	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.6
Length	4.1	3.6	6.4	4.4	3.4	5.9	6.0	6.1	9.0	9.7	6.5	4.4
Spread	4.3	4.1	7	5.9	4	6.5	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.1	6.0	5.1
% 2.5 Yr.	15.7	21.2	28.2	24.4	34	24	21	36	31	38	25	24.7
Weight	139	136	136	143	145	144	144	151	138	142	137	139.7
Points	6.4	6.1	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.4	7.1	5.8	7.0	5.7	6.4
Circumf.	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.1	3.3
Length	14.1	13.7	14.2	14.7	14.7	13.5	13.8	14.6	12.6	15.0	13.0	14.3
Spread	11.3	10.4	11.5	12.3	11.7	10.7	11.0	12.3	10.0	11.4	10.1	11.5
% 3.5 Yr.	35.5	30.9	33.2	39.6	31	34	39	25	26	32	16	34
Weight	154	153	157	157	158	160	158	161	168	165	153	155.7
Points	7.6	7	7.7	7.1	7.6	7.3	8.1	7.3	7.3	7.7	7.1	7.4
Circumf.	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.9	4.1	3.6	3.7
Length	16.4	15.9	16.4	15.9	16.8	16.5	15.8	15.9	15.3	17.0	15.6	16.3
Spread	12.8	12.2	13.2	12.8	13.2	13.0	12.6	12.9	12.5	13.2	12.5	12.8
% 4.5+ Yr.	29.4	30.9	21.4	17.1	19.3	23	20	20	20	17	5	23.6
Weight	161	164	163	170	175	172	187	185	158	187	176	166.5
Points	8.1	7.5	8.4	7.9	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.4	7.5	8.6	8.5	8.1
Circumf.	4.1	4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.8	4.3	4.2
Length	17.9	17.5	18.3	18.5	18.5	18.4	17.9	19.2	17.0	19.9	18.5	18.1
Spread	13.7	14	14.3	14.2	14.3	14.6	14.1	14.9	13.8	15.7	15.0	14.1
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	14	11	7	6	10	6	18	12	8	16	15	9.6
2.5 Yr.	53	35	47	59	57	56	55	49	62	52	53	50.3
3.5+ Yr.	60	60	61	65	75	68	69	66	71	73	65	64.3
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	10	6.3	5.6	7.8	5.3	5	6	11	6	4	11	7
% 1.5 Yr.	17.5	18.8	28.4	24	23	25	21	21	25	23	28	22.3
% 2.5 Yr.	19.7	20.3	19	21.5	24	26	19	26	19	18	20	20.9
% 3.5+ Yr.	52.9	54.6	47.1	46.6	47.7	44	54	42	50	55	42	49.8
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	59	58	54	63	60	58	57	60	60	56	60	58.6
Weight 1.5 Yr.	90	84	85	92	93	91	93	94	95	94	93	88.9
Weight 2.5 Yr.	105	99	102	105	103	106	106	109	107	108	103	102.8
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	112	111	109	111	111	111	115	115	117	115	111	110.8

Enforcement of Deer Hunting-Related Citations 2011-2012

The Law Enforcement Bureau began monitoring all statewide citations at the district and county levels during the 1996 – 1997 deer season. The eight most common deer hunting citations from October 1 – January 31 were extracted from the database and summarized. Citation totals by county are shown in **Table 27** on **page 66**. Yearly trends in various citations show some variability.

A total of 1,707 citations were written during the 2011 – 2012 deer hunting season. This is a decrease of 303 citations from the previous season. The total number of citations was at an all time high in 2003 – 2004. Over the past 8 hunting seasons, citations have been decreasing continually (**Table 26** and **Figure 31**).

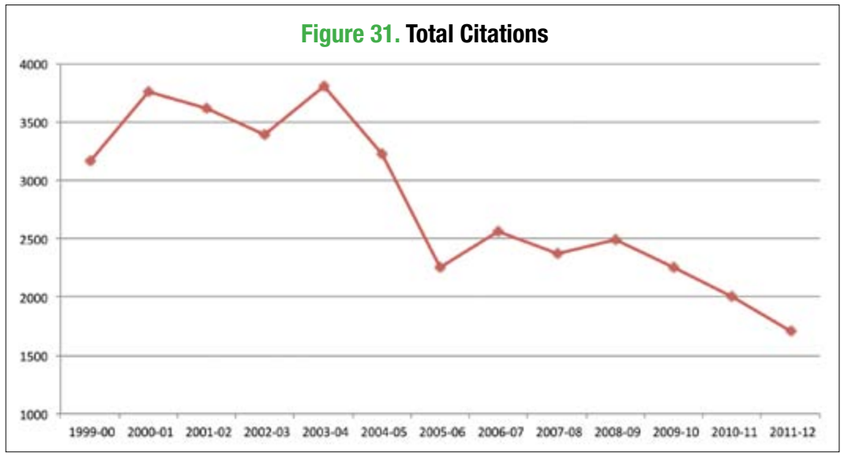
It is logical to assume that if fewer citations were written for a specific violation, then a decreased incidence of that violation occurred. Most categories of citations decreased during the 2011 – 2012 deer season. However, there was an increase in the number of citations written for hunting from a motor vehicle and for non-resident without a hunting license. The categories of hunting from a public road, resident hunting license, and trespassing saw the most significant decreases from the previous season. The continual reduction in occurrence of these violations suggests that some of these violations may be starting to become less frequent. The decline in citations can be attributed to a number of occurrences that may include a decrease in the actual frequency of violations, fewer hunters in the woods, and/or fewer officers in that area.

