Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

Deer Program Report

2008

Prepared by Wildlife Technical Staff

QDMA Agency of the Year Award

From left: MDWFP Executive Director Dr. Sam Polles, MDWFP Deer Program Coordinator Chad Dacus, MDWFP Commission Chairman John C Stanley IV and MDWFP Wildlife Bureau Director Larry Castle

At the recent Quality Deer Management Association's national convention held in Chattanooga, TN, the MDWFP was awarded the QDMA Agency of the Year. This award recognizes the state or federal agency that has made the most significant contribution to quality deer management during the previous year.

Brian Murphy, QDMA Executive Director, cited numerous reasons why the MDWFP was selected for this award. "In 1995 Mississippi was the first state to adopt mandatory antler restrictions, and in 2003 an exemption to this regulation was granted to youth hunters to allow one of their bucks to be any antlered deer. Then, in 2006,the Wildlife Bureau reorganized creating regional deer biologists. Before 2006, the biologists were assigned to a district and worked with all species; now there are species specific biologists stationed across the state. The MDWFP created a unique internet based data entry and analysis program which allows biologists the ability to analyze and view data from DMAP properties across the state. The MDWFP has a partnership with Mississippi State University like no other I have witnessed. And finally, in May of 2008 the 5 Deer Program Biologists attended the Deer Steward1 Certification Course conducted by QDMA at MSU."

This is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the biologists that work with our agency," Chad Dacus, MDWFP Deer Program Coordinator said. "Anytime a state agency receives national attention, it is something to be proud of. Hunters in Mississippi should be proud of this recognition as well. Without the support of the hunters, and organizations like QMDA, the accomplishments of the MDWFP Deer Program would not be possible."

MDWFP Wildlife Bureau

Mississippi Deer Program Report 2008

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

Deer hunt for youth with disabilities

Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF

The Wheelin'Sportmen Youth Hunt was held Nov. 2-4, 2007 at Bass Pro Shops in Pearl, MS. The event included a deer hunt for disabled children and a benefit dinner. Fifty youths from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama participated. Twenty-six landowners and Hunting Clubs donated the use of their land and their time. The participants harvested 38 deer and 2 hogs. The event was co-hosted by NWTF, MDWFP, Bass Pro Shops, the Mississippi Chapter of the NWTF, and the Greater Jackson Chapter of the NWTF.

Dedication

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 the 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.

2008

Governor of Mississippi
Haley Barbour

Lieutenant Governor
Phil Bryant

Senate
Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks Committee

Tommy A. Gollott
Chairman, Biloxi

Billy Hudson
Vice-Chairman, Purvis

Sidney Albritton
Picayune

Bob M. Dearing
Natchez

Merle Flowers
Southaven

Cindy Hyde-Smith
Brookhaven

Ezell Lee
Picayune

Chris McDaniel
Ellisville

Eric Powell
Corinth

Bill Stone
Ashland

Gary Tollison
Oxford

House of Representatives
Wildlife, Fisheries, & 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

Philip Gunn
Clinton

Steven A. Horne
Meridian

Bennett Malone
Carthage

Warner F. McBride
Courtland

America (Chuck) Middleton
Port Gibson

Billy Nicholson
Little Rock

Steve Palazzo
Biloxi

Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

John C Stanley IV
Chairman, Corinth

Bryan Jones
Vice Chairman, Yazoo City

Jerry Munroe
Biloxi

Charles Rigdon
Columbus

Administration

Sam Polles, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Al Tuck
Deputy Director

Robert L. Cook
Deputy Administrator

Don Brazil
Director of Law Enforcement, Wildlife, and Fisheries

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements

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.

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 Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) wildlife bureau technical staff and field personnel. An extra-special appreciation is extended to Dene Smith for assistance with many aspects of producing and mailing this report and to Cindy W. Clark who was responsible for the report design. Also, a special thanks to Rick Dillard who coordinates the Magnolia Records Program on his own time.

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.

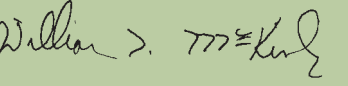
Cover photo courtesy of Christopher Shea (christophershea.net).

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

Amy Blaylock
Regional Deer
Biologist

Chris McDonald
Regional Deer
Biologist



William T. McKinley
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.

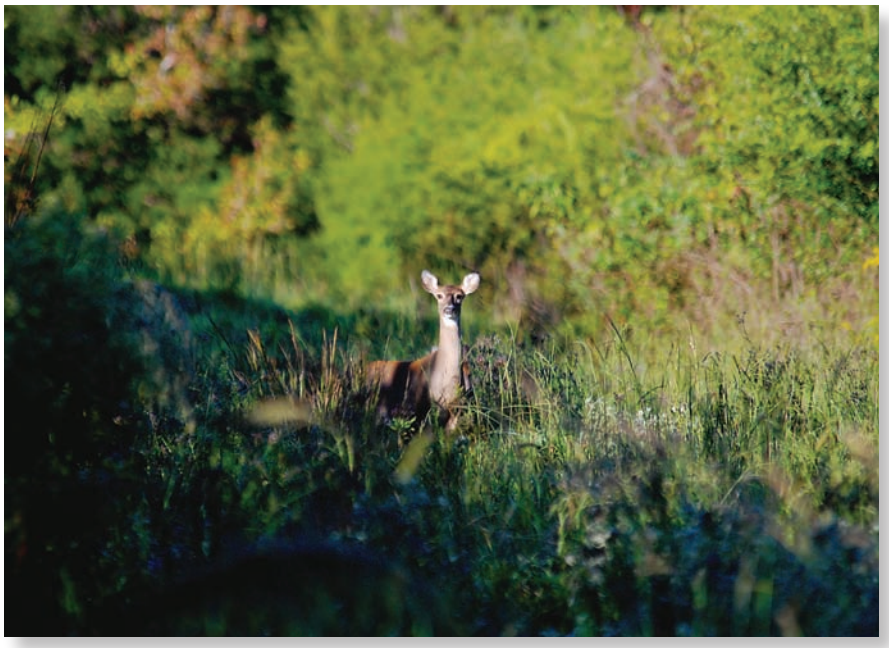


Photo by Christopher Shea

White-tailed Deer Program Report 2007-2008

The first Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) report was completed in 1988. The DMAP report evolved into the Mississippi Deer Program Report in 1992. Since its inception, the purpose of this report was to consolidate all deer-related information obtained by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) personnel. Compilation of these data provides managers the opportunity to analyze trends in deer harvest and physiological condition. In the future, managers will have a chronicled reference to more effectively critique effects of changes in season framework, hunter success, and climatic conditions on the deer population.

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

Deer hunting regulations are subject to change each year.

Annual mail surveys are used to monitor trends in hunter harvest and effort. There is a 2 year lag in reporting mail survey data. The 2007 Deer Program Report contained the mail survey data from the 2005-2006 hunting season. There was no mail survey conducted following the 2006-2007 hunting season. Hopefully a survey will be conducted following the 2007-2008 hunting season so this trend data can continue to be reported.

The MDWFP began using a new computer summary program (XtraNet) in 2004-2005. Data from 2001-2008 was analyzed using XtraNet, while data prior to 2001 was analyzed using DeerTrax, the old computer summary program. 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 and eliminate the drastic drop in the graphs and tables. Additionally, all DMAP summary tables and graphs now include harvest reports from WMAs that collect deer harvest data.

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
- 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 Technical Staff Directory

Administrative & Office Staff

Larry Castle
Wildlife Director
601.432.2196
larryc@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Ronald S. Seiss
Assistant Wildlife Director
601.432.2213
ron.seiss@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Dene Smith
Administrative Assistant
601.432.2300
dene@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Jason Price
GIS Coordinator
601.432.2123
jasonp@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Charlie "Buck" Welch
GIS Specialist
601.432.2122
charliew@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Deer Program

Chad M. Dacus
Coordinator
601.432.2177
chad.dacus@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Amy C. Blaylock
662.417.6005
amycblaylock@gmail.com

Chris McDonald
601.757.2313
chrismcd@hughes.net

William T. McKinley
662.582.6111
williamm@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Lann M. Wilf
662.299.1454
lannw@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Small Game Program

Rick Hamrick
662.320.9345
rickh@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Waterfowl Program

Ed Penny
Coordinator
601.432.2241
scottb@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Kevin Brunke
601.432.2242
kevinb@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Houston Havens
662.299.0273
houston_havens@yahoo.com

Private Lands Habitat Program

Scott Edwards
662.325.7490
sedwards@cfr.msstate.edu

John Gruchy
662.274.1050
john.gruchy@gmail.com

Russ Walsh
601.408.3399
wrwalsh@gmail.com

Wildlife Technical Staff Directory

WMA Program

Randy Spencer
WMA Coordinator
601.432.2198
randys@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Jeff Mangrum
Mitigation Lands Coordinator
601.737.5831
owma@bellsouth.net

Scott Baker
601.432.2241
scottb@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Jackie Fleeman
662.873.3497
jfleeman@bellsouth.net

Jerry Hazlewood
662.423.1455
mdwfp@avsia.com

Brad Holder
662.832.2110
bdholder@hotmail.com

Joshua L. Moree
601.835.3050
jlmoree@gmail.com

Wild Turkey Program

Dave Godwin
Coordinator
662.325.5119
dgodwin@cfr.msstate.edu

Joe Koloski
NWTF/MDWFP Co-op Biologist
601.824.2933
jkoloskinwtf@yahoo.com

Adam Butler
601.695.6795
butler@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Alligator/Fur Bearer Program

Ricky Flynt
Coordinator
601.432.2217
rickyf@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Exotic Species Program

Richard G. Rummel
Program Leader
601.432.2360
richardr@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Black Bear Program

Brad Young
Program Leader
601.432.2242
brad.young@mdwfp.state.ms.us

Regional Biologists Program

Jim Willcutt
Program Leader
662.325.7490
jwillcutt@cfr.msstate.edu

Matt Brock
601.723.0370
mattbrock02@yahoo.com

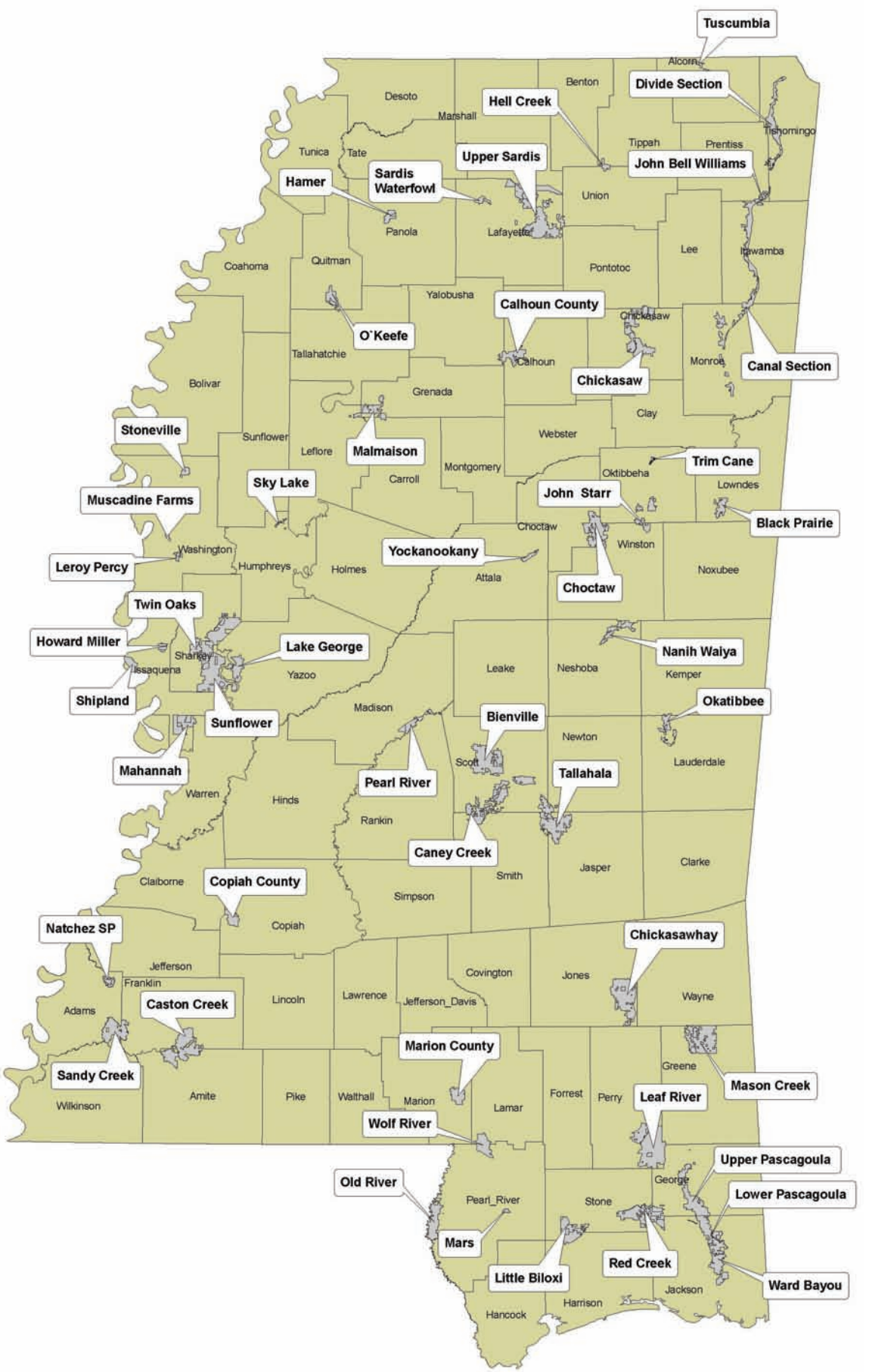
Ashley Gary
662.418.0290
a.gary@gmail.com

Chad Masley
662.322.7990
chadmasley@hotmail.com

Alan Mumbower
601.941.1317
mumbower@gmail.com

Roger Tankesly
601.540.5445
rogertankesly@gmail.com

Wildlife Management Areas



Wildlife Management Areas 2007-2008

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 check-in and harvest reporting is required from hunters on most WMAs.

Throughout the year, conservation officers monitor compliance of hunters checking-in 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 informed hunters of the importance of accurate check-in more 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 very 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 among WMAs (**Table 2**).

Wildlife Management Area Reported Deer Harvested and Hunter Mandays

Figure 1

Hunter man-days for the 2007-2008 season increased from last year by approximately 12,800. The 2006-2007 season showed the first increase in hunter effort in five seasons. We are now possibly beginning to recover from decreases in past seasons. Reasons for these decreases varied. Hurricane Katrina certainly decreased hunter activity, as did the increase in fuel prices that followed the hurricane in 2005-2006. Hunter opportunity has generally remained stable or increased on most WMAs; therefore, opportunity is not likely a causative factor of this decrease.

