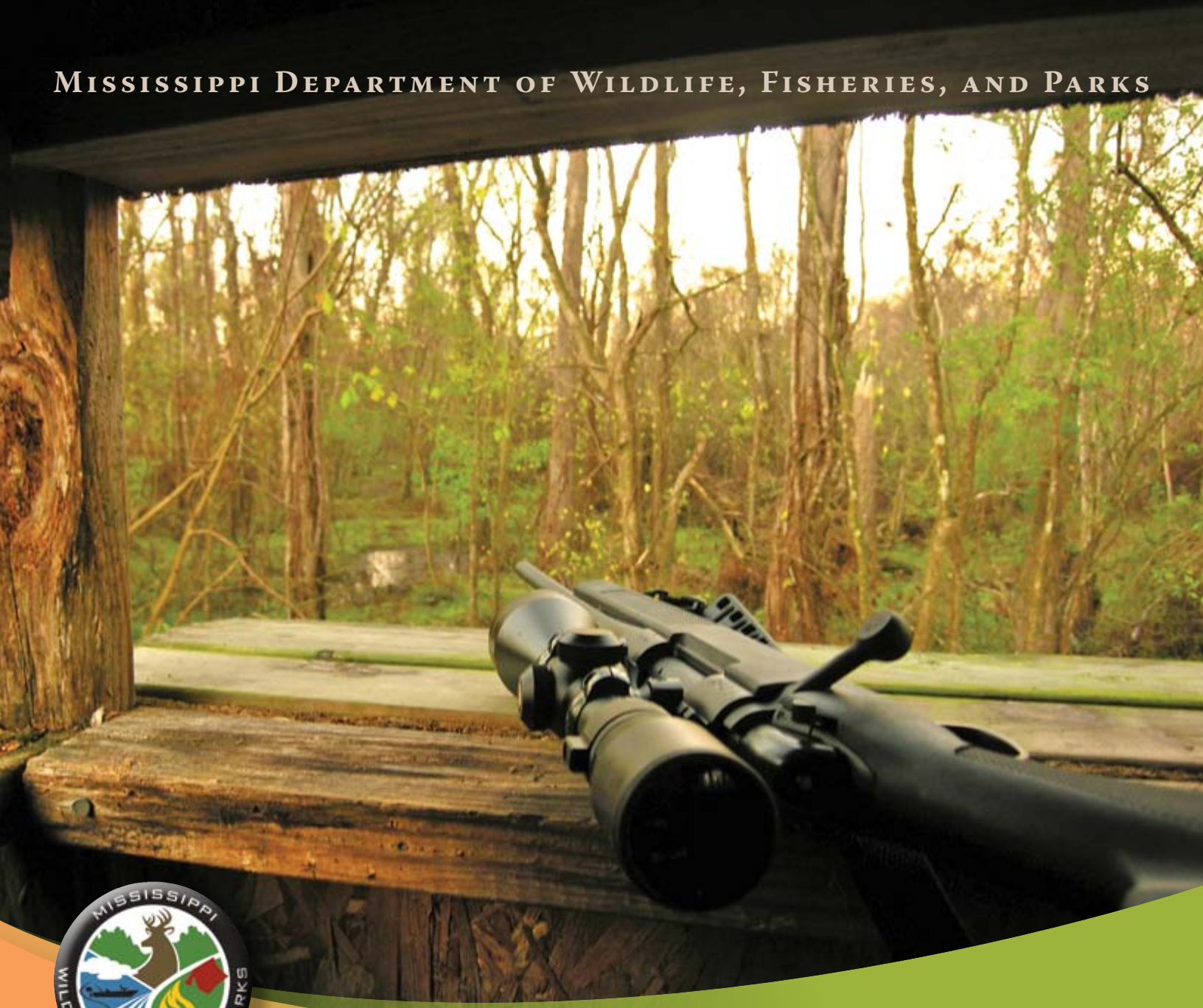
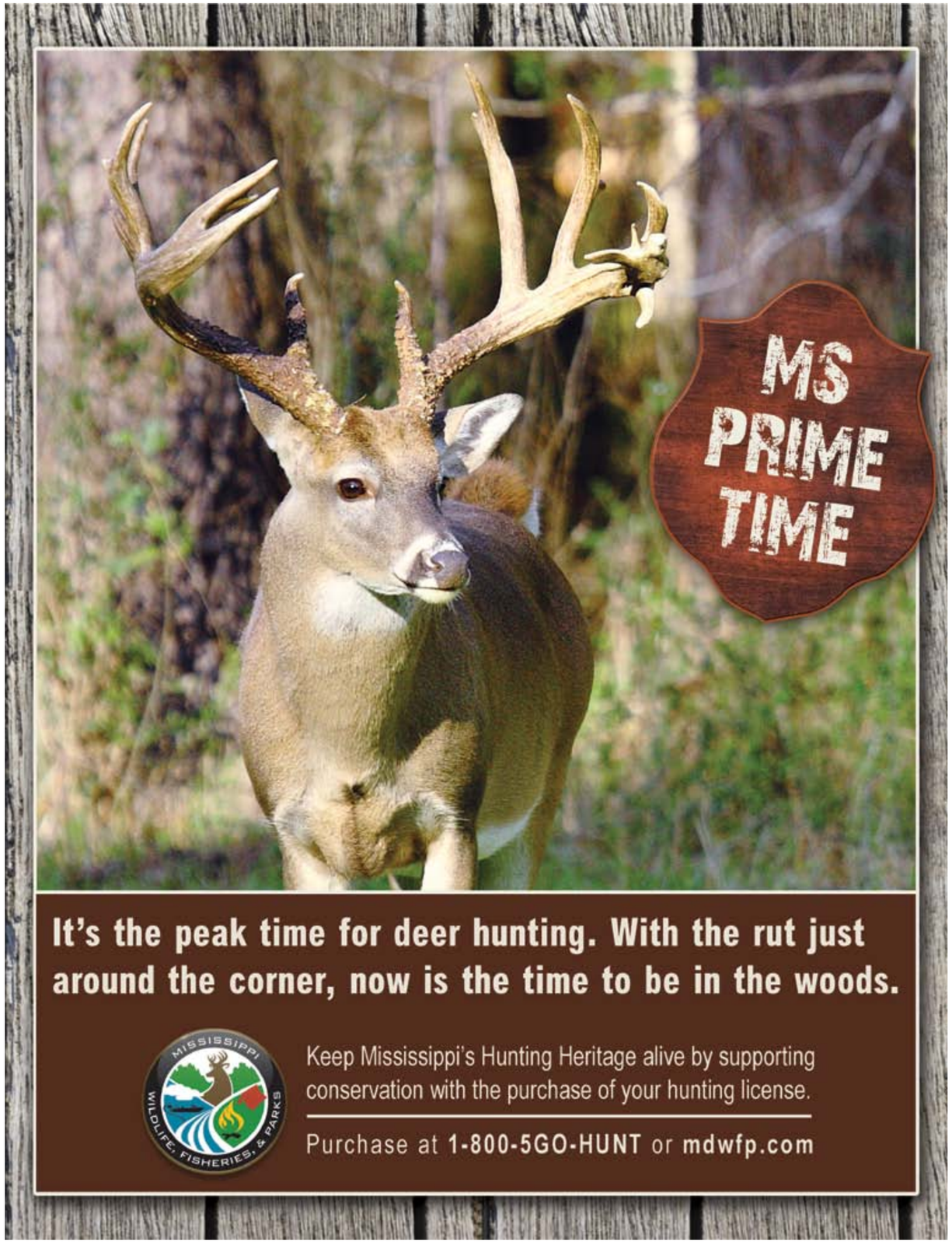
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks



Deer Program *Report* 2011

Prepared by MDWFP Deer Committee



Mississippi Deer Program Report 2011

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

2011 Wheelin' Sportsman

Deer Hunt for Kids with Disabilities

By Chad Dacus

Photo Spread: Courtesy

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.

In Memory of
Bill Lunceford
1945-2007

This and all future Deer Data Books are 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.

Governor of Mississippi ***Haley Barbour***
Lieutenant Governor ***Phil Bryant***

Senate ***Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee***

Tommy A. Gollott, *Chairman*, Biloxi
Billy Hudson, *Vice-Chairman*, Purvis
Sidney Albritton, Picayune
Bob M. Dearing, Natchez
Cindy Hyde-Smith, Brookhaven
Ezell Lee, Picayune
Chris McDaniel, Ellisville
Eric Powell, Corinth
Derrick T. Simmons, Greenville
Bill Stone, Ashland
Gray Tollison, Oxford

House of Representatives ***Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee***

Blaine "Bo" Eaton, *Chairman*, Taylorsville
Deryk R. Parker, *Vice-Chairman*, Lucedale
Brian Aldridge, Ashland
Tracy Arinder, Morton
C. Scott Bounds, Philadelphia
Bryant W. Clark, Pickens
Angela Cockerham, Magnolia
Mark DuVall, Mantachie
Casey Eure, Biloxi
Philip Gunn, Clinton
Steven A. Horne, Meridian
Bennett Malone, Carthage
Warner F. McBride, Courtland
America (Chuck) Middleton, Port Gibson
Billy Nicholson, Little Rock

Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Charles Rigdon, *Chairman*, Columbus
Billy Deviney, *Vice-Chairman*, Jackson
Bryan Jones, Yazoo City
Jerry Munro, Biloxi
John C Stanley IV, Corinth

Administration

Sam Polles, Ph.D., *Executive Director*
Robert L. Cook, *Deputy Director*
Larry Castle, *Director of Technical Programs*
Michael Bolden, *Director of Administrative Services*

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 with a special thanks to Amy Blaylock, Ashley Gary, and Alan Mumbower. 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. 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 (*Justin.Thayer@mdwfp.state.ms.us*).

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.

Chad Dacus
Deer Program Coordinator

Chris McDonald
Regional Deer Biologist

William T. McKinley
Regional Deer Biologist

Justin Thayer
Regional Deer Biologist

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.

White-tailed Deer Program Report 2010-2011

The first Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) report was completed in 1988. The DMAP report evolved into the Mississippi Deer Program Report in 1993. 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 second 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. There was no mail survey conducted following the 2009 – 2010 hunting season. The last survey was conducted following the 2008 – 2009 hunting season and data from the previous 2 seasons (2006 – 2007 and 2007 – 2008) were collected during the summer of 2008. The survey for the 2010 – 11 season was conducted well after the season and results were not available at the time of completion of this report. Hopefully new survey methodology will be used following the 2011 – 2012 season so this trend data can continue to be reported.

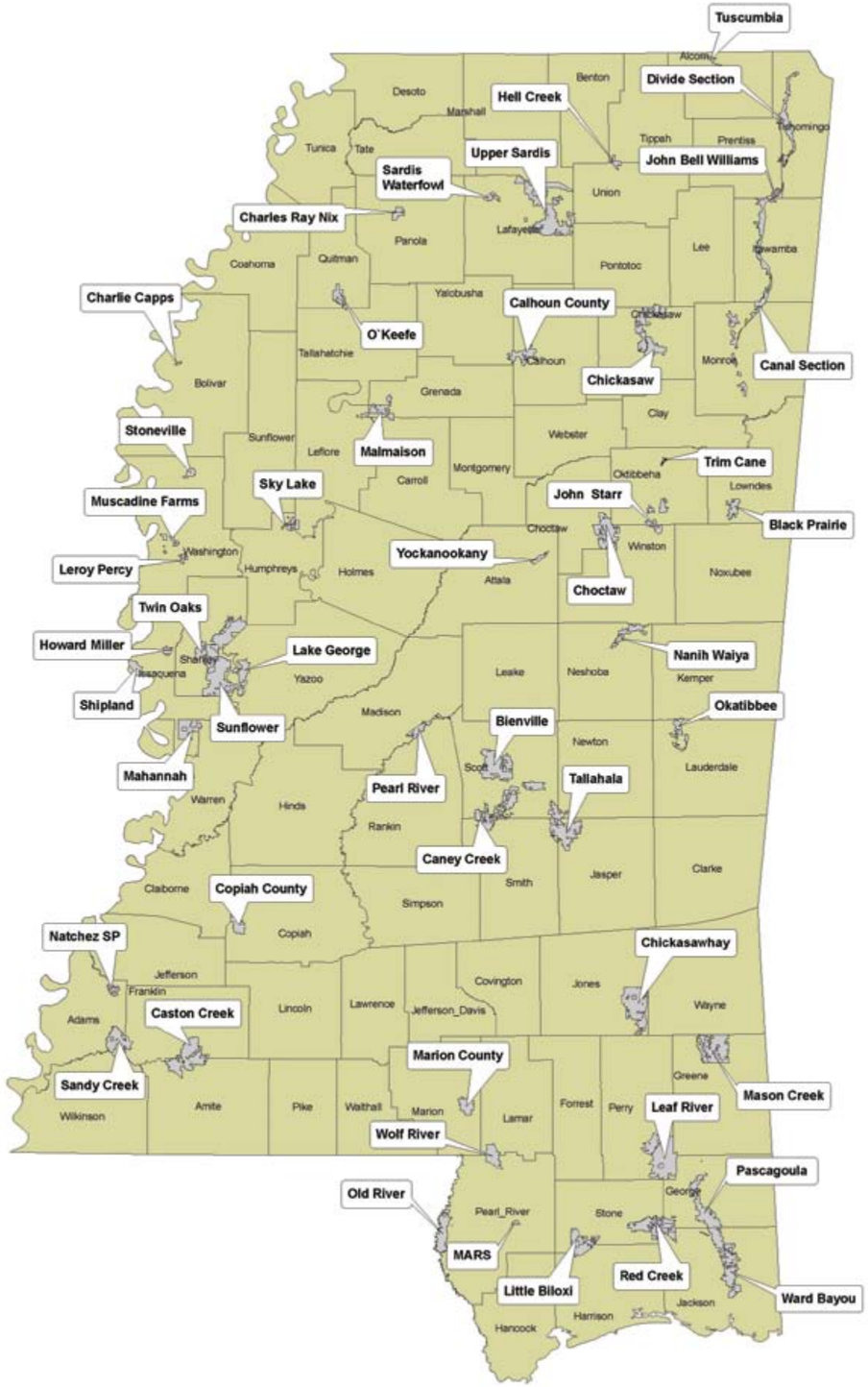
The MDWFP began using a computer summary program (XtraNet) to enter and analyze all DMAP and WMA data in 2004 – 2005. Data from 2001 – 2011 was analyzed using XtraNet, while data prior to 2001 was analyzed using DeerTrax. This may be the cause for differences in some numbers between 2000 and 2001. Statewide Compiled DMAP summary tables and graphs include harvest reports from 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
- Disease 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.

Wildlife Management Areas



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 2010–11 season decreased by 1,565 man-days compared to last year. Although there was a slight decrease, overall man-days have stabilized since the decrease in 2005 caused by Hurricane Katrina. Total reported harvests increased by 217 deer compared to last season (**Table 2**). Average success rate also increased slightly across WMAs with an average of 39 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. See **Table 1** to determine the antler criteria for each WMA.

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 and create the desired understory plant structure that provides suitable food resources and nesting and brood-rearing cover.

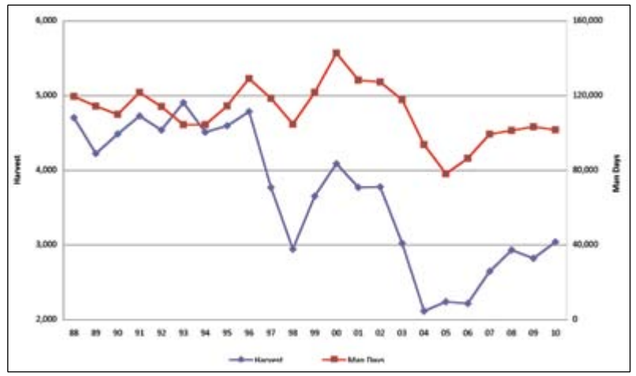


Figure 1. Wildlife Management Area Reported Deer Harvest and Hunter Man-days

Table 1. Wildlife Management Area Antler Criteria for the 2010-2011 Season

Wildlife Management Area	Minimum Antler Criteria	Wildlife Management Area	Minimum Antler Criteria
Bienville	12/15	**Natchez State Park**	12/15
Black Prairie	12/15	**Okatibbee**	12/15
Calhoun County	12/15	**O'Keefe**	15/18
Canal/John Bell	12/15	**Old River**	12/15
Caney Creek	12/15	**Pascagoula**	12/15
Caston Creek	12/15	**Pearl River**	12/15
Charles Ray Nix	15/18	**Red Creek**	12/15
Chickasaw	12/15	**Sandy Creek**	12/15
Chickasawhay	12/15	**Sardis Waterfowl**	Hardened Antler Above Hairline
Choctaw	12/15	**Shipland**	15/18
Copiah County	12/15	**Sky Lake**	15/18
Divide Section	12/15	**Stoneville**	15/18
Hell Creek	12/15	**Sunflower**	15/18
John Starr	12/15	**Tallahala**	12/15
Lake George	15/18	**Theodore A. Mars, Jr.**	Hardened Antler Above Hairline
Leaf River	12/15	**Trim Cane**	12/15
Leroy Percy	15/18	**Tuscumbia**	12/15
Little Biloxi	12/15	**Twin Oaks**	15/18
Mahannah	16/20	**Upper Sardis**	12/15
Malmaison	15/18	**Ward Bayou**	12/15
Marion County	12/15	**Wolf River**	12/15
Mason Creek	12/15	**Yockanookany**	12/15
Nanih Waiya	12/15		

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

Table 2. Wildlife Management Area Harvest Information for the 2010-2011 Season

Wildlife Management Area	Acreage	Total Harvest	Acres/ Deer	Buck Harvest	Acres/ Buck	Doe Harvest	Acres/ Doe	Total Man-days	Man-days/ Deer	Man-days/ Acre
Bienville	26,136	151	173	79	331	72	363	1,719	11	0.07
Black Prairie	5,673	57	100	24	236	33	172	282	5	0.05
Calhoun County	10,900	87	125	44	248	43	253	1,323	15	0.12
Canal Section	28,930	151	192	72	402	79	366	5,550	37	0.19
Caney Creek	28,000	85	329	30	933	55	509	1,364	16	0.05
Caston Creek	27,785	43	646	29	958	14	1,985	3,397	79	0.12
Charles Ray Nix	4,000	87	46	39	103	48	83	1,207	14	0.30
Chickasaw	27,259	106	257	44	620	62	440	5,983	56	0.22
Chickasawhay	29,048	61	476	22	1,320	39	745	3,476	57	0.12
Choctaw	24,314	133	183	44	553	89	273	3,247	24	0.13
Copiah County	6,583	168	39	70	94	98	67	2,949	18	0.45
Divide Section	15,337	28	548	7	2,191	21	730	2,247	80	0.15
Hell Creek	2,284	21	109	3	761	18	127	183	9	0.08
John Bell Williams	2,930	9	326	4	733	5	586	470	52	0.16
John Starr	8,244	41	201	12	687	29	284	1,375	34	0.17
Lake George	8,383	62	135	20	419	42	200	1,613	26	0.19
Leaf River	41,780	168	249	73	572	95	440	7,771	46	0.19
Leroy Percy	1,642	9	182	3	547	6	274	441	49	0.27
Little Biloxi	14,540	28	519	6	2,423	22	661	2,733	98	0.19
Mahannah	12,675	233	54	92	138	141	90	1,996	9	0.16
Malmaison	9,696	68	143	20	485	48	202	2,108	31	0.22
Marion County	7,200	90	80	35	206	55	131	2,292	25	0.32
Mason Creek	28,000	28	1,000	18	1,556	10	2,800	1,833	65	0.07
Nanih Waiya	7,295	83	88	23	317	60	122	1,608	19	0.22
Natchez State Park	3,425	58	59	23	149	35	98	1,012	17	0.30
Okatibbee	6,883	27	255	5	1,377	22	313	888	33	0.13
O'Keefe	6,239	76	82	46	136	30	208	1,742	23	0.28
Old River	14,764	53	279	32	461	21	703	2,472	47	0.17
Pascagoula River	36,994	66	561	47	787	19	1,947	12,691	192	0.34
Pearl River	6,925	44	157	20	346	24	289	1,635	37	0.24
Red Creek	22,954	34	675	18	1,275	16	1,435	1,473	43	0.06
Sandy Creek	16,407	74	222	51	322	23	713	3,258	44	0.20
Sardis Waterfowl	4,000	38	105	11	364	27	148	106	3	0.03
Shipland	3,642	13	280	4	911	9	405	451	35	0.12
Sky Lake	4,306	12	359	9	478	3	1,435	139	12	0.03
Stoneville	2,500	22	114	12	208	10	250	852	39	0.34
Sunflower	58,480	134	436	80	731	54	1,083	3,776	28	0.06
Tallahala	28,120	120	234	50	562	70	402	1,431	12	0.05
Theodore A. Mars, Jr.	900	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0.01
Trim Cane	891	7	127	2	446	5	178	11	2	0.01
Tuscumbia	2,436	10	244	2	1,218	8	305	295	30	0.12
Twin Oaks	5,675	82	69	21	270	61	93	769	9	0.14
Upper Sardis	42,274	105	403	45	939	60	705	6,479	62	0.15
Ward Bayou	13,234	15	882	8	1,654	7	1,891	2,859	191	0.22
Wolf River	10,194	44	232	25	408	19	537	2,267	52	0.22
Yockanookany	2,379	13	183	0	0	13	183	176	14	0.07
TOTAL	672,256	3,035		1,320		1,715		101,490		
AVERAGE	**14,614**	**66**	**265**	**29**	**650**	**37**	**549**	**2,206**	**39**	**0.16**

Bienville WMA

Written by: Scott Baker

Bienville WMA 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 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches.

Deer harvest resulted in 79 bucks and 72 does. Total harvest decreased 13% from the previous year and hunter effort decreased by 38%.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	54	20	469	1,265	1,924
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

Habitat conditions on Bienville WMA have improved over the years due to management for the Red-cockaded woodpecker, which is an endangered species that resides on the WMA. The MDWFP has proposed new openings in timber thinning/harvest areas which will provide additional food sources for wildlife.

Eighty-nine percent of the bucks we received harvest data on met the antler criteria for Bienville. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.8 inches. The average main beam length on 3.5 year old bucks was 17.2 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	2	24	33	20	79
Does	5	15	15	16	21	72

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

There was a severe drought late in the summer of 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. The drought also resulted in a poor mast crop. This could have had an impact on antler quality and body weights.

Black Prairie WMA

Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Black Prairie WMA 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.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	7	22	810	258	103
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

Black Prairie offers an October 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 buck only hunt. Archery and youth gun is open to the public during a late January hunt. Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	3	2	7	6	6	24
Does	1	6	13	6	7	33

The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 14.9 inches while average main beam length was 19.2 inches. All but 2 bucks harvested by youth met the minimum antler criteria.

The percent of does harvested that were 3.5+ years old is slightly down this year at 39%. This indicates that the deer population is being maintained at a stable level.

Total deer harvest increased significantly this season due to additional youth gun opportunity in January.

There has been an increase in habitat improvements on the area. Approximately 400 acres were burned in February and March 2011. Work is also being done to remove invasive fescue and promote more desirable plants.

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on March 7, 2011. A total of 9 does were collected with 1 doe being 1.5 years old and 8 does being 2.5+ years old. The average dressed body weight was 91 pounds, which is higher than the Blackland Prairie soil region average of 82 pounds. The average kidney fat index was 59.81 which is slightly below the expected soil region average of 66.78. The average reproductive potential was 1.75 and is slightly below the soil region average of 1.85. Conception dates ranged from December 28 to January 14.

Calhoun County WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	36	21	275	471	1,990
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

Calhoun County WMA is 9,888 acres of loblolly pine plantation and hardwood draws located fifteen miles west of Calhoun City. The area is privately owned and Hancock Timber Resource Group manages the forest to maximize investor profits. 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. The use of dogs to hunt deer is allowed on this area.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	**0.5**	**1.5**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**4.5+**	**Total**
Bucks	8	12	9	10	5	44
Does	6	19	10	3	5	43

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or main beam length of at least 15 inches. During the 2010–11 season, 66% of harvested bucks met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 13.1 inches. The average main beam length for 3.5 year old bucks was 16.1 inches.

Forty-one percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates the deer herd is increasing.

Success rate increased significantly this past season when comparing number of man-days per harvest across the past four seasons.

Extreme wet and dry conditions in 2009 and 2010 negatively affected natural vegetation and reduced weights and lactation among doe age classes. Antler measurement from harvested bucks decreased from the previous 10 seasons. Causes for this decrease may have been environmental as well.

Canal Section WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	83	48	348	602	3,912
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

Canal Section WMA is 26,000 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.

The 2010–11 season is the first year that deer harvest data was not combined with John Bell Williams WMA. Therefore, harvest data prior to 2010 includes John Bell Williams.