On a positive note, the MDWFP Law Enforcement Bureau completed its first law enforcement academy since 2008. Eleven cadets graduated in 2011 and were assigned to the counties of Adams, Calhoun, Greene, Hancock, Hinds, Humphreys, Marion, Neshoba, Sunflower, Tunica, and Walthall. Additionally, another law enforcement academy was initiated in the April of 2012 with the hopes of several new officers being assigned to the field by September of 2012. The addition of Conservation Officers will provide much needed conservation enforcement support in many areas of the state. The MDWFP Deer Program congratulates the graduates of the 2011 MDWFP Law Enforcement Academy. The Deer Program is grateful to all the Conservation Officers in the great state of Mississippi and encourages Mississippi hunters to support and get to know the Conservation Officer/s in your county.

On a hunter's safety note, violations for no hunter orange are still occurring at dangerously high levels. A total of 235 citations were written for failure to wear hunter orange during the 2011-2012 season. Many hunters still refuse to wear hunter orange and fail to recognize that this law is in place to protect hunters. Trespassing also still occurs at a high rate, indicating that anyone could be on any property without a hunter's knowledge.

Table 26. Statewide Citations Summary by Most Frequent Violations During Deer Season

Season Totals	Hunt From		No Hunter Orange	No License		Baiting	Trespassing	Headlighting	Total Citations
	Motor Vehicle	Public Road		Resident	Non-Resident				
2011-2012	25	470	235	306	118	248	128	177	1707
2010-2011	12	538	280	390	107	269	219	195	2010
2009-2010	30	644	281	390	93	286	241	291	2256
2008-2009	81	748	311	383	130	279	240	316	2488
2007-2008	33	575	401	356	102	544	207	158	2376
2006-2007	59	609	363	341	115	554	223	303	2567
2005-2006	57	528	271	445	68	365	343	179	2256
2004-2005	104	725	652	391	125	689	283	261	3230
2003-2004	136	914	700	482	159	724	330	363	3808
2002-2003	99	867	658	491	184	569	240	282	3390
2001-2002	120	840	702	491	179	781	275	227	3615
2000-2001	236	1137	612	505	118	519	297	332	3756
1999-2000	238	938	415	422	87	449	318	299	3166



Last, with many Mississippi properties successfully managing lands for older and larger bucks, many poachers are trying to take advantage of the results that managers have created. An increase in older, larger-antlered bucks on roadsides is a temptation that outlaws often can't resist. While we have seen both trespassing and headlighting citations decrease over the past years, there was still over 300 citations written for those two violations last year alone. Additionally, over 500 total violations were written for hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public road in 2011-2012.

Our officers are doing a great job across the state, but they need the help of sportsmen. Hunters can assist our officers by reporting wildlife violations by calling **1-800-BE-SMART**. Most counties have only one or two officers, but with concerned sportsmen, they have eyes and ears all over the county.

Table 27. Citations Summary of Most Frequent Violations During 2011-2012 Deer Season

County	Hunt From Motor Vehicle	Hunt From Public Road	No Hunter Orange	No License Resident	No License Non-Res	Baiting	Tresspassing	Headlighting	Total Citations
Adams	0	2	2	4	0	3	1	3	15
Alcorn	0	6	6	3	0	2	5	3	25
Amite	2	11	5	2	4	1	0	2	27
Attala	0	9	8	2	5	19	2	11	56
Benton	0	9	1	10	2	1	1	0	24
Bolivar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calhoun	0	7	0	3	1	0	3	5	19
Carroll	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Chickasaw	0	5	1	4	0	0	1	0	11
Choctaw	0	8	6	8	3	14	0	1	40
Claiborne	8	9	0	2	2	0	0	3	24
Clarke	0	2	14	9	4	36	3	0	68
Clay	0	4	0	4	1	2	2	0	13
Coahoma	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Copiah	0	13	15	13	15	4	0	2	62
Covington	0	4	0	3	0	1	0	0	8
Desoto	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	6
Forrest	0	19	3	1	0	3	0	10	36
Franklin	0	5	4	2	3	3	0	0	17
George	0	12	1	9	0	0	0	8	30
Greene	0	7	0	0	2	2	0	0	11
Grenada	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hancock	0	1	2	4	0	4	0	2	13
Harrison	0	17	2	6	1	1	0	3	30
Hinds	0	4	7	10	0	1	3	3	28
Holmes	0	0	3	4	2	1	0	0	10
Humphreys	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Issaquena	1	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	10
Itawamba	0	6	4	3	0	8	3	0	24
Jackson	1	8	4	7	0	3	3	4	30
Jasper	0	12	1	5	1	2	6	9	36
Jeff Davis	0	9	8	10	9	5	1	2	44
Jefferson	1	4	0	0	3	1	0	0	9
Jones	0	7	3	9	1	7	1	2	30
Kemper	0	11	9	7	2	23	6	3	61
Lafayette	0	2	5	6	1	0	3	2	19
Lamar	0	4	3	7	0	7	3	1	25
Lauderdale	0	0	2	1	0	4	0	0	7
Lawrence	0	4	1	2	0	3	0	2	12
Leake	0	4	3	0	0	1	4	4	16
Lee	1	2	5	3	0	0	0	3	14