Table 1. Wildlife Management Area Antler Criteria for the 2007-2008 Season

Wildlife Management Area	Minimum Antler Criteria	Wildlife Management Area	Minimum Antler Criteria	Wildlife Management Area	Minimum Antler Criteria
Bienville	12/15	Lake George	15/18	Red Creek	12/15
Black Prairie	12/15	Leaf River	12/15	Sandy Creek	12/15
Calhoun County	12/15	Leroy Percy	15/18	Sardis Waterfowl	4pt
Canal/John Bell	4pt	Little Biloxi	12/15	Shipland	15/18
Caney Creek	12/15	Mahannah	16/20	Stoneville	15/18
Caston Creek	12/15	Malmaison	15/18	Sunflower	15/18
Chickasaw	12/15	Marion County	12/15	Tallahala	12/15
Chickasawhay	12/15	Mason Creek	12/15	Tuscumbia	4pt
Choctaw	12/15	Nanih Waiya	4pt	Twin Oaks	15/18
Copiah County	12/15	Okatibbee	4pt	Upper Sardis	12/15
Divide Section	12/15	O'Keefe	15/18	Ward Bayou	12/15
Hamer	15/18	Old River	12/15	Wolf River	12/15
Hell Creek	4pt	Pascagoula	12/15	Yockanookany	12/15
John Starr	12/15	Pearl River	4pt		

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

Similar to hunter effort, total reported harvest increased by 431 deer from last season (**Figure 1**). The 2007-2008 season was the fourth and fifth seasons that many WMAs had minimum inside spread criteria for legal bucks. Beginning with the 2007-2008 season, all WMAs with minimum inside spread criteria implemented minimum main beam length criteria also (**Table 1**). A legal buck must meet either the minimum inside spread or the minimum main beam length. WMAs without an inside spread and main beam criteria are noted on **Table 2** by an *. Harvest should continue to increase for a few years before leveling off. However, an increase in harvest can only be expected if hunter effort remains constant or increases.

Average success rate also increased across WMAs. Therefore, the increased harvest may be partially attributed to increased deer populations on WMAs. Other behavioral changes within the deer herd are also likely culprits in the increased harvest.

Wildlife Management Area Directory

East Central

Paul Windham
WMA Supervisor

Larry Waddell
Conservation Officer
Nanih Waiya
662.724.2770

Randy Akins
Conservation Officer
Okatibbee
601.737.5831

Brent Baucum
Wildlife Manager
Okatibbee
601.737.5831

Clayton Lott
Conservation Officer
Bienville
601.469.5993

Brian Gordon
Wildlife Manager
Tallahala
601.739.3671

Art Bradshaw
Conservation Officer
Caney Creek
601.537.3555

Northeast

Doug Epps
Wildlife Supervisor

Jimmy Drewery
Wildlife Manager
Tuscumbia
662.284.0740

David Overby
Conservation Officer
Divide Section
662.423.1455

Clark Adams
Conservation Officer
Divide Section
662.862.2723

Tim Ryan
Conservation Officer
Divide Section
662.423.1455

Justin Hughes
Conservation
Associate Biologist
Canal Section
662.862.2723

John Tigner
Wildlife Manager
John Bell Williams
601.537.3555

North Central

Ford Grissett
Conservation
Associate Biologist

John Taylor
Conservation Officer
Choctaw
662.285.6928

Wayne Gordon
Wildlife Manager
John Starr Forest
662.840.5172

Steve Coleman
Conservation Officer
Hell Creek
662.685.4508

Matt Gray
Conservation Officer
Chickasaw
662.447.0141

Jack Griffin
Wildlife Manager
Hell Creek
662.685.4508

Doug Swords
Wildlife Manager
Chickasaw
662.447.0141

Northwest

Bobby Young
Conservation Officer
Upper Sardis
662.234.6125

Vic Theobald
Conservation Officer
Sardis Waterfowl
662.236.9762

Donnie Cain
Conservation Officer
Calhoun County
662.628.6328

Walt Hardy
Conservation Officer
Charles Ray Nix
662.563.6330

Josh Nunley
Conservation
Associate Biologist
Charles Ray Nix
662.563.6330

Dalton Adams
Conservation Officer
Malmaison
662.453.5409

Robbie Kiihnl
Conservation Officer
O'Keefe
662.326.8029

Wildlife Management Area Directory

Southwest

Kallum Herrington
WMA Supervisor

Patrick Rush
Conservation Officer
Old River
601.772.9024

AJ Smith
Conservation Officer
Caston Creek
601.384.3606

Ricky McDaniel
Conservation Officer
Wolf River
601.795.8682

Mark Reid
Wildlife Manager
Sandy Creek
601.835.3050

Med Palmer
Wildlife Manager
Copiah County
601.277.3636

Danny Stringer
Conservation Officer
Marion County
601.736.0066

Delta

Stephen "Slim" Chandler
WMA Supervisor

Bobby Hodnett
Conservation Officer
Sunflower
662.828.3456

Jason Kerr
Conservation Officer
Sunflower
662.828.3456

Bryan Williamson
Conservation Associate Biologist
Howard Miller

Mike Thompson
Conservation Officer
Shipland
662.873.9331

Nathaniel Emerson
Wildlife Manager
Pearl River
601.859.3421

Scottie Jones
WMA Supervisor

Lee Harvey
Conservation Officer
Mahannah
601.636.2045

Shannon Chunn
Wildlife Manager
Muscadine

Southeast

Dwight Morrow
WMA Supervisor

Ben Hare
Wildlife Manager
Pascagoula
601.947.6376

Michael Everette
Conservation Officer
Pascagoula
228.588.3878

Mitch Geoff
Wildlife Manager
Pascagoula River

Ronnie Hurst
Conservation Officer
Chickasawhay

Ted Hooper
Conservation Officer
Mason Creek
601.928.3720

Jay Landrum
Wildlife Manager
Chickasawhay
601.344.0600

Lynn McCoy
Wildlife Manager
Ward Bayou
228.826.1012

Le Don Cooley
Wildlife Manager
Leaf River
601.598.2323

Ronnie Lee
Wildlife Manager
Little Biloxi
601.928.3720

Doyle Bond
Wildlife Manager
Red Creek
601.928.4296

Table 2. Wildlife Management Area Harvest Information for the 2007-2008 Season

Wildlife Management Area	Acreage	Total Harvest	Acres/Deer	Buck Harvest	Acres/ Buck	Doe Harvest	Acres/Doe	Total Mandays	Mandays/ Deer	Mandays/ Acre
Bienville	25,300	154	164	100	253	54	469	3,169	21	0.13
Black Prairie	5,825	42	139	12	485	30	194	244	6	0.04
Calhoun County	9,888	45	220	30	330	15	659	1,950	43	0.20
Canal/John Bell*	32,500	165	197	111	293	54	602	4,512	27	0.14
Caney Creek	30,900	92	336	63	490	29	1,066	2,674	29	0.09
Caston Creek	27,785	25	1,111	17	1,634	8	3,473	3,469	139	0.12
Chickasaw	28,319	124	228	73	388	51	555	6,305	51	0.22
Chickasawhay	35,000	31	1,129	17	2,059	14	2,500	3,245	105	0.09
Choctaw	24,314	106	229	66	368	40	608	3,542	33	0.15
Copiah County	6,583	136	48	70	94	66	100	3,383	25	0.51
Divide Section	15,336	64	240	14	1,095	50	307	2,713	42	0.18
Hamer	3,909	50	78	15	261	35	112	1,305	26	0.33
Hell Creek*	2,500	11	227	2	1,250	9	278	95	9	0.04
John Starr	8,244	78	106	33	250	45	183	1,763	23	0.21
Lake George	8,383	17	493	10	838	7	1,198	344	20	0.04
Leaf River	41,411	78	531	42	986	36	1,150	7,706	99	0.19
Leroy Percy	2,200	13	169	9	244	4	550	540	42	0.25
Little Biloxi	14,980	17	881	8	1,873	9	1,664	1,965	116	0.13
Mahannah	12,675	125	101	51	249	74	171	1,646	13	0.13
Malmaison	10,016	97	103	31	323	66	152	2,025	21	0.20
Marion County	7,200	73	99	40	180	33	218	2,334	32	0.32
Mason Creek	27,346	37	739	24	1,139	13	2,104	2,117	57	0.08
Nanih Waiya*	7,655	100	77	38	201	62	123	1,794	18	0.23
Okatibbee*	6,883	29	237	10	688	19	362	1,057	36	0.15
O'Keefe	6,100	58	105	32	191	26	235	1,652	28	0.27
Old River	15,042	42	358	28	537	14	1,074	1,099	26	0.07
Pascagoula	39,217	100	392	84	467	16	2,451	3,466	35	0.09
Pearl River*	6,000	15	400	11	545	4	1,500	1,585	106	0.26
Red Creek	83,345	15	5,556	14	5,953	1	83,345	3,419	228	0.04
Sandy Creek	16,407	81	203	62	265	19	864	4,007	49	0.24
Sardis Waterfowl*	4,000	14	286	5	800	9	444	171	12	0.04
Shipland	3,642	18	202	12	304	6	607	619	34	0.17
Stoneville	2,000	7	286	4	500	3	667	698	100	0.35
Sunflower	60,115	117	514	86	699	31	1,939	3,752	32	0.06
Tallahala	28,000	139	201	81	346	58	483	2,844	20	0.10
Tuscumbia*	2,600	10	260	4	650	6	433	265	27	0.10
Twin Oaks	5,675	78	73	29	196	49	116	1,206	15	0.21
Upper Sardis	42,000	154	273	70	600	84	500	9,708	63	0.23
Ward Bayou	13,234	12	1,103	8	1,654	4	3,309	1,571	131	0.12
Wolf River	10,301	50	206	31	332	19	542	2,961	59	0.29
Yockanookany	2,483	24	103	9	276	15	166	199	8	0.08
TOTAL	735,313	2,643		1,456		1,187		99,119		
AVERAGE	17,934	64	449	36	739	29	2,865	2,418	49	0.17

*WMA following statewide antler criteria.

2007-2008 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

Harvested on Copiah WMA by Shawn Phillips on December 8th.

Bienville WMA
Written by: Scott Baker

Bienville WMA is 31,000 acres within the Bienville National Forest located north of Morton. For the fourth year bucks had to meet minimum antler requirements to be legal for harvest. During the 2007-2008 season, legal bucks were those with a minimum inside spread of 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. Antlerless deer had to weigh at least 65 pounds. The 2007-2008 season was the third year antlerless deer were legal for harvest during gun season.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	87	1,806
2006-2007	74	1,924
2007-2008	154	3,169

Deer harvest consisted of 100 bucks and 54 does. Total harvest increased 108% from the previous year and hunter effort increased by 65%.

Management for the Red-cockaded woodpecker, which is an endangered species that resides on the WMA, has indirectly improved deer habitat on Bienville WMA over previous years. However, in 2005 Hurricane Katrina damaged much of the hardwoods along creeks throughout the area. The MDWFP has proposed new openings in timber thinning/harvest areas which will provide additional food sources for wildlife.

As deer populations continue to grow in response to habitat improvements, it has become necessary to increase antlerless hunting opportunities. For the 2008-2009 season, antlerless hunting opportunities on Bienville WMA will include archery season, primitive weapon season, a portion of modern firearms season from December 16-21, and January archery season.

Black Prairie WMA
Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

Black Prairie WMA offers a lottery draw hunt that has provided a very high success rate during the past several years. Hunter effort and harvest were both significantly higher than the previous year, with a harvest in 2007-2008 of 12 bucks and 30 does. Deer harvest as a whole increased from the previous season. Man-days of effort increased 136% and harvest increased 45%. There were no significant changes in deer hunting regulations, opportunity, or bag limits to account for the increase in man-days of effort.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	54	377
2006-2007	29	103
2007-2008	42	244

Hunters who desire a quality buck are passing up young bucks and waiting for an opportunity to harvest a mature buck; therefore, fewer young bucks are being harvested. The result is an increase in buck quality because bucks are allowed to grow older. Habitat quality is maintained by keeping the deer population below carrying capacity, planting supplemental food plots, and summer agriculture crops on approximately 1,600 acres.

2007-2008 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

Calhoun County WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Calhoun County WMA is a 10,900 acres located near Bruce, MS in Calhoun County. This area is unique because it offers extensive opportunity to those who hunt deer with dogs. Harvest on the WMA continues to be skewed towards bucks. Thirty bucks and 15 does were harvested this past season. We would like to see more does than bucks harvested during future seasons. Buck and doe weights and lactation were 5-10% greater than average for all age classes when compared to averages for the Upper Coastal Plain soil region. However, buck and doe weights are down slightly when compared to the past 5 seasons on the WMA. Antler indices continue to improve on the area. Those who hunt deer without dogs continue to find hunting conditions less favorable in the aging pine stands on Calhoun County WMA. The canopy closure occurring in the mid-rotation pine stands and 2-4 year old clear-cuts on most of the WMA are making it harder to encounter deer. However, timber thins and small clear-cuts continue to improve habitat to an extent. The logging decks and lanes provide additional areas that can be planted or maintained as openings.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	57	1,406
2006-2007	57	1,990
2007-2008	45	1,950

Canal Section and John Bell Williams WMAs
Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	67	3,140
2006-2007	131	3,912
2007-2008	165	4,512

Canal Section WMA (32,500 ac.) and John Bell Williams WMA (3,000 ac.) share common boundaries. Harvest data is combined for both WMAs. These areas stretch approximately 54 linear miles along the west side of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway from MS Hwy. 4 at Bay Springs Lake to 5 miles south of MS Hwy. 45 at Aberdeen. These WMAs lie in Tishomingo, Prentiss, Itawamba, and Monroe counties.

During the past deer season, a total of 4,512 man-days were recorded for deer hunting with a harvest of 165 deer, consisting of 111 bucks and 54 does. The majority of usage and harvest occurred during the gun seasons with 2,736 man-days and 77 bucks harvested. Doe harvest was not allowed during gun season. Man-days increased 15% while harvest increased 26%. There were no changes in regulations or habitat to explain these increases.

Antlered buck harvest criteria and bag limit are the same as statewide. Approximately 250 acres of the area is handicapped hunting only, 200 acres is archery only, and 100 acres is primitive weapon only for deer hunting.

The WMAs have 164 winter food plots and 79 summer food plots. The winter food plots did exceptionally well due to early acquisition of seed and fertilizer which led to early planting dates. Acorn production throughout the WMA was very good.