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

During the past deer season, a total of 5,080 man-days were recorded for deer hunting with a harvest of 142 deer, consisting of 68 bucks and 74 does. Harvest data collection has not been mandatory but will be required in the 2011–12 season.

Approximately 250 acres of the area are handicapped hunting only, 200 acres are archery only, and 100 acres are primitive weapon only for deer hunting.

A prescribed burn was conducted during the winter of 2011 on approximately 500 acres of the area to improve wildlife habitat.

Caney Creek WMA
Written by: Scott Baker

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	63	19	1,497	646	1,924
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

Caney Creek WMA is 28,000 acres within the Bienville National Forest located near Forest. Bucks legal for harvest must have an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. Deer harvest numbers consisted of 30 bucks and 55 does. Total harvest decreased by 35% from last year and hunter effort decreased by 52%.

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

other wildlife. As a result of the timber harvest operation, the MDWFP will be allowed to maintain several areas as permanent wildlife openings, which will improve habitat conditions on the area for years to come.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	**0.5**	**1.5**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**4.5+**	**Total**
Bucks	0	3	9	16	5	33
Does	5	13	11	7	12	48

Eighty-six percent of the bucks that we received harvest data on met the antler criteria for Caney Creek. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.2 inches. The average main beam length on 3.5 year old bucks was 16.2 inches.

Thirty-nine percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates that the deer herd is stable to slightly increasing.

There was a severe drought in late summer of 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. The drought also resulted in a poor mast crop. This could have had an impact on antler quality and body weights.

Caston Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	22	22	1,263	1,263	2,887
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

Caston Creek WMA consists of 27,785 acres located within the Homochitto National Forest near Meadville, in Franklin and Amite counties. 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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	**0.5**	**1.5**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**4.5+**	**Total**
Bucks	0	2	0	8	15	25
Does	0	1	4	3	4	12

Ninety-two percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Caston Creek WMA. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.6 inches and the average main beam length was 13.9 inches.

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

Charles Ray Nix WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	29	47	138	85	1,270
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

Charles Ray Nix WMA is 4,000 acres of upland hardwood savannahs and fields located eight miles west of Sardis. The area is owned and managed by the MDWFP. Deer hunting is allowed using archery gear, primitive weapons by permit, and rifle by youth and handicapped hunters. A special deer season for youth is offered.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	**0.5**	**1.5**	**2.5**	**3.5**	**4.5+**	**Total**
Bucks	1	2	12	17	6	38
Does	7	11	12	10	8	48

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or one main beam length of at least 18 inches. During the 2010–11 season, 82% of harvested bucks met the minimum antler criteria for Charles Ray Nix. The average spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 14.5 inches. The average main beam length for 3.5 year old bucks was 19.2 inches.

Thirty-eight percent of the does harvested were 3.5 years old or older. This indicates the deer herd is increasing.

Intense management of natural vegetation across the WMA by forest thining, burning, disking, and using herbicides provides ample food and cover for the local herd. Weights among all age classes seem to be holding fairly steady despite herd growth and stressful environmental conditions in 2009 and 2010.

Chickasaw WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Chickasaw WMA 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 and managed by the MDWFP.

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunt-

ers less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck. This area offers opportunity to still hunters and dog hunters. Dog hunting is allowed on the designated area north of Hwy 32.

The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 12.8 inches while average main beam length was 16.4 inches. Eighty-nine percent of the bucks harvested met the minimum antler criteria.

Sixty-three percent of does harvested were 3.5+ years old which is slightly higher than last season. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

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.

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on March 9, 2011. A total of 13 does were collected with 2 being 1.5 years old and 11 being 2.5+ years old. The average dressed body weight was 76 pounds, which was slightly below the soil region average of 85 pounds. The average Kidney Fat Index was 58.72 which was slightly below the soil region average of 66.81. The average reproductive potential was 1.82 which was consistent to the soil region average of 1.87. Conception dates ranged from December 23 to January 30.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	50	48	824	757	6,281
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

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	2	16	9	9	37
Does	4	4	8	7	20	43

Chickasawhay WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Chickasawhay WMA 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.

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck. Deer hunting with dogs is not allowed.

Ninety-one percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Chickasawhay WMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.3 inches and the average main beam length was 14.4 inches.

Forty-nine percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	21	13	1,667	2,692	2,829
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

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	1	4	12	5	22
Does	8	9	3	11	8	39

Choctaw WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

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 12 inches or main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 12.9 inches while average main beam length was 17.2 inches. Eighty-six percent of the bucks harvested met the minimum antler criteria.

Sixty-one percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old which is slightly higher than last season. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

Prescribed burning is conducted annually by the U.S Forest Service which help in improving wildlife habitat.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	46	65	528	374	5,655
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

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	6	10	12	14	44
Does	8	9	15	19	31	82

2010-2011 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

WMA NARRATIVES

Copiah County WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Copiah County WMA is a 6,583-acre tract located west of Hazlehurst. The WMA is owned by the MDWFP. 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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Eighty-three percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Copiah County WMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.4 inches and the average main beam length was 15.5 inches.

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

In 2010, WMA personnel conducted prescribed burns and prepared approximately 120 acres of dense pine stands to be thinned on the WMA.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	16	61	411	108	729
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

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	4	9	12	13	11	49
Does	10	20	13	10	35	88

Divide Section WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Divide Section WMA 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. The WMA is a primitive weapon-only area for deer with a season bag limit of two antlerless deer and one legal antlered buck. Approximately 950 acres of this area is devoted to youth and handicapped-only deer hunting. Youth and handicapped hunters may use rifles.

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

During the past deer season, a total of 2,247 man-days were recorded for deer hunting with a harvest of 28 deer, consisting of 7 bucks and 21 does. Harvest numbers have been on a decreasing trend over the past 4 years. Harvest data collection has not been mandatory but will be required in the 2011–12 season.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	9	51	1,704	300	2,902
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

Hell Creek WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Hell Creek WMA 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.

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 14.8 inches while average main beam length was 18.2 inches. All bucks harvested met the minimum antler criteria.

Thirty-eight percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old which is lower than last season. This indicates that the deer herd is remaining stable.

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.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	4	8	571	285	99
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

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

John Bell Williams WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

John Bell Williams WMA is 2,930 acres located in Prentiss County near Boonville. John Bell Williams WMA is owned by Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District and managed by MDWFP.

Previously harvest data has been combined with Canal Section WMA. The 2010 season will be the first season where deer harvest data is separated for the Deer Program Report.

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

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

During the past deer season, a total of 470 man-days were recorded for deer hunting with a harvest of 9 deer, consisting of 4 bucks and 5 does. Harvest data collection has not been mandatory but will be required in the 2011–12 season.

John Starr Forest WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

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.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	33	48	249	171	1,933
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

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck. Hunters may harvest 2 legal bucks and 2 does per license year.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	4	2	1	7
Does	5	4	5	5	3	22

The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 13.3 inches while average main beam length was 16.4 inches. All bucks harvested met the minimum antler criteria.

Thirty-six percent of does harvested were 3.5+ years old slightly higher than last season. This indicates that the deer herd is being maintained at a constant level.

Total deer harvest and man-days has 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

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 19 year old replanted bottomland hardwood timber.

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or one main beam length of at least 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck. Archery, gun and primitive weapon seasons are available on the area.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	17	10	800	1,143	297
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

All of the bucks that we received harvest data on met the antler criteria for Lake George WMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 14.9 inches and average main beam length was 17.8 inches.

Sixty-two percent of the does harvested were 3.5 years old or older. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing. However, most of the harvest data on does was not reported.

There was a severe drought in late summer of 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. This may have negatively impacted fawn recruitment going into the winter of 2010.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	1	5	7	13
Does	1	1	1	2	3	8

2010-2011 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

WMA NARRATIVES

Leaf River WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Leaf River WMA consists of approximately 40,000 acres located within the Desoto National Forest in Perry County. 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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	45	25	889	1,600	5,794
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

Seventy percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Leaf River WMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.2 inches and the 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	0	2	10	18	31	61
Does	8	15	8	12	41	84

Sixty-three percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5+ years old. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

Leroy Percy WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Leroy Percy WMA is a 1,642-acre tract located about 5 miles west of Hollandale on MS Hwy 12. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed for deer hunting. Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or one main beam length of at least 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	6	4	367	550	554
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

All of the bucks that we received harvest data on met the antler criteria for Leroy Percy WMA.

Eighty-three percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates 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	1	2
Does	0	0	1	0	5	6

There was a severe drought in late summer of 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. The drought also resulted in a poor mast crop in oak and pecan trees. This may have negatively impacted fawn recruitment going into the winter of 2010.

Little Biloxi WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Little Biloxi WMA 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. 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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	10	9	1,445	1,606	1,995
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	1,154	315	2,733

Five of the six bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Little Biloxi WMA. Forty-five percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates that the deer herd is slightly increasing.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	1	1	1	3	6
Does	3	7	2	7	3	22

Mahannah WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Mahannah WMA 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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck. Also, hunters could obtain a tag that would

allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler, and 17 were reported as being used.

All of the bucks that we received harvest data on, except for the 17 harvested with special buck tags and 8 bucks harvested by youth hunters, met the antler criteria for Mahannah WMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 15.9 inches and average main beam length was 18.9 inches.

Forty-six percent of the does that we received harvest data on were 3.5 years old or older. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	46	106	274	119	1,755
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

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	22	4	31	21	89
Does	19	43	14	38	27	141

There was a severe drought in late summer of 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. The drought also resulted in a poor mast crop in oak and pecan trees. This may have negatively impacted fawn recruitment going into the winter of 2010.

There was a deer herd health evaluation conducted on Mahannah on February 15, 2011. 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 97 pounds, which was below the 100-pound Delta soil region average. The Kidney Fat Index (KFI) was 77.80, which is lower than the 108.39 expected KFI for does in the Delta. The Reproductive Potential of 1.88 fetuses was slightly lower than the expected 1.91. The conception dates ranged from December 14 to January 25.

Malmaison WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

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	
2006 – 2007	24	61	417	164	1,727
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

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	1	0	6	7	16
Does	12	8	5	9	12	46

Legal bucks are those with a minimum inside spread of 15 inches or one main beam length of 18 inches. During the 2010-11 season, 75% of the bucks we received data on met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 14.8 inches. The average main beam length for 3.5 year old bucks was 17.3 inches.

Forty-six percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This could mean the deer herd is increasing. Total deer harvest was lower than the previous 4 seasons despite an average number of man-days.

Forest habitat improvement thins will be implemented on 240 acres of designated forest stands on Malmaison WMA during 2011. These thins will increase natural browse, fawning cover, acorn production, and promote hardwood regeneration.

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on Malmaison on March 9, 2011. Data was collected from 10 does that were 2.5+ years old and one 1.5 year-old doe.

The average dressed weight of the 2.5+ year old does was 93 pounds, which is below the 100 pounds expected average in the Delta but consistent with historical data from the WMA. Kidney Fat Index (KFI) was acceptable at 92.5%. This is below an average KFI of 108.39% for delta does but much higher than a historical average of 72% for the WMA. The reproductive potential of 1.8 fetuses was slightly lower but consistent with historical WMA and Delta averages of 1.9. The conception date range was exceptional – breeding took place within a 24 day window of November 30 to December 23 and mean conception date was six days earlier than the average mean date of conception.

Marion County WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Marion County WMA is a 7,125-acre tract located southeast of Columbia. The WMA is owned by the MDWFP. 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.

2010-2011 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

WMA NARRATIVES

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck. Gun season closed January 1 with archery and youth gun opportunity continuing until February 15.

Sixty-seven percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Marion County WMA. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 11.4 inches and the average main beam length was 16.1 inches.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	47	33	152	216	2,101
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	206	131	2,292

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	5	7	11	7	5	35
Does	4	12	7	18	14	55

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

In 2010, WMA personnel conducted numerous prescribed burns on the WMA.

Mason Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Mason Creek WMA 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. 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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck. No biological data was received from harvested deer.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	23	5	1,217	5,600	1,751
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

Nanih Waiya WMA
Written by: Jeff Mangrum

Nanih Waiya WMA 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 12 inches or having one main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	16	45	478	170	1,420
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

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	4	9	5	3	22
Does	11	16	19	7	7	60

All of the bucks, with the exception of those harvested by youth hunters, for which data was collected, exceeded the minimum antler criteria for Nanih Waiya WMA. The average main beam length and inside spread for 3.5 year-old bucks harvested on the WMA this past season was 17.1 inches and 13.7 inches, respectively.

Twenty-three percent of the does for which data was collected were 3.5 years old or older. This percentage tends to indicate that the deer herd is stable. While the drier than normal conditions on the WMA during the past summer and fall typically reduce the quality and quantity of deer browse available, body weights for does across all age classes appear to be the same or slightly above historical averages. The hard mast crop was also reasonably good in spite of these conditions.

Deer hunting pressure and success on the WMA is highly dependent upon the water level of the Pearl River. Total deer harvest for the 2010–11 season increased 73% from the previous year, while hunting man-days increased 27%. The sharp increase in deer harvest and hunting man-days was the result of drier conditions in the fall and winter which allowed hunters to have unrestricted access to most of the WMA. Persistent flooding on the WMA during the prior deer season severely restricted hunter access and harvest opportunity.

After twelve hunting seasons on this WMA, 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 the WMA 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 the WMA. 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 the WMA. To provide optimum deer habitat in the future, hardwood forests will be managed to produce desired forest conditions that are sustainable over time. Proper management of the forests on the WMA 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 WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Natchez State Park is an approximately 3,000-acre tract located in Adams County near Natchez. The park is owned by the MDWFP.

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

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	14	13	214	231	N/A
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	149	98	1,012

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	3	3	3	13	23
Does	2	7	5	2	19	35

Eighty-two percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Natchez State Park. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 14.3 inches and the average main beam length was 16.9 inches.

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

Okatibbee WMA
Written by: Jeff Mangrum

Okatibbee WMA 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 the WMA include archery, primitive weapon, and gun, with gun being limited to shotguns with slugs only. Deer hunting on the WMA is still hunting only. Legal bucks for harvest are those with an inside spread of at least 12 inches or having one main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Deer hunting pressure on the WMA ranges from light to moderate with an annual harvest rarely exceeding 30 deer. Total deer harvest for the past season increased 35% from the previous year, while hunting man-days increased 11%.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	9	20	765	492	983
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

All of the bucks for which data was collected exceeded the minimum antler criteria for Okatibbee WMA. Although no bucks 3.5 years old were harvested, historical averages for length and spread for this age class are 17.6 inches and 15.6 inches, respectively. Forty 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 (6), it tends to indicate 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	2	0	1	3
Does	4	2	3	4	2	15

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

Drier than normal conditions during the summer and fall of the past year likely negatively impacted the quality and quantity of deer browse available on the WMA. The hard mast crop was reasonably good in spite of these conditions. Summer and winter supplemental forages such as clovers, wheat, oats, and peas were planted in some wildlife openings on the WMA.

2010-2011 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

WMA NARRATIVES

O'Keefe WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

O'Keefe WMA is 5,648 acres of bottomland hardwoods and fields located 8 miles south of Marks. 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	
2006 – 2007	31	31	182	182	1,825
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

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or one main beam length of at least 18 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	7	22	14	2	46
Does	9	8	7	1	5	30

During the 2010–11 season, 85% of the bucks we received data on met the minimum antler criteria. Two bucks were harvested under the WMA's existing management buck tag program. The average spread for 3.5 year old bucks was 15.9 inches and average main beam length was 19.8 inches.

Nineteen percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates a stable deer herd.

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

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on O'Keefe on March 2, 2011. Data was collected from eight harvested does that were 2.5+ years old.

The average dressed weight of the 2.5+ year old does was 93 pounds, which is below the 100 pound expected average for does in the Delta and well below the historical WMA average of 104 pounds. Kidney Fat Index (KFI) was exceptional at 142% and above the average KFI of 108.39%. High KFI was due presumably to heavy mast crops from the previous fall and winter. The reproductive potential of 2.0 fetuses was equal to historical WMA and Delta averages. The conception date range was November 30 to January 3.

Old River WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Old River WMA is an approximately 13,000-acre tract of bottomland hardwoods located in Pearl River County near Poplarville. The WMA is owned by the MDWFP.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	6	3	2,167	4,333	360
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	461	703	2,472

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	2	9	10	9	30
Does	4	2	6	3	6	21

Eighty-seven percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Old River WMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 13.8 inches and the average main beam length was 17.1 inches.

Forty-three percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates that the deer herd is slightly increasing.

Pascagoula WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Pascagoula River WMA 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 MDWFP.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	30	6	1,233	6,167	2,476
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

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Eighty-one percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Pascagoula River WMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.5 inches and the average main beam length was 15.9 inches.

Seventy-eight percent of the does with harvest data were 3.5 years old or older. This indicates 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	3	9	11	23	46
Does	0	3	1	4	10	18

Pearl River WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

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 12 inch inside spread or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
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

All of the bucks that we received harvest data on, except for one buck harvested by youth hunter, met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 11.6 inches and average main beam length was 15.7 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	1	2	12	1	18
Does	1	3	2	7	7	20

Seventy percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

There was a severe drought in late summer of 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. The drought also resulted in a poor mast crop in oak and pecan trees. This may have negatively impacted fawn recruitment going into the winter of 2010.

Red Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

*WMA reduced from approximately 90,000 acres to approximately 23,000 acres.

Red Creek WMA consists of approximately 23,000 acres located within the Desoto National Forest in Stone, George, and Jackson Counties. 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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	16	1	5,563	89,000	4,003
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	1,275	1,435	1,473

Eighty-one percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Red Creek WMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.6 inches and the average main beam length was 14.9 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	1	5	5	5	18
Does	0	1	1	4	10	16

Eighty-eight percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

Sandy Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Sandy Creek WMA is a 16,407-acre tract located within the Homochitto National Forest near Natchez in Adams and Franklin Counties. 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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	22	14	746	1,172	2,628
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

Eighty-six percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Sandy Creek WMA. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.7 inches and the average main beam length was 15 inches.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	4	7	5	9	26
Does	1	4	2	3	8	18

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

Sardis Waterfowl WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Sardis Waterfowl WMA 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 is managed by the MDWFP. Deer hunting is allowed using archery, primitive weapons, or rifles. This WMA provides hunting opportunity exclusively to hunters 15 years of age and younger and all hunts are draw hunts. Any buck is a legal buck on this WMA.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	16	8	155	310	96
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

Forty-seven percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This data indicates an increasing deer herd.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	5	2	0	2	11
Does	4	7	3	1	11	26

Shipland WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Shipland WMA 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 the WMA. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed for deer hunting. Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or one main beam length of at least 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	12	16	304	228	840
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

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

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

There was a severe drought in late summer 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. The drought also resulted in a poor mast crop in oak and pecan trees. This may have negatively impacted fawn recruitment going into the winter of 2010.

Sky Lake WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Sky Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) 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 the WMA. 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

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

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or one main beam length of at least 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck. Deer hunting on Sky Lake WMA is by draw hunt only and is restricted to archery and primitive weapons only.

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 13.0 inches and average main beam length was 19.4 inches.

There was no harvest information turned in on harvested does.

There was a severe drought in late summer 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. This may have negatively impacted fawn recruitment going into the winter of 2010.

Stoneville WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Stoneville WMA 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	
2006 – 2007	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	590
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

Deer hunting is restricted to archery and primitive weapon seasons on Stoneville WMA. Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or one main beam length of at least 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution

Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	1	1	1	4	7
Does	1	0	0	1	3	5

All of the bucks that we received harvest data on, except for the 1 buck harvested by a youth hunter, met the minimum antler criteria.

Eighty percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

There was a severe drought in late summer of 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. The drought also resulted in a poor mast crop in oak and pecan trees. This may have negatively impacted fawn recruitment going into the winter of 2010.

Sunflower WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Sunflower WMA 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 Sunflower WMA 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	
2006 – 2007	49	46	1,189	1,266	3,771
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

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or one main beam length of at least 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck. There are archery, gun, and primitive weapon seasons on Sunflower WMA.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution

Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	1	1	14	7	24
Does	2	7	6	9	14	38

All of the bucks that we received harvest data on, except for 3 bucks harvested by youth hunters, met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 15.3 inches and average main beam length was 18.5 inches.

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

There was a severe drought in late summer of 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. The drought also resulted in a poor mast crop in oak and pecan trees. This may have negatively impacted fawn recruitment going into the winter of 2010.

Tallahala WMA
Written by: Scott Baker

Tallahala WMA is 28,120 acres within the Bienville National Forest located near Montrose. Bucks must have a minimum inside spread of 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	66	31	903	800	1,924
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

Deer harvest consisted of 50 bucks and 70 does. Total harvest decreased 25% from last year. Deer hunters accounted for 1,431 man-days which is down significantly.

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

Buck and Doe Age Distribution

Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	3	18	22	7	50
Does	4	11	16	23	16	70

Ninety-two percent of the bucks we received harvest data on met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 12.9 inches and minimum main beam length was 16.4 inches.

Seventy-nine percent of the does that harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

There was a severe drought in late summer of 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. The drought also resulted in a poor mast crop. This could have had an impact on antler quality and body weights.

Theodore A. Mars WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
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

Theodore A. Mars Jr. WMA is a 900-acre tract located south of Poplarville in Pearl River County. The property was recently acquired by the 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 the WMA. The 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 the WMA.

Deer hunting on Theodore A. Mars Jr. WMA was limited to youth hunters by a special permit draw for the 2010 – 2011 season. No deer were reported harvested.

Trim Cane WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Trim Cane is an 891-acre tract located in Oktibbeha County about four miles north of Starkville. The area has been developed primarily for waterfowl hunting. This was the third year this area has been open to deer 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.

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

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

The percentage of does harvested that were 3.5+ years old is 80%. However, the inferences may not be accurate due to the small sample size.

Buck and Doe Age Distribution

Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	0	1	0	0	2
Does	0	0	1	3	1	5

Deer habitat should begin increasing over the next few years. Approximately 200 acres were burned on the area during February–March 2011. Work is also being started to provide additional early successional habitat.

Tuscumbia WMA
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

Tuscumbia WMA 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.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	5	1	487	2,436	252
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

Archery hunting on Unit 2 is allowed October 1 until just prior to the first waterfowl draw hunt. Limited hunting pressure on this unit has led to a steady increase in the deer population.

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

Deer data collection has not been mandatory, but will be during the 2011–12 season. A total of two bucks and eight does were harvested and 295 man-days were recorded. This is a decrease from the 2009–10 season.

Twin Oaks WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

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.

Legal bucks are those with an inside spread of at least 15 inches or one main beam length of at least 18 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck. 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 3 were reported as being used.

All of the bucks that we received harvest data on, except for the three harvested with special buck tags, met the antler criteria for Twin Oaks. The average spread on 3.5 year old bucks was 15.3 inches and average main beam length was 17.6 inches.

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

There was a severe drought in late summer of 2010 that negatively impacted the quality and availability of deer browse in late summer and fall. The drought also resulted in a poor mast crop in oak and pecan trees. This may have negatively impacted fawn recruitment going into the winter of 2010.

There was a deer herd health evaluation conducted on Twin Oaks on February 16, 2011. Four does that were 2.5+ years old were taken along with two does that were 1.5 years old.

The average dressed weight of the 2.5+ year old does was 104 pounds, which is above the 100 pounds expected average for does in the Delta soil region. The Kidney Fat Index (KFI) was 115.28 which is slightly better than the 108.39 expected KFI for does in the delta. The Reproductive Potential of 1.75 fetuses was lower than the expected 1.91 fetuses but this may be due to the low sample size of 4 adult does. The conception dates ranged from December 20 to January 26.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	20	50	290	116	980
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

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	2	3	1	4	6	16
Does	9	11	9	13	19	61

2010-2011 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

WMA NARRATIVES

Upper Sardis WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Upper Sardis WMA 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, primitive weapons, and rifles during respective seasons. A special deer season for youth is offered.

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

During the 2010–11 season, 62% of the bucks we received data on met the minimum antler criteria. The average inside spread of 3.5 year old bucks was 12.5 inches and average main beam length was 15.8 inches.

Sixty-one percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This statistic indicates an expanding deer herd.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	61	67	705	642	8,995
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

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	1	7	9	19	9	45
Does	1	12	10	16	20	59

Ward Bayou WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Ward Bayou WMA 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 and managed by the MDWFP. The majority of the WMA is comprised of bottomland hardwood and wetland habitat.

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

Eighty-eight percent of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Ward Bayou WMA. Fifty-seven percent of the does harvested were 3.5+ years old. This indicates that the deer herd is increasing.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	2	0	6,500	N/A	1,112
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	1,654	1,891	2,859

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

Wolf River WMA
Written by: Joshua Moree

Wolf River WMA 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.

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, one of the three buck bag limit may be any buck.

All of the bucks with harvest data met the antler criteria for Wolf River WMA. The average inside spread of 3.5 year old bucks was 13 inches and the average main beam length was 15.8 inches.