County	Hunt From Motor Vehicle	Hunt From Public Road	No Hunter Orange	No License Resident	No License Non-Res	Baiting	Tresspassing	Headlighting	Total Citations
Leflore	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Lincoln	0	7	8	4	2	1	0	0	22
Lowndes	0	4	2	3	0	1	1	0	11
Madison	0	1	2	3	0	3	7	1	17
Marion	7	11	4	4	3	5	2	9	45
Marshall	0	10	3	3	1	0	3	8	28
Monroe	0	11	2	8	0	3	8	2	34
Montgomery	0	2	3	5	1	0	0	0	11
Neshoba	0	0	1	1	1	4	0	0	7
Newton	0	11	4	10	0	4	0	1	30
Noxubee	0	7	3	1	5	9	1	0	26
Oktibbeha	0	6	5	3	1	1	0	0	16
Panola	0	4	2	3	2	0	5	3	19
Pearl River	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Perry	0	39	1	9	3	1	0	4	57
Pike	1	4	7	3	10	11	2	0	38
Pontotoc	0	5	1	9	0	2	1	2	20
Prentiss	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	7
Quitman	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Rankin	0	3	5	7	1	4	5	2	27
Scott	0	11	0	3	0	0	4	9	27
Sharkey	0	6	4	3	0	0	0	0	13
Simpson	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	7
Smith	0	4	1	6	2	3	0	3	19
Stone	0	1	0	3	0	0	2	2	8
Sunflower	0	4	3	3	0	0	3	4	17
Tallahatchie	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Tate	0	12	4	5	2	4	2	10	39
Tippah	0	4	0	4	1	5	1	5	20
Tishomingo	0	2	3	0	0	3	0	0	8
Tunica	0	5	1	3	0	0	4	0	13
Union	0	2	1	2	0	5	3	0	13
Walthall	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Warren	1	5	5	5	4	0	2	2	24
Washington	0	1	1	4	1	0	0	1	8
Wayne	0	13	3	3	1	2	0	3	25
Webster	0	10	2	3	0	1	3	10	29
Wilkinson	0	1	4	0	14	4	1	0	24
Winston	0	10	3	2	0	6	1	3	25
Yalobusha	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	6
Yazoo	2	2	7	5	1	2	11	2	32

A hunting incident/accident is one in which a person is injured by the discharge of a hunting firearm, bow and arrow, or a fall from a hunting treestand arising from the activity of hunting. There were 36 total hunting related incident/accidents investigated in Mississippi during the 2011 – 2012 hunting season. Of these, 17 were firearm related with 1 fatality, and 19 were treestand related with 1 fatality. The majority of hunting incidents occurred while deer hunting, but there were also incidents reported related to dove, squirrel, and turkey hunting (**Figure 32**).

Firearm accidents increased by two accidents compared to the previous season. Due to a slight decrease in treestand related accidents, total accidents decreased from 38 to 36. (**Figure 33**). Although it appears that accidents decreased in 2011-2012, reporting of treestand accidents is not mandatory. Firearm accidents do require mandatory reporting. Due to the lack of mandatory reporting for treestand accidents, many treestand falls likely go unreported and are not captured in this report.

Sportsmen, Hunter Education Instructors, and Conservation Officers in Mississippi should be commended for keeping hunting among the safest of sports. Volunteer instructors and Conservation Officers certified 11,000 sportsmen in Hunter Education during the 2011 – 2012 season (**Figure 34**). Hunting accidents in Mississippi average about one injury for every 9,666 licensed hunters, which is an average of around ten injuries per 100,000 participants. When compared to other sports such as football, which averages around 3,500 injuries per 100,000 participants, hunting is a very safe sport.

While hunting is a very safe sport, MDWFP urges sportsmen and women to understand that treestand related accidents are the leading cause of injury in the hunting sport. MDWFP recommends that anyone hunting from an above ground treestand know how to properly use and wear a full-body harness. Take time before hunting season to read the safety information and instructions on all of your safety equipment, including instructions for treestands. Understand all the parts to the full-body harness to make sure you are using it correctly and practice suspending in the harness at ground level with a responsible adult supervising. Knowing how it feels to suspend in the event of a fall, and knowing how to use the supplied suspension relief device can and will give you the confidence to survive in the event of a fall. Remember the most important part of your hunt is making it home. Share this message with the ones you care for and help MDWFP spread the word about treestand safety.

Figure 32. Hunting Incident by Animal Hunted

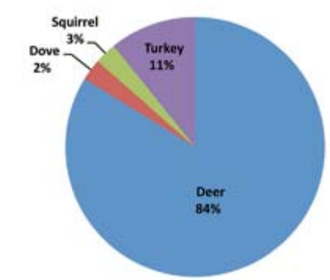


Figure 33. Hunting Incidents

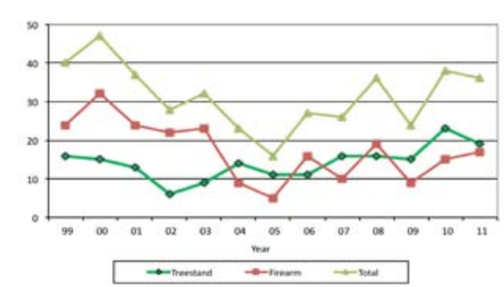
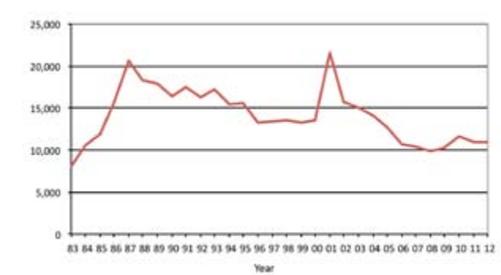


Figure 34. Students Trained by Year



Related to Treestand Safety, MDWFP urges anyone hunting from an elevated stand to:

- Learn and use proper treestand safety.
- Always use a full-body harness.
- Maintain connected to the tree from the time you leave the ground until you return to the ground (life-lines are a great option for fixed-position stands).
- Read all instructions that come with any treestand or treestand related product.
- Watch the treestand safety video that comes with all Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) Certified treestands/harnesses.
- Learn what the TMA does and how products are tested/certified.
- Remove all stands from the woods each year and store stands out of the weather.
- Inspect treestands and safety equipment each time they are used.
- Store harnesses indoors and out of the weather.
- Carry and know how to use the suspension relief device (SRD) supplied with every TMA certified harness.
- Practice suspending from a TMA certified harness at ground level (with another responsible adult supervising) and deploy the SRD to understand how it feels to be suspended and use the SRD.
- Make a plan before each hunt that includes letting someone know where you will be hunting.
- Be sure to carry an emergency signal device (cell phone or whistle attached to harness).
- Never use tree limbs to climb.
- Use a lineman's belt and the supplied tree strap while hanging a fixed-position stands.
- Always connect the bottom and top sections of a climbing stand and practice retrieving a lost bottom section (at ground level, with supervision, while wearing a harness).
- Be a good example for other hunters by always wearing a harness while hunting in an elevated position.