Caney Creek WMA
Written by: Scott Baker

Caney Creek WMA is 31,000 acres within the Bienville National Forest located near Forest. For the fourth year bucks had to meet minimum antler requirements to be legal for harvest. During the 2007-2008 season, legal bucks were those having a minimum inside spread of 12 inches or one main beam length of at least 15 inches. Antlerless deer had to weigh at least 65 pounds.

Deer harvest numbers consisted of 63 bucks and 29 does. Total harvest increased by 46% from last year and hunter effort increased by 14%. This was the first increase in hunter effort in the last five years. This could be due to improved hunter compliance or an overall increase in use and harvest.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	79	2,371
2006-2007	63	2,347
2007-2008	92	2,674

As deer populations continue to grow in response to habitat improvements on the area, it has become necessary to increase antlerless hunting opportunities. For the 2008-2009 season, antlerless hunting opportunities on Caney Creek WMA will include archery season, primitive weapon season, a portion of modern firearms season from December 16-23, and January archery season.

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 continued 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.

Caston Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	61	2,693
2006-2007	44	2,887
2007-2008	25	3,469

Caston Creek WMA is 27,785 acres located within the Homochitto National Forest near Meadville in Franklin and Amite counties. The fire maintained pine stands combined with mixed pine-hardwood and hardwood stands attract many visitors to the WMA. Total reported deer harvest decreased 43% for the 2007-2008 hunting season compared to the 2006-2007 hunting season, with 25 deer harvested, which consisted of 17 bucks and 8 does. Buck harvest decreased by 5 and doe harvest decreased by 14 compared to the previous season. Total reported deer hunting man-days increased 20% compared to the 2006-2007 hunting season.

2007-2008 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

Chickasaw WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Chickasaw WMA is 28,000 acres located within the Tombigbee National Forest near Houston in Chickasaw County. A total of 73 bucks and 51 does were harvested this past season. Man-days continue to exhibit an increasing trend on the area. Weights for most buck and doe age groups are average to above average when compared to the Interior Flatwoods soil region. Antler indices continue to increase for all age classes. Fifty-two percent of the total doe harvest consisted of 3.5+ year old does. Continued harvest is a must to keep deer numbers in check. Winter food plots planted in clovers, oats, and wheat responded to cooler temperatures and increased rainfall in late fall and early winter. A great mast crop this past fall and winter dispersed deer. However, hunters still reported seeing deer and experienced decent success.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	151	5,732
2006-2007	98	6,281
2007-2008	124	6,305

Chickasawhay WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Chickasawhay WMA is a large U.S. Forest Service area spanning across 122,153 acres in Jones and Wayne counties. The fire maintained pine stands combined with scattered creeks and drains on the area attract many outdoor types. Total reported deer hunting man-days increased 15% for the 2007-2008 hunting season while total reported harvest drastically decreased 59% compared to the 2006-2007 hunting season. A total of 31 deer were harvested consisting of 17 bucks and 14 does. Harvest data indicated that the lactation rate for mature does was 62%, an increase from the previous year's rate of 36%. Buck and doe weights across all age classes were similar to the previous five-year average

Season	Harvest	Man-days*
2005-2006	34	2,129
2006-2007	75	2,829
2007-2008	31	3,245

*Man-days and harvest are from still hunting only area.

Choctaw WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Choctaw WMA is 24,500 acres located within the Tombigbee National Forest near Ackerman in Choctaw County. Harvest consisted of 66 bucks and 40 does this past season. Buck and doe harvest weights were slightly below average for all age classes when compared to averages for the Upper Coastal Plain soil region. Lactation for all doe age classes was at or below average. These numbers along with a large percentage (62%) of 3.5+ year old does in this past season's harvest indicate overpopulation. An increase in harvest, particularly of does, is needed to improve herd health parameters. However, antler indices continue to improve slightly on the area, presumably due to the progressive antler criteria on the WMA. Deer were a little more scattered and harder to pattern this year due to the abundant acorn crop. Winter food plots maintained in wheat, oats, and clovers responded to colder weather and increased rainfall. Prescribed burns on the WMA should help to increase natural deer browse and cover.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	107	2,926
2006-2007	111	5,655
2007-2008	106	3,542

Copiah County WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Copiah County WMA is comprised of 6,583 acres owned by the State of Mississippi. The WMA consists of pine stands with mixed pine-hardwoods along the creeks and drains. Numerous permanent openings throughout the WMA are maintained with native vegetation and supplemental plantings. A full-time wildlife manager was assigned to the WMA in the spring of 2007. Habitat conditions on the WMA were improved prior to the 2007-2008 hunting season by conducting prescribed burns and creating additional permanent openings with funds provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	80	1,102
2006-2007	77	729
2007-2008	136	3,383

Total reported deer hunting man-days increased 364% to 3,383 for the 2007-2008 hunting season. Total reported deer harvest increased 77% to 136 (70 bucks and 66 does) compared to the 2006-2007 hunting season. Buck harvest increased by 54 and doe harvest increased only by 5 compared to the previous hunting season. Harvest data indicated that the lactation rate for mature does was 70%, an increase from the previous year's rate of 60%. Doe weights were similar to the previous five year average; however, buck weights were lower.

Measures are being taken to improve habitat conditions on the WMA. MDWFP personnel conducted prescribed burns on approximately 1,000 acres in February and March of 2008. Additionally, plans are underway to create more permanent openings and expand the prescribed fire regime on the WMA.

Divide Section WMA
Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

Divide Section WMA (15,300 ac.) 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. This WMA annually undergoes intense habitat management to increase the value to wildlife and provide a quality hunting experi-

ence. The WMA has 141 winter food plots and 78 summer food plots. The food plots range in size from one-half acre to two acres. Approximately one-third of the WMA is spoil area, which is material excavated during the construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. This acreage is very poor soil still in early stages of plant succession.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	61	2,389
2006-2007	60	2,902
2007-2008	64	2,713

Divide Section WMA is a primitive weapon only area for deer with a season bag limit of two antlerless deer and one legal antlered buck. Regulations state that a buck must have a minimum inside spread of 12 inches or one main beam of at least 15 inches to be legal for harvest. Legal antlerless deer must weigh at least 65 pounds live weight. Approximately 950 acres of this area is devoted to youth and handicapped only deer hunting. Youth and handicapped hunters may use modern firearms.

Fourteen bucks were harvested during the 2007-2008 season, which was an increase of 5 from the 2006-2007 season. The antlerless harvest was 50 and has been stable over the last 5 years. Man-days decreased by 189 or approximately 7% from the previous year.

The winter food plots on the area did exceptionally well due to early acquisition of seed and fertilizer which led to earlier planting dates than last year. Due to two consecutive nights of freezing weather in late April of 2007, acorn production throughout the WMA was basically nonexistent. During the fall of 2007, many hunters in northern Tishomingo County reported sick and dead deer and many deer were harvested that had sloughing hooves. The conditions suggest there was a severe outbreak of hemorrhagic disease in the area. The overall effect on the deer herd in this area is yet to be determined. The late spring freeze and drought of 2007, coupled with the quality of food plots on the WMA, may have made deer more visible during hunting season. This may explain the slight increase in harvest. Therefore, the increase in harvest on this area may not represent the overall population.

Hamer WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	98	1,388
2006-2007	76	1,270
2007-2008	50	1,305

Hamer WMA is 4,000 acres located near Sardis in Panola County. The antler criteria on this area increased to a 15 inch minimum inside spread or one main beam at least 18 inches long for the 2007-2008 season. Fifteen bucks and 35 does were harvested during the 2007-2008 season. Older does (3.5+ years old) continue to make up a large portion (55%) of the total doe harvest. Buck and doe weights were below average compared to the Upper Thick Loess soil region this past season. Both parameters indicate a deer herd exceeding habitat carrying capacity. Antler quality improved slightly because of progressive antler criteria for the area. Increased harvest should improve body weights and antler quality. Habitat conditions should continue to improve with large scale prescribed burning and future timber thins which will stimulate growth of more cover and browse.

Hell Creek WMA
Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	16	180
2006-2007	12	99
2007-2008	11	95

Deer hunting opportunity on this area is by permit only. Deer hunting activity and harvest on Hell Creek WMA changed very little from last year. There were no significant changes in deer hunting regulations, opportunity, or bag limits. The deer harvest of 11 deer consisted of 2 bucks and 9 does. Habitat management efforts to improve 400 acres of mid-rotation pine plantations should be beneficial to white-tailed deer on Hell Creek WMA for years to come.

John Starr Forest WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

John Starr Forest WMA is 8,244 acres located near Starkville in Oktibbeha County. Total deer harvest continues to remain fairly consistent on the area. Thirty-three bucks and 45 does were harvested this past season. Man-days were down slightly (9%) from last year. Deer weights and doe lactation were down compared to last season. Weights for bucks and does are average to slightly below average compared to the Upper Coastal Plain soil region. Antler measurements continue to exhibit a slightly increasing trend over past seasons. Acorn production on the area was similar to many other parts of the state with increased abundance causing deer to remain spread out in the woods. Food plots were slow to get started but began to grow well when temperatures cooled and rainfall increased in late fall and early winter. The development of new food plots, prescribed burns, timber thins, and increased harvest should continue to increase deer herd health indices.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	88	1,273
2006-2007	81	1,933
2007-2008	78	1,763

Lake George WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Lake George WMA is 8,383 acres located near Holly Bluff in Yazoo County and is primarily 16 year-old replanted bottomland hardwood timber. The 2007-2008 season was the first year that allowed a legal buck to have a 15-inch minimum inside spread or 18-inch minimum main beam. Previously, legal bucks were those having at least 4 points and a 15 inch minimum inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for

a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler. Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of the deer hunters in the area. Twenty of these special buck tags were issued and none were reported as used. Deer hunting man-days increased from 297 in 2006-2007 to 344 in 2007-2008, continuing the trend of increased man-days on the area. Buck harvest increased from 8 to 10, and doe harvest remained at 7. Body weights were excellent for bucks and does, and antler indices were outstanding as well. Buck harvest consisted of 2.5, 3.5, and 4.5 year-old bucks.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	14	286
2006-2007	15	297
2007-2008	17	344

Rainfall was consistent until late summer and resulted in good browse availability. Mast crop production was excellent where available, but most trees were not old enough to produce mast. Warm weather and abundant food limited deer movement during much of the winter. This area has a fairly low deer density, but buck quality and herd abundance is improving due to excellent habitat.

Leaf River WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Leaf River is one of, if not the most, storied WMAs in Mississippi. The rich history and excellent hunting make this area a popular draw for south Mississippi hunters. The 41,411-acre WMA, located within the Desoto National Forest in Perry County, is a mix of fire-maintained pine stands with scattered creeks and drains. A full-time wildlife manager was assigned to the WMA prior to the 2007-2008 hunting season. Funds provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation allowed the creation of additional permanent openings on the WMA.

Total reported man-days increased 33% to 7,706 compared to the previous season. This increase is likely due to improved hunter compliance due to a wildlife manager being present on the WMA. Total reported deer harvest increased 20% to 78 (42 bucks and 36 does) compared to the 2006-2007 season. Buck harvest increased by 5 and doe harvest increased by 8 compared to the previous season. Harvest data indicated that the lactation rate for mature does was 36%, which was slightly lower than the previous year's rate of 38%. Doe weights were similar to the previous five year average; however, buck weights were slightly lower.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	41	3,788
2006-2007	65	5,794
2007-2008	78	7,706

Leroy Percy WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Leroy Percy WMA is 2,200 acres located about 5 miles west of Hollandale on MS Hwy. 12. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed for deer hunting. Reported harvest was 9 bucks and 4 does, which is up slightly from 6 bucks and 4 does harvested during the 2006-2007 season. This was the first year requiring legal bucks to have a 15-inch minimum inside spread or 18-inch minimum main beam. Previously, legal bucks were those having at least 4 points and a 15-inch minimum inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler. Nineteen tags were issued and no tags were reported as used. Hunting pressure this season was down slightly at 540 man-days compared to 554 man-days last season.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	12	472
2006-2007	10	554
2007-2008	13	540

Little Biloxi WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Little Biloxi WMA is 15,622 acres located near McHenry in Harrison and Stone counties and is a popular hunting destination for many coastal county residents. Most roads and food plots that were inaccessible from Hurricane Katrina were opened prior to the 2007-2008 hunting season. Additionally, hunter compliance is expected to improve with a full-time wildlife manager present on the WMA. Total reported man-days decreased slightly to 1,965 for the 2007-2008 season. Reported harvest decreased by 2 deer to 17, which consisted of 8 bucks and 9 does.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	6	662
2006-2007	19	1,995
2007-2008	17	1,965

Mahannah WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Mahannah WMA is 12,675 acres located approximately 12 miles north of Vicksburg in Issaquena and Warren counties. Deer hunting is by permit only except for the January archery hunt which is open to the public. This was the first year under the regulations that required legal bucks to have a 16-inch minimum inside spread or a 20-inch minimum main beam. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler. Four hundred and seventy of these special buck tags were issued on Mahannah WMA and twenty-seven were reported as used. Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of deer hunters on the area. Man-days decreased slightly to 1,646. Overall deer harvest decreased to 125. Doe harvest decreased from 106 to 74. Buck harvest increased from 46 to 51 due to increased use of the special buck tags. Below normal rainfall for much of the summer and fall resulted in fair browse conditions. Acorn production was excellent. The warm weather during much of the winter resulted in limited deer movement which caused a reduction in deer sightings.

2007-2008 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	126	1,766
2006-2007	152	1,755
2007-2008	125	1,646

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on Mahannah WMA on February 28, 2008. A total of eleven does were collected. Overall, the current herd health indices on Mahannah WMA were equal to the expected values for the WMA and the Delta. Dressed weight, reproductive potential, and conception date indices were equal or slightly better than the expected values for the WMA and the Delta. Kidney fat index was slightly below the expected value for the area, but equal to the expected value for the Delta. The primary concern during 2007 was that the range of conception dates was almost 2 months long, but this year the range dropped to only 38 days. Conception dates ranged from December 8 until January 15. This year's herd health evaluation seems to confirm that the 2006 selective timber harvest, an intensified antlerless harvest program, and the excellent mast crop this year have improved deer herd health on this area

Malmaison WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	89	2,394
2006-2007	85	1,727
2007-2008	97	2,025

Malmaison WMA is 9,483 acres located near Grenada in Carroll, Grenada, and Leflore counties. Total deer harvested increased by 12% with 31 bucks and 66 does harvested during the 2007-2008 season. Lactation rates and weights for all doe age classes increased compared to the past 5 seasons and were greater than Delta soil region averages. Buck weights for the 2.5+ year old age class decreased. Deer density appears to be fairly high as indicated by browse pressure. Antler measurements continue to improve slightly when compared to past seasons. This is probably due to progressive antler regulations on the area which many hunters support. Above average acorn production on the WMA provided deer with abundant winter food. This probably explains the increase in doe weights.