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

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	33	33	303	303	3,035
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	408	537	2,267

Buck and Doe Age Distribution						
Age	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5+	Total
Bucks	0	0	3	7	10	20
Does	1	3	3	2	9	18

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 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. For hunters less than 16 years of age, one of the three buck bag limit may be any antlered buck.

Season	Harvest		Acres/Harvest		Man-days
	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	
2006 – 2007	1	6	2,379	396	166
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

No bucks were harvested this season. A total of 13 does were harvested which is an increase from the previous year. The percentage of does harvested that were 3.5+ years old is 31% which indicates a stable population.

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	2	3	4	1	3	13

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.

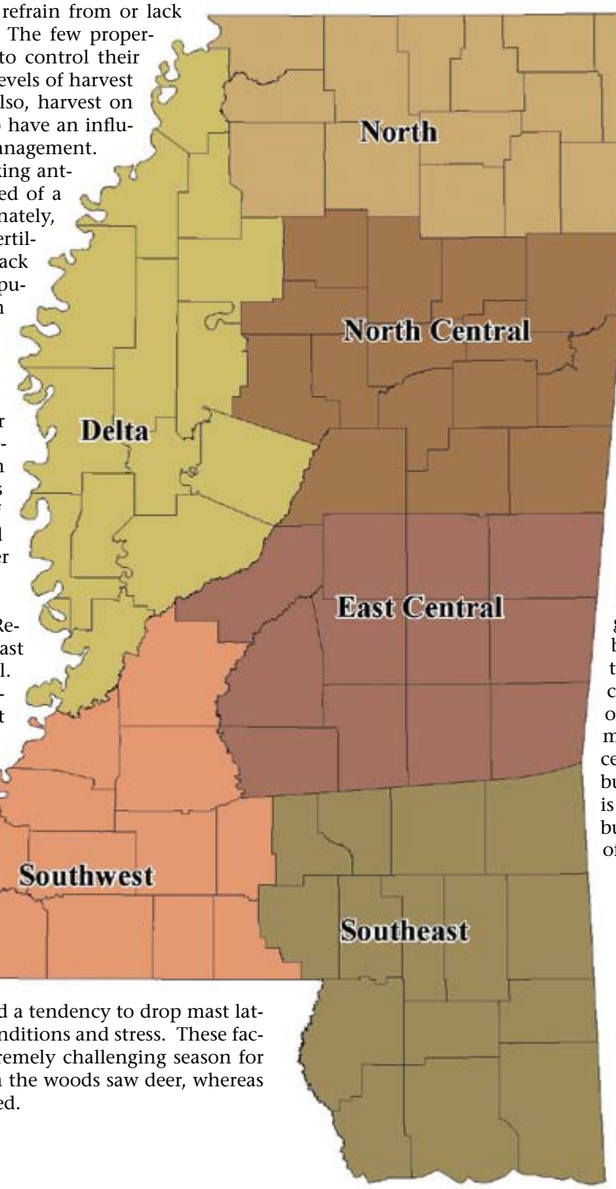
Will Rives harvested the new archery state record (172 4/8) in Jefferson County in December 2010.

North Region
Written by: Lann M. Wilf

Deer herds in the North Region are expanding at some of the fastest rates in the state. Sentiment against antlerless harvest is still strong in some of the north region, but seems to be changing as management interest spreads. Overall, the herd has appeared relatively healthy over the past five years. However, site visits within this region have revealed overpopulated deer herds on both lands that refrain from or lack appropriate antlerless harvest. The few properties that are making an effort to control their local deer herds are sustaining levels of harvest unheard of a few years ago. Also, harvest on neighboring properties tends to have an influence on the success of herd management. Properties that insist on not taking antlerless deer are in desperate need of a change in management. Fortunately, because of slightly lower soil fertility than the Loess Hills, Big Black Corridor, or the Delta, overpopulated deer herds in this region are easier to control than in other areas of the state. However, soil fertility is high enough to allow the habitat quality to be restored quickly after deer numbers are reduced. Therefore, management potential in the North Region is almost as high as any region of the state if the deer density is reduced and bucks are allowed to reach older age classes.

Deer harvest in the North Region was slightly better than last year but was less than optimal. This reduction is most likely associated with limited food plot success and high fluctuations in temperature during December and January. Dry conditions in early fall limited food plot success and germination, and most plots were unsuccessful. Another factor impacting hunter success was that mast availability was good in spite of dry conditions, but trees showed a tendency to drop mast later, probably as a result of dry conditions and stress. These factors combined to create an extremely challenging season for hunters. Hunters that stayed in the woods saw deer, whereas many food plot hunters struggled.

Regional body weights in all doe age classes were reduced because of back to back stress years. The summer of 2009 was abnormally wet, while the summer of 2010 was abnormally dry. Yearling doe body weights were reduced on most properties this year. This reduction can be attributed to stress years in 2009 and 2010, spotty mast production, and chronic deer under harvest on many properties. Lactation and fawn recruitment appeared to be about average or reduced throughout most of the region.



Some presence of EHD or bluetongue was documented in portions of the North Region. However, non-hunting mortality appeared to be minimal. The presence of EHD combined with dry conditions throughout the growing season more than likely played a part in the reduced fawn recruitment.

Buck harvest is changing due to increasing management interest. Hunters are realizing that age is a limiting factor in their harvest and are choosing to let some state legal bucks go. The majority of the buck harvest (61%) is in the 2 and 3 year-old age classes, which is indicative of a quality buck management program. The percentage of 4 ½+ year old bucks in the harvest (17%) is on an increasing trend, but is still lower than most of the state.

North Central Region
Written by: William T. McKinley

Another deer season is behind us and now we look at the fruit of our efforts. The years 2009 and 2010 were not good to the generally overpopulated deer herds in the North Central Region. Weights were down on most of the DMAP clubs in this region, especially on the 1.5 year old does. This is due to the extreme drought this region experienced in late summer and early fall of 2010. Weights had also fallen in 2009, due to the excessive amounts of rain that fell that year. Lactation rates fell over these two years also. There were many reports of spotted fawns being observed into December and January. Antlers followed the same trend. While there certainly were some very nice bucks taken last season, overall antler averages were down. The past two years have been especially hard on the deer herd in central MS.

The extreme drought caused acorns to delay maturation. Oaks that normally dropped their acorns in October did not drop until late November or early December. Deer observation rates were very high in archery season and during the early gun season, as food plots were heavily utilized. However, observations dropped dramatically in early to mid December, which coincided with the late acorn drop. More food equaled less movement. Due to this decreased movement during the rut, many mature bucks were not seen for harvest.

However, due to the heavy movement early in the season, and due to the implementation of the new antlerless only primitive weapons season in early November, antlerless harvest increased. Total deer harvest increased to the highest in several years. Doe harvest was nearly double the buck harvest. Buck harvest is spread across all age classes with 57% of the bucks harvested being 3.5 year old and older.

The good news is many mature bucks lived to see 2011. Also, Mississippi had a very early spring in 2011, with green-up occurring in late February (vs. early April in 2010). This allowed body conditions to recover much earlier than normal, and deer were in better shape going into the antler growing cycle. This should result in higher fawning rates and better antler development for the 2011 deer season.

East Central Region
Written by: William T. McKinley

Deer herd health parameters such as weights and antlers remained relatively consistent in the East Central Region. The summer of 2010 had enough rainfall to keep browse available, although not abundant. The extreme drought this region experienced in early fall of 2010 resulted in poor food plots, but what little seed that did grow was heavily utilized by deer.

The extreme drought caused acorns to delay maturation. Oaks that normally dropped their acorns in October did not drop until late November or early December. Deer observation rates were very high in archery season and during the early gun season. However, observations dropped dramatically in early to mid December, which coincided with the late acorn drop. More food equaled less movement. Due to this decreased movement during the rut, many mature bucks were not seen for harvest.

However, due to the heavy movement early in the season, and due to the implementation of the new antlerless only primitive weapons season in early November, antlerless harvest increased. Total deer harvest increased to the highest in several years. Doe harvest was more than double the buck harvest. Buck harvest is spread across all age classes with 54% of the bucks harvested being 3.5 year old and older. The percent of 3.5 and older bucks in the harvest has increased over the past few years. This represents hunters showing restraint in shooting young bucks. More hunters are holding out for a quality buck.

Many mature bucks lived to see 2011. Also, Mississippi had a very early spring in 2011, with green-up occurring in late February (vs. early April in 2010). This allowed body conditions to recover much earlier than normal, and deer were in better shape going into the antler growing cycle. This should result in higher fawning rates and better antler development for the 2011 deer season.

Delta Region
Written by: Lann M. Wilf

The past deer season was back to business as usual in the Delta Region. Harvest in the 2010 - 2011 deer season was much higher than that of the previous season, which had the lowest harvest in four years. Last year's increase in harvest and deer visibility was encouraging considering the two consecutive spring floods in 2008 and 2009 that stressed does during pregnancy and bucks during antler growth. The increased harvest was most likely associated with hunter confidence in deer densities and availability, since 2010 was the first spring in 3 years that did not have a substantial flood.

Mast crops were good throughout most of the Delta Region. Decent mast crops were reported region wide, but properties that were fortunate enough to get rains had higher mast availability. Acorn and pecan drop was earlier and less abundant on drier properties. Properties that were fortunate enough to get rain on food plots had some exciting hunts on properties with lower mast availability, but dry conditions in the fall made food plot establishment less than optimal on most properties. However, food plot performance was acceptable in most areas. In spite of these handicaps, hunters in the Delta were still successful with harvest rates being higher than the last two years.

For the past several hunting seasons, average body weights for bucks and does has remained stable. Hunter success and body condition was variable between properties and appeared to be related to intensity of prior harvest. Properties that appeared to be taking adequate numbers of deer had higher lactation rates and body weights than those that consistently under harvest. Doe body weights were improved this season, but lactation was less than ideal.

Multiple factors could be affecting fawn crops in the Delta, but the most logical culprit for reduced fawning success are the sporadic annual reports of hemorrhagic disease. Also, some predation may be playing a role on properties with limited cover and more mature hardwoods.

Buck harvest in the past season was concentrated on the 3 and 4-year old age classes. 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 a heavy mast crop. Also the early spring should have provided extra foraging opportunities for deer outside of the mainline levee. However, this spring's flooding was one of the highest in recorded history, but most properties reported little or no effect on local deer populations. The few properties that did lose significant numbers of deer were overpopulated prior to the flood. Because of this overpopulation problem, the flood helped these properties more than it hurt them. On a positive note, a fair number of fawns and sound deer populations have been observed on all site visits to properties in the Batture this summer. At any rate, harvests in the Batture during the 2011 – 2012 season should be based on recommendations of trained biologists using camera survey data, habitat evaluations, or a standardized method of documenting hunter observations. Reduction of harvest based on speculation could worsen problems in areas facing overpopulation and further damage habitat on properties that have exceeded carrying capacity.

Grant Means harvested this fine 10-point on a DMAP property in Madison County.

Southwest Region
Written by: Chris McDonald

Good amounts of rain up to the end of August provided abundant browse during a large portion of the summer stress period. This provided needed nutrients for antler growth and fawning. However, environmental conditions turned extremely dry during September and through October. This limited the growth of many hunters' favorite food plots. Supplemental plantings did not grow well until mid-November due to lack of rain. The lack of rain also caused many acorns to cast prematurely. Temperatures were relatively warm through the end of the first gun season. However, temperatures turned to the favor of hunters as the season progressed.

Hunters reported good success throughout most of the season. Dry conditions increased deer movement thus providing more harvest opportunities. Analysis of DMAP harvest data indicated that deer harvest during the 2010 – 2011 season increased compared to the 2009 – 2010 season, with 1 deer per 61 acres harvested. Lactation rates for 2.5 and 3.5+ year old does were lower compared to the 2009 – 2010 season. This decrease was most likely due to dry conditions during late summer and early fall. Average body weights for bucks and does have been consistent for the past 5 years.

Compared to other regions of the state, the Southwest Region continues to be a leader in the harvest of mature bucks. Harvest of 3.5+ year old bucks was another 5-year high for the region with 67% of the buck harvest being 3.5 years old or older. Two state-record bucks were harvested in the Southwest Region during the 2010 – 2011 hunting season. The first buck was harvested by Will Rives in Jefferson County during the early archery season. The buck grossed 196 2/8 inches and netted 172 4/8 inches. Will's deer is the first reported buck harvested with a bow in Mississippi to meet the all-time typical minimum score for the Boone and Crockett Club's Records of North American Big Game.

The second state-record buck harvested during the 2010 – 2011 season was harvested by James Saunders in Adams County. James used a primitive weapon to harvest the buck which grossed 188 7/8 inches and netted 184 6/8 inches. This buck also met the all-time typical minimum score for the Boone and Crockett Club's Records of North American Big Game. James' buck broke the typical score record for Mississippi that was held for 24 years by Glen Jourdan. The Southwest Region now holds 3 of the 4 state records for trophy bucks. This is proof of deer management success and deer herd potential within the Southwest Region.

Reports of hemorrhagic disease remained low for the 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: Chris McDonald

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DMAP harvest data indicate that most biological parameters for the deer population in the Southeast Region have remained consistent for the past 5 years. This can be attributed to habitat improvement caused by past hurricanes along this region and the use of prescribed burning. Age structure of harvested bucks has improved since the implementation of inside spread and main beam restrictions.

The Southeast Region has the fewest acres enrolled in DMAP out of all 6 deer regions. This is largely due to the Deer Program Biologist position being vacant for the last several years. Acreage enrolled in DMAP decreased by 47,502 acres for the 2010 – 2011 season compared to the 2009 – 2010 season. This decrease was mostly due to the withdrawal of one large property from DMAP. Although DMAP enrollment is low, interest in deer management is actually high in this region. However, personnel constraints has limited time devoted to this region. A Deer Program Biologist has now been hired for the Southeast Region. The hiring of a biologist should result in an increase in DMAP enrollment and will certainly increase the amount of deer management technical guidance provided in the Southeast Region.

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.

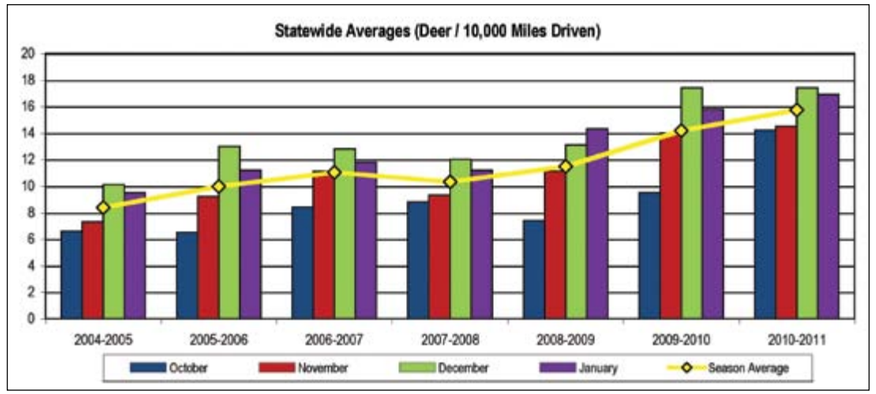


Figure 2

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. Activity 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 2010-2011 deer season, observed road kills were higher than that of any year that data was collected. This year's observed road kill season average was 1.6 deer higher than that of 2009-2010, which was an all time high prior to this year. Observed road kills increased substantially in all months, but the most significant increase was in October, which increased by 4.7 deer. This is most likely due to increased deer numbers combined with limited mast availability early in the fall. Many trees dropped mast later in the season rather than in late October and early November throughout many regions of the state. When the late mast drop throughout much of the state is considered, these data suggest that the deer herd continues to expand.

Observed road kill has increased consistently since data collection began in 1997. The data from 2010-2011 showed the highest observed road kill average ever recorded. These data suggest that the deer herd may be at an all-time high (**Table 3**).

MDWFP also collects road-kill data from State Farm Insurance Company. According to State Farm's estimates there were 13,489 deer-vehicle collisions in Mississippi during 2010 – 2011, which is a decrease from 14,738 in 2009 – 2010 and 14,327 in 2008 – 2009. These estimates contradict the increasing trend from MDWFP personnel's road-kill observations. However, this reduction is about 1,250 accidents, which may have been a function of a reduction in claims or slightly fewer vehicles on the road. Also, Mississippi ranked 25th in the nation in total deer-vehicle collisions. Pennsylvania had the highest with 101,299 total deer-vehicle collisions, and Michigan followed having 78,304. Claims in both states were reduced 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 stable or slightly expanding when road kill and deer-vehicle collision data are analyzed.

While the State Farm data mimics the increase in road kill observed by MDWFP, deer-vehicle collisions in Mississippi happen more than reported through the State Farm data. Since animal collisions are often only covered under comprehensive or collision policies, collisions involving vehicles only carrying liability insurance coverage would not be reflected in the State Farm data. Regardless, with a deer herd at an expected all-time high, drivers should be cautious and aware while driving Mississippi's highways and roads.

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

Month	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Avg. all Years
October	6.6	6.5	8.4	8.8	7.4	9.5	14.2	7.5
November	7.3	9.2	11.1	9.3	11.1	14.0	14.5	9.6
December	10.1	13.0	12.8	12.0	13.1	17.4	17.4	12.2
January	9.5	11.2	11.8	11.2	14.3	15.8	16.9	11.6
Season Avg.	8.4	10.0	11.0	10.3	11.5	14.2	15.8	

Chronic Wasting Disease

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 one infected animal to another. 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 2010 – 2011 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 1,182 samples were taken from free-ranging white-tailed deer in Mississippi during the 2010 – 2011 sampling period. Samples were obtained from hunter-harvested animals, spring herd health evaluations, target animal surveillance, and road-killed animals. Samples were obtained from 78 counties (**Figure 3**). The samples were submitted to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia following the 2010 – 2011 hunting season and 1,148 of those samples were tested for evidence of the CWD agent using immunohistochemistry. The remaining 34 samples were not tested because the containers did not contain testable specimens. Evidence of CWD was not detected in any of the tested samples.

Additionally, 113 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 39** 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.

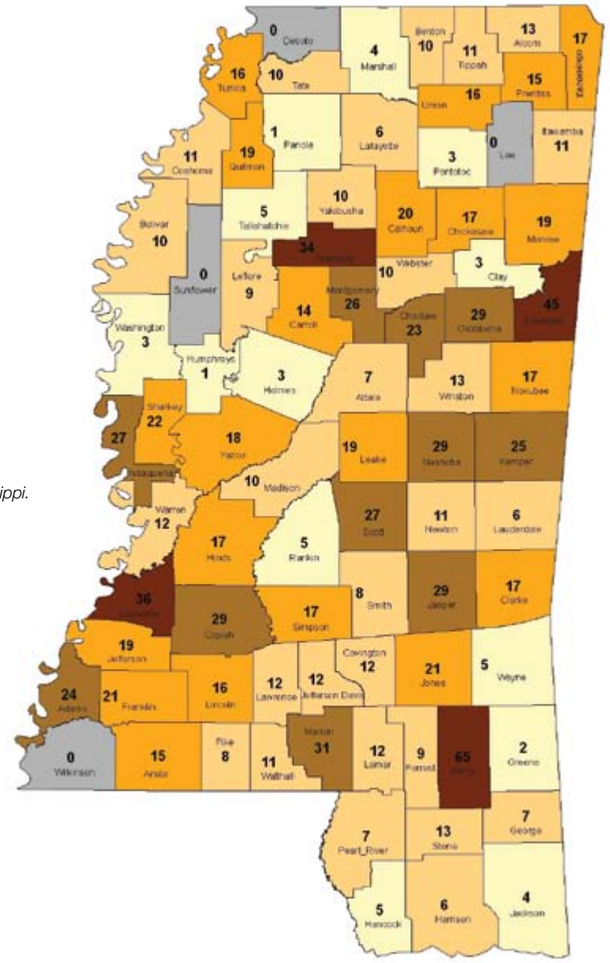
As of July 2011, CWD has been diagnosed in 18 states and 2 Canadian Providences. CWD is currently present in wild cervid populations in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Illinois, Utah, New York, West Virginia, Kansas, Virginia, Missouri, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, Maryland, Minnesota, and Alberta. CWD is only present in captive cervid populations in Oklahoma, Michigan, and Montana.

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:

- Avoid shooting, handling, or consuming any animal that appears sick. 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.*



Hemorrhagic Disease

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. See **Table 4** for the virus isolation results from the 2010 deer herd health evaluations.

A low occurrence of HD was observed during the 2010 – 2011 hunting season, with evidence of HD reported in 31 deer across 16 counties (**Figure 4**). This is greatly reduced from the 198 reported deer scattered across 35 counties during the 2009 – 2010 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 2011 – 2012 hunting season in north and south MS. Central MS should continue to see a lower occurrence.

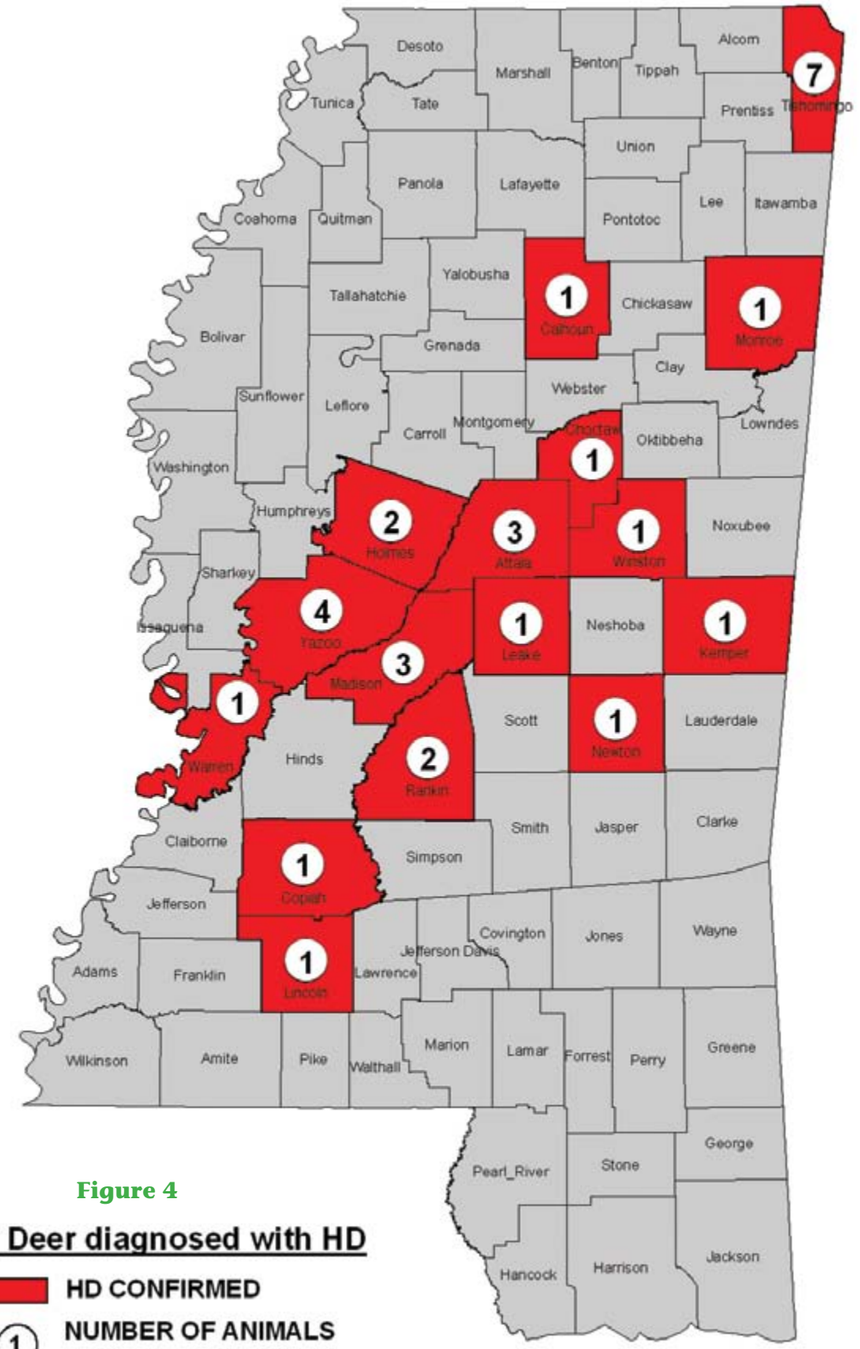


Figure 4

Animal Control Permits

Conservation officers often assist farmers and landowners mitigate agricultural depredation by deer through the use of Animal Control Permits (ACP). The method for application of ACP 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 include an on-site evaluation by a 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 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 57 ACPs were issued in 22 counties during 2010. This is significantly lower than the reported 156 permits issued in 40 counties in 2009. The reduction in the number of ACPs is most likely associated with the 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 adjust to the new application process. Counties where depredation permits were issued and the number of permits issued by county are shown in **Figure 5**. 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.