MDWFP Law Enforcement Cadets completing a treestand safety training exercise using full-body harnesses.

Youth 12 – 15 years of age must complete a Hunter Education course to hunt unsupervised. Youth 12 – 15 years of age may hunt without a Hunter Education certificate if under the direct supervision of a licensed adult 21 years of age or older. Youth under 12 years of age must be under adult supervision while hunting. An apprentice license is available for residents over the age of 15 which do not have the required certificate of hunter education. This apprentice license may be purchased only one time by a resident and the apprentice hunting licensee must be accompanied by a licensed or exempt resident hunter at least 21 years of age when hunting. With these hunter education requirements, we are confident accident numbers will continue to be low.

Antler Development of Known-Age Photographically Recaptured Deer in Mississippi

Steve Demarais, William McKinley, Bronson Strickland and Lann Wilf

Within the deer management community, there has been extensive debate over the use of yearling antler size to predict antler size at older ages. If yearlings with below average antlers will have below average antlers at maturity, then these yearlings could be targeted for differential harvest removal as part of overall population control. However, if yearling antler size is not a valid predictor of future antler size, the yearlings should be allowed to grow older so that they can more accurately reflect their genetic potential for antler growth. With unlimited access to protein pellets in research pens, yearling antler development has been shown to be a reasonable predictor of antler size at older ages. However, there is need for study of antler development under free-ranging field conditions.

Our goal is to improve the ability of hunters to make informed decisions about which bucks should be removed and at which age, as part of their population control program. If a buck is going to grow antlers that are below soil region or expected averages at maturity, then an earlier harvest would benefit the forage supply for the remaining deer. Then the sooner you harvest him, the better the available forage supply will be for the remaining deer. Our first objective is to determine antler size and growth rates for free-ranging, male white-tailed deer ages 1 to 6 years. Our second objective is to compare antler size and growth rates at 2 to 6 years of age between males with below average and males with above average antlers at one year of age.

This project began on a 40,000 acre landowner cooperative in Lowndes County during winter of 2010-11 and will continue until at least 2017. Known-aged male white tailed deer are captured, measured, and tagged/released at the capture site during January-March of each year. During this time of year we can age with certainty fawns (~ 6 months of age) and yearlings (~1.5 years of age) using tooth replacement patterns. Numbered ear tags will allow us to uniquely identify each animal at older ages. Antler development at older ages will be documented using photographs taken with motion sensing cameras, (trail cameras), operated on the study area.

This project is currently funded by donations from private landowners within the management cooperative. Opportunities exist for similar research projects in other areas of the state, pending availability of donations and large cooperative acreages.

Effects of Predators on Fawn Recruitment in Mississippi

Kamen Campbell, Bronson Strickland, Steve Demarais, Guiming Wang, and Chad Dacus

As coyote populations continue to expand across the southeastern United States, there are some hunters and wildlife managers that believe coyotes are taking more than their fair share of fawns. In every population some fawns will die from various causes, but when a large enough number of fawns die over an extended period of time the deer population can actually decline. Biologists use the term "fawn recruitment" to represent the average number of fawns reared per adult doe, and in healthy deer populations this number is about 1. Several recent studies have linked predator abundance (predominantly coyote) to significant declines in fawn recruitment at select properties in the Southeast. However, fawn recruitment is influenced by multiple factors other than predator abundance including habitat quality, alternate prey availability, and environmental conditions. To determine if predators are affecting Mississippi deer herds, we compared measures of coyote and bobcat abundance to site-specific estimates of fawn recruitment on 18 hunting clubs across Mississippi and Western Alabama. The hunting clubs represent a broad variety of habitat quality and predator abundance. We measured relative abundance of coyotes and bobcats using trail cameras at baited scent stations at each property. We used the number of predator photos to calculate a capture rate and measure the time necessary to get a picture of each predator for each hunting club. We determined fawn recruitment on each property using hunter observation data and post season camera surveys.

Kamen Campbell

When we compared predator abundance to fawn recruitment at all the properties we studied, we found that predator abundance was not related to fawn recruitment at a regional scale. We did observe instances where high predator abundance corresponded to low fawn recruitment estimates; however, we found just as many locations with high fawn recruitment and high predator abundance. For example, the 3 clubs with the highest fawn recruitment included the 2 clubs with the highest coyote abundance. Conversely, the 3 clubs with the lowest fawn recruitment included 2 clubs with low predator abundance. In other words, the presence or absence of predators did not solely determine fawn survival and recruitment.

There are 2 take home messages. One, predator removal will not guarantee improved fawn recruitment, especially if quality fawning cover is lacking on the property. Habitat management in those instances may produce greater and more sustainable results. The second take home message pertains to estimating fawn recruitment. To determine if predators are indeed influencing fawn recruitment at any given property, reliable estimates of fawn recruitment, such as a post-season camera survey, are a necessity. If you suspect your deer population is declining due to an increasing predator population, contact your regional MDWFP Deer Program Biologist for help collecting data and determining what action may need to be taken.