Marion County WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Marion County WMA, located southeast of Columbia, is 7,200 acres owned by the State of Mississippi. The WMA consists mainly of fire-maintained longleaf pine stands with mixed pine-hardwoods along creeks and drains. Numerous permanent openings throughout the WMA are maintained with native vegetation and supplemental plantings.

Total reported man-days increased 11% for the 2007-2008 season while total reported harvest decreased 9% compared to the 2006-2007 season. A total of 73 deer were harvested consisting of 40 bucks and 33 does. Buck harvest decreased by 7 compared to the previous season; however, doe harvest remained the same. Harvest data indicated that the lactation rate for mature does was 92%, an increase from the previous year's rate of 83%. Buck and doe weights across all age classes were not significantly different from the previous five year average.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	49	1,388
2006-2007	80	2,101
2007-2008	73	2,334

Acorn production was high on the WMA. The excellent acorn crop along with increased browse production from openings created by Hurricane Katrina likely explains why hunters reported fewer deer observations

Mason Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	19	1,744
2006-2007	28	1,751
2007-2008	37	2,117

The 27,272-acre Mason Creek WMA, located within the Desoto National Forest in Greene County, adjoins the larger Chickasawhay WMA to the south. Hunter compliance continued to improve this year with the continued presence of a full-time area manager. While there is no check-in station on Mason Creek, hunters are still required to record harvests on the daily permit card. Reported man-days increased 21% to 2,117 for the 2007-2008 season. Reported harvest increased 32% to 37 (24 bucks and 13 does).

Habitat management has been very limited on Mason Creek WMA. However, plans are underway to improve wildlife habitat across the area. Proposed habitat improvements by the U.S. Forest Service include creation of additional permanent openings, timber thinning, and prescribed burns.

Nanih Waiya WMA
Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

Nanih Waiya WMA is 7,655 acres located near Philadelphia in Neshoba and Winston counties. Man-days for the 2007-2008 season increased 26% from the previous year. Reported harvest included 38 bucks and 62 does, an increase of 138% and 38% respectively. This is the fourth year of significant increases in man-days and harvest. Harvest success increased from 4% in 2006-2007 to 6% in 2007-2008. The increase in usage and harvest in the past few years is most likely due to the development and maintenance of an extensive road and trail system throughout the bottomland allowing hunters unprecedented access. Most notable for the past hunting season was the low water levels and the outstanding acorn crop in the usually flooded bottomland.

2007-2008 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	52	854
2006-2007	61	1,420
2007-2008	100	1,794

After 8 hunting seasons on this WMA, deer hunting potential remains largely untapped, particularly in the more remote areas throughout the WMA. The early successional habitat, which comprises most of the WMA, has provided an abundant food supply for deer. Populations continue to remain at higher levels than when mature hardwood timber dominated the area. This early successional habitat will soon be reaching a closed-canopy stage over a large portion of the WMA. The openings created by Hurricane Katrina during 2005 and smaller isolated storms will provide a short-term increase in the amount of available deer browse. In an effort to manage deer populations, doe harvest opportunity extends throughout the entire season.

Okatibbee WMA
Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

Okatibbee WMA is 6,883 acres located near Collinsville in Lauderdale County. Man-days increased 8% from the previous year. Total harvest was 29 for the second consecutive year, which included 10 bucks and 19 does.

Hurricane Katrina and isolated storm damage had a lasting impact on the WMA. Timber damage has opened many of the previously closed canopy stands. This has resulted in an increase in browse for deer. Some of the areas were so severely damaged that reforestation in hardwoods was the best option to reclaim the areas. High winds damaged stands of mature, bottomland hardwood more than upland stands of mixed pine-hardwood. Downed timber from the storms is still scattered throughout much of the WMA and hunter access is limited but roads and trails have been cleared.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	14	451
2006-2007	29	983
2007-2008	29	1,057

Winter food plots did extremely well and there was an exceptional acorn crop.

Timber management practices are being implemented to increase deer browse. Most of the mature, upland pine stands have been thinned and burned. As a result of Katrina, the mature, closed-canopy bottomland hardwood stands which dominated most of the area have had the ecological impact of a timber thin.

O'Keefe WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	60	1,615
2006-2007	62	1,825
2007-2008	58	1,652

O'Keefe WMA is 5,919 acres located near Lambert in Quitman County. Thirty-two bucks and 26 does were harvested during the 2007 – 2008 season. Buck weights continue to exhibit a slightly increasing trend when compared to the past 5 seasons. Doe weights and lactation rates increased slightly from the 2006 season but decreased when compared to the 2002-2005 seasons. Increases in doe and buck weights from last year were probably due to a great 2007 acorn crop. A lower percentage (31%) of 3.5+ year old does in this past season's harvest suggests fewer deer in the local herd. Antler production continues to improve due to implementation of progressive antler criteria (15-inch minimum inside spread and 18-inch minimum main beam length) which has gained approval from those hunting the WMA. This area is surrounded by crop land which provides plentiful, high-quality summer and winter forage. Hunters indicated deer were a little more dispersed and harder to pattern this season. Future timber thins of selected stands are planned for O'Keefe WMA. This will provide additional benefits in the form of cover and browse for deer.

Old River WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Old River WMA, located in Pearl River County near Poplarville, is owned by the State of Mississippi. It is a mix of bottomland hardwoods and few upland areas covering over 15,000 acres in the Pearl River Basin. The WMA was in the direct path of Hurricane Katrina as it roared through south Mississippi in August 2005. Increased sunlight from downed timber increased browse production and created dense cover for many wildlife species. Timber salvage operations conducted after the hurricane improved hunter access to the WMA. Man-days increased 205% to 1,099 for the 2007-2008 season. Hunter compliance also improved due to an increased presence of law enforcement personnel on the WMA. Reported harvest increased from 9 to 42 for the 2007-2008 hunting season. A total of 28 bucks and 14 does were reported harvested.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	5	207
2006-2007	9	360
2007-2008	42	1,099

Pascagoula River WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Pascagoula River WMA, located in George and Jackson counties, is owned by the State of Mississippi. It is a mix of bottomland hardwoods covering over 37,000 acres of the Pascagoula River Basin. Much of the WMA was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina; however, much effort has been taken to improve access and clear permanent openings across the WMA. Also, an increased presence of law enforcement personnel has improved hunter compliance.

2007-2008 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	11	1,900
2006-2007	30	2,476
2007-2008	100	3,466

Man-days increased 40% for the 2007-2008 season, while harvest increased 233% compared to the 2006-2007 season. A total of 100 deer were reported harvested consisting of 84 bucks and 16 does. Harvest data indicated the lactation rate for mature does to be 55%. However, due to a small sample size, this rate is likely not representative of the entire WMA. Buck and doe weights across all age classes were similar to the previous 5-year average.

Pearl River WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	13	715
2006-2007	n/a	n/a
2007-2008	15	1585

Pearl River WMA is 6,000 acres along the Ross Barnett Reservoir north of Hwy. 43 near Canton in Madison County. There is a 1,500-acre Youth and Handicap Only area within the waterfowl refuge. Regulations state that a buck must have 4 or more antler points to be legal for harvest and antlerless deer must weigh at least 65 pounds live weight. There were 11 bucks and 4 does reported harvested on the area. Three new self service check stations were constructed in 2007. These should result in improved harvest data on Pearl River WMA. Man-days doubled from the 2005-2006 season to the 2007-2008 season.

Habitat conditions on the WMA were favorable for deer with good browse and habitat improvements will continue. A carbon dioxide well was drilled in the Youth and Handicap Only Area in the summers of 2007 and 2008. As a result of this operation, Denbury Onshore has made improvements to a 30-acre cut-over within Hurricane Lake and along roadsides. Once the drilling is completed, the drill pad will be maintained as a permanent wildlife opening.

Red Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	9	3,933
2006-2007	17	4,003
2007-2008	15	3,419

Red Creek WMA, located within the Desoto National Forest, is 91,139 acres spanning across Stone, George, and Harrison counties. Akin to Little Biloxi WMA, the area is a popular draw for many coastal county residents. Hunter compliance has been low on the WMA due to a lack of agency personnel present on the area. A full-time wildlife manager was assigned to Red Creek during the 2007-2008 season, so hunter compliance should begin to improve. Man-days decreased 15% to 3,419 for the 2007-2008 season. Reported harvest decreased by 2 deer to 15 (14 bucks and 1 doe) compared to the 2006-2007 season.

Sandy Creek WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Sandy Creek WMA, located near Natchez in Adams and Franklin counties, is 16,407 acres located within the Homochitto National Forest. The WMA consists mainly of upland mixed pine-hardwood and bottomland hardwood forests. A full-time wildlife manager was assigned to the WMA prior to the 2007-2008 season. Man-days increased 52% to 4,007 compared to the 2006-2007 season. Hunter compliance likely increased due to an increased presence of MD-WFP personnel on the WMA. Reported harvest increased 125% to 81 (62 bucks and 19 does) for the 2007-2008 season. Buck harvest increased by 40 while doe harvest increased only by 5 compared to the previous season.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	37	2,012
2006-2007	36	2,628
2007-2008	81	4,007

Sardis Waterfowl WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	20	78
2006-2007	24	96
2007-2008	14	171

Sardis Waterfowl WMA is 2,480 acres located north of Oxford in Lafayette County. The area's four-day, permit only youth hunt provides a unique opportunity to hunt an unpressured, high density deer herd. Five bucks and 9 does were harvested during the 2007 season. This was opposite the usual harvest of more bucks than does. Number of deer harvested was down by almost half from the 2006 season. Low body weights and lactation rates suggest overpopulation. Very few fawns were observed during the summer of 2007. All these factors indicate a herd stressed from overpopulation. Increased participation from youth hunters is needed to harvest a greater number of deer. The additional 2-day December hunt, awarded to those who harvested at least one doe during their November hunt, seemed to increase doe harvest this past season. This coupled with no antler restrictions should continue to help increase deer harvest on the WMA. Habitat on the area should see improvement within the next couple of years due to scheduled timber thins and prescribed burns.

2007-2008 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

Shipland WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Shipland WMA is 3,642 acres located near Mayersville in Issaquena County. This WMA is the only state-owned land in the Batture soil region. The west boundary is the Mississippi River. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed for deer hunting. 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. This was the first year that required a legal buck to have a 15-inch minimum inside spread or 18-inch minimum main beam. Previously, legal bucks were those having at least 4 points and a 15-inch minimum inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler. Twenty of these special buck tags were issued on Shipland WMA, and one was reported as used. Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of deer hunters on the area. Hunting pressure decreased to 619 man-days in 2007-2008. Harvest included 12 bucks and 6 does, which was down from 12 bucks and 16 does last season. Mast production was excellent and normal rainfall during the summer resulted in fair browse conditions. The mild winter resulted in limited deer movement which caused a reduction in deer sightings.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	20	628
2006-2007	28	840
2007-2008	18	619

Stoneville WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Stoneville WMA is 2,500 acres located about 4 miles north of Leland in Washington County. Most of the timber on the area was cut in the mid to late 1990s. This WMA has abundant browse and escape cover. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed for deer hunting. This was the first year that required a legal buck to have a 15-inch minimum inside spread or 18-inch minimum main beam. Previously, legal bucks were those having at least 4 points and a 15-inch minimum inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler. Twenty of these special buck tags were issued and none were reported as used. Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of deer hunters on the area. Hunting pressure increased to 698 man-days in 2007-2008. Deer harvest decreased to 7. This harvest included 4 bucks and 3 does. No other scientific data was collected because no personnel are assigned to this WMA. Normal rainfall during the summer resulted in good browse conditions while acorn production was excellent. The mild winter resulted in limited deer movement which limited deer sightings.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	13	721
2006-2007	12	590
2007-2008	7	698

Sunflower WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Sunflower WMA is 60,000 acres encompassing the entire Delta National Forest near Rolling Fork in Sharkey County. This was the first year that required a legal buck to have a 15-inch minimum inside spread or 18-inch minimum main beam. Previously, legal bucks were those having at least 4 points and a 15-inch minimum inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler. Two hundred of these special buck tags were issued on Sunflower WMA and three were reported as used. Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of deer hunters on the area. Normal rainfall during summer and fall resulted in good browse conditions. The mild winter resulted in limited deer movement which caused a reduction in deer sightings during the later deer seasons. Acorn production was excellent. Buck harvest increased from 49 in 2006-2007 to 86 in 2007-2008. Doe harvest decreased from 46 to 31. Man-days remained stable at 3,752.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	146	5,123
2006-2007	95	3,771
2007-2008	117	3,752

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on Sunflower WMA on March 10-11, 2008. A total of 11 does were collected. Overall herd health indices on Sunflower WMA were better than the expected values for the WMA and the Delta. The kidney fat index was 127% of the historical expected value for Sunflower and was 139% of the expected value for the Delta. Reproductive timing was early with mean conception occurring around December 24. The range of conception was November 26-January 11. The reproductive potential was excellent with 2.2 fetuses per doe. The herd health evaluation suggests that harvest on Sunflower WMA has kept the deer population in balance with existing habit conditions, and that the population could be increased.

Tallahala WMA
Written by: Scott Baker

Tallahala WMA is 28,120 acres within the Bienville National Forest located near Montrose within Jasper, Newton, Scott, and Smith counties. For the 2007-2008 season, legal bucks were those having a minimum inside spread of 12 inches or minimum main beam length of 15 inches. Antlerless deer had to weigh at least 65 pounds live weight. Harvest consisted of 81 bucks and 58 does. Harvest increased 88% from last year. Deer hunters accounted for 2,844 man-days, which were up from the previous year by 48%. For the 2008-2009 season, antler-

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	57	2,227
2006-2007	74	1,924
2007-2008	139	2,844

less hunting opportunities on Tallahala WMA will include archery season, primitive weapon season, a portion of modern firearms season from December 16-23, and January archery season. The U.S. Forest Service continues to conduct spring prescribed burns on the WMA. This helps to encourage browse production.

Tuscumbia WMA
Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	0	61
2006-2007	6	252
2007-2008	10	265

Tuscumbia WMA, located near Corinth in Alcorn County, comprises 2,600 acres and consists primarily of abandoned agricultural fields and beaver slash. The area is comprised of two separate units. The northern unit (1,400 ac.) is mainly permanent water and slash, which is not easily accessed and provides little deer habitat. The southern unit (1,200 ac.) has mostly abandoned agricultural fields and seven newly constructed waterfowl impoundments. Both units experience frequent flooding in the winter months.