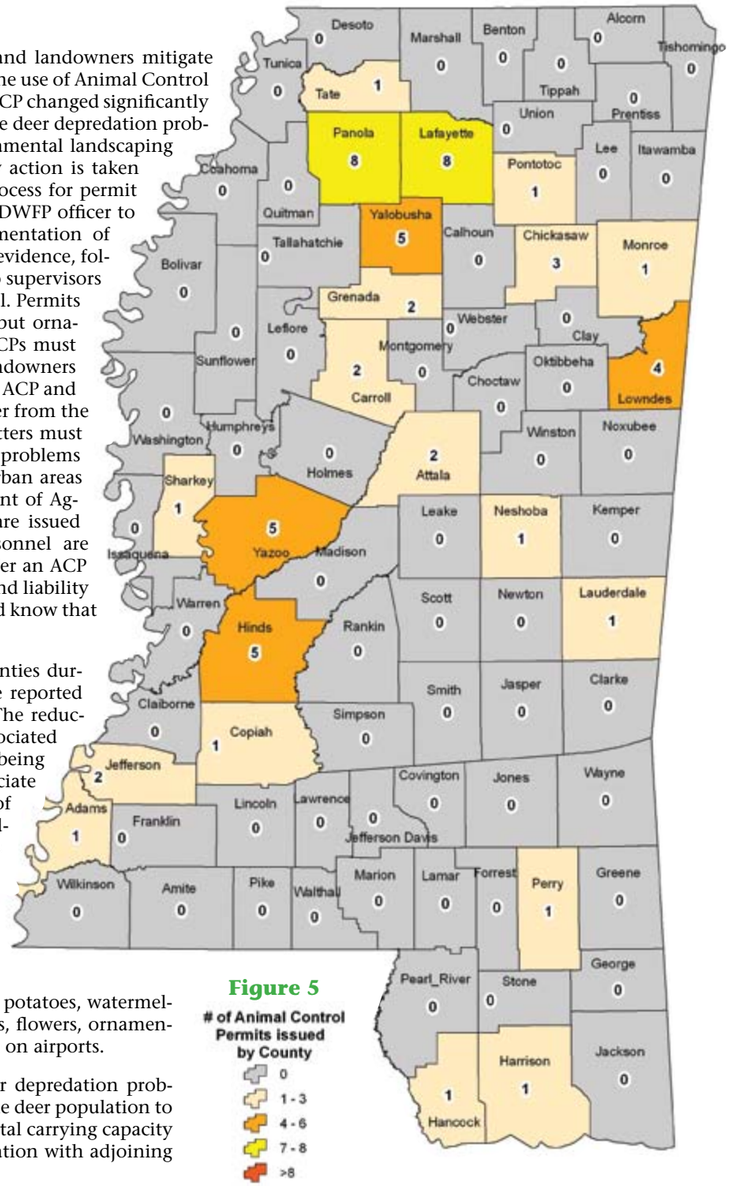


Figure 5

The preferred method of controlling deer depredation problems is adequate hunter harvest. 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.

2011 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 6**. Data from the 2011 statewide deer herd health evaluations are given in **Table 5**. Data were collected from 133 deer on 13 sites across the state.

In **Table 5**, conception date ranges, averages, and corresponding fawning dates are given for each collection site. The earliest conception date (30-November) was detected at Malmaison WMA in Grenada/Carroll Counties. The latest conception date (2-March) was detected on Togo Island in Claiborne County. Mean fawning dates based on the conception dates ranged from 25-June on Malmaison WMA in Grenada/Carroll Counties to 30-July on Chickasaw WMA in Chickasaw County. The statewide average conception date was 1-January and the corresponding state average fawning date was 17-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 1.5 CLs per doe on Togo Island in Claiborne County and Twin Oaks WMA in Sharkey County to a high of 2.3 CLs per doe on the Tombigbee Cooperative in Lowndes 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 1.5 on Deviney Property in Copiah County to a high of 2.4 on Camp McCain in Grenada 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 2010 was seen on Okeefe WMA in Quitman County.

Disease

During deer herd health evaluations, blood serum samples are collected from each deer. The serum samples are tested for antibodies to the various sub-types of Hemorrhagic disease (HD). HD can be caused by several different strains of either the epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) virus or the bluetongue (BT) virus. The presence of antibodies indicates previous exposure, not current infection. Due to time constraints, the serotype information described is for 2010 Deer Herd Health Evaluations. Prevalence of previous infection ranged from 0% on Sandy Creek WMA in Adams County to 100% on properties in Holmes, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren Counties.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples were also taken on most of the deer collected during the 2011 herd health evaluations. There was no incidence of CWD found in any samples.

Table 4. 2010 Serologic Test Results for Antibodies to EHDV and BTV in Mississippi White-tailed Deer

Location	County	# of Samples	AGID Serologic Assay Results Summary		
			EHD	BTV	Prevalence
Cameron Plantation	Madison	11	4 + / 3 w+	5 + / 2 w+	64%
Smallwood JA Young	Winston	13	0 + / 5 w+	0 + / 2 w+	38%
Chickasaw WMA	Chickasaw	19	7 + / 4 w+	5 + / 6 w+	68%
Twin Oaks WMA	Sharkey	8	0 + / 1 w+	0 + / 2 w+	25%
Mahannah WMA	Issaquena	12	2 + / 2 w+	1 + / 3 w+	33%
Oxbow Hunting Club	Warren	7	7 + / 0 w+	7 + / 0 w+	100%
Old Pearl Game Mgt	Simpson	3	1 + / 2 w+	1 + / 0 w+	100%
Triple Creek Game Farm	Jasper	10	7 + / 2 w+	5 + / 3 w+	90%
Infolab	Quitman	4	1 + / 1 w+	0 + / 3 w+	75%
Copiah Co WMA	Copiah	12	6 + / 1 w+	4 + / 3 w+	58%
Divide Section WMA	Tishomingo	12	2 + / 2 w+	2 + / 2 w+	33%
Panther Swamp NWR	Yazoo	12	3 + / 0 w+	3 + / 0 w+	25%
Sandy Creek WMA	Adams	4	0 + / 0 w+	0 + / 0 w+	0%
Caston creek WMA	Franklin	9	6 + / 2 w+	5 + / 3 w+	89%
Hillside NWR	Holmes	11	6 + / 5 w+	6 + / 5 w+	100%
Hogan Bottom / McMorrough Camp	Monroe	3	3 + / 0 w+	3 + / 3 w+	100%
Strong H.C.	Monroe	6	2 + / 3 w+	3 + / 2 w+	83%

All results are derived from agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) assays.

"+" results denote clear positive reaction to EHD/BTV antigen.

"w+" results denote slight but visible reactivity, best confirmed by additional testing. These results may be due to low titers or cross reactivity.

Prevalence values refer to total samples reacting (either + or w+) to either EHD or BTV antigens over the total samples per site.

From the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study College of Veterinary Medicine, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Table 5. 2011 Deer Herd Health Evaluation Summary

Soil Area	Site ID	Collection Site	County	Date of Collection	N1	N2	Range of Conception		Mean Conception Date	Mean Fawning Date	Average # CLs	Average # Fetuses	Average Dressed Weight	Average KFI
BP	20	Black Prairie WMA	Lowndes	7-Mar	9	8	28-Dec	22-Jan	7-Jan	22-Jul	2	1.9	89.1	57.7
UCP	29	Camp McCain	Grenada	23-Mar	11	8	20-Dec	30-Jan	8-Jan	23-Jul	1.8	2.4	71.8	41.9
UCP	39	Chickasaw WMA	Chickasaw	9-Mar	13	12	23-Dec	30-Jan	15-Jan	30-Jul	1.8	1.8	74.6	60.3
LThin	64	Deviney	Copiah	17-Mar	12	11	7-Dec	24-Feb	8-Jan	23-Jul	1.8	1.5	92.2	117.9
D	115	Mahannah WMA	Issaquena	15-Feb	9	9	14-Dec	25-Jan	31-Dec	15-Jul	1.8	1.6	93.9	77.8
UThick	116	Malmaison WMA	Grenada	9-Mar	10	10	30-Nov	23-Dec	11-Dec	25-Jun	1.8	1.8	93.4	92.5
D	137	O'Keefe WMA	Quitman	2-Mar	8	8	30-Nov	3-Jan	17-Dec	1-Jul	2	1.8	92.5	142.1
B	173	Togo Island	Claiborne	2-Mar	11	9	21-Dec	2-Mar	7-Jan	22-Jul	1.5	1.7	81.2	81.6
D	176	Twin Oaks WMA	Sharkey	16-Feb	6	4	20-Dec	26-Jan	3-Jan	18-Jul	1.5	1.8	98	96.8
IF	217	Weyerhaeuser - Kemper Co.	Kemper	10-Mar	12	11	12-Dec	24-Jan	7-Jan	22-Jul	1.7	1.7	75.8	66.4
UCP	272	Hogan Bottom/ McMorrough Camp	Monroe	24-Feb	8	8	3-Dec	16-Jan	21-Dec	5-Jul	1.9	1.8	70.5	46.8
BP	279	Tombigbee Cooperative	Lowndes	7-Mar	14	12	12-Dec	7-Feb	6-Jan	21-Jul	2.2	2.2	84.3	61.8
UThin	281	Wilkins Creek Cooperative	Montgomery	15-Mar	10	10	7-Dec	23-Jan	25-Dec	9-Jul	1.6	1.6	77.6	64.9
				Total:	**133**	**120**		**Average:**	**1-Jan.**	**17-July**	**1.89**	**1.77**	**85.03**	**76.64**

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

Chad Dacus

2011 Deer Herd Health Evaluations

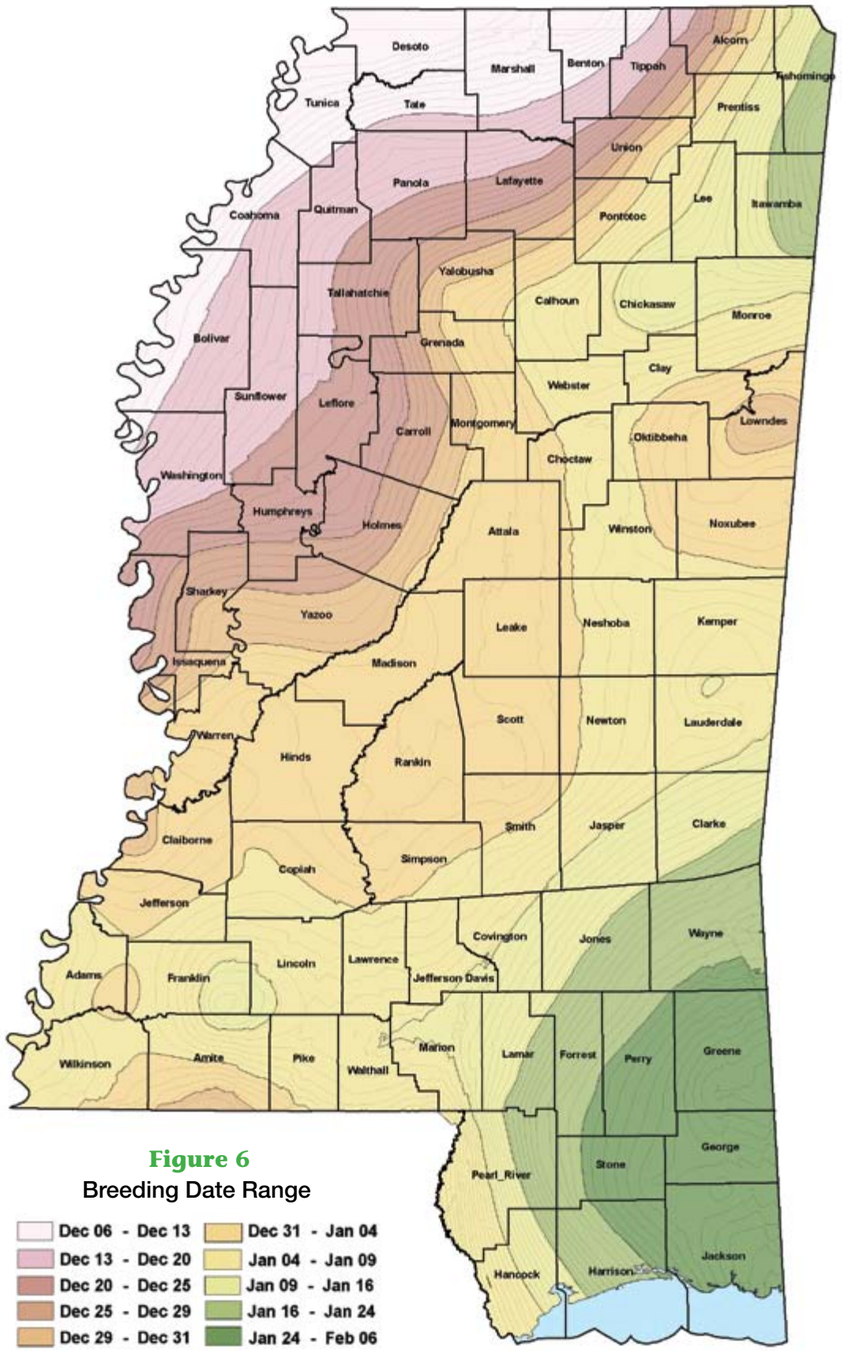


Figure 6
Breeding Date Range

- Dec 06 - Dec 13
- Dec 13 - Dec 20
- Dec 20 - Dec 25
- Dec 25 - Dec 29
- Dec 29 - Dec 31
- Dec 31 - Jan 04
- Jan 04 - Jan 09
- Jan 09 - Jan 16
- Jan 16 - Jan 24
- Jan 24 - Feb 06

Mississippi Bowhunter Observations

The MDWFP began distributing Bowhunter Observation Books for the 2005 – 2006 deer archery season. The observations provide us with trend data for statewide buck to doe ratios and fawn crops, as well as annual observation rates. Efforts to increase distribution of the books increased during the following years. Four prizes were donated for the 2010 – 2011 season to increase participation. Hunting Solutions donated a Millennium Hang-On stand, Mississippi Bowhunters Association donated a Millennium Hang-On stand and stick ladder, and Quail Ridge Press donated copies of The Complete Venison Cookbook. The prizes were given away in December through a random drawing of returned observation books. Bowhunter Observation Books were distributed through sporting goods stores, feed stores, and were available online. Over 1,000 books were distributed during September 2010. A total of 63 books were returned by the December 1st deadline. Participating bowhunters observed 3404 total deer yielding 1.08 deer per hour. Bowhunters recorded 3154.2 hours in 57 counties. A description of deer observed is shown in **Table 6**. Total hours of observation by county are presented in **Figure 7**. Data collected was not sufficient to estimate sex ratio and fawn crop by county.

Bowhunter Observation Books produced very similar statewide estimates for the past six years (**Table 7**). According to this data, Mississippi had about 2.8 does for every buck, and about 1 fawn for every 2 does going into the 2010 hunting season. A 1:2.8 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 one-half a fawn for every doe.

We plan to continue distributing Bowhunter Observation Books during 2011. If you would like to assist the MDWFP in collecting deer observation data during archery season, and automatically enter into the random drawings, you may download the book from our website, www.mdwfp.com/deer, or you may email williamm@mdwfp.state.ms.us or call 601-432-2199 to request a book. If calling or emailing, please provide a physical address to mail the book. Thanks to all bowhunters who have assisted in collecting this data.

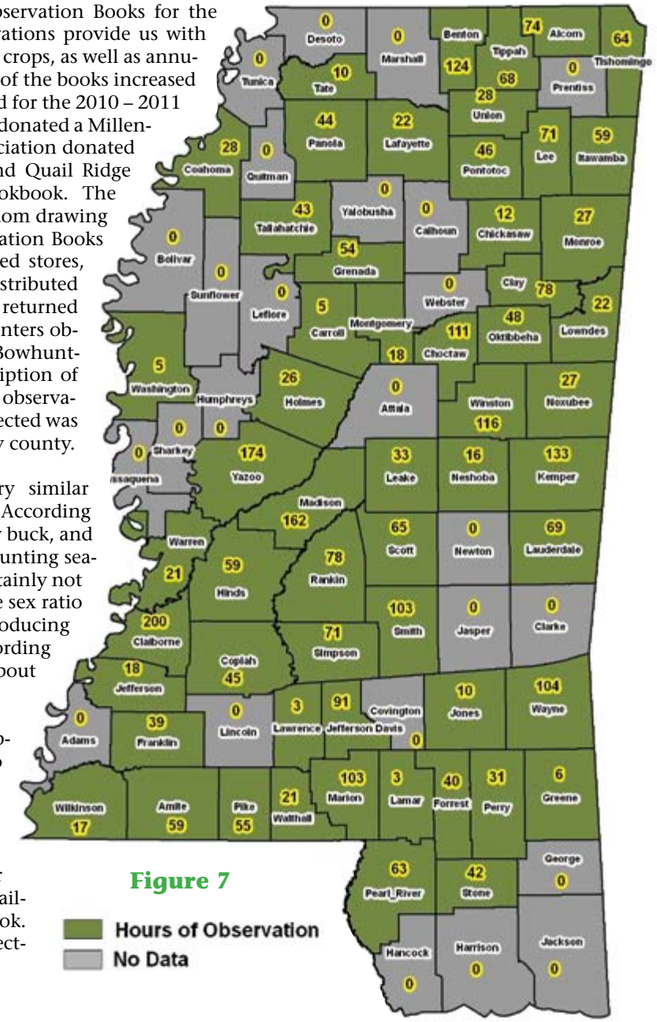


Figure 7

- Hours of Observation
- No Data

Table 6. Total Hours and Deer Observed in 2010

Total Hours	2-3 Points	4-7 Points	8+ Points	Does	Fawns	Unknown Deer
3,154.2	251	195	150	1,666	798	344

Table 7. Bowhunter Observation Results 2005-2010

Year	Total Hours	Total Deer Observed	Buck to Doe Ratio	Fawn to Doe Ratio	Deer Observed Per Hour
2005	1,489.25	1,262	1 Buck : 2.40 Does	0.60 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.18
2006	3,431.75	3,803	1 Buck : 2.69 Does	0.52 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.11
2007	5,669.75	6,008	1 Buck : 2.92 Does	0.43 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.06
2008	6,425.25	7,343	1 Buck : 2.50 Does	0.48 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.14
2009	3,919.50	3,833	1 Buck : 2.33 Does	0.47 Fawns : 1 Doe	0.98
2010	3,154.20	3,404	1 Buck : 2.80 Does	0.48 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.08

Antler Regulations

The 2010 – 2011 hunting season was the second year using the antler criteria and management zones developed and implemented prior to the 2009 – 2010 hunting season. Also this was the second 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 8** 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 breeding period. This shifted season is based on Deer Herd Health Evaluation Data which illustrates later breeding within Zone 2 during January – 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 support these antler regulations. After the 2008 – 2009 season, Wildlife Management Areas offering exclusive youth opportunity were the only areas not required to have antler restrictions.

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 40**.

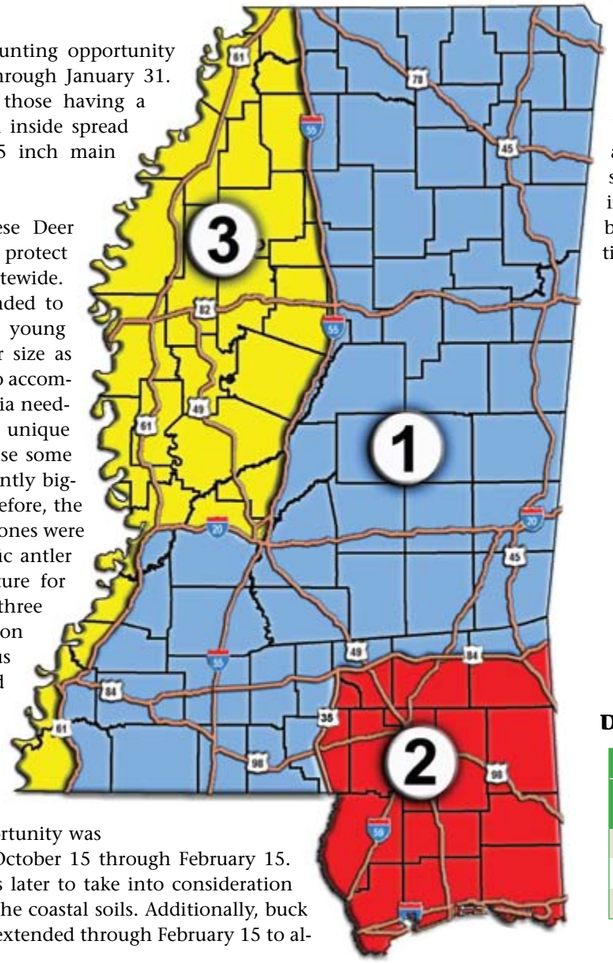


Figure 8.
Deer Management Zones

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

High Fenced Enclosures 2010-2011 Permit Year

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 2010 – 2011 permit year, 98 facility permits were issued. Public Notice W1-3780 allows white-tailed deer breeding pens within enclosures of at least 300 acres. For the 2010 – 2011 permit year, 14 white-tailed deer breeder permits were issued. As allowed by Public Notice W1-3780, one intrastate white-tailed deer transport permit was issued, with one doe transferred from Facility SE16 to Facility SE20 for stocking purposes.

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 2010 – 2011 permit year, 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 2010 – 2011 hunting season, harvest data were submitted for 39 enclosures, with 436 bucks and 595 does harvested. For management purposes, 385 buck tags were issued to 24 enclosures with 116 buck tags reported as used, and 570 doe tags were issued to 28 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 2010 – 2011 permit years, 113 samples were taken from white-tailed deer within 8 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. Since the 2006 – 2007 season, tagged bucks have not counted against the annual and daily bag limit. The management buck harvest criteria assigned to an individual property were determined by the DMAP biologist and a written justification was issued by MDWFP. 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 2010 – 2011 season. A total of 90 tags were issued to these WMAs and 22 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 9**). Because of low usage of the tags by hunters, tags were issued only to O'Keefe, Mahannah, and Twin Oaks WMAs during the 2010 – 2011 season.

Management buck tags were issued to the following 135 DMAP properties for the 2010 – 2011 season: 11 Shot, 3 Creeks, 6 Mile Creek, 27 Break, Archer Island, Arkabutla COE, Ashbrook, Attala Deer Camp, Atwood, Barefoot, Bayou Boyz, Beck's Bay, Beech Ridge, Bellweather, Big Black Widlife, Bighorn (Lowndes Co.), Bighorn (Noxubee Co.), Big O, Big River Farms, Black Bayou, Black Bear, Black Prairie Outfitters, Black River, Bogue Falia, Bonanza, Box B, Bozeman, Breakwater, Brierfield, Brooksville, Bucksnort, Burke, Burl Branch, Cameron Plantation, Casey Jones, Catfish Point, Cedar Ridge, Chad Bradford, Champion Hill, Chief, Clifton Plantation, Cobb's Crossing, Concordia, Cypress Bend, Cypress Run, Dale Dancin' Coyote, Dancin' Coyote Adj, Deviney Free Range, Dixie Limited, Dixon Brothers, Dixon Lake, Donaldson Point, Double D, Eastline, Egypt, Elliot Lake, Ellislie, Fairview, Gaddis Farm Battle of Raymond, Gaddis Farm Heifer Pasture, Glasscock, Goat Hill, Goldig Farms, Greasy Bayou, Grimp, Halifax, Hardtimes, ,Hartwood, Hawk's Grove, Head Hunters, Higgs, Hoffman, Homewood, Horseshoe, Hutchenson, Independence, Info Lab, Irwin, Jeff H.C., Josh & Curran Carnell, Kearney Park, Lester Spell, Little River Farms, Luckett, Mabry, Magna Vista, Magna Vista Section, Merigold, Melton Properties, Millbrook, Miller Point, Montgomery – Sligo, Montgomery – Whitaker, Moore Farms, Nail's Bayou, NAS Meridian, Natchez Island, Noxubee-Kemper Co. Line, Outback, Oxbow, P & W Farms, Palmer Farms, Palmyra, Paradise, Parker-Gary, Pinecrest, Pinhook, Prewitt, Providence (Hinds Co.), Providence (Holmes Co.), Rabie's Retreat, Red Gate, Refuge, Richard Reid, Riverbend (Clarke Co.), Riverbend (Rankin Co.), Riverside, Rosedale, Solitude, Strong, TCP, Thorton, TN Bar, Togo Island, Triple C, Triple Creek, W.F. Anderson, Ward Lake, White Oak, Williams Farms, Willow Oaks 1, Willow Oaks 2, Wolf Creek, Wood Burn, and Yazoo NWR.

A total of 1,844 tags were issued to these properties and 777 of these tags were used (**Figure 10**). Number of properties issued tags and the number of tags used decreased slightly compared to the 2009 – 2010 season. 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 densities and habitat quality on these properties.

