



WISCONSIN DEER RESEARCH NEWS

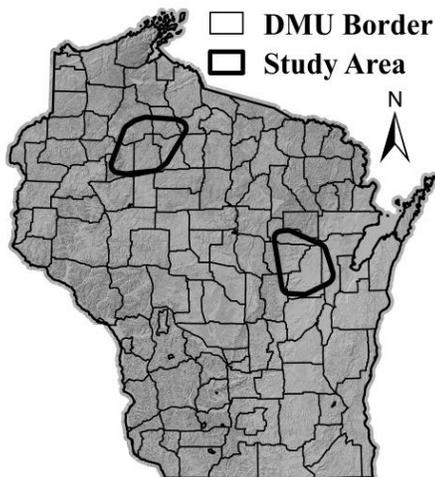


Estimating cause-specific mortality of white-tailed deer

Vol. 1, 2012

Study Areas

The two current study areas were established to provide representative samples from Wisconsin's Northern Forest and Eastern Farmland Regions.



Project Goals:

- Estimate fawn recruitment and evaluate cause-specific factors that may be limiting recruitment
- Estimate adult deer survival rates that will be used to improve population estimation techniques
- Work with landowners, hunters, and volunteers to improve communication & collaboration
- Evaluate general movement patterns
- Monitor disease and parasites that can impact deer health



Emily Anderson - WDNR

Study Methods



Over 750 white-tailed deer were ear tagged and radio collared across the two study areas between 2011 and 2012. Researchers rely on support from landowners, hunters, and volunteers to help capture deer and report mortalities from marked deer. To date over 1,000 volunteers have assisted with deer capture efforts, more than 175 landowners have graciously granted us access to their properties, and 60 marked deer mortalities have been reported by the public. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering.

Fawn Mortality



- In 2011, roughly 2/5 of the fawns survived from birth to the hunting season in the Northern Forest & 3/4 survived in the Eastern Farmland
- Leading sources of mortality in the North were predation by black bear, coyote, & bobcat
- Leading sources of mortality in the East were natural causes, coyote predation, then road kill
- Fawn survival from birth through 2 months was higher in 2012 compared to 2011

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If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions or comments please visit:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/wildlife/deer/>

or contact:

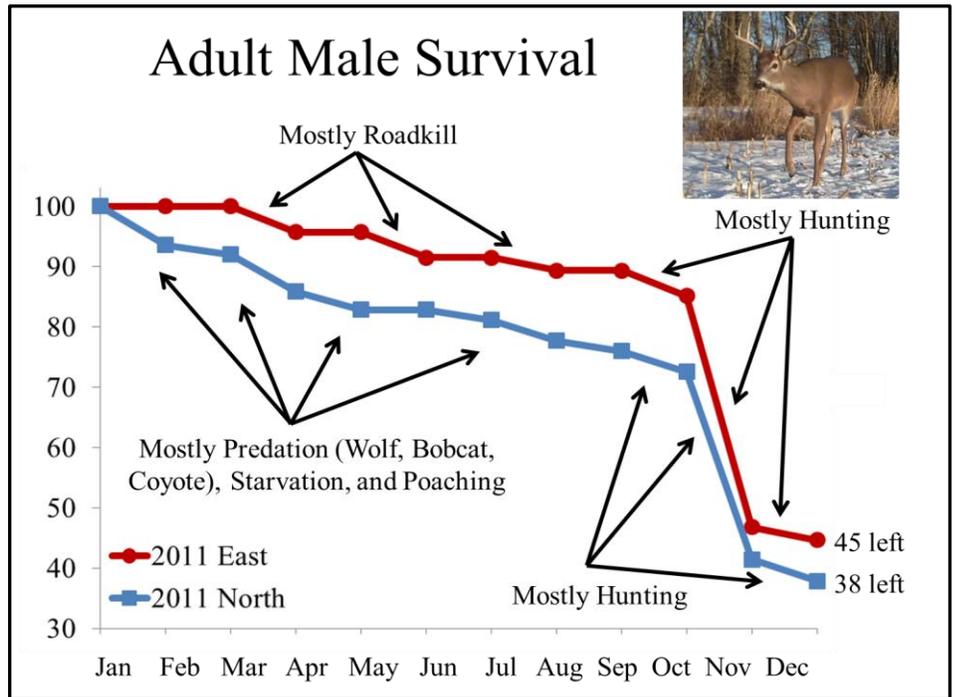
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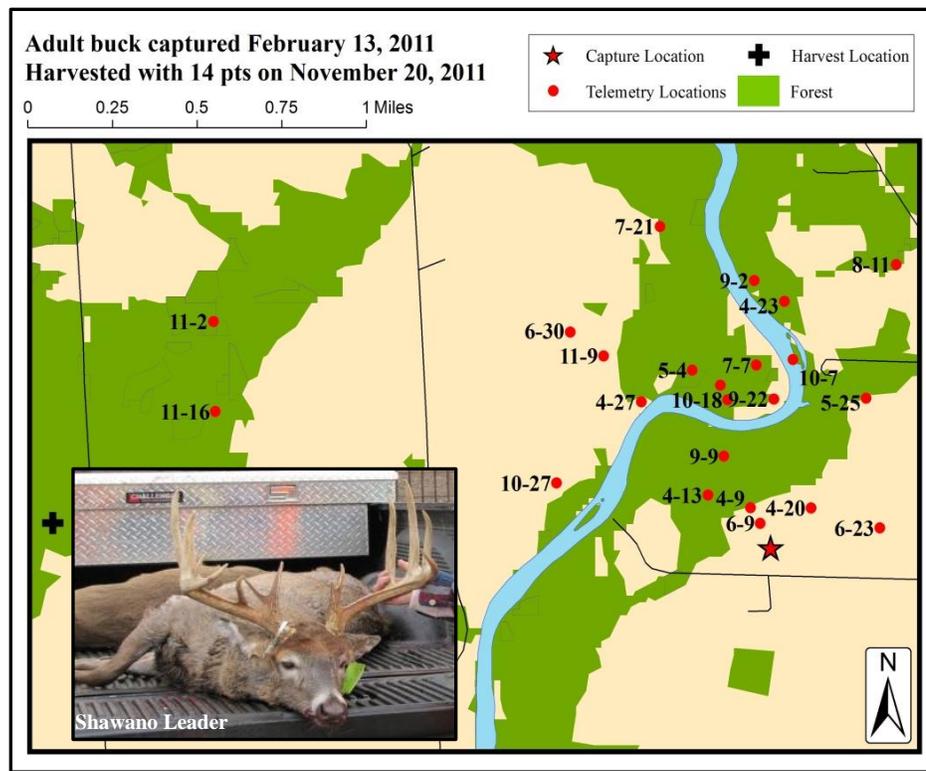


Adult Mortality

- Hunting was the leading cause of mortality for male & female deer across both areas
- In the Northern Forest, secondary sources of mortality were predation, starvation, & poaching
- In the Eastern Farmland, secondary sources of mortality were road kill then wounding loss
- 2/5 of bucks & 2/3 of does survived through 2011
- Overwinter survival was higher in 2012 compared to 2011



Adult Movement



- Very few deer in the Eastern Farmland displayed significant seasonal migration compared to the Northern Forest where migration was common
- Roughly half of the yearling bucks permanently dispersed from their natal home range
- More yearling bucks dispersed during the Fall (late October) than the Spring (early June)
- Dispersal distances were greater during the Spring compared to the Fall & ranged from 1-20 mi.