Archery hunting was allowed October 1-December 9, an increase of 8 days of hunting opportunity which accounted for the majority of the increase in man-days. Deer hunting is not the primary use of the area, and only 10 deer (4 bucks and 6 does) were harvested. Effort and harvest numbers are low due to the small size of the area, limited deer habitat, and low public access.

Twin Oaks WMA
Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Twin Oaks WMA is 5,675 acres of bottomland hardwoods located 5 miles southeast of Rolling Fork in Sharkey County. Deer hunting is restricted to permit only archery and primitive weapon hunts, except for the January archery season, which is open to the public. This was the first year that required a legal buck to have a 15-inch minimum inside spread or 18-inch minimum main beam. Previously, legal bucks were those having at least 4 points and a 15-inch minimum inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler. Six hundred of these special buck tags were issued on Twin Oaks WMA and 10 were reported as used. Hunter effort increased to 1,206 man-days in 2007-2008. Buck harvest increased from 20 to 29, and doe harvest decreased from 50 to 49. Normal rainfall during the summer resulted in good browse conditions while acorn production was excellent. The mild winter and abundant food limited deer movement, which caused a reduction in deer sightings.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	57	1,206
2006-2007	70	980
2007-2008	78	1,206

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on Twin Oaks WMA on March 6, 2008. A total of 9 does were collected. Overall herd health indices on Twin Oaks WMA were better than the expected values for the WMA and the Delta. Dressed weight, reproductive potential, and kidney fat index were better than the expected values for the WMA and the Delta. Reproductive timing was early with a mean conception date of December 21. The range of conception was 34 days, ranging from December 8-January 11.

Upper Sardis WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	212	6,726
2006-2007	169	8,995
2007-2008	154	9,708

Upper Sardis WMA is 42,274 acres located within the Holly Springs National Forest near Oxford in Lafayette County. Man-days increased by 7% from the 2006-2007 season and seems to be increasing slightly when compared to the past 9 seasons. Harvest continues to exhibit a decreasing trend when compared to the past two seasons. This is the second consecutive season that harvest favored does, and hopefully this trend will continue. Seventy bucks and 84 does were harvested. Weights for bucks and does and lactation rates have decreased over the past 3 seasons. These figures also remain below Upper Coastal Plain soil region averages. Declining averages combined with a large percentage (73%) of 3.5+ year old does in the past season's harvest indicate an overpopulated deer herd. Increased harvest is needed to improve the herd parameters. Reduced harvest success may have been attributed to hunter choice and a very good acorn crop, which dispersed deer. Planted winter forages such as clovers, wheat, and oats benefited from cooler temperatures and increased rainfall in the fall and early winter.

Ward Bayou WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	3	1,078
2006-2007	2	1,112
2007-2008	12	1,571

Ward Bayou WMA is 13,234 acres of bottomland hardwoods and some upland areas nestled within the Pascagoula River Basin near Moss Point in Jackson County. Many of the low-lying areas are boat accessible through navigable waters off the main river channel. Hunting access is often dependent upon rainfall and river levels. Man-days increased 41% to 1,571 compared to the 2006-2007 season. Harvest increased by 10 deer to 12 (8 bucks and 4 does) for the 2007-2008 season.

2007-2008 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

Wolf River WMA
Written by: Joshua L. Moree

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	57	2,484
2006-2007	63	3,035
2007-2008	50	2,961

Wolf River WMA, located in Lamar and Pearl River counties near Poplarville, consists of 10,801 acres owned by Weyerhaeuser Company. The WMA consists of various aged pine plantations interspersed with minor stream bottoms. Man-days decreased slightly by 2% to 2,961 for the 2007-2008 season. Harvest decreased by 13 deer to 50 (31 bucks and 19 does) compared to the 2006-2007 season. Buck harvest increased by 2 while doe harvest decreased by 15 compared to the previous season. Harvest data indicated the lactation rate for mature does was 94%, an increase from the previous year's rate of 69%. Buck weights were similar to the previous 5-year average; however, doe weights were slightly above the previous 5-year average.

Yockanookany WMA
Written by: Brad Holder

Yockanookany WMA is 2,379 acres located near McCool in Attala County. The 2007 – 2008 harvest increased significantly over past seasons and consisted of 9 bucks and 15 does. This harvest ratio needs to continue and increase to manage populations at a desirable level. The deer herd is overpopulated as indicated by a large percentage (77%) of 3.5+ year old in the harvest. Despite overpopulation, doe weights, lactation, and buck weights are above average for the Upper Coastal Plain soil region. This can partially be explained by this past winter's banner mast crop. Habitat conditions should continue to improve on the area with creation of additional food plots. Future timber management will create more cover and seasonal browse for deer.

Season	Harvest	Man-days
2005-2006	12	189
2006-2007	7	166
2007-2008	24	199

Deer harvested on Sunflower WMA by Mark Allison on December 18th.

2007-2008 Regional Narratives

North Region
Written by: William T. McKinley

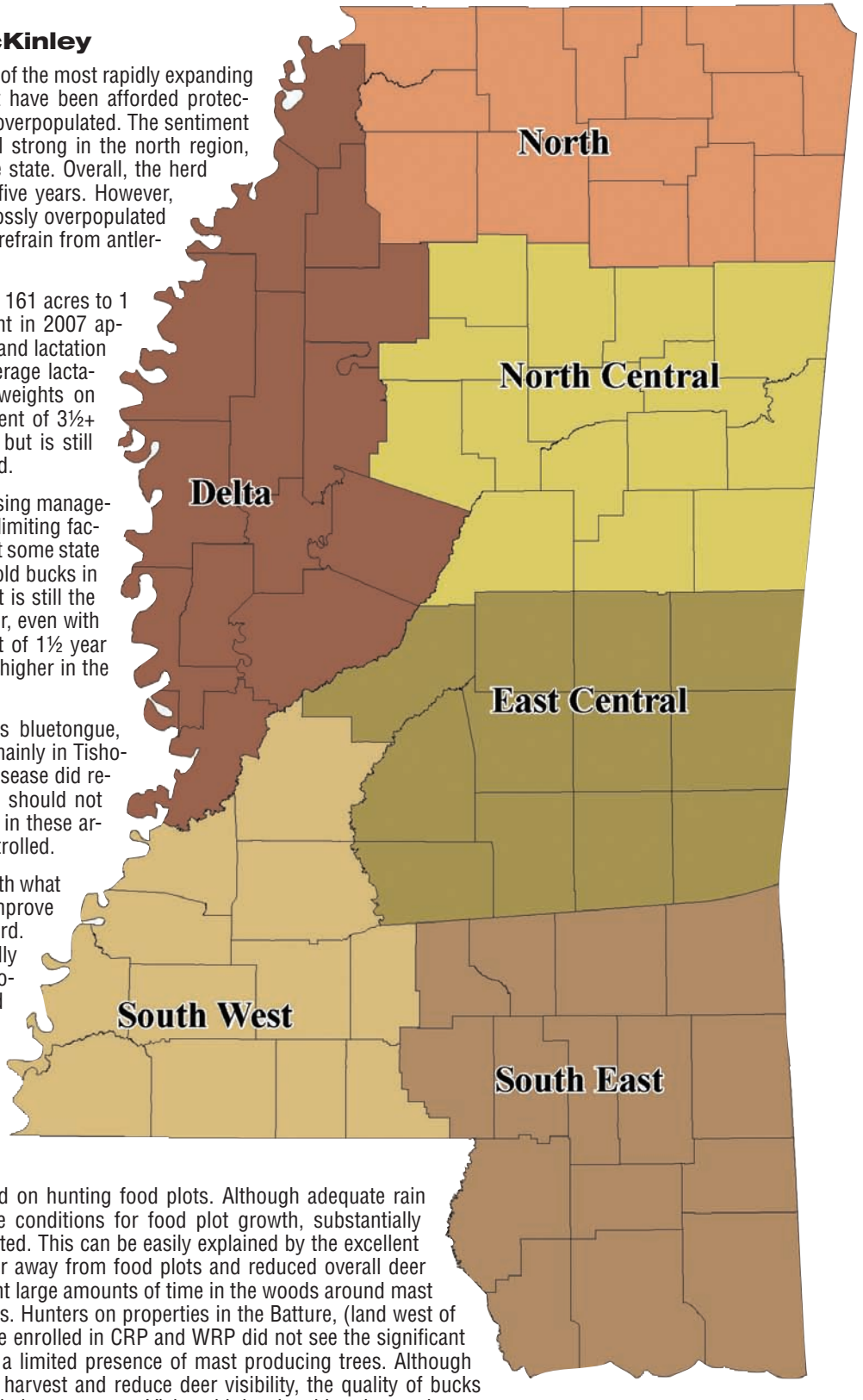
The North region is experiencing some of the most rapidly expanding deer herds in the state. Deer herds that have been afforded protection on the antlerless side are becoming overpopulated. The sentiment against harvesting antlerless deer is still strong in the north region, and is the strongest of any region in the state. Overall, the herd appears relatively healthy over the past five years. However, site visits to this region have revealed grossly overpopulated deer herds on the lands that continue to refrain from antlerless harvest.

Harvest rates dropped from 1 deer per 161 acres to 1 deer per 193 acres. The summer drought in 2007 appears to have caused decreased weights and lactation rates for the north region deer herd. Average lactation rates decreased by 4% and body weights on does decreased by 4 pounds. The percent of 3½+ year old does in the harvest decreased, but is still high at 49%, indicating an expanding herd.

Buck harvest is changing due to increasing management. Hunters are realizing that age is a limiting factor in their harvest, and are choosing to let some state legal bucks go. The percent of 4½+ year old bucks in the harvest is on an increasing trend, but is still the lowest of any region in the state. However, even with the increase in management, the percent of 1½ year old bucks in the harvest continues to be higher in the north region than in most of the state.

Hemorrhagic Disease, also known as bluetongue, was quite high in some localized areas, mainly in Tishomingo and Tippah Counties. While this disease did remove some deer from the herd, hunters should not worry. The deer will bounce back quickly in these areas and numbers will still need to be controlled.

The frequent summer rains, coupled with what appears to be a good acorn crop will improve the health of the north region deer herd. In 2007, the late spring freeze practically eliminated the white oak crop. Fawn production should be high, helping this herd to increase even faster.



West Central Region
Written by: Lann M. Wilf

The 2007-2008 hunting season tended to be frustrating for hunters that insisted on hunting food plots. Although adequate rain and cool temperatures created favorable conditions for food plot growth, substantially lower use by deer was consistently reported. This can be easily explained by the excellent acorn crop. Plentiful mast dispersed deer away from food plots and reduced overall deer movement. Most successful hunters spent large amounts of time in the woods around mast producing trees and along travel corridors. Hunters on properties in the Batture, (land west of the Mississippi River levee), and on those enrolled in CRP and WRP did not see the significant reduction in deer movement because of a limited presence of mast producing trees. Although hunters reported a slightly lower overall harvest and reduce deer visibility, the quality of bucks harvested during the 2007-2008 was well above average. Visits with local taxidermists and reports

from hunters support this. Many bucks scoring over 150 Boone & Crockett inches were harvested region wide. This may be a result of hunters spending more time in the woods and not on food plots. However, more properties are making great strides at targeting bucks in the 4.5+ year old age class, which is protecting more high quality 3.5 year old deer. Higher quality management in addition to hunters spending less time on food plots should yield a higher number of quality bucks.

During 2007, the MDWFP gained the capability to pool and analyze all regional harvest data submitted by DMAP cooperators working with MDWFP biologists and approved private consultants. This provides a better analysis of herd parameters in the region. Analysis of the harvest data for the past 10 years shows an increasing trend in the total number of deer harvested on DMAP properties in the Delta region. The highest harvest occurred in the 2006-2007 hunting season with 9,436 deer harvested (3,727 bucks and 5,709 does). The harvest slightly decreased to 9,333 deer (3,735 bucks and 5,598) for the 2007-2008 season. The lowest harvest in the last ten years occurred in the 2000-2001 season with 6,633 total deer taken. This is closely followed by the 1999-2000 season, in which 6,649 deer were harvested. The expansion of deer populations and subsequent harvest is a direct result of the enrollment of approximately 500,000 acres of farmland in CRP and WRP, which has increased available deer habitat. The population in the Delta region is literally exploding, and continued intense harvest is needed to control the deer density and maintain herd health

For the past 10 hunting seasons, average body weights for bucks and does has remained stable. For the 2007-2008 season, antler measurements for 4.5+ year old bucks increased, even though more lower quality management bucks are included in the data. The harvest percentage of 3.5+ year old bucks remained high at 67% for the 2007-2008 season. The percentage of 3.5+ year old does in the harvest decreased to 45%.

Reports of hemorrhagic disease throughout the region were not significantly higher than normal. Samples were collected once again for chronic wasting disease. All samples tested negative for the disease and chronic wasting disease has not been found in Mississippi.

North Central Region
Written by: William T. McKinley

The North Central region once again had a productive deer season, although not quite as good as the 2006-2007 season. Harvest on DMAP properties decreased from 1 deer per 97 acres to 1 deer per 101 acres, representing a total decrease of 274 deer. Harvest continues to be skewed towards females, with over 58% of the harvest being does. Mature buck harvest (4 ½+ year olds) decreased from 25% to 23% of the total buck harvest. Harvest percentages increased on 1.5 and 2.5 year old bucks by 2% and 1%, respectively. Overall, the herd appears relatively healthy over the past five years. However, localized areas are still overpopulated and are in desperate need of a change in management.

The summer droughts of 2006 and 2007 appear to have had a minimal negative impact on the north central region deer herd. Average body weights on does increased by 1 pound for all but the 1.5 age class, with the average mature doe weighing 111 pounds. Lactation rates increased by 1-2% from the previous season. The percent of 3 ½+ year old does in the harvest decreased for the first time in several years but is still high at 49%, indicating an expanding herd.

The record acorn crop of Fall 2007 is likely the cause for both the increases in herd health and the decrease in total harvest. Total movement and movement distance was reduced due to the abundance of food. This meant hunters saw fewer deer and thus harvested fewer deer. The summer drought was relieved in early fall and food plots grew exceptionally well. However, deer usage on these plots was reduced due to acorn abundance.

Due to the good acorn crop, fawn production will be very high in Summer 2008. Deer herds were very healthy coming out of winter and summer growing conditions have been much more favorable in 2008. Frequent rains have produced abundant browse. Preliminary observations are showing the acorn crop to be good again this year. With plenty to eat, deer observations may be low in the 2008-2009 deer season.

Deer harvested on Caston Creek WMA by Chris Galloway on December 5th.

East-Central Region
Written by: Amy C. Blaylock

The East Central Region had a relatively successful deer season. Reported harvest increased slightly by 178 deer. Acres per deer harvested have remained at approximately 1 deer per 100 acres over the past several years.