Variation in Female Morphology in Mississippi: Nutrition or Genetic Differences?

Jake Oates, Steve Demarais, Bronson Strickland, Jerry Belant, and William McKinley

Historical DMAP data has shown that the body weight of female white-tailed deer varies by soil region within Mississippi. It has generally been assumed that regional differences were due to soil fertility and habitat quality. This research was conducted to determine if regional variations that exist among females from three soil regions in Mississippi are due to habitat-based, nutritional differences or if there is an underlying genetic cause.

After one generation of optimum nutrition, regional variation was still present; however, differences among regions were less than in wild populations. To determine if the differences were caused by lingering nutritional effects passed down from their wild mothers, a second generation was raised on optimum nutrition. Regional variation was still present after the second generation, although differences among regions were again less than the previous generation. Continued compensation indicates that regional variation is at least partially due to prolonged exposure to lower quality nutrition in some soil regions, and that it may require more than two generations for complete compensation. Without documenting complete compensation in this study, we are unable to eliminate genetics as a partially contributing factor to the regional variation. However, significant compensation over two generations proves that any management activity that materially improves nutritional intake will increase body size.

Financial and logistical support for this project is provided by the MDWFP using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds, the Forest and Wildlife Research Center at Mississippi State University, and the MSU Deer Lab.

Jake Oates

Regional Body and Antler Size Differences: Preliminary Second Generation Results

Emily Flinn, Eric Michel, Steve Demarais, Bronson Strickland, and Chad Dacus

Are deer in the Delta bigger than deer in southeast Mississippi because of differences in the nutritional quality of the habitat or is it because of their genetic makeup? In 2005 we began research to identify whether regional differences in deer antler and body size in Mississippi are due to differences in habitat quality or genetics. Pregnant does were captured by MDWFP from the Delta, Thin Loess (Loess), and Lower Coastal Plain (LCP) regions. Their offspring have been raised on optimum nutrition to eliminate nutritional differences related with their source habitats, and these are called first generation deer. We allowed first generation deer from each region to breed and produce second generation fawns to further eliminate the effects of nutrition.

Emily Flinn

Body weight of Delta first generation males has been 20-25% greater than LCP males at 1-3 years of age, and Loess males have split the difference. We use an antler score similar to Boone and Crockett Score to estimate antler size, and this score averaged 13% less in LCP males than Delta and Loess males at 1-3 years of age. Surprisingly, loess males grew antlers as large as Delta males.

Our final first generation results show Loess bucks were able to compensate and grow larger antlers when high quality nutrition was available, but body size did not increase proportionally. We conclude that antler size in the Loess region can be expected to improve within 3-5 years once optimum nutrition is provided for several consecutive years. However, LCP males were unable to improve their relative body and antler size through three years of age.

Results from second generation deer should finalize the answer - if regional differences are eliminated in the second generation, then we can exclude genetic differences as the cause; if differences remain after two generations, then genetics likely contributes to body and antler size variation across Mississippi. Preliminary results for the second generation indicate that the LCP bucks are compensating and growing antlers about as large as the Delta and Loess deer. Two more years of data collection are needed for us to confirm this preliminary pattern.

Support for this project is from MDWFP using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds, MSU Deer Lab, Purina Mills, and private individuals.

2011-2012 Research Project Summaries

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Effect of Dominance on Offspring Sex Ratio in Captive White-tailed Deer

Eric Michel, Steve Demarais, Bronson Strickland, Jerry Belant, Joshua Millspaugh, and Lann Wilf

Sex ratio and age structure of deer populations are often manipulated by harvest recommendations. The desired sex ratio will vary with management goals: those interested in harvesting a reasonable number of "good bucks" allow relatively more females than those managing more intensively to maximize antler size. Offspring sex ratio (the proportion of males and females at birth) is rarely talked about, and cannot be manipulated by management. However, understanding factors that affect sex ratio at birth is of interest to deer biologists.

Many biologists believe that body condition plays an important role in offspring sex ratio of mammals, while others propose that a female's social status may contribute. We assessed if relative social rank of captive females was related to number of their male and female fawns. We compared the offspring sex ratio of dominant and subordinate does that were fed optimum nutrition to assess if there was any deviation from a 1:1 offspring sex ratio. We hypothesized that dominant females would have relatively more males than subordinate does. We also assessed factors that contributed to a female's social rank (e.g., body mass, body size, and age) as well as factors that were affected by social rank position (e.g., maximum rump fat depth, stress levels, and parturition date of offspring).

Our results suggest that body mass, body size, and age were all important factors influencing social rank position. However, maximum rump fat depth, stress levels, and parturition date of offspring were unrelated to social rank position, presumably because of relatively uniform and high quality nutrition available to deer within our research pens. Finally, there was no deviation from an overall 1:1 offspring sex ratio and no relationship between social rank and offspring sex ratio.

Support for this project is provided by the MDWFP using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds, the Forest and Wildlife Research Center at Mississippi State University, and the MSU Deer Ecology and Management Lab.

Eric Michel

MSUDeerLab

By: Rick Dillard

The year 2012 marks the 12th year of the Magnolia Records Program. Since the beginning, over 7,000 deer have been scored, of which over 4,300 met the minimum requirements (125 inches for typical and 155 inches for non-typical). An analysis of those bucks meeting the minimum requirements indicates that counties in the western region of the state as well as those in the east-central region have the highest average antler scores (**Figure 35**). The total number of bucks qualifying for Magnolia Records in each county are depicted in **Figure 36**.