DMAP Antlerless Tags

MDWFP also 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.

Based on the needs of the property and data available, a DMAP biologist will develop a harvest recommendation for the property and issue a certain number of antlerless tags to a landowner or manager. The tags can only be used on antlerless deer on the property to which they were issued.

DMAP biologists issued 4,918 tags to 203 DMAP clubs during the 2010 – 2011 season. The increase in tags issued since the 2003 – 2004 season correlates to increased interest in deer management in Mississippi (**Figure 11**).

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 49 permits sold during the 2010 – 2011 hunting season. Use of these tags has substantially decreased over the past 4 years.

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 9. Buck Tags Issued and Used on WMAs

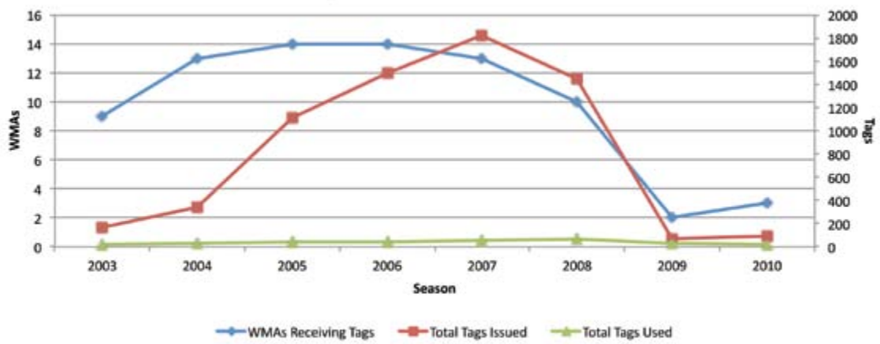


Figure 10. Buck Tags Issued and Used on DMAP Properties

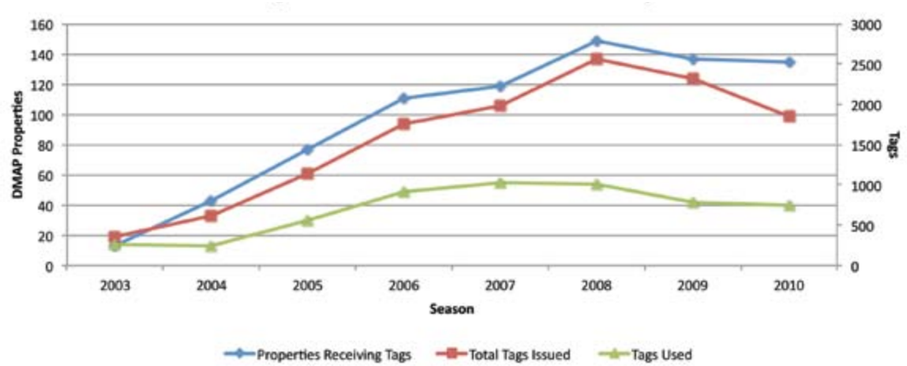
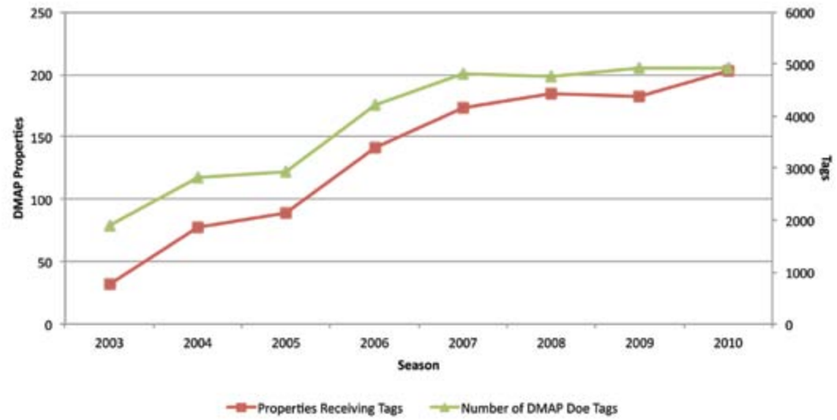


Figure 11. Antlerless Deer Tags Issued on DMAP Properties



Urban Deer Management

During the 2010 deer season, an urban deer management plan was implemented in the city of Oxford, MS. This management plan was the result of years of conflicts between residents and an expanding deer herd. The plan 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.


Jason Price

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 through human development. This encroachment has increased deer densities on the remaining habitat within Oxford, which has led to increases in deer-vehicle collisions and over browsing of landscape and yard plants by deer.

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 2010 hunting season, archery hunting was allowed beginning October 1. Participating hunters were required to take a doe prior to taking a buck and to collect biological data on each deer after harvest. This hunt resulted in the harvest of 29 does and 12 bucks, which was below optimal harvest. Harvest data such as doe body weights and age structure suggests that the deer herd is stressed and had exceeded carrying capacity of the available habitat. Based on these data, more intense harvest recommendations were provided for the 2011 - 2012 season. As more deer are removed, these indices should begin to improve.

In the future, additional municipalities will have similar challenges, especially those with significant deer habitat existing within city limits and a growing human population. 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.

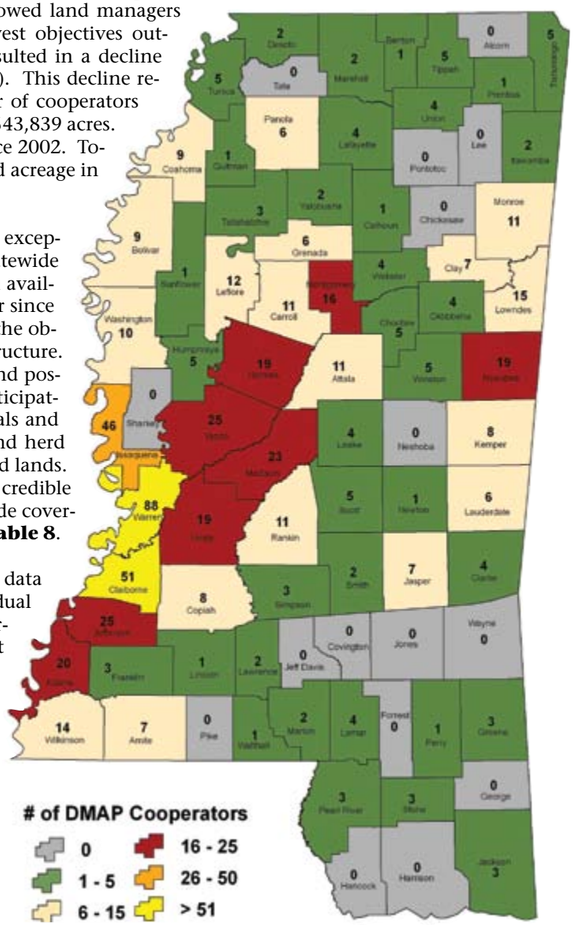

Chad Dacus

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.

Figure 12.
DMAP Cooperators by County



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 13**). This decline reduced both total acreage and number of cooperators in DMAP. Current enrollment includes 626 cooperators on 1,543,839 acres. Total DMAP cooperators have remained slightly declining since 2002. Total DMAP harvest has mirrored the changes in cooperators and acreage in DMAP over the past few years (**Figure 14**).

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 and over 25,000 deer since 2000 (**Figure 14**). 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 1.5 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 8**.

All DMAP data are evaluated based on soil region. These data are presented in **Tables 13-23**. 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 (2006 – 2010). 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 3.1 years old in 2010 (**Figure 16**). In addition, these older age class bucks are being produced and harvested on a declining acreage base (**Figure 17**).

The percentage of harvested bucks in the older age classes (4½+) has increased for the last four seasons (**Figure 18**). 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. The slight increase in 1½ year old bucks

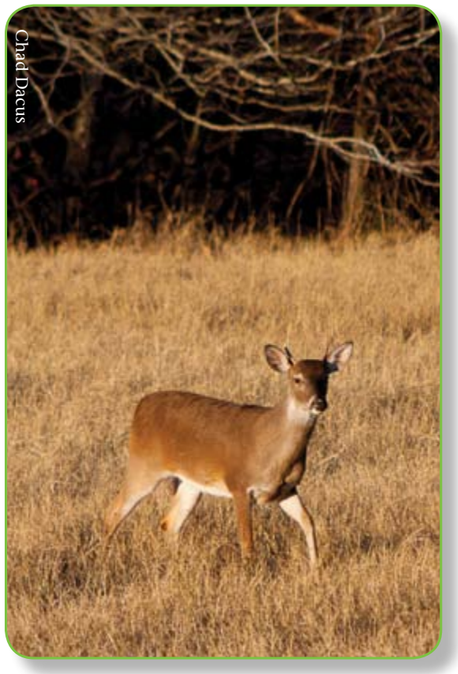
since 2005 can be attributed to the more wide scale use of management buck tags as well.

Statewide condition data for harvested deer on WMAs, NWRs, and DMAP properties are presented in **Table 9**. 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 harvested deer on private land DMAP properties only are presented in **Tables 13-23**. 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 with a slight increase during last season. Since 2003 on WMAs/NWRs, it is taking fewer acres to produce 3½+ bucks (**Table 11**). This is most likey due to the implementation of minimum spread / main beam criteria on these WMAs/NWRs. Bucks harvested on DMAP properties on average were half a year older, had 2 inch longer main beams, and inside spread was 1½ inches wider than bucks harvested on WMAs/NWRs. 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.

Jason Price



Chad Dacus

Trey Bozeman harvested this 172 6/8 inch buck on a DMAP property in Madison County.

Figure 13. DMAP Acreage & Cooperators

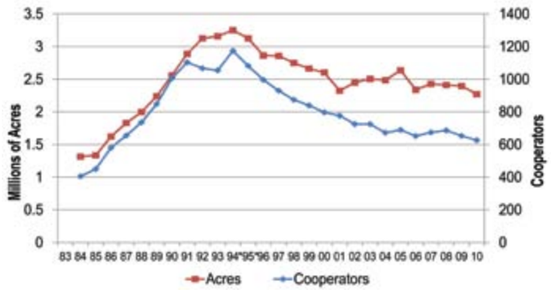


Figure 14. DMAP Deer Harvest

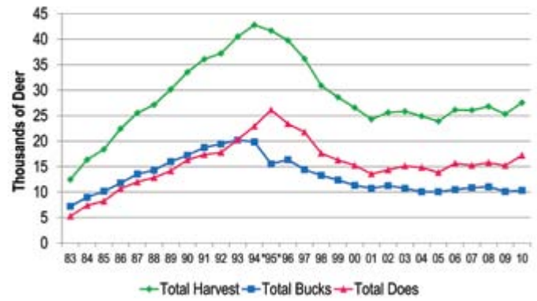


Figure 15. Acres/Deer Harvested

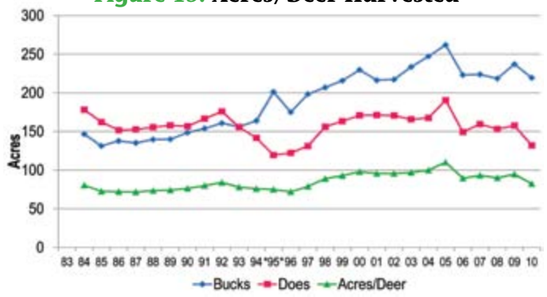


Figure 16. Average Age All Bucks

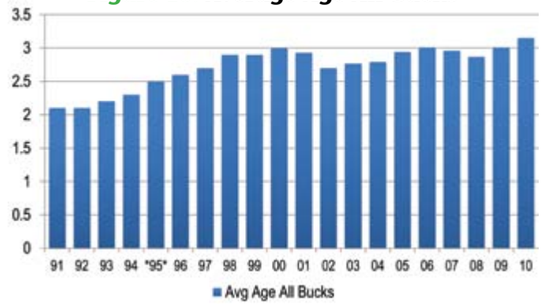


Figure 17. Acres/3.5+ Year Old Bucks

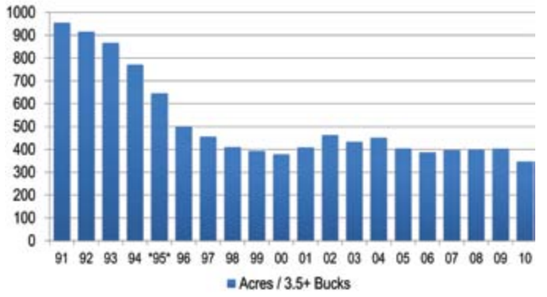


Figure 18. Percentage of Bucks by Age Class

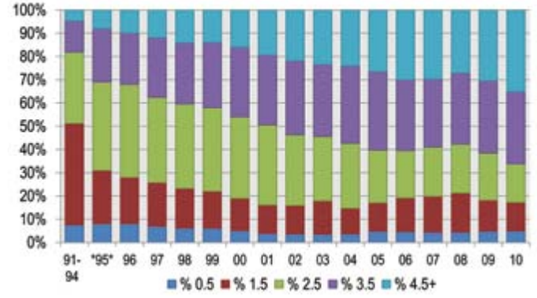


Table 8. DMAP Participation and Harvest by County During the 2010-2011 Season

County	Cooperators	Acres	Harvest		
			Bucks	Does	Total
Adams	20	60,758	387	646	1,033
Alcorn					
Amite	7	19,028	84	140	224
Attala	11	38,542	260	339	599
Benton	1	1,200	12	10	22
Bolivar	9	60,859	361	631	992
Calhoun	1	1,800	2	9	11
Carroll	11	20,201	127	259	386
Chickasaw					
Choctaw	5	7,393	52	75	127
Claiborne	51	89,624	747	1,155	1,902
Clarke	4	18,727	50	115	165
Clay	7	19,485	96	169	265
Coahoma	9	52,264	234	384	618
Copiah	8	23,315	120	265	385
Covington					
Desoto	2	6,537	25	21	46
Forrest					
Franklin	3	7,041	27	43	70
George					
Greene	3	2,852	15	41	56
Grenada	6	21,685	70	226	296
Hancock					
Harrison					
Hinds	19	33,348	212	419	631
Holmes	19	33,556	164	443	607
Humphries	5	9,840	24	101	125
Issaquena	46	101,039	746	847	1,593
Itawamba	2	14,000	72	90	162
Jackson	3	7,004	24	18	42
Jasper	7	12,589	52	109	161
Jefferson	25	59,982	292	561	853
Jeff Davis					
Jones					
Kemper	8	19,424	109	165	274
Lafayette	4	10,291	41	106	147
Lamar	4	6,708	11	19	30
Lauderdale	6	35,486	122	222	344
Lawrence	2	10,390	25	35	60
Leake	4	9,040	52	104	156
Lee					
Leflore	12	26,684	76	128	204
Lincoln	1	1,300	0	0	0
Lowndes	15	25,463	108	253	361
Madison	23	47,097	331	928	1,259
Marion	2	8,320	54	65	119
Marshall	2	4,500	6	5	11
Monroe	11	22,985	115	288	403
Montgomery	16	31,778	200	315	515
Neshoba					
Newton	1	3,386	25	28	53
Noxubee	19	47,354	254	404	658
Oktibbeha	4	7,250	18	50	68
Panola	6	10,659	37	146	183
Pearl River	3	8,903	14	12	26
Perry	1	1,810	6	6	12
Pike					
Pontotoc					
Prentiss	1	5,000	9	7	16
Quitman	1	6,656	11	92	103
Rankin	11	22,620	93	178	271
Scott	5	12,010	42	72	114
Sharkey					
Simpson	3	13,972	44	68	112
Smith	2	9,467	48	40	88
Stone	3	3,450	24	13	37
Sunflower	1	1,585	5	7	12
Tallahatchie	3	5,066	12	33	45
Tate					
Tippah	5	19,215	68	168	236
Tishomingo	5	14,387	29	23	52
Tunica	5	14,904	65	177	242
Union	4	18,050	17	31	48
Walthall	1	5,600	30	31	61
Warren	88	147,812	1,317	1,799	3,116
Washington	10	53,643	299	560	859
Wayne					
Webster	4	11,331	69	153	222
Wilkinson	14	43,112	242	293	535
Winston	5	15,137	63	162	225
Yalobusha	2	7,081	26	50	76
Yazoo	25	52,244	410	859	1,269
TOTAL	626	1,543,839	8,782	15,211	23,993

Mississippi DMAP Data

Table 9. 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

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 10. 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

Table 11. 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

Figure 19. Total Deer Harvest: Private vs. Public

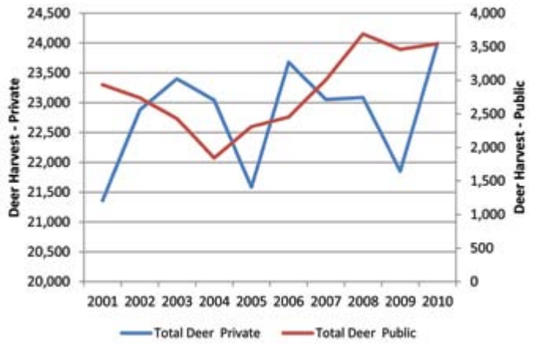


Figure 20. Acres/Deer Harvested: Private vs. Public

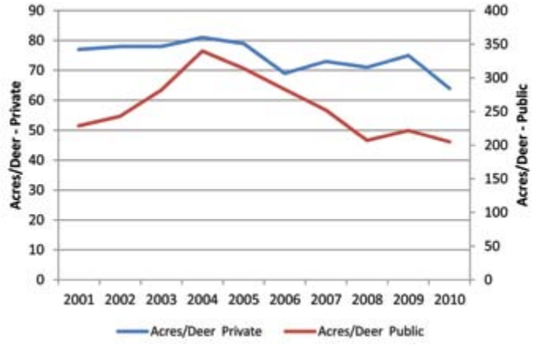


Figure 21. Acres/3.5+ Year Old Buck Harvested: Private vs. Public

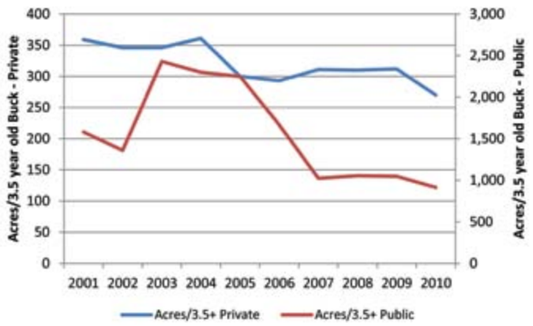


Figure 22. Average Age All Bucks: Private vs. Public

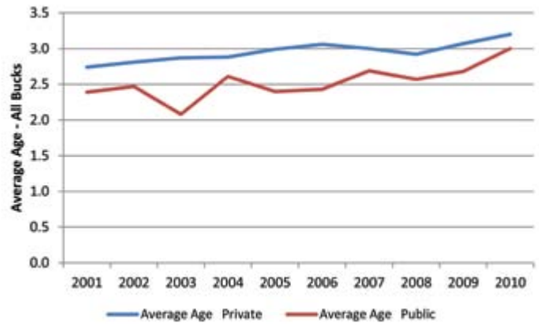


Table 12. Statewide Compiled Data (DMAP, NWR, WMA)

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	2,270,415	2,396,436	2,411,041	2,428,260	2,338,851	2,427,967	2,485,896	2,504,554	2,448,500	2,323,932	3,105,186	2,369,001
Total Deer	27,538	25,314	26,777	26,061	26,133	23,895	24,886	25,832	25,618	24,296	39,138	26,365
Bucks	10,341	10,108	11,030	10,849	10,482	10,060	10,055	10,720	11,267	10,733	19,562	10,562
Does	17,197	15,206	15,747	15,212	15,651	13,835	14,831	15,112	14,351	13,563	19,576	15,803
Acres/Deer	82	95	90	93	89	102	100	97	96	96	79.5	90
Bucks	220	237	219	224	223	241	247	234	217	217	159	224
Does	132	158	153	160	149	175	168	166	171	171	160	150
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.2	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.2	2.7
Avg. Points ALL Bucks	7.3	7.2	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.2	4.8	7.0
Avg. Length ALL Bucks	17.1	16.6	15.9	16.2	16.3	16.4	16.4	16.0	16.0	15.7	10.4	15.8
Avg. Spread ALL Bucks	13.9	13.6	13.2	13.3	13.3	13.4	13.4	13.0	13.0	12.8	8.7	12.9
Acres/ 3.5+ Bucks	347	403	400	398	388	405	459	452	434	463	808	386
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	4.8	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.8	7.5	4.5
Weight	63	62	64	67	66	73	66	71	75	66	63	65
% 1.5 Yr.	13	14	17	16	15	12	11	14	12	12	44	15
Weight	109	109	115	113	114	114	112	111	118	115	115	114
Points	2.5	2.6	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.6	4.5	4.1	3.2	3.7
Circumf.	2	2	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.3
Length	5.1	5.6	6.5	5.5	6.6	6.6	7.2	7.4	9.0	8.3	6.8	7.5
Spread	5.4	5.7	6.2	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.7	6.6	7.5	7.3	6.0	6.7
% 2.5 Yr.	17	20	21	21	20	23	28	28	30	34	31	20
Weight	148	147	150	148	148	149	149	148	150	145	148	148
Points	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.0	6.9	6.6	6.9
Circumf.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4
Length	14.9	14.9	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.7	14.3	14.0	14.5
Spread	12.1	12.3	12.2	12.0	12.0	11.9	12.0	11.7	11.9	11.6	11.4	11.8
% 3.5 Yr.	31	31	31	29	31	34	33	31	32	30	14	31
Weight	173	170	169	169	168	170	169	172	169	166	163	169
Points	8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.8
Circumf.	4.1	4.1	4	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0
Length	18.1	17.8	17.4	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.3	17.6	17.2	17.1	16.7	17.4
Spread	14.5	14.4	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.0	14.1	13.9	13.8	13.5	14.1
% 4.5+ Yr.	35	31	27	30	30	27	24	23	22	19	5	30
Weight	185	183	182	184	185	185	185	186	184	182	173	183
Points	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.3
Circumf.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.5
Length	19.9	19.8	19.4	19.9	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.5	19.4	18.6	19.6
Spread	15.7	15.8	15.5	15.8	15.8	15.7	15.7	15.6	15.5	15.4	14.9	15.6
# 4.5 Yr.	2,101	1,785	1,720	1,840	1,672	1,627	1,454	1,508	1,482	1,247	589	1,824
Weight	184	182	180	182	183	181	182	184	182	179	173	181
Points	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.3
Circumf.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.4
Length	19.6	19.5	19	19.6	19.3	19.2	19.4	19.4	19.2	19.0	18.6	19.3
Spread	15.5	15.6	15.3	15.6	15.5	15.4	15.6	15.4	15.3	15.1	14.8	15.4

Table 12. continued

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
# 5.5 Yr.	879	738	732	738	835	648	525	571	579	466	151	784
Weight	186	185	182	186	186	189	189	190	186	185	174	186
Points	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	8.5	7.9	8.4
Circumf.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.6
Length	20.3	20	19.8	20.1	19.9	20.4	20.2	20.2	20.0	20.1	18.9	20.1
Spread	16	16	15.7	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.0	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.1	15.9
# 6.5 Yr.	318	305	271	350	328	235	193	198	146	159	44	314
Weight	186	182	188	188	191	192	192	191	191	187	176	188
Points	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.1	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4
Circumf.	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.7
Length	20.4	20.2	20.3	20.7	21.0	20.7	20.4	20.4	20.6	20.6	19.4	20.5
Spread	16.1	16.1	16.2	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.1	15.8	16.4	16.3	15.2	16.2
# 7.5 Yr.	102	70	61	80	98	77	64	70	45	63	18	82
Weight	185	184	184	189	192	192	189	190	192	183	168	187
Points	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.7	8.3	8.6	9.0	7.4	8.4
Circumf.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.7
Length	20.3	20.7	19.9	21.3	21.0	20.6	20.8	20.6	20.2	20.0	18.3	20.5
Spread	15.7	16.3	16.1	16.5	16.3	16.0	16.6	16.6	15.3	15.8	15.0	16.1
# 8.5+ Yr.	62	48	48	63	59	46	27	34	44	36	11	56
Weight	174	185	180	189	186	195	183	185	180	190	171	184
Points	8	8	7.9	8.3	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.8	8.0	8.4	7.5	8.1
Circumf.	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.6
Length	19.7	20.1	19.6	20.8	20.8	19.8	18.6	19.2	20.1	19.5	18.5	19.9
Spread	15.6	15.4	15.9	16.6	16.3	15.5	15.0	15.1	15.7	15.2	14.4	15.8
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	7.2	7.3	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.3	6.9	6.3	6.6	5.4	11.3	7.0
% 1.5 Yr.	20.3	19.4	22.8	23.7	20.2	20.2	21.9	23.2	21.7	23.3	23.3	21.3
% 2.5 Yr.	21.3	24.6	22.5	22.6	20.5	22.2	24.7	22.8	23.4	25.7	23.5	22.3
% 3.5+ Yr.	51.2	48.8	47.7	46.8	52.4	50.3	46.6	47.7	48.3	45.5	42.3	49.4
Doe Weights												
Weight 0.5 Yr.	62.4	61.1	61.1	66.3	64.0	65.1	63.8	66.8	66.4	64.1	60.0	62.8
Weight 1.5 Yr.	94.7	94.5	97.4	97.9	98.1	97.4	95.8	96.3	99.1	96.8	95.8	96.3
Weight 2.5 Yr.	108.6	109.1	109.4	110.4	109.4	110.6	108.7	108.2	109.9	108.0	108.3	108.6
Weight 3.5+ Yr.	115.1	114.3	115.3	116.4	116.1	116.7	115.3	116.4	115.8	116.5	114.5	115.2
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	9.4	10.2	10.4	10.9	11.4	12.5	11.3	10.1	12.3	10.2	12.5	10.9
2.5 Yr.	52.0	54.0	47.0	59.0	59.0	57.0	56.0	56.0	58.0	58.0	59.3	58.1
2.5+ Yr.	61.0	61.9	57.5	67.7	67.6	66.1	63.3	64.0	65.4	65.5	66.0	65.6
3.5+ Yr.	64.6	65.5	62.4	71.7	71.1	70.0	67.3	67.9	69.2	69.6	69.8	69.6
All Antlerless H'vst												
% 0.5 Yr. Bk Fawns	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.9	7.0	2.9
% 0.5 Yr. Doe Fawns	7.0	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.7	7.1	6.7	6.1	6.4	5.3	10.3	6.8
% 1.5 Yr. Does	19.8	18.8	22.2	23.0	19.7	19.6	21.4	22.7	21.1	22.6	21.5	20.7
% 2.5 Yr. Does	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.7	23.7	21.8	21.8	21.8	21.8	22.0	20.7
% 3.5+ Yr. Does	49.7	47.3	46.4	45.5	50.9	48.7	45.5	46.6	47.0	44.2	39.3	48.0