2007-2008 Regional Narratives

Morgan Farris harvested this buck while hunting with her father on private land in Hinds County.

The acorn crop in 2007 seemed to make a large impact on deer movement. The decreased number of deer sightings caused many people to be concerned that their population size had dropped. However, because of the massive amounts of acorns, deer didn't have to walk far to find food. In some areas, acorns were still on the ground in February and March.

During the summer of 2007, much of the cropland in Madison County was planted in corn. The increased acreage of corn has had a positive effect on body condition of deer. Because of the increase in corn production and a bumper acorn crop, we should expect an excellent fawn crop in 2008.

Although you may have seen fewer deer this season, many large bucks were harvested in areas that are not usually known for producing big deer. Areas such as west Rankin and Simpson counties produced some quality deer this season. Areas in Madison County, along the Big Black River, where trophies are consistently harvested, once again produced quality deer.

Large areas planted in CRP pines, have reached a critical age that causes canopy closure. These pine stands are just about ready for their second thin. Once these areas have been thinned, the amount of sunlight reaching the ground should increase the amount of deer browse available. Therefore, the outlook for future deer habitat is positive.

Reports of hemorrhagic disease in east-central Mississippi remained about the same as last season. HD/Bluetongue was found in 4 counties in east-central Mississippi. Samples were taken from hunter harvested and road killed deer for chronic wasting disease testing. No occurrence of CWD was found.

Southwest Region
Written by: Chris McDonald

The 2007-2008 hunting season was not a good one for food plot hunters. Even though environmental conditions were good for food plot growth, hunters reported decreased harvest success on food plots. This can be easily explained by the bumper acorn crop. Plentiful acorns (both red oaks and white oaks) dispersed deer away from food plots and reduced overall deer movement. To be successful in harvest, most hunters had to get into the woods and off food plots. Although hunters reported a lower harvest, the quality of bucks harvested during the 2007-2008 was better than normal. Visits with local taxidermists and reports from hunters support this. Many bucks scoring over 150 Boone & Crockett inches were harvested, on both high and low fertile soils. Is this a result of more hunters actually hunting in the woods and not food plots? I think it's a strong correlation. Another explanation is that more hunters are managing for larger bucks. Couple hunting away from food plots and better management, the result should be higher quality bucks.

During 2007, the MDWFP gained the capability to pool and analyze all regional harvest data submitted by DMAP cooperators working with MDWFP biologists and approved private consultants. This provides a better analysis of herd parameters in the region. Analysis of the harvest data for the past 10 years shows a decreasing trend in the total number of deer harvested on DMAP properties in the Southwest region. The highest harvest occurred during the 2002-2003 hunting season with 7,562 deer harvested (2,975 bucks and 4,108 does). The harvest has since decreased to 5,997 deer (2,197 bucks and 3,698) for the 2007-2008 season. This is largely due to a decrease in the number of DMAP cooperators and acreage enrolled in DMAP.

For the past 10 hunting seasons, average body weights for bucks and does has remained stable. For the 2007-2008 season, antler measurements for 3.5 and 4.5 year old bucks increased, even though more lower quality management bucks are included in the data. The percentage of 3.5+ year old bucks harvested remained high at 59% for the 2007-2008 season. The percentage of 3.5+ year old does in the harvest decreased to 47%.

Reports of hemorrhagic disease throughout the region increased significantly. This was expected because reports of hemorrhagic disease have been limited over the past 4 years. Samples were collected once again for chronic wasting disease. All samples tested negative for the disease and chronic wasting disease has not been found in Mississippi.

2007-2008 Regional Narratives

Southeast Region
Written by: Chris McDonald

Conditions going into the 2007-2008 hunting season were good for a successful hunting season. Deer harvest for the two previous seasons decreased drastically due to Hurricane Katrina. Because of the decrease in hunting opportunity, many deer were carried over for the 2007-2008 season.

During 2007, the MDWFP gained the capability to pool and analyze all regional harvest data submitted by DMAP cooperators working with MDWFP biologists and approved private consultants. This provides a better analysis of herd parameters in the region. During the 2005-2006 hunting season (the year of Katrina), DMAP deer harvest was at a 10-year low. However, the rebound has begun. Reported DMAP harvest increased by 148% for the 2007-2008 season compared to the year of Katrina. A high increase was also reported on WMAs. The increase in harvest is the direct result of more hunters in the woods and more deer available after hurricane recovery efforts. The percentage of 3.5+ year old bucks was at a 10-year high with 60% of bucks harvested being 3.5+ years old. The decrease in harvest due to Katrina actually helped the buck age structure by protecting more young bucks from harvest.

Hurricane Katrina provided more deer habitat by thinning dense timber and creating more natural openings. The deer herd in the region may be beginning to illustrate the beneficial effects of Katrina. One year after Katrina, many biological parameters actually decreased. This may be due to decreased deer harvest and insufficient time for habitat recovery. However, many biological parameters increased for the 2007-2008 season, 2 years after Katrina. With more browse growth, more prescribed burning, and increased deer harvest, we may be seeing the beginning of an increase in herd health. Only time will tell.

Deer harvested on Twin Oaks WMA by Kelly Kennedy on December 8th.
The hunters found the buck on the right, which was shot a few days earlier.

Road Kill Survey Report 2007-2008

MDWFP personnel have monitored statewide deer road kill since January 1997. 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. Cause of death of these animals is assumed to be a vehicle collision. Specific location by county is recorded for every deer observed. Personnel also record their monthly mileage. In the past, average number of deer observed per 10,000 miles was calculated by district. However, with changing district lines and MDWFP personnel routinely traveling outside their home district, we have changed this to a statewide average and not district averages.

Graphical monthly statewide summaries of these data are presented in **Figure 2**. The precise value and accuracy of this method of data collection have 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 increased deer activity. Data are currently collected from October-January. Activity peaked during the fall and winter around breeding seasons, when deer activity is at its highest.

A second assumption is if deer numbers are fluctuating annually and number of deer observed is density dependent, then in lower population years, fewer road-killed deer will be observed. Conversely, during high population years, a greater number of road-killed deer will be observed. During the 2007-2008 deer season, observed road kills were slightly lower than the 2006-2007 season. However, this is likely not a result of a reduced deer population. In addition to increasing or expanding deer herds, road kill observations may be heavily influenced by weather conditions and mast availability. Instead of assuming that populations decreased during the 2007-2008 deer season, the slight reduction in observed road killed deer is probably a direct result of a heavy mast crop that was prevalent throughout most of the state. This past year, observed road kills only increased during the month of October. Observed road kills decreased the most in November and were slightly reduced in December and January. This is likely due to decreased deer movement from exceptional mast availability throughout most regions of the state.

Road Kill Data By Month (In Deer Per 10k Miles) 2007-2008

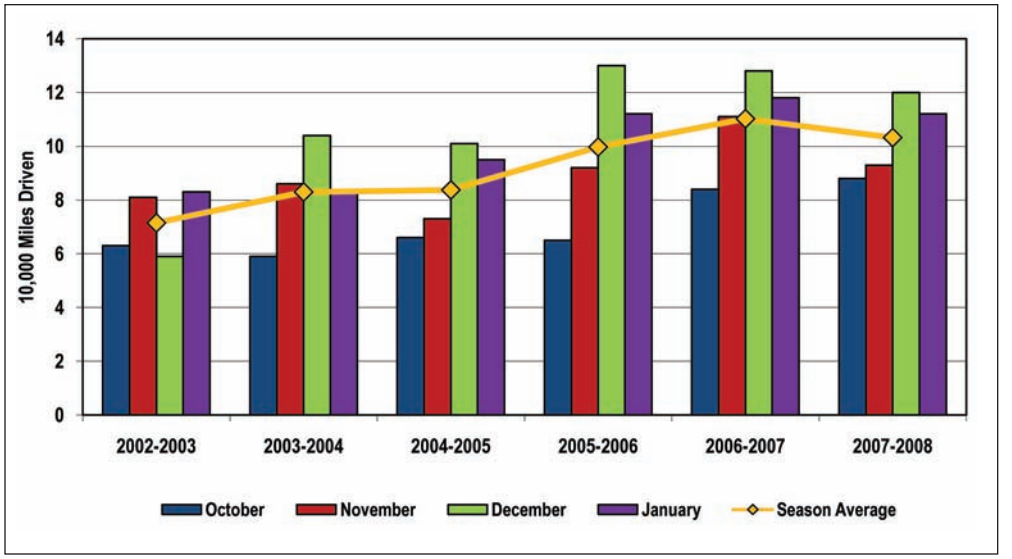


Figure 2

We also collect road-kill data from two outside sources: State Farm Insurance Company and The Mississippi Office of Highway Safety. According to State Farm's estimates, there were 12,146 deer-vehicle collisions in 2005-2006, 13,197 in 2006-2007 and 13,954 in 2007-2008. These estimates fit the increasing trend from MDWFP personnel's road-kill observations.

The data from State Farm has been projected for the whole insurance industry, based on State Farm's known auto insurance market share within each state. This data is based on actual comprehensive and collision claims, and as such, would not include deer-vehicle collisions where the policy holder had only liability insurance coverage (which is typically carried on older vehicles in some states).

Table 3. Road Kill Data By Month (In Deer Per 10k Miles) 2007-2008

Month	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	Avg. all Years
October	6.3	5.9	6.6	6.5	8.4	8.8	7.1
November	8.1	8.6	7.3	9.2	11.1	9.3	8.9
December	5.9	10.4	10.1	13.0	12.8	12.0	10.7
January	8.3	8.3	9.5	11.2	11.8	11.2	10.1
Season Avg.	7.2	8.3	8.4	10.0	11.0	10.3	

Depredation By Deer

Conservation officers annually deal with agricultural depredation by deer. Landowners who experience deer depredation problems are required to apply for a permit before any action is taken to harass or remove problem animals. The process for permit issuance includes an on-site evaluation by an MDWFP officer to verify the occurrence of depredation. Permits are issued primarily for agricultural damage, but ornamental vegetation is included. Miscellaneous problems such as deer on airport runways also occur and are handled on a case-by-case basis. Property owners should know that permits are not issued in every situation.

A total of 81 depredation permits were issued in 32 counties during 2007, which was equal to the number of permits issued during 2006. However, the number of counties in which depredation permits were issued increased from 27 to 32. The number of permits issued by county are shown in **Figure 3**. This high number of permits can be attributed to a lack of adequate deer harvest during the hunting season and the effects of drought stress on vegetation. Cases of deer depredation included damage to soybeans, corn, cotton, peas, wheat, alfalfa, sweet potatoes, watermelons, pumpkins, cantaloupes, gourds, peanuts, pecans, bell peppers, numerous garden and truck crops, blueberry bushes, flowers, garden shrubs, and interference on airports.

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 among 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 depredation are increasing due to escalating deer numbers and urban sprawl. Urban deer problems are magnified in cities where bowhunting has been banned.

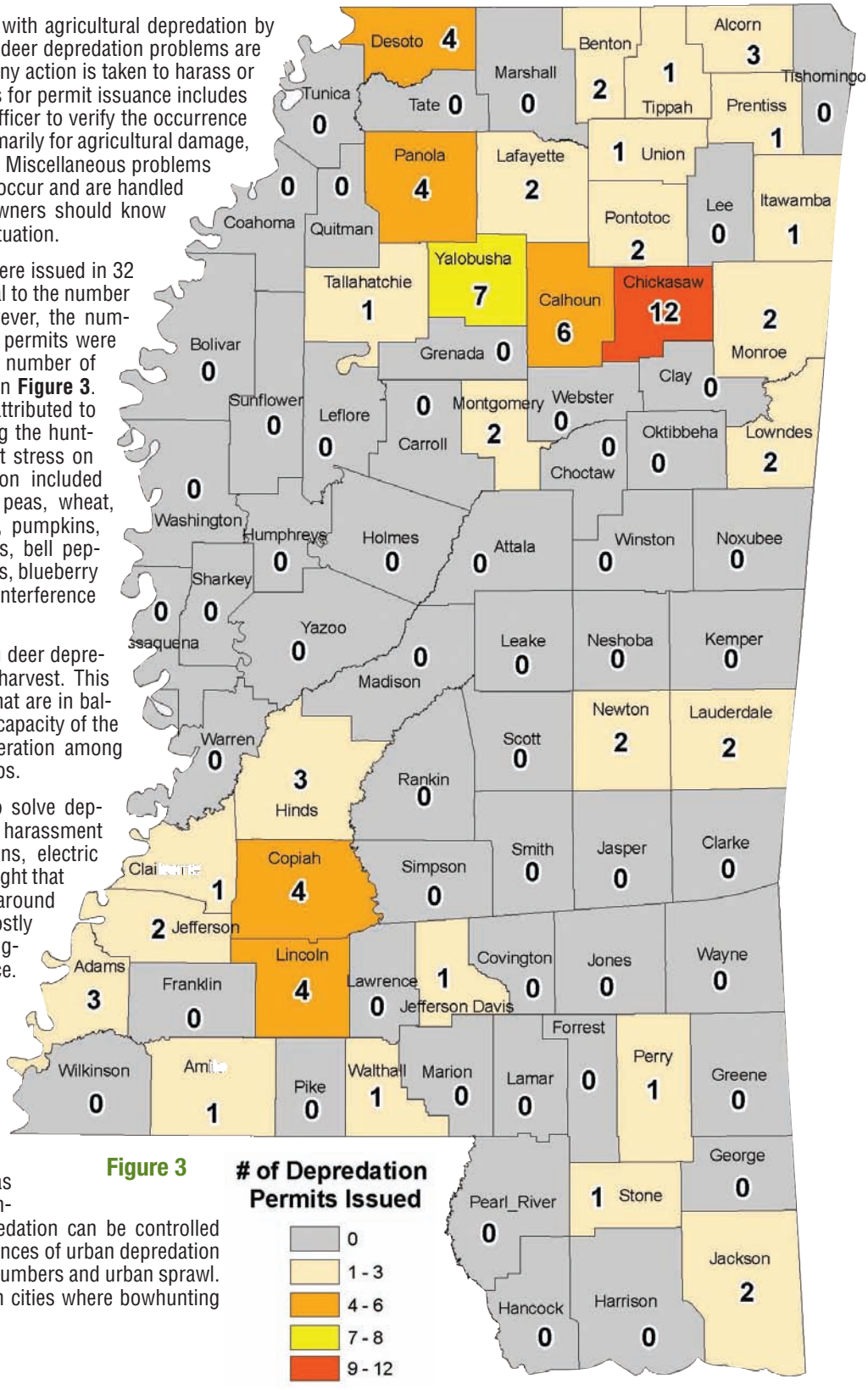


Figure 3

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 most recently 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 emaciated on close examination and will salivate, drink, and urinate excessively.