The 2011-2012 hunting season was greatly improved over the last 2 previous seasons with regard to the number and overall size of trophy bucks harvested. In fact, some outstanding bucks were taken. The largest typical buck scored 183 1/8 and was taken by Andy Lloyd in Holmes County (new muzzleloader state record for typical category). The largest non-typical buck scored 195 4/8 and was taken by Calvin Alderson in Marshall County. Jimmy Riley's 158 0/8 buck from Adams County was the largest typical taken by archery. Lastly, the largest non-typical archery buck was harvested by Dusty Smith in Adams County and scored 157 4/8.

For many hunters, the true measure of a bonafide trophy is a buck with an inside spread surpassing 20 inches. To date, over 710 deer with inside spreads greater than or equal to 20" have been entered. The widest deer on record was harvested by Richey Buchanan in Lowndes County in 2007 with an inside spread of 27 inches.

Many outstanding bucks, too numerous to list here, are being entered in Magnolia Records each year. To view all entries and their photos visit mdwfp.com/deer and look for Magnolia Records.

Figure 35

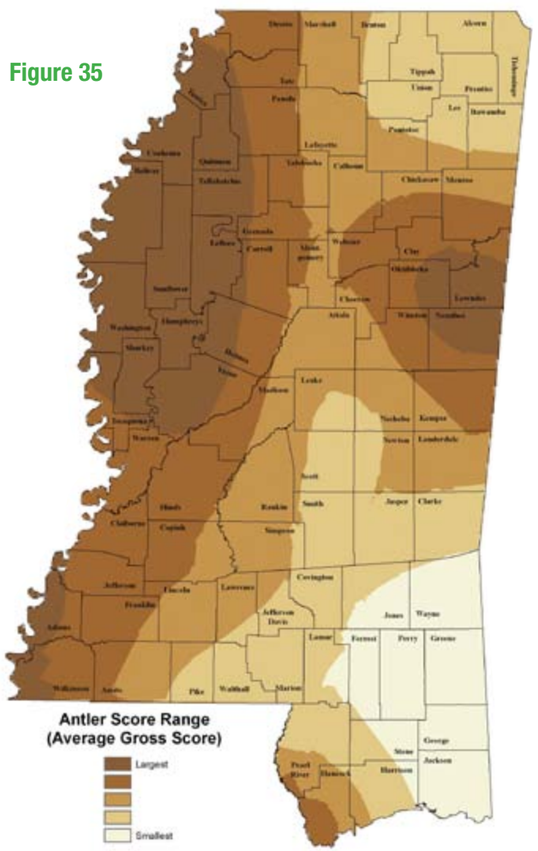


Figure 36

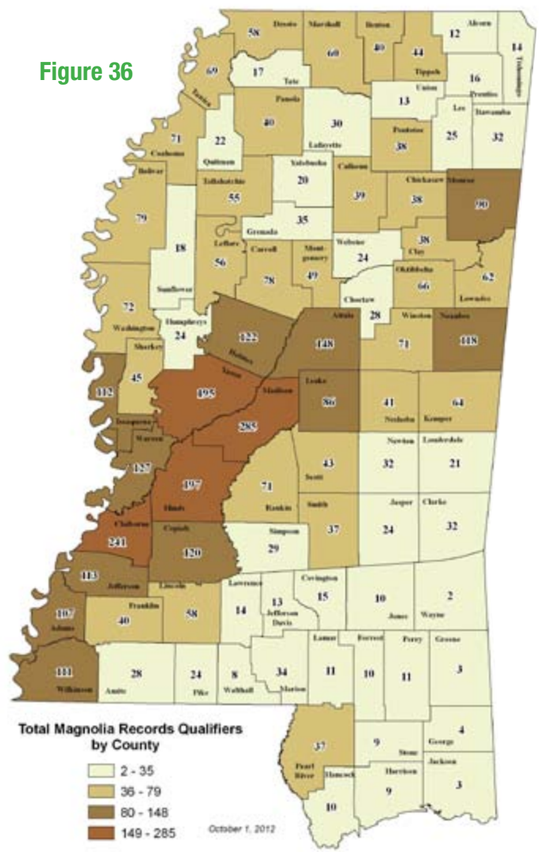


Table 28. Top 10 Non-Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 155)

Rank	Score	Status	Taken By	Season	County
1**	236 1/8	1	Tracy Laird	2003-04	Adams
2	204	1	Denver Eshee	1996-97	Webster
3	195 5/8	1	Damon C. Saik	2000-01	Madison
4	187 3/8	2	Angus Catchot	2006-07	Washington
5	178 4/8	2	Wyn Diggs	2006-07	Holmes
6	177 5/8	2	Adam McCurdy	2005-06	Holmes
7	173 6/8	1	Jimmy Riley	2000-01	Adams
8	173 4/8	2	Gus Pieralisi	2010-11	Washington
9	172 2/8	2	Clifford Welch	2008-09	Wilkinson
10	170 3/8	2	Roger Tankesly	2007-08	Madison

Table 29. Top 10 Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 125)

Rank	Score	Status	Taken By	Season	County
1**	172 4/8	2	Will Rives	2010-11	Jefferson
2	167 2/8	2	Rob Stockett, III	2007-08	Tallahatchie
3	165 6/8	2	Carl Taylor	2004-05	Issaquena
4	164 7/8	1	James House	1999-00	Issaquena
5	164 3/8	2	Michael Burkley	2008-09	Jefferson
6	162 1/8	4	Wyatt Adams	2010-11	Warren
7	161 2/8	2	Lance Johnson	2008-09	Bolivar
8	160 1/8	1	Odis Hill, Jr.	1989-90	Washington
9	159 6/8	1	Steve Nichols	1986-87	Washington
10	158 4/8	1	John Harvey	1989-90	Adams

** OFFICIAL STATE RECORD
+ TIES
1 - IN BOWHUNTING RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICAN WHITETAIL DEER
2 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND ACCEPTED
3 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND PENDING
4 - OFFICIALLY SCORED BUT NOT ENTERED


