

The Department is proposing a package of rule revisions to implement recommendations resulting from the Deer Trustee Report and the input received through the publicly driven Action Teams. Detailed below, you will find both current and proposed steps involved in management decision-making by the DNR. These steps have been summarized into five categories, including: the annual deer management system, the establishment of population goals, data collection, estimating populations, and finally, quota setting. The primary goal of the proposed changes are to enhance the management of the white-tailed deer population in Wisconsin by increasing public dialogue and involvement through the collection of local information.

<b>Annual Deer Management System</b>		
<b>Components</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Unit of analysis</b>	Current DMUs	County DMUs Aggregated DMUs
<b>Population analysis</b>	SAK, Accounting Model, Aerial Flight Counts, WSI	Same, but enhanced with new research data as available
<b>Other metrics</b>	Hunters surveys and forums, winter severity index, etc.	Under development
<b>Quota setting</b>	DNR led	County Committee recommendations to DNR and NRB
<b>Establishing Population Goals</b>		
<b>Components</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Frequency</b>	3-years	No Change
<b>Process</b>	Administrative Rule and public hearings Historical deer abundance estimates	County Deer Management Advisory Committee and NRB/Secretary approval Deer abundance plus new metrics
<b>Public Input</b>	DNR public rule hearings	County Deer Mgmt. Advisory Committee meetings
<b>Decision Metrics</b>	Past Performance Best Available Data Social Desire	Seek to Improve
<b>Goal Format</b>	deer/mile <sup>2</sup> of deer range	Increase, Stabilize, or Decrease
<b>Approval</b>	Administrative Rule	NRB or Secretary

<b>Data Collection</b>		
<b>Components</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Deer Herd</b>	In-Person Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvest age and sex</li> <li>• Location (county, DMU)</li> <li>• Deer seen, herd health</li> </ul>	Electronic Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same data, new sampling methods</li> </ul>
<b>Weather/Landscape</b>	Deer hunter surveys WSI, local observations Deer Range/Forest Cover	Expand on current and seek to enhance
<b>Impacts</b>	Damage claims Car-killed deer	Expand to include new metrics
<b>Hunter Experience</b>	Registration Stub: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ranking of weather</li> <li>• Number of deer seen</li> <li>• Hunter effort</li> <li>• Property type hunted</li> </ul> Gun Deer Hunter Survey Archery Deer Hunter Survey	No change to type of data Change in method of collection Involvement of DMAP cooperators
<b>Objectives</b>	Example: Age 200 bucks and does per unit annually	Expand to include new metrics and methods
<b>Population Estimates</b>		
<b>Components</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>DMUs</b>	~134 DMUs	Aggregated DMUs (53) County-based DMUs (72)
<b>Methodology</b>	SAK Accounting Model Aerial Flight Counts	Expand to include testing of new methods (example: Age at Harvest)
<b>Input: Scientific</b>	Local Wildlife Biologist WDNR Science Services Program Tribes, University DNR Deer Advisory Committee	Expand to include citizen-based science Trail camera study, DMAP
<b>Input: Social/Public</b>	Deer Hunter Forums Internet surveys Conservation Congress Chippewa tribes	Expand to include more locally-based input via County Deer Management Advisory Committee meetings
<b>Research</b>	Buck recovery Fawn survival	Trail camera, herd health studies

## Quota setting

<b>Roles</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Data Inputs</b>	Harvest: Sex and Age Winter Severity Index (WSI) Rate of Growth – Fawn/Doe ratios Relationship to Goal	Expand to include new metrics
<b>WDNR Science Services staff</b>	Develop overwinter estimate Provide fall population prediction Provide proposed antlerless gun quotas	Same products, new unit of analysis? (County boundaries or consolidated DMU's)
<b>Local WDNR Wildlife Management staff</b>	Provide harvest data Review/Refine estimates Recommend quotas Public Outreach and Education	Expand to include data collection oriented around new metrics Assist county-oriented Deer Management Advisory Committees
<b>Public Review</b>	Conservation Congress Deer Hunter Forum Internet Surveys Personal Contacts	Expand to include more locally-based input via county Deer Management Advisory Committee meetings
<b>Approvals</b>	NRB	No Change