The goal for the 2007-2008 monitoring period was to test approximately 1,500 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 Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) cooperators, Wildlife Management Areas, MS Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Lands, and National Wildlife Refuges.

A total of 1,215 samples were taken from free-ranging white-tailed deer in Mississippi during 2007-2008. Samples were obtained from hunter harvested animals, spring herd health evaluations, target animal surveillance, and road-killed animals. Samples were obtained from 71 counties (**Figure 4**). The samples were submitted to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia following the 2007-2008 hunting season. Of those samples, 1,203 were tested for evidence of the CWD agent using immunohistochemistry. The remaining 12 samples were not tested because the containers either did not contain testable specimens or incorrect tissues were collected. Evidence of CWD was not detected.

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 this disease is dependent on quick reporting because deer carcasses deteriorate rapidly in Mississippi's climate.

In 1967 CWD was first recognized at a captive mule deer research facility in Colorado. A Wyoming research facility documented the disease in deer and elk in 1978. CWD was then documented in free-ranging deer in Colorado and Wyoming in the 1980s. Further testing from 1996 through the end of 2001 found additional positive animals (either captive or wild elk or deer) in Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Then in February 2002 the first case was confirmed east of the Mississippi River in Wisconsin, in wild white-tailed deer. In 2004, CWD was found in New York and West Virginia. As of July 1, 2008, there are 11 states with CWD infected wild populations (Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming) and two Canadian provinces (Alberta and Saskatchewan). Additionally, CWD has been found in captive cervid populations in all of the above states as well as Minnesota, Montana, and Oklahoma.

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.

Deer With Chronic Wasting Disease from Wisconsin

Chronic Wasting Disease

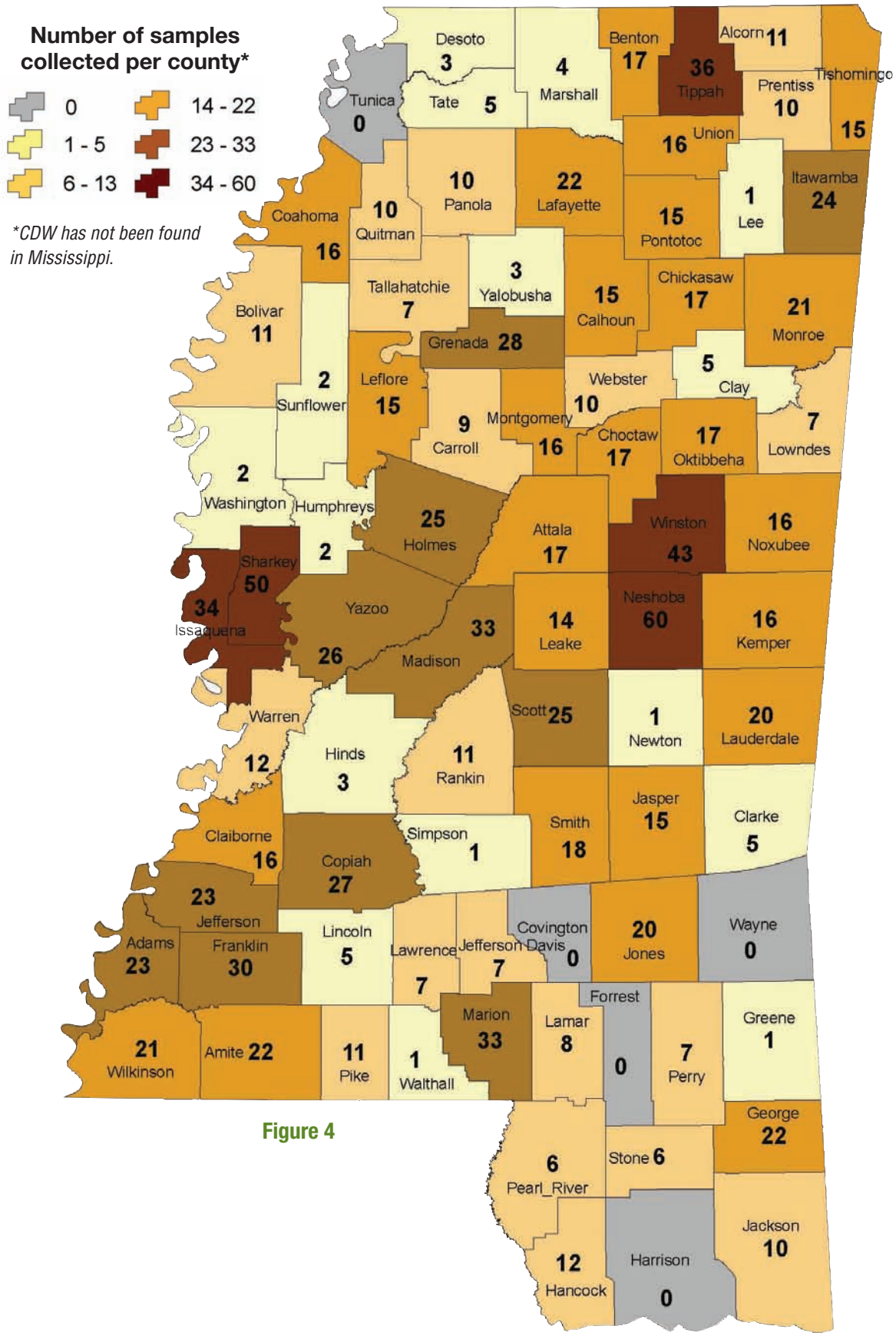


Figure 4

Epizootic 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. Technically, there are 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. However others, which become infected with a particularly potent form of the virus, can die within 1 to 3 days. Normal mortality rates from HD are usually less than 25 percent. However, 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, archery hunters who are scouting during late September are the first to observe 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 sick deer to seek water. These deer subsequently succumb to the disease in creeks and ponds.

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 on 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 feet.

Fortunately, people are not at risk by HD. Handling infected deer or eating the venison from infected deer is not a public health factor. Even being bitten by the biting midge that is a carrier of 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.

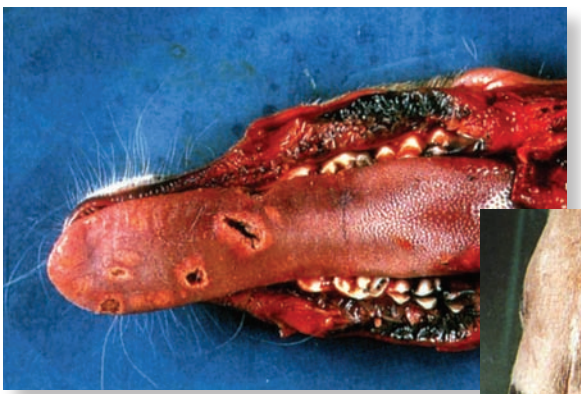
The case is not as clear regarding domestic livestock. A small percentage of BT infected cattle can become lame, have reproductive problems, or develop sore mouths. Variations exist between BT and EHD virus infection in cattle and domestic sheep. Sheep are usually unaffected by EHD but can develop serious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

Occasionally overpopulation of the 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. 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: 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. Previous HD exposure is good. Exposure yields antibodies to future outbreaks of the disease. Without the antibody presence, significant mortality would occur. See **Table 5** for virus isolation results from the 2007 deer herd health evaluations. All seven strains of HD were found in Mississippi's deer herd during 2007.

The 2007-2008 hunting season produced a moderately high HD occurrence. Evidence of HD was reported in 35 counties during the 2007-2008 hunting season (**Figure 5**). Researchers have documented a distinctive 2-3 year cycle in HD outbreaks. Assuming that these cyclic outbreaks occur, we can expect a high occurrence of HD during the 2008-2009 hunting season.



Mouth Lesions from EHD

Biting Midge (Culicoides spp.) Transmits EHD

Hoof Sloughing from EHD

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

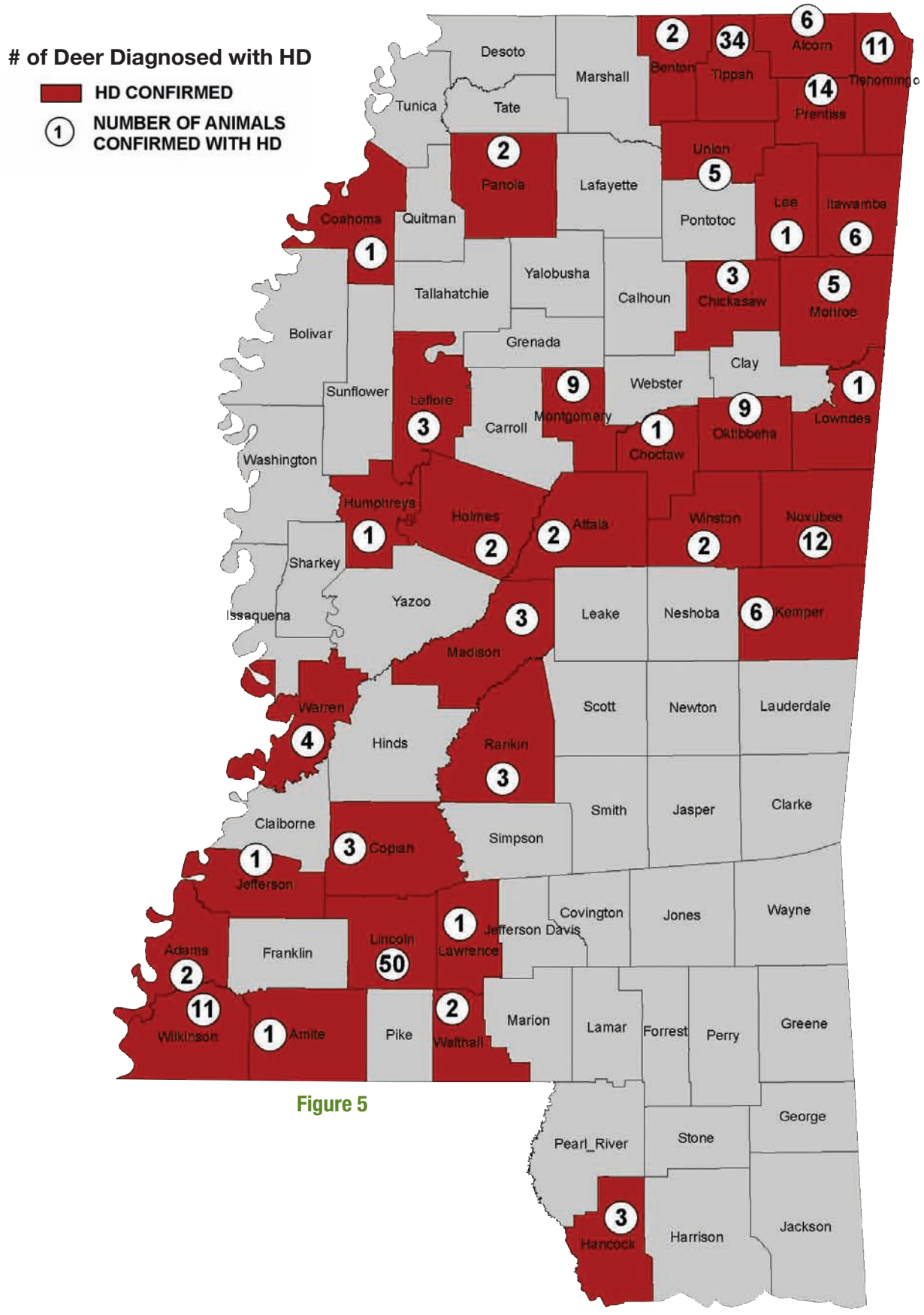


Figure 5

2008 Deer Herd Health Evaluations

Photo by Christopher Shea

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 on DMAP cooperator lands, WMAs, open public lands, or areas with a special 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 normally conducted during 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 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 is necessary to obtain an adequate sample size to assess herd parameters. Mature does are collected during the late afternoon on food plots or at night with the aid of a light from a 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 and fawning dates. Breeding date ranges for Mississippi are presented in **Figure 6**. Data from the 2008 statewide deer herd health evaluations are given in **Table 4**. Data were collected from 174 deer on 19 sites across the state.

In **Table 4**, conception date ranges and corresponding fawning dates are given for each collection site. The earliest conception date (November 26) was detected at Sunflower WMA in Sharkey County. The latest conception date (February 29) was detected on Pace Hunting Club in Jefferson Davis County. Mean fawning dates based on the conception dates ranged from June 23 on Ashbrook Island in Washington County to August 6 on Pace Hunting Club in Jefferson Davis County. The statewide average conception date was December 29 and the corresponding state average fawning date was July 12.

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 1.5+ year old fecund (capable of breeding) does are represented as N1. Mature 2.5+ 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.

2008 Deer Herd Health Evaluations

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. 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 on poor nutrition. Therefore, CL data provide a quantitative index to gauge not only reproductive performance at a specific site but also a general index to overall herd condition. CL data ranged from a low of 1.8 CLs per doe on Magna Vista – Section in Issaquena County and Pace Hunting Club in Jefferson Davis County to a high of 2.5 CLs per doe on Sunflower WMA in Sharkey 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 average number of CLs provides an index to reproductive rates and herd condition, 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 1.7 on Ashbrook Island in Washington County to a high of 2.4 on Cameron Plantation in Madison 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 kidney fat as a percentage of kidney weight. Substandard kidney fat levels were found at several areas. The highest value during 2008 was seen on Cameron Plantation in Madison County. Overall, KFI was above average in 2008. This was a direct result of the record acorn crop during the fall of 2007.

Disease

During deer herd health evaluations, blood serum samples are collected from each deer. The serum samples are tested for antibodies to various sub-types of Hemorrhagic disease (HD). HD can be caused by several different strains of either epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) virus or bluetongue (BT) virus. Presence of antibodies indicates previous exposure, not current infection. Due to time constraints, serotype information for 2008 has not yet been analyzed. However, serotype information from the 2007 Deer Herd Health Evaluations are shown in **Table 5**, because this information was not available at the printing of the previous Deer Program Report. Deer from 22 of the 27 collection sites tested positive for EHD virus, and deer from 23 of the 27 collection sites tested positive for BT virus. Only one site tested negative for both EHD virus and BT virus.