Casey Hubbard

Table 30. Non-Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 195)

Rank	Score	Status	Taken By	Season	County
1 **	295 6/8	1	Tony Fulton	1994-95	Winston
2	251 6/8	4	Don Rogers	1987-88	Winston
3	236 1/8	4	Tracy Laird	2003-04	Adams
4	225	1	Richard Herring	1988-89	Lowndes
5	221 2/8	1	Milton Parrish	1972-73	Holmes
6	220 3/8	1	Dean Jones	1976-77	Oktibbeha
7	219 6/8	2	Brian Smith	2006-07	Marshall
8	219 2/8	1	Matt Woods	1997-98	Hinds
9	217 5/8	1	Mark Hathcock	1977-78	Carroll
10	216 6/8	2	Casy Orr	2010-11	Choctaw
11	216 5/8	4	(Picked up) Matthew Freeny	1989-99	Winston
12	212 5/8	2	Stephen McBrayer	2005-06	Pontotoc
13	212	1	Wayne Parker	1999-00	Madison
14	210	4	(Picked up) Chip Haynes	2000-01	Madison
15	209 6/8	1	Ronnie Strickland	1981-82	Franklin
16	207 6/8	2	Shelby Tate	2007-08	Amite
17	207 3/8	1	Larry Reece	2001-02	Madison
18	205 6/8	1	Joe Shurden	1976-77	Lowndes
19	205 5/8	2	Terry Cruse	2007-08	Chickasaw
20	205 2/8	2	Jimmy Baker	2007-08	Webster
21	205	1	(Picked up) Tommy Yateman	1959	Lowndes
22	204	1	Denver Eshee	1996-97	Webster
23	202 5/8	1	George Galey	1960'S	Carroll
24	202 4/8	1	William Westmoreland	2001-02	Pontotoc
25	202 3/8	4	Rob Heflin	1998-99	Humphreys
26 +	202 1/8	1	Oliver Lindig	1983-84	Oktibbeha
26 +	202 1/8	2	Bobby Smith	1992-93	Tate
28	201 6/8	1	Jimmy Ashley	1985-86	Wilkinson
29	201 3/8	1	Ray Barrett	2002-03	Washington
30	200 7/8	4	Don Williams	1997-98	Jefferson
31	200 6/8	1	Pamela Reid-Rhoades	1993-94	Oktibbeha
32	199 3/8	2	John E. Hays	1976-77	Holmes
33	199 1/8	4	Jay Leggette	1999-00	Hinds
34	198 5/8	1	Timothy Watson	1997-98	Oktibbeha
35	198 4/8	1	John T. Campbell	2001-02	Issaquena
	197 3/8	4	MDWFP (Confiscation)	2009	Copiah
36	197 2/8	1	Arthur Halfacre	1997-98	Noxubee
37	197	2	Patrick Cenac	2005-06	Adams
38	196 7/8	1	Eddie Alias, Jr.	1989-90	Yazoo
39	196 5/8	1	Robert Sullivan	1981-82	Wilkinson
40 +	195 7/8	1	Ken Dye	1986-87	Monroe
40 +	195 7/8	2	Justin Malouf	2007-08	Madison
42	195 6/8	4	Mark Kinard	1978-79	Oktibbeha
43 +	195 5/8	1	Kathleen McGehee	1981-82	Adams
43 +	195 5/8	1	Damon C. Saik	2000-01	Madison
45 +	195 4/8	3	Calvin Alderson	2011	Marshall
45 +	195 4/8	2	(Picked up) Gerald Chatham, Jr.	2010	DeSoto
47 +	195 2/8	1	Leland N. Dye, Jr.	2001-02	Tunica
47 +	195 2/8	1	Bill Kimble	1995-96	Copiah
49	195 1/8	2	Roger Burton, III	2007-08	Yazoo

Seven year old Gunner Palmer with the buck he harvested during the second week of the youth season at Copiah County WMA.

** OFFICIAL STATE RECORD
+ TIES
1 - IN RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME
2 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND ACCEPTED
3 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND PENDING
4 - OFFICIALLY SCORED BUT NOT ENTERED

Table 31. Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 170)