Mississippi Soil Resource Areas

Figure 23

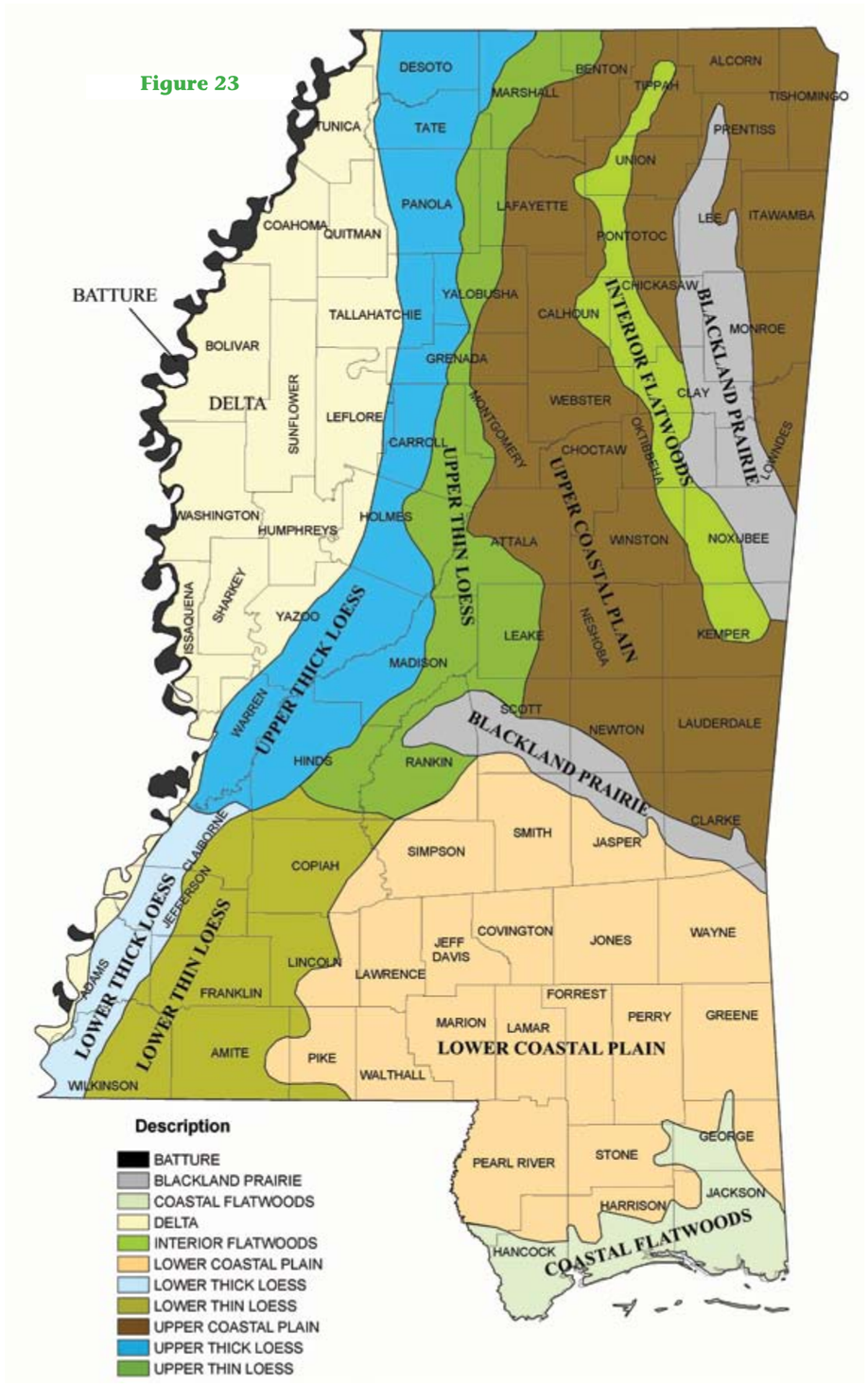


Table 13. Batture Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	295,559	282,873	268,302	270,863	261,765	266,932	254,436	243,717	248,120	227,150	172,527	275,872
Total Deer	5,279	4,105	3,881	5,313	4,710	4,551	4,338	4,754	4,771	4,378	2,906	4,658
Bucks	2,117	1,806	1,887	2,159	1,926	1,892	1,673	1,958	1,955	1,657	1,449	1,979
Does	3,162	2,299	1,994	3,154	2,784	2,659	2,665	2,796	2,816	2,721	1,457	2,679
Acres/Deer	56	69	69	51	56	59	59	51	52	52	60	59
Bucks	140	157	142	125	136	141	152	124	127	137	119	139
3.5+ Bucks	164	189	186	162	168	183	207	171	191	222	693	174
Does	93	123	135	86	94	100	95	87	88	83	120	103
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.4	3.6
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	2	2	1	4	4	3	3	4	3	4	6	2.6
Weight	69	65	65	71	69	68	71	84	73	65	73	68
% 1.5 Yr.	3.9	1.7	8.4	8	6	6	5	5	4	9	28	6
Weight	109	111	118	124	124	114	116	111	117	113	134	117
Points	2.1	2.9	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.9	2.4
Circumf.	2	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.0
Length	5.7	4.3	5.8	5.7	6.6	5.1	5.7	5.5	4.6	6.7	8.2	5.6
Spread	5.5	5.1	6.1	5.7	6.0	5.4	6.0	5.8	5.5	7.2	7.1	5.7
% 2.5 Yr.	7	12	16	13	11	15	14	14	21	24	49	12
Weight	174	167	165	170	166	160	167	167	166	163	169	168
Points	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.3
Circumf.	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.7
Length	17.3	16.4	16.2	16.9	16.9	16.4	17.1	16.8	16.6	16.4	15.5	16.7
Spread	14.3	13.6	13.6	13.9	13.9	13.4	14.0	13.8	13.6	13.4	13.0	13.8
% 3.5 Yr.	34	35	34	31	33	35	34	39	39	37	14	33
Weight	190	188	185	188	183	184	185	188	185	183	187	187
Points	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2
Circumf.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Length	19.6	19.5	19	19.3	19.4	19.8	19.6	19.6	19.1	19.0	18.7	19.4
Spread	15.8	15.9	15.6	15.7	15.5	15.7	15.8	15.6	15.3	15.4	15.4	15.7
% 4.5+ Yr.	52	49	40	45	46	42	44	38	33	27	4	47
Weight	195	194	193	197	193	192	193	196	194	192	198	194
Points	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.5
Circumf.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Length	21	20.8	20.4	21.2	20.9	21.2	20.9	20.9	20.6	20.8	20.8	20.9
Spread	16.5	16.9	16.4	17.0	16.6	16.6	16.8	16.6	16.3	16.4	16.8	16.7
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	6	7	5	10	11	6	6	11	6	7	14	8
2.5 Yr.	54	56	31	69	65	52	58	55	47	57	58	55
3.5+ Yr.	65	67	49	77	77	67	69	65	59	65	68	67
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	3.7	5.6	2.9	8	7	6	6	7	6	5	11	5
% 1.5 Yr.	22.2	11.3	28.6	28	20	19	21	18	21	24	20	22
% 2.5 Yr.	20.7	34.1	27.6	24	23	27	25	27	31	30	30	26
% 3.5+ Yr.	53.4	49.1	40.8	41	50	49	48	47	43	41	39	47
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	67	65	64	71	68	68	66	68	69	64	68	67
1.5 Yr.	98	100	98	104	104	98	98	101	100	98	108	101
2.5 Yr.	115	114	113	117	114	114	112	112	114	113	121	115
3.5+ Yr.	120	119	122	123	121	121	119	122	123	121	126	121

Table 14. Delta Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	208,655	215,104	199,655	182,048	194,947	194,678	207,194	179,137	180,491	138,697	254,153	200,082
Total Deer	2,578	1,917	1,913	2,066	2,356	2,204	2,381	2,378	2,203	1,930	3,909	2,166
Bucks	968	811	900	801	889	869	897	1,000	927	767	1,830	874
Does	1,610	1,106	1,013	1,265	1,467	1,335	1,484	1,378	1,276	1,163	1,457	1,292
Acres/Deer	81	112	104	88	83	88	87	75	82	72	66	92
Bucks	216	265	222	227	219	224	231	179	195	181	140	229
3.5+ Bucks	285	385	366	349	358	271	363	290	329	315	962	349
Does	130	194	197	144	133	146	140	130	141	119	124	155
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.1	3.1
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	5	4	3	4	7	3	4	4	4	6	8	4.4
Weight	75	71	79	76	75	74	74	69	76	67	70	75.2
% 1.5 Yr.	11	12	18	19	18	7	5	6	4	7	41	16
Weight	130	128	127	125	125	123	130	126	133	123	134	127
Points	2.3	2.3	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.4	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.5	2.4
Circumf.	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.1
Length	5.0	5.7	6.0	4.7	5.1	4.9	7.4	7.9	8.2	5.4	7.3	5.3
Spread	5.0	5.7	5.9	4.8	5.0	5.7	7.5	7.3	8.2	8.3	6.4	5.3
% 2.5 Yr.	8	14	17	15	14	17	26	24	26	27	36	14
Weight	172	170	171	170	172	170	173	175	170	164	169	171
Points	7.2	6.6	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.6	7.3	7.1
Circumf.	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.7
Length	16.7	15.3	15.6	16.6	16.6	16.5	16.9	16.6	16.2	16.0	15.1	16.2
Spread	14.0	13.3	13.3	13.9	14.2	13.6	14.1	13.6	13.5	13.3	12.8	13.7
% 3.5 Yr.	31	37	29	28	31	38	36	38	39	34	12	31
Weight	197	192	193	194	191	189	190	192	187	183	187	194
Points	8.6	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.4
Circumf.	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.3
Length	19.8	19.2	19.0	19.5	19.4	19.0	19.1	18.9	18.4	18.4	18.0	19.4
Spread	16.1	15.6	15.7	16.0	15.9	15.5	15.7	15.2	14.9	14.8	14.9	15.8
% 4.5+ Yr.	45	34	34	34	31	35	29	28	28	26	4	36
Weight	205	203	203	204	201	200	199	201	196	197	197	203
Points	8.8	8.4	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.5
Circumf.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.6
Length	21.0	20.5	20.2	20.9	20.5	20.6	20.8	20.1	19.9	19.8	19.5	20.6
Spread	16.7	16.6	16.4	17.1	16.5	16.6	16.6	15.9	16.3	15.8	15.8	16.6
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	10	16	10	18	17	16	12	11	12	15	16	14
2.5 Yr.	59	61	43	64	61	60	57	59	59	58	58	58
3.5+ Yr.	65	66	52	71	71	68	67	68	69	70	71	65
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	7	5	5	7	10	10	9	9	8	8	12	7
% 1.5 Yr.	19	17	26	22	21	20	21	25	20	24	21	21
% 2.5 Yr.	21	28	25	25	20	23	27	24	26	25	27	24
% 3.5+ Yr.	53	50	43	46	49	47	43	43	46	44	41	48
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	69	72	65	70	71	69	67	73	73	70	66	69
1.5 Yr.	107	109	107	108	109	105	104	106	107	104	109	108
2.5 Yr.	121	120	120	120	119	119	117	120	121	116	121	120
3.5+ Yr.	128	127	128	129	127	126	124	128	127	125	129	128

Table 15. Upper Thick Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	222,829	228,714	231,390	242,300	272,824	277,644	243,289	245,200	229,017	229,255	210,775	239,611
Total Deer	5,280	4,694	4,892	4,281	5,152	4,439	4,055	3,976	3,450	3,545	2,732	4,860
Bucks	1,739	1,675	1,661	1,633	1,917	1,712	1,532	1,455	1,350	1,363	1,443	1,725
Does	3,541	3,019	3,231	2,648	3,235	2,727	2,523	2,521	2,100	2,182	1,457	3,135
Acres/Deer	42	49	47	57	53	63	60	62	66	65	78	49
Bucks	128	137	139	148	142	162	159	169	170	168	146	139
3.5+ Bucks	212	236	256	270	249	288	275	287	311	342	1179	245
Does	63	76	72	92	84	102	96	97	109	105	169	76
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.9
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	8	7	6	6	6	6	4	5	5	6	7	6.6
Weight	64	65	65	66	67	68	69	75	69	70	72	65.4
% 1.5 Yr.	20	22	22	21	17	15	15	12	9	11	53	20
Weight	113	114	122	115	115	118	114	113	124	120	132	116
Points	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.8	4.3	3.5	3.9	2.4
Circumf.	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.1
Length	4.7	4.7	6.0	4.5	5.4	5.8	5.7	5.9	8.5	7.4	8.1	5.1
Spread	4.9	4.9	6.0	4.9	5.1	5.6	5.4	6.0	7.4	7.3	6.9	5.2
% 2.5 Yr.	11	12	17	17	19	23	25	23	29	32	28	15
Weight	152	151	156	151	155	157	154	154	160	154	163	153
Points	6.8	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.0	6.9
Circumf.	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.6
Length	15.0	15.0	15.0	14.7	15.0	15.1	14.7	15.0	15.3	14.8	14.9	14.9
Spread	12.4	12.7	12.4	12.2	12.4	12.5	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.2	12.5	12.4
% 3.5 Yr.	26	28	30	28	28	33	34	34	34	31	11	28
Weight	172	169	175	176	175	179	176	178	177	173	190	173
Points	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.8	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.1	7.9
Circumf.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.1
Length	18.0	17.8	17.9	17.9	18.2	18.1	17.9	18.2	17.7	17.4	18.6	18.0
Spread	14.4	14.5	14.6	14.6	14.7	14.6	14.4	14.7	14.5	14.2	15.3	14.6
% 4.5+ Yr.	36	31	26	28	30	23	23	26	22	20	2	30
Weight	184	184	186	189	190	191	189	192	194	189	211	187
Points	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.6	8.4
Circumf.	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5	5.0	4.7
Length	19.9	19.7	19.6	20.1	20.1	19.9	19.8	19.9	19.9	19.7	21.1	19.9
Spread	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.9	16.0	16.0	15.9	15.8	16.0	15.8	17.1	15.9
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	11	8	13	9	12	14	11	10	13	9	12	11
2.5 Yr.	55	56	55	56	59	58	57	54	66	62	60	56
3.5+ Yr.	68	67	67	73	71	73	68	66	70	70	66	69
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	8	7	7	6	7	7	7	7	7	6	12	7
% 1.5 Yr.	19	21	22	22	20	19	20	22	19	21	23	21
% 2.5 Yr.	20	20	22	22	20	22	23	20	22	22	25	21
% 3.5+ Yr.	54	52	50	50	54	52	49	52	52	51	41	52
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	62	63	62	68	66	65	65	68	65	66	66	64
1.5 Yr.	99	98	106	102	101	103	100	99	107	103	107	101
2.5 Yr.	113	111	115	115	113	116	113	113	115	114	120	114
3.5+ Yr.	119	118	122	122	120	123	120	122	123	124	128	120

Table 16. Lower Thick Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	145,822	146,441	136,073	131,885	129,118	123,479	130,509	143,569	137,251	132,446	233,912	137,868
Total Deer	2,825	2,890	2,702	2,649	2,663	2,327	2,576	2,789	2,764	2,626	6,077	2,746
Bucks	1,128	1,107	995	964	1,008	1,030	1,087	1,069	1,151	1,167	2,776	1,040
Does	1,697	1,783	1,707	1,685	1,655	1,297	1,489	1,720	1,613	1,459	1,457	1,705
Acres/Deer	52	51	50	50	48	53	51	51	50	50	39	50
Bucks	129	132	137	137	128	120	120	134	119	113	84	132
3.5+ Bucks	189	185	205	226	200	201	187	240	205	218	417	201
Does	86	82	80	78	78	95	88	83	85	91	73	81
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.4	3.2
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	3	4	3	4	4	6	3	2	3	3	7	3.4
Weight	64	61	62	62	61	109	63	64	67	71	63	62
% 1.5 Yr.	13	7	12	12	9	9	9	10	9	13	34	11
Weight	107	110	108	107	113	111	107	112	120	113	117	109
Points	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.5	4.3	3.6	3.1	2.6
Circumf.	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1
Length	3.8	5.0	4.6	4.3	7.0	5.9	6.5	7.2	9.1	7.9	6.5	4.9
Spread	5.4	5.8	5.7	5.4	6.6	6.1	6.2	6.7	7.7	7.2	6.0	5.8
% 2.5 Yr.	13	16	17	22	20	19	24	31	28	31	38	18
Weight	147	149	145	147	147	148	146	152	150	148	151	147
Points	6.9	7.3	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.2	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.1	6.9	7.0
Circumf.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5
Length	14.8	15.3	14.3	14.7	14.4	14.8	14.0	14.5	14.7	14.1	14.3	14.7
Spread	12.1	12.5	11.9	12.2	11.7	12.0	11.8	11.9	12.0	11.2	11.8	12.1
% 3.5 Yr.	32	32	32	31	29	34	35	26	31	30	16	31
Weight	167	168	164	165	166	165	165	171	168	164	169	166
Points	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.7	7.9	7.9
Circumf.	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.2
Length	17.9	17.6	17.2	17.5	17.5	17.2	17.2	17.5	17.1	16.8	17.1	17.5
Spread	14.4	14.1	14.1	13.9	14.0	14.0	13.6	13.9	13.7	13.6	13.8	14.1
% 4.5+ Yr.	39	42	36	32	39	32	30	31	29	24	5	37
Weight	177	178	176	179	181	181	183	185	184	183	182	178
Points	8.3	8.6	8.2	8.6	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.7	8.4	8.4	8.4
Circumf.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5
Length	19.5	19.6	18.9	19.7	19.4	19.3	19.4	20.1	19.7	19.2	19.5	19.4
Spread	15.2	15.3	15.0	15.4	15.4	15.2	15.3	15.5	15.6	15.4	15.4	15.3
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	7	12	8	9	9	9	8	6	13	9	9	9
2.5 Yr.	48	57	49	60	55	61	49	60	65	58	60	54
3.5+ Yr.	64	71	64	73	74	76	65	73	75	74	72	69
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	6	8	6	6	6	8	7	4	4	4	10	6
% 1.5 Yr.	22	17	21	24	21	20	24	25	23	24	24	21
% 2.5 Yr.	23	24	22	22	19	21	22	20	20	22	25	22
% 3.5+ Yr.	50	51	51	48	54	51	47	50	53	50	42	51
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	64	61	62	63	64	67	61	64	68	66	60	63
1.5 Yr.	92	96	93	93	98	97	94	96	101	98	97	94
2.5 Yr.	106	109	109	110	110	110	110	111	110	111	111	109
3.5+ Yr.	112	114	115	113	116	118	116	117	116	117	118	114

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

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	102,258	107,549	109,368	131,065	113,040	123,479	163,848	172,889	181,597	166,290	221,531	112,656
Total Deer	1,679	1,566	1,924	1,635	1,704	2,327	1,961	1,926	1,914	1,790	3,045	1,702
Bucks	547	546	730	670	638	1,030	865	836	930	882	1,656	626
Does	1,132	1,020	1,194	965	1,066	1,297	1,096	1,090	984	908	1,457	1,075
Acres/Deer	61	69	57	80	66	53	84	90	95	93	73	66
Bucks	187	197	150	196	177	120	189	207	195	189	134	180
3.5+ Bucks	390	422	310	402	347	201	419	457	513	412	1365	374
Does	90	105	92	136	106	95	149	159	185	183	163	105
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.2	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.7
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	9	7	7	6	5	6	4	4	7	4	7	6.7
Weight	62	66	64	66	61	109	63	66	99	66	63	63.8
% 1.5 Yr.	18	19	21	21	15	9	15	22	24	16	52	19
Weight	98	105	111	106	106	111	115	117	121	117	112	105
Points	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.7	4.1	4.6	4.0	3.2	2.7
Circumf.	1.5	1.7	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.2	1.9
Length	3.7	5.1	6.5	4.8	5.9	5.9	7.3	8.3	9.2	7.9	6.7	5.2
Spread	4.9	5.4	6.3	5.1	6.1	6.1	6.8	7.1	7.7	7.1	5.8	5.5
% 2.5 Yr.	23	25	21	23	26	19	33	26	31	35	31	24
Weight	143	146	146	144	142	148	143	148	147	147	144	144
Points	6.5	6.9	6.6	6.6	7.0	7.2	6.5	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.7
Circumf.	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4
Length	14.1	15.1	14.8	14.1	14.3	14.8	13.7	14.0	14.0	14.0	13.6	14.5
Spread	11.5	12.3	12.2	11.1	11.5	12.0	11.1	11.4	11.4	11.7	11.0	11.7
% 3.5 Yr.	26	28	31	29	30	34	35	30	25	29	9	29
Weight	166	159	166	159	154	165	157	158	159	154	164	161
Points	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.7	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.9	7.5
Circumf.	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.7	4.1	4.0
Length	17.5	16.9	16.7	16.1	16.0	17.2	15.8	15.8	16.2	15.5	17.3	16.7
Spread	13.8	13.9	13.6	13.0	12.7	14.0	12.7	12.9	13.3	12.5	14.0	13.4
% 4.5+ Yr.	24	21	20	22	25	32	13	17	14	18	2	22
Weight	169	169	168	169	167	181	170	172	171	166	174	168
Points	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.5	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.4	8.2
Circumf.	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.4
Length	18.4	18.9	18.8	18.3	18.0	19.3	18.4	18.0	18.3	17.8	19.3	18.5
Spread	14.3	14.9	15.0	14.6	14.4	15.2	14.4	14.3	14.6	14.2	15.4	14.7
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	10	13	14	10	11	9	17	9	18	11	9	12
2.5 Yr.	52	55	51	56	53	61	54	53	62	52	54	53
3.5+ Yr.	65	66	65	69	65	76	70	70	71	66	65	66
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	9	7	10	7	9	8	6	10	11	7	12	8
% 1.5 Yr.	20	24	23	24	22	20	23	26	25	24	24	22
% 2.5 Yr.	23	23	22	20	17	21	23	19	19	24	25	21
% 3.5+ Yr.	48	47	46	49	53	51	48	45	45	45	39	48
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	61	61	59	63	59	67	62	71	74	66	60	61
1.5 Yr.	90	93	96	92	90	97	92	96	98	96	93	92
2.5 Yr.	103	103	105	105	103	110	106	104	106	107	104	104
3.5+ Yr.	110	110	111	111	110	118	111	112	112	112	111	110

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

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	98,417	111,415	112,459	108,675	103,571	99,655	146,690	140,209	148,340	139,540	214,591	106,907
Total Deer	1,294	1,339	1,375	1,502	1,527	1,264	2,096	2,249	2,079	2,017	3,892	1,407
Bucks	408	472	452	530	523	460	770	793	781	734	1,705	477
Does	886	867	923	972	1,004	804	1,326	1,456	1,298	1,283	1,457	930
Acres/Deer	76	83	82	72	68	79	70	62	71	69	55	76
Bucks	241	236	249	205	198	217	191	177	190	190	126	224
3.5+ Bucks	521	487	483	407	333	240	301	330	336	362	578	446
Does	111	129	122	112	103	124	111	96	114	109	99	115
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.8
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	3	5	5	5	5	4	2	2	2	2	9	4.5
Weight	65	65	69	67	66	70	68	77	131	72	62	66.3
% 1.5 Yr.	19	17	15	13	15	12	10	14	13	12	39	16
Weight	114	114	113	112	110	117	109	115	122	121	110	113
Points	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.8	3.0	3.7	4.3	4.0	2.8	2.7
Circumf.	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.0
Length	5.5	6.0	6.1	5.6	5.5	7.9	6.5	7.6	8.9	7.7	5.8	5.8
Spread	5.3	5.8	5.6	6.1	5.8	7.1	7.7	7.1	7.8	6.9	5.6	5.7
% 2.5 Yr.	28	27	23	27	19	21	24	28	28	31	30	25
Weight	150	146	145	147	149	148	145	150	152	144	142	148
Points	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6	7.1	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.7
Circumf.	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4
Length	14.5	14.5	13.8	14.1	14.7	14.0	13.5	13.9	14.0	14.0	13.6	14.3
Spread	11.2	11.7	11.3	11.5	11.6	11.5	11.0	11.0	11.3	11.1	10.7	11.4
% 3.5 Yr.	31	28	30	29	28	37	39	33	31	30	16	29
Weight	173	170	171	170	166	165	162	169	168	166	163	170
Points	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.7
Circumf.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.1
Length	18.1	17.9	17.3	17.5	16.8	16.3	16.4	16.9	17.2	16.7	16.7	17.5
Spread	14.2	14.1	14.1	13.6	13.2	12.9	13.3	13.5	13.7	13.3	13.3	13.8
% 4.5+ Yr.	19	23	27	27	33	26	26	24	27	24	7	26
Weight	183	184	181	181	180	178	180	181	183	181	176	182
Points	8.4	8.3	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.2
Circumf.	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5
Length	19.1	19.6	19.4	20.1	18.9	18.7	18.8	19.1	19.4	19.5	19.2	19.4
Spread	15.4	15.4	15.3	15.5	15.2	14.7	14.8	14.9	15.0	15.2	15.0	15.4
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	13	15	16	13	10	9	11	10	12	14	11	13
2.5 Yr.	58	56	53	63	63	63	64	61	61	63	61	59
3.5+ Yr.	65	68	71	75	74	74	72	74	77	74	75	70
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	7	8	6	8	6	8	6	4	6	3	10	7
% 1.5 Yr.	21	20	21	21	19	21	26	26	25	25	23	21
% 2.5 Yr.	31	30	24	24	17	17	19	21	20	23	24	25
% 3.5+ Yr.	40	42	49	47	57	55	50	50	49	49	43	47
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	66	62	65	69	64	67	64	65	73	71	59	65
1.5 Yr.	97	98	99	97	97	100	96	98	101	99	94	97
2.5 Yr.	107	112	110	111	108	111	107	109	110	109	107	110
3.5+ Yr.	115	117	118	117	116	115	115	115	116	117	115	117

Table 19. Black Prairie Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	113,012	105,016	109,598	99,921	114,720	86,293	117,927	107,229	110,602	76,890	156,927	108,453
Total Deer	1,159	880	1,000	807	763	735	939	929	988	719	1,994	922
Bucks	383	319	372	333	288	296	357	373	420	290	857	339
Does	776	561	628	474	475	439	582	556	568	429	1,457	583
Acres/Deer	98	119	110	124	150	117	126	115	112	107	79	118
Bucks	295	329	295	300	398	292	330	287	263	265	186	319
3.5+ Bucks	481	590	491	512	722	529	659	638	510	394	913	559
Does	146	187	175	211	242	197	203	193	195	179	139	186
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.4	3.0
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	7	2	6	1	2	3	2	1	3	1	8	3.5
Weight	62	58	68	78	64	73	69	62	54	50	64	65.6
% 1.5 Yr.	10	11	9	12	10	11	9	19	15	14	49	10
Weight	109	113	121	114	120	122	119	111	119	114	113	115
Points	3.0	3.4	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.4	5.0	4.8	3.3	3.5
Circumf.	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.2	2.5
Length	5.8	7.7	7.7	7.1	8.6	8.9	8.4	8.6	9.8	8.8	6.9	7.4
Spread	5.4	7.4	7.9	7.2	7.3	8.3	7.5	7.0	7.8	7.2	6.3	7.0
% 2.5 Yr.	21	28	20	22	25	25	34	31	28	31	23	23
Weight	149	151	153	147	147	148	151	141	146	131	143	149
Points	6.9	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.0	6.6	7.0	6.7	6.1	7.0
Circumf.	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.6
Length	15.1	15.0	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.6	15.2	14.1	14.2	13.7	13.7	14.8
Spread	12.3	12.4	11.9	12.0	11.8	12.1	12.4	11.7	11.3	11.2	10.9	12.1
% 3.5 Yr.	37	32	42	37	35	38	37	30	34	32	15	37
Weight	166	163	163	162	163	162	169	160	157	159	160	163
Points	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.3	7.8
Circumf.	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.0
Length	17.4	17.0	16.8	17.0	16.6	16.7	17.3	16.6	16.5	16.2	16.4	17.0
Spread	14.0	13.6	13.5	14.1	13.4	13.4	14.1	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.2	13.7
% 4.5+ Yr.	27	26	23	28	29	23	17	19	21	23	6	26
Weight	174	179	179	173	184	183	180	179	171	169	173	178
Points	8.3	8.7	8.4	8.7	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.6	8.0	8.4
Circumf.	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.4
Length	18.4	19.3	18.9	19.2	18.7	19.3	18.2	18.6	18.5	18.6	18.4	18.9
Spread	14.5	15.2	15.1	15.3	14.5	14.9	14.2	14.4	14.9	15.1	14.5	14.9
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	14	15	14	13	17	26	20	12	13	10	14	15
2.5 Yr.	47	53	51	50	54	61	58	53	62	54	57	51
3.5+ Yr.	64	59	64	66	73	70	70	63	71	66	66	65
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	8	2	8	5	4	7	7	2	4	2	12	6
% 1.5 Yr.	19	23	20	25	18	26	21	27	21	25	24	21
% 2.5 Yr.	23	25	21	22	20	19	30	23	22	22	19	22
% 3.5+ Yr.	49	51	50	49	58	49	42	47	53	51	47	52
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	61	61	62	76	60	68	67	60	53	54	59	64
1.5 Yr.	94	95	100	97	97	96	96	95	95	93	95	97
2.5 Yr.	108	107	109	109	107	108	106	107	104	101	105	108
3.5+ Yr.	113	114	116	117	114	117	113	112	112	112	113	115

Table 20. Upper Coastal Plain Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	293,000	332,500	331,398	335,548	325,632	367,708	379,987	402,570	404,504	378,380	879,440	323,616
Total Deer	3,486	3,651	3,806	3,332	3,337	3,502	3,534	3,370	3,572	3,335	8,488	3,522
Bucks	1,232	1,371	1,524	1,435	1,402	1,498	1,490	1,501	1,653	1,662	4,677	1,393
Does	2,254	2,280	2,282	1,897	1,935	2,004	2,044	1,869	1,919	1,673	1,457	2,130
Acres/Deer	84	91	87	101	98	105	108	119	113	113	105	92
Bucks	238	243	217	234	232	245	255	268	245	228	188	232
3.5+ Bucks	473	506	493	482	478	508	706	575	569	569	997	487
Does	130	146	145	177	168	183	186	215	211	226	237	152
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.7
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	6	7	6	4	3	4	5	2	3	3	7	5.3
Weight	56	58	60	62	58	65	65	66	63	61	58	58.9
% 1.5 Yr.	16	17	18	17	16	13	15	18	21	16	51	17
Weight	96	100	107	105	108	105	107	108	113	112	108	103
Points	2.6	2.9	3.7	3.4	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.7	4.6	3.2	3.3
Circumf.	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.1	2.0
Length	5.5	6.4	7.2	6.4	7.7	7.1	7.8	8.7	9.2	9.1	6.7	6.6
Spread	5.5	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.6	6.4	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.6	5.8	6.3
% 2.5 Yr.	25	27	30	28	30	31	41	33	32	38	24	28
Weight	136	137	140	135	137	137	140	137	140	138	134	137
Points	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.9	6.6	6.0	6.5
Circumf.	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3
Length	14.2	14.2	13.9	13.7	13.7	13.2	13.7	13.4	14.1	13.7	13.2	13.9
Spread	11.3	11.5	11.5	11.0	11.0	10.8	11.0	10.7	11.4	11.1	10.5	11.2
% 3.5 Yr.	31	29	26	30	32	32	27	31	29	28	14	30
Weight	150	152	151	150	152	150	152	154	152	152	152	151
Points	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.0	7.3	7.1	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.5
Circumf.	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.8
Length	16.5	16.2	16.2	16.1	15.7	15.5	15.8	15.7	15.7	15.8	15.6	16.2
Spread	13.1	13.2	13.2	12.9	12.7	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.7	12.6	12.7	13.0
% 4.5+ Yr.	23	21	20	22	20	20	13	16	16	15	5	21
Weight	164	163	164	160	168	164	167	165	165	167	164	164
Points	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.2	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.8	8.0	8.0	7.6	8.1
Circumf.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.3
Length	18.5	18.3	18.3	18.1	17.8	17.5	17.7	17.9	18.2	18.3	17.7	18.2
Spread	14.5	14.3	14.6	14.4	14.4	14.1	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.1	14.5
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	10	9	9	11	12	12	12	14	14	11	13	10
2.5 Yr.	47	48	51	48	56	56	57	52	56	59	56	50
3.5+ Yr.	62	58	62	68	69	68	67	69	68	71	65	64
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	8	9	10	8	7	7	8	5	7	6	11	8
% 1.5 Yr.	20	23	21	22	20	22	22	24	23	25	24	21
% 2.5 Yr.	19	19	19	21	19	20	25	21	19	24	20	19
% 3.5+ Yr.	54	49	50	49	54	52	45	50	51	45	45	51
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	56	57	59	60	59	62	62	65	63	60	58	58
1.5 Yr.	84	87	89	88	89	89	89	87	90	90	89	88
2.5 Yr.	96	99	100	98	97	98	101	97	100	100	99	98
3.5+ Yr.	103	105	106	106	107	107	106	106	105	106	105	105

Table 21. Lower Coastal Plain Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	81,488	99,494	131,507	145,824	127,032	154,868	177,584	159,786	147,417	137,863	308,965	117,069
Total Deer	673	762	1,128	1,101	1,102	958	1,128	1,117	1,143	989	2,944	953
Bucks	306	369	547	495	488	460	422	488	587	510	1,467	441
Does	367	393	581	606	614	498	706	629	556	479	1,457	512
Acres/Deer	121	131	117	132	115	162	157	143	129	139	104	123
Bucks	266	270	240	295	260	337	421	327	251	270	210	265
3.5+ Bucks	721	742	574	685	602	790	998	1,310	801	889	1,098	665
Does	222	253	226	241	207	311	252	254	265	288	209	228
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	3	3	1	3	3	4	4	2	2	2	10	2.4
Weight	62	63	70	59	59	69	74	58	56	62	56	62.6
% 1.5 Yr.	14	18	17	12	20	12	18	16	14	15	47	16
Weight	108	109	111	106	112	110	106	113	115	114	102	109
Points	3.1	3.5	3.9	3.4	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.3	4.5	4.6	2.7	3.6
Circumf.	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	1.9	2.2
Length	6.5	7.5	7.7	7.1	8.7	8.8	7.3	8.5	9.0	8.6	5.4	7.5
Spread	6.4	7.2	6.9	6.3	7.4	7.4	6.6	7.0	7.2	7.9	5.3	6.8
% 2.5 Yr.	44	42	35	40	29	38	36	56	50	53	25	38
Weight	146	140	139	136	134	136	141	140	139	140	126	139
Points	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.9	6.9	5.2	6.7
Circumf.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	2.8	3.3
Length	14.1	14.2	13.8	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.8	14.2	14.0	11.5	13.8
Spread	11.4	11.6	11.4	11.2	10.8	10.9	11.2	11.0	11.3	11.3	9.3	11.3
% 3.5 Yr.	28	25	31	29	35	30	32	18	22	19	14	30
Weight	160	155	149	154	144	149	151	154	146	153	146	152
Points	8.2	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.1	7.8
Circumf.	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.8
Length	16.8	16.4	15.7	15.8	15.4	14.8	15.3	16.1	15.4	16.1	15.0	16.0
Spread	13.6	13.1	12.8	12.8	12.3	12.4	12.7	12.8	12.6	13.1	12.1	12.9
% 4.5+ Yr.	12	12	16	16	13	16	11	7	13	10	6	14
Weight	168	162	163	163	158	160	157	159	156	164	155	163
Points	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.3	8.3	8.1	7.5	8.1
Circumf.	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.0	4.2
Length	17.9	18.2	17.3	17.9	18.0	17.2	17.5	18.0	17.9	18.2	17.0	17.9
Spread	14.3	14.7	13.8	14.3	14.2	13.8	14.5	13.7	14.6	15.0	13.8	14.2
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	21	13	12	15	11	16	13	8	19	9	14	15
2.5 Yr.	56	54	49	54	59	49	53	63	62	62	58	54
3.5+ Yr.	69	61	65	61	62	68	66	64	66	70	68	64
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	4	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	6	11	6
% 1.5 Yr.	19	17	18	20	18	17	21	20	19	21	23	18
% 2.5 Yr.	26	27	21	24	22	24	28	40	31	41	21	24
% 3.5+ Yr.	51	49	55	51	55	55	46	37	46	33	45	52
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	59	60	56	61	55	62	62	58	55	60	54	58
1.5 Yr.	93	95	90	90	89	90	89	85	91	91	86	92
2.5 Yr.	105	101	101	101	101	98	98	98	98	97	95	102
3.5+ Yr.	108	106	105	105	104	102	105	104	103	104	100	106

Table 22. Coastal Flatwoods Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	7,004	12,884	26,283	21,046	12,790	10,790	26,810	18,927	18,650	18,650	46,517	16,001
Total Deer	42	54	136	58	74	40	35	61	82	77	177	73
Bucks	24	26	54	38	33	19	14	34	49	49	105	35
Does	18	28	82	20	41	21	21	27	33	28	1,457	38
Acres/Deer	167	239	193	363	173	270	766	310	227	242	526	217
Bucks	292	496	487	554	388	568	1915	557	381	381	1332	447
3.5+ Bucks	876	2,147	1,011	1,503	1,163	899	4,468	2,103	1,695	1,865	3,445	1,340
Does	389	460	321	1052	312	514	1277	701	565	666	3219	415
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.5	3.0	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.4
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	17	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	17	4.8
Weight	52	58	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	48	36	33.5
% 1.5 Yr.	17	32	17	37	18	11	18	10	12	3	31	24
Weight	110	102	95	102	122	106	94	102	83	110	96	106
Points	3.5	2.6	2.5	2.8	3.4	2.0	4.5	4.7	4.0	4.0	2.5	3.0
Circumf.	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.5	0.0	2.9	2.1	2.6	2.2	1.4	2.1
Length	5.8	4.1	6.0	4.3	7.4	0.0	7.6	8.8	8.4	8.4	4.3	5.5
Spread	5.7	6.3	7.3	6.9	7.0	0.0	5.5	6.7	7.8	7.0	5.7	6.6
% 2.5 Yr.	33	40	33	30	39	22	47	60	65	78	29	35
Weight	127	128	134	139	133	114	124	122	122	123	120	132
Points	5.3	6.0	6.0	6.9	7.0	4.8	5.6	5.7	5.7	6.0	4.9	6.2
Circumf.	3.0	3.1	2.9	4.0	3.1	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.4	3.2
Length	12.1	12.8	14.0	12.7	13.6	13.3	12.4	11.8	11.8	12.2	10.0	13.0
Spread	9.7	11.2	11.8	10.6	10.5	10.3	9.8	9.5	9.0	9.7	7.8	10.8
% 3.5 Yr.	29	4	37	14	21	33	24	27	12	14	16	21
Weight	154	176	152	148	157	151	133	130	132	127	115	157
Points	7.6	8.0	7.3	8.2	8.5	8.0	6.8	5.6	7.0	6.6	5.1	7.9
Circumf.	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.8	2.5	3.8
Length	16.9	16.8	15.7	16.3	16.1	17.4	14.3	13.4	14.6	15.1	10.7	16.3
Spread	12.9	14.8	12.9	13.0	12.9	13.7	12.8	11.6	13.5	12.1	8.9	13.3
% 4.5+ Yr.	4	20	14	19	18	33	12	3	10	3	6	15
Weight	90	165	156	175	153	160	137	141	139	174	116	148
Points	8.0	7.8	8.4	7.9	9.0	8.0	8.5	5.0	6.6	10.0	5.1	8.2
Circumf.	4.3	4.3	4.1	5.2	4.3	4.2	4.0	0.0	3.8	4.5	2.8	4.4
Length	19.0	17.3	17.5	18.6	17.4	19.2	16.3	8.3	14.7	21.1	11.5	18.0
Spread	14.0	14.7	13.7	15.2	14.2	14.5	12.8	6.5	12.0	17.1	9.6	14.3
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	0	14	15	10	0	0	0	14	0	15	6	8
2.5 Yr.	75	33	9	25	33	60	40	44	54	31	65	35
3.5+ Yr.	50	72	50	71	55	56	45	43	65	47	67	60
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	6	11	4	16	4	17	33	8	9	11	0	8
% 1.5 Yr.	17	29	17	36	21	17	11	27	13	30	10	24
% 2.5 Yr.	44	11	28	13	13	28	28	35	47	36	23	22
% 3.5+ Yr.	33	50	51	36	63	39	28	31	31	23	67	47
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	38	55	70	86	37	44	48	70	68	60	0	57
1.5 Yr.	92	89	91	89	78	88	73	82	83	87	41	88
2.5 Yr.	95	97	96	104	78	79	94	92	89	86	69	94
3.5+ Yr.	95	96	98	98	97	95	95	95	95	96	90	97

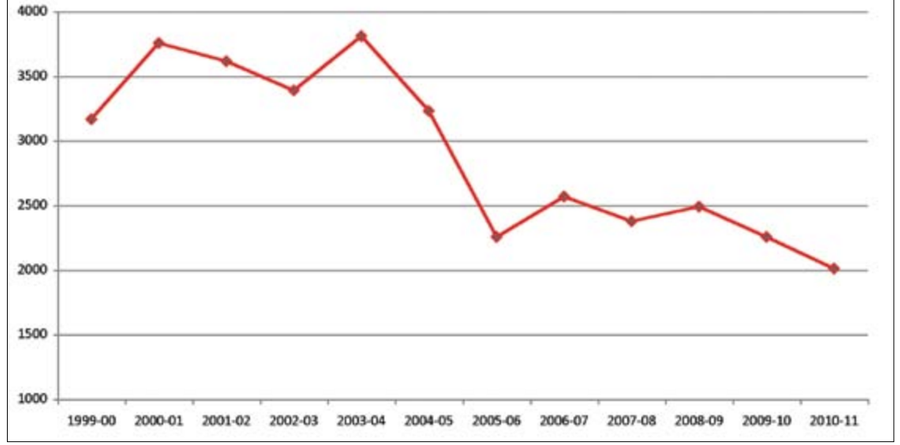
Table 23. Interior Flatwoods Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	'91-'94	'06-'10
Acres	48,457	47,757	48,293	58,168	58,745	56,441	40,168	25,016	26,956	32,766	69,015	52,284
Total Deer	676	654	802	864	811	642	531	280	341	465	1,107	761
Bucks	264	244	338	362	375	266	228	126	184	234	517	317
Does	412	410	464	502	436	376	303	154	157	231	1,457	445
Acres/Deer	72	73	60	67	72	88	76	89	79	70	63	69
Bucks	184	196	143	161	157	212	176	199	147	140	135	165
3.5+ Bucks	303	367	270	355	298	409	441	463	333	293	642	319
Does	118	116	104	116	135	150	133	162	172	142	120	117
Avg. Age ALL Bucks	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.8
% 0.5 Yr. Bucks	4	4	6	6	5	4	6	5	3	3	9	5.1
Weight	63	63	60	64	61	64	63	61	59	61	63	62.1
% 1.5 Yr.	13	13	13	10	14	17	13	19	10	10	45	13
Weight	92	109	108	108	104	126	105	112	116	122	111	104
Points	2.5	3.2	2.2	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.8	3.7	4.9	5.7	3.0	2.6
Circumf.	1.4	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.2	2.7	2.7	2.2	1.7
Length	3.6	6.4	4.4	3.4	5.9	6.0	6.1	9.0	9.7	11.7	6.5	4.7
Spread	4.1	7.0	5.9	4.0	6.5	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.1	8.5	6.0	5.5
% 2.5 Yr.	21	28	24	34	24	21	36	31	38	32	25	26
Weight	136	136	143	145	144	144	151	138	142	144	137	141
Points	6.1	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.4	7.1	5.8	7.0	6.8	5.7	6.4
Circumf.	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.3
Length	13.7	14.2	14.7	14.7	13.5	13.8	14.6	12.6	15.0	14.5	13.0	14.2
Spread	10.4	11.5	12.3	11.7	10.7	11.0	12.3	10.0	11.4	12.0	10.1	11.3
% 3.5 Yr.	31	33	40	31	34	39	25	26	32	37	16	34
Weight	153	157	157	158	160	158	161	168	165	161	153	157
Points	7.0	7.7	7.1	7.6	7.3	8.1	7.3	7.3	7.7	7.9	7.1	7.3
Circumf.	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.8
Length	15.9	16.4	15.9	16.8	16.5	15.8	15.9	15.3	17.0	16.7	15.6	16.3
Spread	12.2	13.2	12.8	13.2	13.0	12.6	12.9	12.5	13.2	13.5	12.5	12.9
% 4.5+ Yr.	31	21	17	19	23	20	20	20	17	20	5	22
Weight	164	163	170	175	172	187	185	158	187	173	176	169
Points	7.5	8.4	7.9	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.4	7.5	8.6	9.1	8.5	8.1
Circumf.	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.3
Length	17.5	18.3	18.5	18.5	18.4	17.9	19.2	17.0	19.9	18.8	18.5	18.2
Spread	14.0	14.3	14.2	14.3	14.6	14.1	14.9	13.8	15.7	14.9	15.0	14.3
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr.	11	7	6	10	6	18	12	8	16	14	15	8
2.5 Yr.	35	47	59	57	56	55	49	62	52	55	53	51
3.5+ Yr.	60	61	65	75	68	69	66	71	73	67	65	66
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr.	6	6	8	5	5	6	11	6	4	1	11	6
% 1.5 Yr.	19	28	24	23	25	21	21	25	23	20	28	24
% 2.5 Yr.	20	19	22	24	26	19	26	19	18	26	20	22
% 3.5+ Yr.	55	47	47	48	44	54	42	50	55	53	42	48
Doe Weights												
0.5 Yr.	58	54	63	60	58	57	60	60	56	68	60	59
1.5 Yr.	84	85	92	93	91	93	94	95	94	95	93	89
2.5 Yr.	99	102	105	103	106	106	109	107	108	106	103	103
3.5+ Yr.	111	109	111	111	111	115	115	117	115	117	111	111

Enforcement of Deer Hunting-Related Citations 2010-2011

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 25** on **page 64**. Yearly trends in various citations show some variability.

Figure 24. Total Citations



A total of 2,010 citations were written during the 2010 – 2011 deer hunting season. This is a decrease of 246 citations from the previous season. The total number of citations was at an all time high in 2003 – 2004. Over the past 7 hunting seasons, citations have been decreasing continually (**Table 24** and **Figure 24**).

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 2010 – 2011 deer season. However, resident hunting license citations remained stable, while non-resident hunting license citations increased slightly. The total number of head lighting violations decreased the most during the 2010 – 2011 deer season. Other categories like baiting, no hunter orange, trespassing, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road decreased slightly. 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 such as frequency of violations actually decreased, fewer hunters in the woods, or fewer officers in that area. Lastly, this reduction could be attributed to the fact that the MDWFP has not had a cadet class of officers in 3 years, but this situation should begin to improve with a new cadet class currently in training.

Many violations are still occurring at dangerously high levels. Failure to wear hunter orange, which was essentially the same this year, is a good example. Many hunters still refuse to wear hunter orange. 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.

The number of licensed hunters continues to decline. This could be another reason for the general decrease in citations. With fewer hunters taking to the field, the number of violations should decrease. Also, many hunters are ignoring license requirements and taking their chances. This is related to the stability in citations for no hunting license.

With more hunters managing their property for bigger bucks, many poachers are trying to take advantage of the results that managers have created. More large-antlered bucks on roadsides equal more temptations. Many would-be hunters are giving in and turning to poaching. This is evidenced by the number of trespassing and headlighting citations written each year.