Rank	Score	Status	Taken By	Season	County
1 **	184 6/8	2	James Saunders	2010-11	Adams
2	183 1/8	2	Andy Lloyd	2011-12	Holmes
3	182 7/8	1	Glen Jourdan	1986-87	Noxubee
4	182 2/8	1	R. L. Bobo	1955-56	Claiborne
5	181 5/8	1	Ronnie Whitaker	1980-81	Wilkinson
6	181 2/8	3	(Picked up) Alan Thornton	2009-10	Coahoma
7	180 4/8	1	W. F. Smith	1968-69	Leflore
8	180 2/8	1	Steve Greer	1995-96	Madison
9	179 2/8	1	Marlon Stokes	1988-89	Hinds
10	178 5/8	1	Grady Robertson	1951-52	Bolivar
11	177 2/8	4	Ronnie Houston	1988-89	Grenada
12	176 6/8	2	Paul Warrington	2007-08	Bolivar
13	176 5/8	1	Sidney Sessions	1952-53	Bolivar
14	176 2/8	2	Bubba Buford	2010-11	Leflore
15	176 1/8	1	J.D. Hood (Mike Steadman-owner)	1972-73	Monroe
16 +	175 2/8	1	Johnnie Leake, Jr.	1977-78	Wilkinson
16 +	175 2/8	1	Charlie G. Wilson, II	2001-02	Neshoba
18	175	2	Kyle Gordon	2005-06	Madison
19 +	174 6/8	1	O. P. Gilbert	1960-61	Coahoma
19 +	174 6/8	1	Jeremy Boelte	1997-98	Adams
21 +	174 1/8	1	William Ladd	1999-00	Noxubee
21 +	174 1/8	4	Unknown (Mike Shell-owner)	1940	Warren
21 +	174 1/8	1	Bill Walters	1995-96	Coahoma
24	173 7/8	2	Peyton Crawford	2011-12	Yazoo
25	173 5/8	1	Geraline Holliman	1982-83	Lowndes
26	173 3/8	1	Richard Powell	1994-95	Coahoma
27	173 2/8	3	Adam Steele	2011-12	Pike
28	173 2/8	4	Allen Hunley	2007-08	Hinds
29	173	2	Steve Simmons	2007-08	Tallahatchie
30	172 6/8	4	Bob Martin	1940	Warren
31	172 5/8	1	Adrian Stallone	1983-84	Adams
32	172 4/8	2	Will Rives	2010-11	Jefferson
33 +	172	1	Barry Barnes	2003-04	Yazoo
33 +	172	1	Nan Foster New	1977-78	Adams
35 +	171 6/8	2	Randall McClelland	1989-90	Oktibbeha
35 +	171 6/8	1	Delton Davis	1990-91	Tunica
35 +	171 6/8	4	Severin Summers	2003-04	Adams
38 +	171 4/8	1	Ricky Lee	1999-00	Tallahatchie
38 +	171 4/8	2	Paul Brown	2007-08	Holmes
40	171	2	Kirk Hannon	2006-07	Madison
41	170 7/8	3	Ricky Sullivan	2011-12	Lauderdale
42	170 7/8	1	W. A. Miller	1920	Issaquena
43	170 4/8	4	Joe Reed Perry	Unknown	Sharkey
44 +	170 2/8	1	David G. McAdory	1994-95	Madison
44 +	170 2/8	2	Alton Marlar	2008-09	Adams
45	170 1/8	3	Josh Alford	2011-12	Yazoo
46	170 1/8	4	Joe W. Martin	1994-95	Madison

** OFFICIAL STATE RECORD
+ TIES

1 - IN RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME
2 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND ACCEPTED
3 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND PENDING
4 - OFFICIALLY SCORED BUT NOT ENTERED

A Message from the Deer Biologists:

This year we would like to address some concerns of the hunting public, especially after a challenging hunting season. Last year, prior to the season, hunters were notified that the upcoming season could be a bit challenging. Our goal in this year's conclusion is to explain why deer visibility and harvest were down statewide and to encourage hunters to intensify harvest this year.

Last year, statewide mast abundance was unprecedented. Some foresters have stated that last year's mast crop could have been the best in 50 years! We wanted to reinforce that a mast crop of this magnitude will heavily restrict deer movement. Couple a heavy mast crop with warm weather throughout most of the deer season and hunters saw low deer movement and little or no hunting action. Food plot hunters especially struggled, because food plot use by deer did not begin until after the season closed on most properties. Most hunters became discouraged and began to question if deer populations were as high as biologists insisted. Unfortunately, deer movement remained minimal throughout the entire season. Statewide harvest also reflected this trend with harvest falling 10 -15%.

In addition to limited deer movement throughout the majority of the state, most Mississippi River properties almost entirely stopped antlerless harvest because of the massive flood in the spring of 2011. Few River properties conducted post-flood camera surveys as they were encouraged to do. These surveys could have reinforced the fact that deer were present and in good condition, confirming the need for continued harvest. Instead, most property owners assumed that herds had suffered extensive loss and that the remaining deer were heavily stressed. Site visits last summer in conjunction with harvest data suggested that this was not the case. Deer herd health parameters were stable throughout most of the Batture and Delta soil regions, which suggested that impacts from the 2011 flood were minimal on most properties.

On a brighter note, buck quality during the 2011 - 2012 season was outstanding. Large - antlered, older age class bucks were produced and harvested from one end of the state to the other. This is a testament to Mississippi hunters' commitment and education in deer management. A large part of the reason for the production of so many high - scoring deer in the Magnolia State is a wide-spread interest in managing for older deer. Localized efforts at population management paid off last year for many hunters who were persistent and dedicated to hunting the woods. Additionally, credit for increased buck quality can also be attributed to excellent growing conditions in the spring and summer of 2011. In a nutshell, the 2011-2012 deer season was a great time to be a white-tail in Mississippi: great growing conditions in spring and summer, a record mast crop and warm winter conditions, and little chance of being harvested by the average food plot hunter.


Jason Price

Going into the 2012 - 2013 season, deer managers face several challenges. Road Kill and Animal Control Permit numbers suggest an extremely high deer density statewide, harvest fell significantly last year, and unfortunately, mast crops statewide appear to be heavy again. Also, the reduced harvest must be made up in the upcoming season, if current body conditions and antler production are to be maintained. Therefore harvest needs to be intensified, but deer movement may be poor again if the weather does not cooperate. Fortunately, conditions that produced the heavy mast crop also served to provide ideal growing conditions for antlers, so we have a possible perfect storm for big buck production this year. Last year's early spring, heavy mast crop, and reduced harvest may have converged with this year's early spring and consistent rain to produce some outstanding bucks for the 2012 - 2013 season. Be sure to hunt in the woods to increase your odds of capitalizing on an opportunity!

Sincerely,

The Deer Guys

Notes

The Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which raises funds and provides financial support for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. A partial listing of these projects is provided here. Your individual and/or corporate support would be very much appreciated. Donations can be made online at the Foundation site: www.foundationmwfp.com. Or you can contact the Foundation directly using the contact information provided below.

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John Satterwhite with First Lady Deborah Bryant

For additional information regarding the Foundation,
contact: Clark Gordin, Chief Executive Officer
601-213-8111 • 601-519-4700 (FAX)
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