Our officers are doing a good 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 24. 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				
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

Table 25. Citations Summary of Most Frequent Violations During 2010-2011 Deer Season

County	Hunt from Motor Vehicle	Hunt from Public Road	No Hunter Orange	No License Resident	No License Non-Resident	Baiting	Trespassing	Headlighting	Total Citations
Adams	0	0	2	2	2	1	3	0	10
Alcorn	0	3	2	4	0	0	3	0	12
Amite	3	6	5	3	2	6	2	4	31
Attala	0	19	8	11	1	26	0	12	77
Benton	0	9	1	4	0	1	2	0	17
Bolivar	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Calhoun	0	5	0	1	0	0	5	0	11
Carroll	0	3	1	4	1	5	1	1	16
Chickasaw	0	15	2	8	0	0	2	2	29
Choctaw	0	8	8	14	3	13	3	0	49
Claiborne	0	6	1	0	1	0	0	4	12
Clarke	0	14	16	13	2	18	6	2	71
Clay	0	14	7	5	0	0	5	1	32
Coahoma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copiah	0	5	12	14	5	4	7	1	48
Covington	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	5
Desoto	0	3	3	7	1	1	2	0	17
Forrest	0	18	6	9	1	4	7	12	57
Franklin	0	14	2	4	6	3	6	1	36
George	0	9	1	10	2	3	4	8	37
Greene	0	6	3	6	2	8	6	2	33
Grenada	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hancock	1	8	0	4	1	2	3	1	20
Harrison	0	24	5	8	0	2	2	10	51
Hinds	0	0	4	1	2	0	2	0	9
Holmes	0	2	5	2	2	1	0	10	22
Humphreys	0	1	1	5	0	0	1	1	9
Issaquena	0	2	4	5	0	3	6	0	20
Itawamba	0	11	8	8	0	2	4	2	35
Jackson	0	11	6	17	2	5	6	3	50
Jasper	0	5	10	5	6	12	3	2	43
Jeff Davis	0	8	1	8	7	15	0	3	42
Jefferson	0	3	4	3	3	8	1	2	24
Jones	0	6	9	14	2	15	1	2	49
Kemper	0	0	2	3	2	3	0	0	10
Lafayette	0	4	1	5	0	1	1	2	14
Lamar	0	4	4	4	0	8	2	3	25
Lauderdale	0	0	4	3	0	3	3	0	13
Lawrence	0	2	0	0	2	3	0	5	12
Leake	0	3	2	3	1	11	3	3	26
Lee	0	2	3	5	1	0	4	0	15
Leflore	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	1	7
Lincoln	0	8	7	9	4	8	2	5	43
Lowndes	0	7	4	1	1	0	0	3	16
Madison	0	7	4	0	0	2	2	0	15
Marion	0	1	0	4	0	0	4	2	11
Marshall	0	6	5	11	3	1	6	3	35
Monroe	0	19	10	6	1	3	7	2	48
Montgomery	0	5	2	0	1	2	1	0	11
Neshoba	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	6
Newton	0	15	6	7	0	9	3	5	45
Noxubee	0	5	1	6	1	6	2	1	22
Oktibbeha	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	2	8
Panola	0	13	2	6	2	1	2	4	30
Pearl River	0	2	8	6	2	6	25	0	49
Perry	0	33	9	11	1	3	2	9	68
Pike	0	2	3	3	3	7	0	0	18
Pontotoc	0	4	6	0	1	0	2	4	17
Prentiss	0	10	1	0	0	4	1	0	16
Quitman	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Rankin	0	5	1	3	0	0	1	2	12
Scott	0	21	3	10	1	2	6	5	48
Sharkey	2	4	6	9	1	0	3	0	25
Simpson	0	2	1	5	0	1	3	0	12
Smith	0	16	1	3	0	2	2	6	30
Stone	0	8	3	4	0	1	0	2	18
Sunflower	0	6	3	2	2	1	0	5	19
Tallahatchie	0	6	0	6	0	0	4	0	16
Tate	0	1	3	4	1	0	1	0	10
Tippah	0	6	1	1	0	2	1	3	14
Tishomingo	0	5	0	2	0	0	3	0	10
Tunica	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Union	0	4	3	3	0	2	2	5	19
Walthall	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	3	9
Warren	1	6	6	14	3	0	8	8	46
Washington	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	5
Wayne	0	15	4	2	4	2	4	8	39
Webster	0	2	1	2	0	2	6	3	16
Wilkinson	0	2	7	4	12	4	1	0	30
Winston	0	15	2	6	0	7	0	0	30
Yalobusha	0	6	0	5	0	0	1	0	12
Yazoo	2	5	6	5	0	1	6	0	25

2010-2011 Hunting Incident/Accident Summary

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 38 total hunting related incident/accidents investigated in Mississippi during the 2010 – 2011 hunting season. Of these, 15 were firearm related with 4 fatalities, and 23 were treestand related with 2 fatalities. The majority of hunting incidents occurred while deer hunting, but there were also incidents reported related to dove, hog, quail, rabbit, squirrel, and turkey hunting.

Both firearm and treestand-related accidents increased compared to the previous season. Total accidents increased from 24 to 38 (**Figure 26**). Unfortunately, total fatalities increased from 1 to 6 compared to the previous season.

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 10,888 sportsmen in Hunter Education during the 2010 – 2011 season (**Figure 27**). 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.

Youths 12 – 15 years of age must complete a Hunter Education course to hunt unsupervised. Youths 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. Youths 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.

Figure 25. Hunting Incident by Animal Hunted

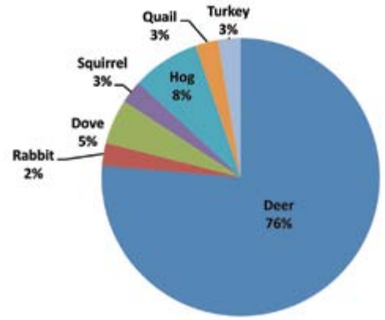


Figure 26. Hunting Incidents

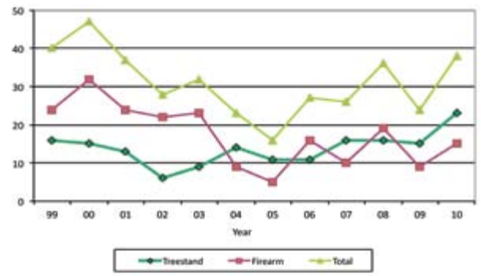
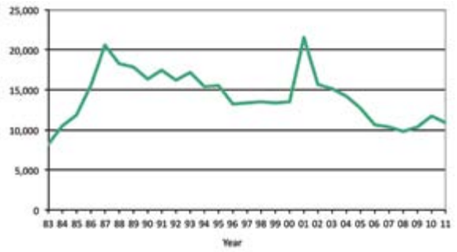


Figure 27. Students Trained by Year



BuckScore® Technology: Aging and Scoring Photographed Whitetails

Jeremy Flinn, Steve Demarais, and Bronson Strickland

Researchers from Mississippi State University's Deer Ecology and Management Lab (MSU Deer Lab) have created a revolutionary product called Buckscore™, which enables hunters, biologists, and wildlife managers to score bucks without ever laying a hand on them. MSU Deer Lab researchers developed a set of unique statistical equations that provide an estimate of antler size based on measurements taken from trail-camera photographs. Tests show that Buckscore technology can estimate the gross score to within 6% of the actual value! Better yet, the soon-to-be-released Multiple Picture Technology will allow users to get within 2.5%, that's only 5" off on a 200-inch buck! Additionally, the BuckScore and MSU Deer Lab researchers are finalizing the technology to age deer with the same photographs. With BuckScore, hunters and managers can get an accurate estimate of the age and antler size of bucks to make informed harvest decisions that coincide with management strategies on their property. The ability to estimate antler size from photographs not only allows the user to collect invaluable data from live deer, but also hone their skills at field judging whitetails.

The Management Edition of Buckscore, is set to hit shelves in late 2011 or early 2012. As with Buckscore PRO, users will be able to score their bucks. However, this version will allow users to incorporate multiple images of the same deer for improved accuracy shown to be near 2.5% on average. But the highlight of the Buckscore Management Edition is the technology to age a photographed buck. The technology requires a buck to be in the broadside position. After making 9 simple measurements, the program will calculate an age and percent confidence in that age placement. The ability to collect age data on your "on-the-hoof" deer will drastically improve application of your management strategies.

For more information on Buckscore and its products, visit www.buckscore.com. A substantial portion of the proceeds from sales will fund future deer research at the MSU Deer Ecology and Management Lab.

Jeremy Flinn

Regional Body and Antler Size Differences in White-tailed Deer: Final First Generation Results

Emily Flinn, 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 that LCP males were unable to improve their relative body and antler size through three years of age. 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 with optimum nutrition. Results from second generation deer should finalize the answer - if there are regional differences in the second generation, then genetic differences can be eliminated as a factor; if differences remain after two generations, then genetics likely contributes to body and antler size variation across Mississippi. Support for this project is from MDWFP using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds, MSU Deer Lab, Purina Mills, and private individuals.

Assessment of the Lactation Index for Managing White-tailed Deer Populations

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

Fawn recruitment estimates are a critical part of deer harvest recommendations. The lactation index is the percent of hunter-harvested adult does exhibiting evidence of lactation. Widely collected and used, the lactation index is often the best or only available metric of fawn recruitment (i.e., fawn crop). We use changes in lactation rates as an indicator of changes in population growth rate and changes in the condition of the herd. It is important to understand how the lactation index corresponds to actual fawn recruitment. To answer our questions regarding the lactation index, we first determined the rate at which lactation ceases throughout the duration of the hunting season. This was accomplished by looking at annual doe harvests at the population level and plotting them by the lactation rate and the date of harvest relative to average fawn birth dates. We also built a simulation model where we could manipulate every characteristic of the population. These characteristics included the age of each doe, the average number of fetuses, the percentage of fetal mortality, the level of fawn mortality, and the rate of deer harvest. Fawn mortality could be predation related, disease, or any other factor that influence young fawn survival.

Kamen Campbell

Using historic Mississippi DMAP data, we found that lactation rates decline on an average of about 0.2% per day, or about 18% over a span of the deer hunting season. With the simulation, we found that variation in lactation rate increased with declining sample size and increased with greater fawn mortality from predation, but changed minimally with varying litter size (1, 2, or 3 fetuses). Fawn mortality decreased fawn recruitment 10-20% more than it decreased the lactation rate, thus changes in fawn recruitment due to predation may not be detected as readily with lactation rates.

In conclusion, we found that date of deer harvest and number of does sampled needs to be accounted for when determining population lactation rate. Lactation rates can be used to infer predator effects on fawn crop, but several years of data collection are needed to make this assessment.

Morphological and Reproductive Variations in Female White-tailed Deer From Across Mississippi

Jake Oates, Steve Demarais, Bronson Strickland, Jerrold Belant, and William T. McKinley

Hunters usually focus their selective harvest decisions on bucks using body and antler characteristics, while females are harvested indiscriminately. Realize that up to 80 percent of young bucks will disperse to a new home range outside of the immediate population. In contrast, females generally do not disperse and will remain in or near their mother's home range. Previous research by the MSU Deer Lab has shown that this "female philopatry" limits the mixing of a female's genetic material with other populations, and can cause some localized breeding date variations.

This research is being 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 difference among regional deer populations. Other factors may also influence a female's phenotype. Reproduction is a major cost energetically and can influence female life history events. This research will identify the cost of reproduction in terms of its effect on a does' phenotype and future reproductive success. The females in this study represent deer genetics in the delta, thin loess, and lower coastal plain soil regions and have been raised on optimum nutrition. We will complete sampling of adults and fawns by November 2011 and will begin analysis immediately thereafter. Support for this project is provided by the MDWFP using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds and the Deer Ecology and Management Lab at Mississippi State University.

Jake Oates

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

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

Sex ratio and age structure are the most often manipulated population characteristics. The sex ratio desired for a deer population 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 is never a target of 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. This research will determine if the relative rank of female white-tailed deer in a dominance hierarchy can be related to relative numbers of male and female fawns. We will compare the offspring sex ratio of dominant and subordinate does that are being fed optimum nutrition to determine if there is any deviation from a 1:1 ratio. We hypothesize that dominant females will ultimately have relatively more males than females. This research will improve our understanding of deer dominance by evaluating the relationships of age, body size, date of birth of the fawns, and stress levels of the does on dominance rank. We have collected all dominance and body measurement data and analyses will be completed after birth of 2011 fawns. Support for this project is provided by the MDWFP using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds and the Deer Ecology and Management lab at Mississippi State University.

Eric Michel

New Name Represents a Long Tradition of Innovative Deer Research

Steve Demarais, Bronson Strickland, and Jerry Belant

Mississippi State University has been synonymous with innovative deer research for decades, but a new name now represents this storied program, the Mississippi State University Deer Ecology and Management Lab (MSU Deer Lab). Deer research at the MSU Deer Lab began with the arrival of Dr. Dave Guynn and Dr. Harry Jacobson in the mid-1970s. The synergism between these two young researchers and MDWFP biologists spawned many unique projects that generated national attention. After Guynn left, Jacobson expanded the breadth of deer research projects over a 20-year career, followed by continued interaction as Professor Emeritus. Jacobson's position was filled by Dr. Steve Demarais, who earned his doctoral degree with Jacobson and subsequently worked as a deer specialist in Texas for 15 years. After training at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute in Texas, Dr. Bronson Strickland contributed to the deer research program as a research associate for six years and joined the faculty of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2006. Dr. Jerry Belant, a renowned carnivore and deer specialist with extensive experience in northern regions, joined the department in 2008. Dr. George Hurst, conducted habitat-based research on deer during 1970s and 1980s. Dr. Steve Grado and Dr. Ian Munn, Department of Forestry, have conducted economic analyses of deer and deer hunting. Collectively, and working with numerous graduate students, cooperating agencies, foundations, and landowners, these faculty make the MSU Deer Lab one of the premier deer management research units in North America.

By: Rick Dillard

The year 2011 marks the 11th year of the Magnolia Records Program. Since the beginning, over 6,400 deer have been scored, of over which 4,100 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 28**). The total number of bucks qualifying for Magnolia Records in each county is depicted in **Figure 29**.

The 2010-2011 hunting season was greatly improved over the 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 184 6/8 and was taken by James Saunders in Adams County (new overall state record for typical category). The largest non-typical buck scored 216 6/8 and was taken by Casey Orr in Choctaw County. Jason Carr's buck from Lee County was the largest typical taken by muzzleloader and scored 146 1/8 typical. Will Rives' 172 4/8 buck from Jefferson County was the largest typical taken by archery (new archery state record typical category). Lastly, the largest non-typical archery buck was harvested by Gus Pieralisi in Washington County and scored 173 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 670 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 home.mdwfp.com and look for Magnolia Records.

Figure 28

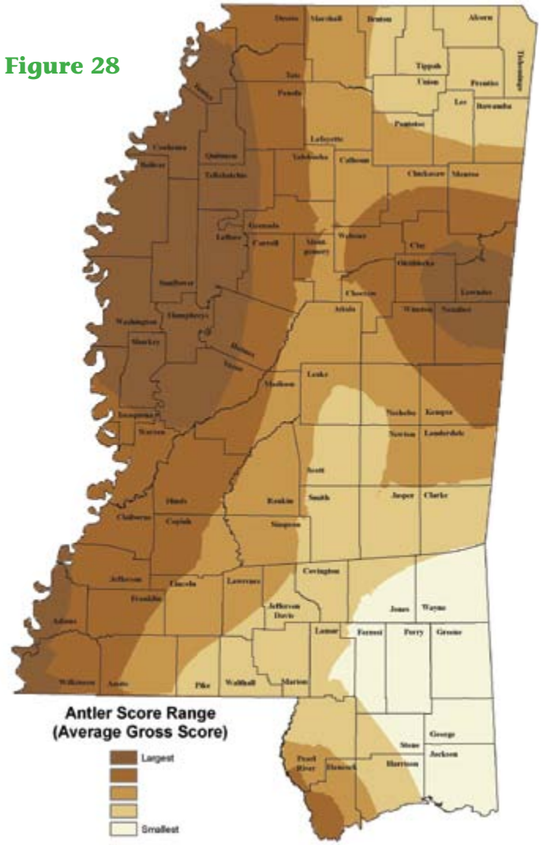
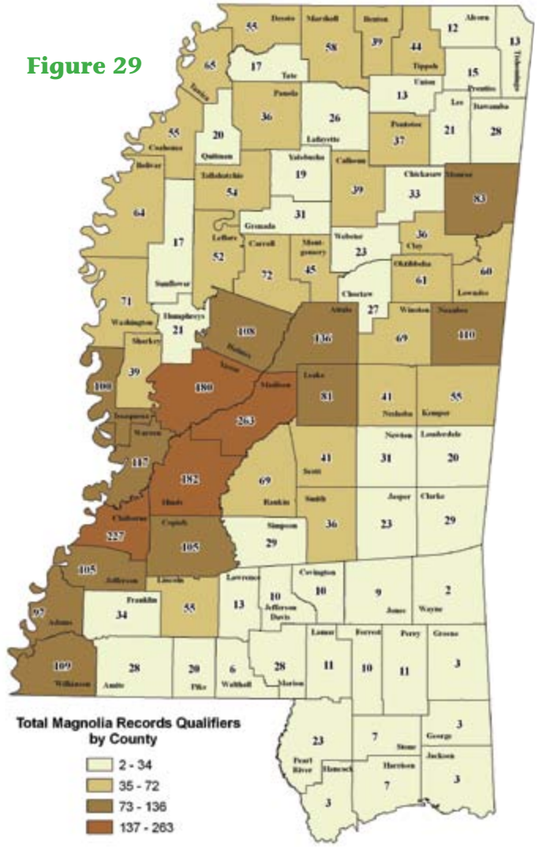


Figure 29



Pope and Young Deer Taken in Mississippi

Table 26. 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	172 2/8	2	Clifford Welch	2008-09	Wilkinson
9	173 4/8	2	Gus Pieralisi	2010-11	Washington
10	170 3/8	2	Roger Tankesly	2007-08	Madison

Table 27. 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

Boone and Crockett Deer Taken in Mississippi

Table 28. 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	(Pick 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	(Pick 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	(Pick 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. Hayes	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
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 2/8	1	Leland N. Dye, Jr.	2001-02	Tunica
45 +	195 2/8	1	Bill Kimble	1995-96	Copiah
47	195 1/8	2	Roger Burton, III	2007-08	Yazoo

** 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

Boone and Crockett Deer Taken in Mississippi

Table 29. Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 170)

Rank	Score	Status	Taken By	Season	County
1 **	184 6/8	3	James Saunders	2010-11	Adams
2	182 7/8	1	Glen Jourdan	1986-87	Noxubee
3	182 2/8	1	R. L. Bobo	1955-56	Claiborne
4	181 5/8	1	Ronnie Whitaker	1980-81	Wilkinson
5	181 2/8	3	(Pick up) Alan Thornton	2009-10	Coahoma
6	180 4/8	1	W. F. Smith	1968-69	Leflore
7	180 2/8	1	Steve Greer	1995-96	Madison
8	179 2/8	1	Marlon Stokes	1988-89	Hinds
9	178 5/8	1	Grady Robertson	1951-52	Bolivar
10	177 2/8	4	Ronnie Houston	1988-89	Grenada
11	176 6/8	2	Paul Warrington	2007-08	Bolivar
12	176 5/8	1	Sidney Sessions	1952-53	Bolivar
13	176 2/8	3	Bubba Buford	2010-11	Leflore
14	176 1/8	1	J.D. Hood (Mike Steadman-owner)	1972-73	Monroe
15 +	175 2/8	1	Johnnie Leake, Jr.	1977-78	Wilkinson
15 +	175 2/8	1	Charlie G. Wilson, II	2001-02	Neshoba
17	175	2	Kyle Gordon	2005-06	Madison
18 +	174 6/8	1	O. P. Gilbert	1960-61	Coahoma
18 +	174 6/8	1	Jeremy Boelte	1997-98	Adams
20 +	174 1/8	1	William Ladd	1999-00	Noxubee
20 +	174 1/8	4	Unknown (Mike Shell-owner)	1940	Warren
20 +	174 1/8	1	Bill Walters	1995-96	Coahoma
23	173 5/8	1	Geraline Holliman	1982-83	Lowndes
24	173 3/8	1	Richard Powell	1994-95	Coahoma
25	173 2/8	4	Allen Hunley	2007-08	Hinds
26	173	2	Steve Simmons	2007-08	Tallahatchie
27	172 6/8	4	Bob Martin	1940	Warren
28	172 5/8	1	Adrian Stallone	1983-84	Adams
29	172 4/8	2	Will Rives	2010-11	Jefferson
30 +	172	1	Barry Barnes	2003-04	Yazoo
30 +	172	1	Nan Foster New	1977-78	Adams
32 +	171 6/8	3	Randall McClelland	1989-90	Oktibbeha
32 +	171 6/8	1	Delton Davis	1990-91	Tunica
32 +	171 6/8	4	Severin Summers	2003-04	Adams
35 +	171 4/8	1	Ricky Lee	1999-00	Tallahatchie
35 +	171 4/8	2	Paul Brown	2007-08	Holmes
37	171	1	Kirk Hannon	2006-07	Madison
38	170 7/8	1	W. A. Miller	1920	Issaquena
39	170 4/8	4	Joe Reed Perry	Unknown	Sharkey
40 +	170 2/8	1	David G. McAdory	1994-95	Madison
40 +	170 2/8	3	Alton Marlar	2008-09	Adams
42	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:

We wanted to address a couple of management strategies that have gained popularity in Mississippi deer management over the past few years. These strategies are supplemental feeding and culling. Both strategies are effective tools in the toolbox of the deer manager when applied correctly. However, after numerous site visits to properties across MS, we often see both tools used incorrectly, and usually as a substitute for the basic steps in deer management.

Many clubs have begun feeding protein pellets. There is nothing wrong with this when done legally and it can improve the condition of your deer herd when done correctly. Correctly means one feeder per 100-200 acres and they are not allowed to be empty. However, many people do not understand how feeding really affects their herd, nor do they understand how much it costs to do it correctly. A correct feeding program can and will improve body condition in most of MS (the Delta region being suspect, as habitat is already extremely good). Improved body condition will result in increased reproduction. This is dangerous if you already have a few too many deer, as most properties do. You are taking away the natural limiting factors that slow herd growth. As a deer herd increases to or above carrying capacity, reproduction slows down. *More does actually have fewer fawns*. While this seems backwards, consider that fewer deer will be allowed more forage for themselves and should be in better reproductive condition, often resulting in a higher fetus: doe ratio. On the other hand, reproduction is naturally limited when a population approaches or exceeds the habitats' natural carrying capacity. Thus, *more does actually can have fewer fawns*. When feed is added during stress times, the limiting factor (nutrition) is removed. Counter to what Mother Nature wants, due to the feed, you will have more fawns born. At first this sounds like a good thing and it can be as long as harvest increases. Unfortunately, harvest usually does not increase. To exacerbate the numbers problem, hunters commonly don't see more deer, as food drives movement during most of the year. If food is not limited, then deer movement decreases. Thus the herd expands rapidly, but it is hard to notice the first few years. The only thing noticeable is that the feeders are empty sooner. Body conditions initially improve but soon start to decline again. More feed is added and the cycle continues, all the while the herd continues to expand.


Chad Dacus

We urge deer managers to use caution if they are feeding or are considering a feeding program. Many people try to feed their way out of shooting more deer. The opposite is true: You must harvest more deer when you feed, even though the deer will be harder to see. Please talk with your biologist and consider the research and biology behind their concerns and recommendations. Remember that it's our job to help you reach the management goals you set. Good advice isn't always taken, like good intentions aren't always good.

Another issue is the harvest of cull bucks. Culling can improve the standing crop of the deer herd. It will not improve genetics, at least not in the near future, but will stop that deer from eating. A deer eats about 6 lbs of food for every 100 lbs of body weight every day. Thus, taking a 150 lb deer saves about 1 ½ tons of food a year!!! This food is now available for a higher quality buck to get better. But the million dollar question is why do properties have so many culls??? Usually it is because deer are not getting enough high quality food to grow antlers to their genetic potential. In other words, properties have a lot of culls because there are too many deer for the habitat. Certainly exceptions occur, but they are rare. Food is usually the cause. In this situation, shooting a few more bucks does not fix the root cause. Generally, if culls are an issue, the first step should be shoot more does and improve the habitat. We recently heard it bluntly put "The does are eating the antlers off the bucks!" Deer managers must choose between seeing a lot of deer or having better antlered deer. We can help you manage for either, but not both.

We wish you a safe and successful season. Remember to bring a kid hunting and make memories that will last a lifetime. We challenge you to introduce someone new to hunting this season, and remind you that it's hunters who are the driving force behind conservation. It's your dollars that support wildlife, that support the public lands of this state and nation, that support a rich history of compassion for all that's wild, and that support the future of wildlife and hunting. For this, we thank you.

Sincerely,

The Deer Guys

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