Photo by Christopher Shea

2008 Deer Herd Health Evaluations

Table 4. Deer Herd Health Evaluation Summary for 2008

#	Soil Area	Collection Site	Date of Collection	N1	N2	Range of Conception		Mean Conception Date	Mean Fawning Date	Average # CLS	Average # Fetuses	Avg. Dressed Weight	Average KFI
1	Batture	Ashbrook Island, Washington County	7-Feb	11	7	29-Nov	25-Dec	10-Dec	23-Jun	1.9	1.7	85.7	81.5
2	UCP	Big O HC, Monroe County	4-Mar	8	5	10-Dec	22-Jan	9-Jan	23-Jul	2.2	1.8	77.6	84.6
3	UThick	Breakwater HC, Yazoo County	4-Mar	10	9	27-Nov	1-Jan	11-Dec	24-Jun	2.0	1.9	99.6	151.8
4	UThick	Cameron Plantation, Madison County	25-Feb	8	8	5-Dec	9-Jan	28-Dec	11-Jul	2.3	2.4	99.9	247.4
5	UThick	Clifton, Holmes County	26-Feb	7	6	7-Dec	12-Jan	23-Dec	6-Jul	2.0	1.8	90.0	157.4
6	LThin	Cotton Branch, Franklin County	11-Mar	7	5	23-Dec	31-Jan	3-Jan	17-Jul	2.0	1.8	94.4	131.9
7	Batture	Davis Island, Warren County	5-Mar	11	10	6-Dec	26-Jan	4-Jan	18-Jul	1.9	1.9	96.4	132.4
8	UThin	Horseshoe Lake, Madison County	28-Feb	10	9	17-Dec	6-Feb	5-Jan	19-Jul	2.1	2.1	93.2	178.8
9	UCP	Jumper Lake HC, Tippah County	10-Mar	10	7	27-Nov	13-Jan	16-Dec	29-Jun	2.0	2.0	72.0	58.5
10	Batture	Magna Vista - Section, Issaquena County	4-Mar	7	5	16-Dec	21-Jan	5-Jan	19-Jul	1.8	1.8	93.4	150.1
11	Batture	Magna Vista, Issaquena County	4-Feb	11	10	17-Dec	14-Jan	29-Dec	12-Jul	1.9	2.0	96.2	132.4
12	Delta	Mahannah WMA, Issaquena County	28-Feb	11	10	8-Dec	15-Jan	23-Dec	6-Jul	1.9	1.9	102.5	99.7
13	LCP	Marion Co WMA, Marion County	12-Mar	9	8	8-Dec	20-Jan	31-Dec	14-Jul	2.0	1.9	70.1	35.4
14	CF	NASA Ammo Plant, Hancock County	2-Apr	8	8	27-Dec	15-Jan	3-Jan	17-Jul	1.9	1.8	76.8	40.5
15	LCP	Pace Hunting Club, Jefferson Davis County	10-Mar	7	6	22-Dec	29-Feb	23-Jan	6-Aug	1.8	2.0	76.0	65.0
16	LThick	Sligo - Ellislie, Adams County	26-Feb	9	9	18-Dec	5-Feb	13-Jan	27-Jul	1.9	1.8	95.8	185.6
17	UCP	Smallwood JA Young, Winston County	4-Mar	10	9	17-Dec	14-Jan	31-Dec	14-Jul	2.0	2.1	81.8	132.8
18	Delta	Sunflower WMA, Sharkey County	10-Mar	11	10	26-Nov	11-Jan	22-Dec	5-Jul	2.5	2.2	109.0	138.4
19	Delta	Twin Oaks WMA, Sharkey County	6-Mar	9	9	8-Dec	11-Jan	20-Dec	3-Jul	2.0	2.1	112.0	183.0
			Total:	**174**	**150**		**Average:**	**29-Dec**	**12-Jul**				

N1 = Total 1½ year-old or older fecund (capable of breeding) does

N2= Mature 2½ years old and older does

Photo by Christopher Shea

2008 Deer Herd Health Evaluations

Table 5. 2007 Serologic Test Results for Antibodies to EHDV and BTV in Mississippi White-tailed Deer

Location	County	Number of Samples	Prevalence	Serotypes
Attala County Association	Attala	15	53%	E1, E2, B2, B10, B11, B13
Togo Island	Claiborne	10	60%	E1, E2, B10
Wilderness Forever	Claiborne	2	100%	E1, E2, BTV*
Williams Farm	Coahoma	9	11%	B11
Coahoma County Conservation League	Coahoma	11	64%	E1, E2, B10, B11
Copiah County WMA	Copiah	10	40%	E1, E2, B10, B11
Cotton Branch Plantation	Franklin	2	50%	E1, E2, BTV*
Mahannah WMA	Issaquena	10	60%	E1, E2, B2, B10, B11, B13, B17
Canal Section WMA	Itawamba	10	80%	E1, E2, B10, B11
Triple Creek Game Farm	Jasper	10	90%	E1, E2, B2, B10, B11, B13, B17
Bozeman Property	Madison	11	64%	E1, E2, B2, B10, B11, B13, B17
Cameron Plantation	Madison	5	0%	
Horseshoe Lake	Madison	3	33%	E1, E2, BTV*
Yates Property	Noxubee	15	73%	E1, E2, B2, B10, B11
Hamer WMA	Panola	11	82%	E1, E2, B10, B11
Leaf River WMA	Perry	11	45%	E1, E2, B10, B11
Infolab	Quitman	6	83%	E1, E2, B10
Twin Oaks WMA	Sharkey	10	20%	E1, E2, B2, B10, B11
Sunflower WMA	Sharkey	7	100%	E1, E2, B2, B10, B11, B17
Old Pearl Game Management	Simpson	3	67%	EHDV*, BTV*
Tallahatchie/Pinhook	Tippah	11	45%	E1, E2, B10
Divide Section WMA	Tishomingo	11	64%	E1, E2, B10
Magnolia	Warren	11	55%	E1, E2, B2, B10, B11
Archer Island	Washington	11	45%	E1, E2, B10, B11

Biologists conducting a herd health evaluation on a DMAP property in the Delta. Photo courtesy of MDWFP.

2008 Deer Herd Health Evaluations

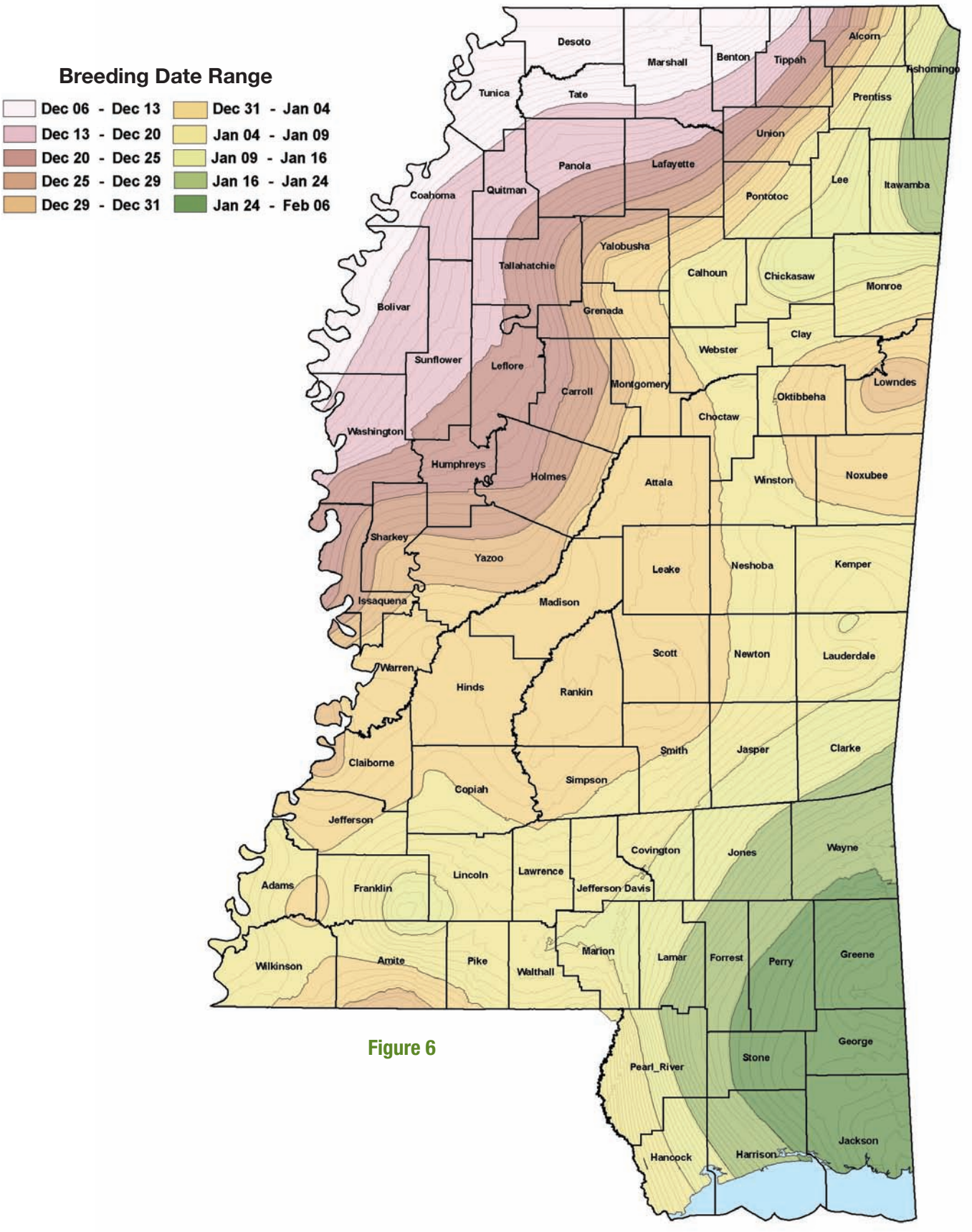


Figure 6

Statewide Sex Ratio and Fawn Crop Estimates

The MDWFP began distributing Bowhunter Observation Books before the 2005 deer archery season. Distribution of the Bowhunter Observation Books has increased in the following years. Mark Bernegger with Southern Outdoor Technologies (West Point, MS) donated a deer stand retailing almost $1,000 to help increase participation during 2007. This stand was given away in December through a random drawing of returned observation books. Michael Moses of Terry, MS, was the winner. Mr. Bernegger has committed to another stand for the 2008 season. The Mississippi Bowhunters Association and Haas Outdoors have committed to gifts as well. To be eligible for the drawing, bowhunters record deer observed during each bowhunt in Mississippi and return the book by the deadline of December 1, 2008.

Photo by Christopher Shea

Bowhunter Observation Books were distributed through sporting goods stores, feed stores, and were available online. Over 2,000 books were distributed during September 2007. A total of 118 books were returned by the December 1st deadline. Participating bowhunters observed 6,008 total deer yielding 1.06 deer per hour. Bowhunters recorded 5,669.75 hours in 57 counties. A description of deer observed is shown in **Table 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 three years (**Table 6**). According to this data, Mississippi had about 3 does for every buck, and about 1 fawn for every 2 does going into the 2007 hunting season.

Referring to **Table 6**, the number of deer observed per hour of bowhunting has remained relatively unchanged over the past three years. However, some trends are noticeable. The number of does per buck appears to be increasing, suggesting that hunters are not harvesting enough antlerless deer in Mississippi. Number of fawns per doe is on a decreasing trend. A combination of factors such as overpopulation, the 2007 drought, and an increase in Hemorrhagic Disease could result in decreasing fawn crops. Following the exceptional mast crop of 2007 and relatively wet spring of 2008, the fawn crop is expected to increase during 2008 in most areas. However, spring flooding along the Mississippi River could negatively impact the fawn crop in the Batture soil region.

We plan to continue distributing Bowhunter Observation Books during 2008. 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), 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.

Table 6. Bowhunter Observation Results 2005-2007

Year	Sex Ratio	Fawn Crop	Deer Observed Per Hour
2005	1 Buck : 2.4 Does	0.6 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.06
2006	1 Buck : 2.69 Does	0.52 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.11
2007	1 Buck : 2.92 Does	0.43 Fawns : 1 Doe	1.06

Table 7. Total Hours and Deer Observed in 2007

Total Hours	2-3 Points	4-7 Points	8+ Points	Does	Fawns	Unknown Deer
5,669.75	549	288	188	2,993	1,294	696

Deer Tags

Management Buck Tags

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

Permits were issued to the following WMAs for the 2007-2008 season: Calhoun, Hamer, Lake George, Leroy Percy, Mahannah, Malmaison, O'Keefe, Shipland, Stoneville, Sunflower, Twin Oaks, Upper Sardis, and Yockanookany. A total of 1,819 permits were issued to these WMAs and 55 of these permits were used. The number of buck tags issued to WMAs since the 2003-2004 season has increased from 164 to 1,819; however, reported usage of these tags remains low (**Figure 7**).

Permits were issued to the following 119 DMAP properties for the 2007-2008 season: 11 Shot, 27 Break, 3 Creeks, Arkabutla COE, Ashbrook, Atwood, Backwater Brake, Barefoot, Beech Ridge, Belle Chase Plantation, Bellweather, Big Black Wildlife, Big River Farms, Bighorn Sportsman, Black Bear, Black River, Bledsoe, Bogue Falia, Bonanza, Box B, Bozeman Farms, Breakwater, Brierfield, Brooksville, Bucksnort, Burke, Burl Branch, Cameron Plantation, Canemount Plantation, Casey Jones, Catfish Point, CGM, Chesterfield, Chief, Circle M, Clanton Farms, Clifton Plantation, Coahoma County Conservation League, Craigside Plantation, Dale Pierce, Dancin' Coyote, Dancing Rabbit, Deer Creek, Delta Wildlife, Deviney Enclosure, Deviney Free Range, Dry Creek Lodge, Donaldson Point, Dry Grove, Duck Lake, Eastline, Egypt, Elliote Lake Farm, Ellislie, Fairview, Gaddis Farm Heifer Pasture, Goat Hill, Halifax, Hardtimes, Hartwood, Higgs, Hightower, Homewood, Horseshoe Lake, Hunters Chapel, Irwin, Itta Bena, Jack Robertson, Jay Powell, Jeff H.C., MacDuff, Magna Vista, Melton Property, Merigold, Millbrook, Miller Point, Montgomery Farms, Moore Farms, Mt. Ararat Plantation, Noxubee Refuge, Noxubee-Kemper County Line, Outpost, Palmer Farms, Palmyra, Paradise, Pinecrest, Pinhook, Prewitt, Providence, Red Gate, Refuge, Richard Reid, Riverland, Riverside, Rosedale, Smallwood, Solitude, Steve Ingram, Strong, Sun Creek, T.F. Chaney, TCP, Togo Island, Triple C, Triple Creek, W.W. Miller, Ward Lake, Williams Farms, Willow Break, Willow Oaks 1, Willow Oaks 2,Wolf Creek Outfitters, Wood Burn, Woodstock, Wrights Creek, Y & S, Yalobusha Farms, Yates, and Yellow Creek. A total of 1,991 permits were issued to these properties and 1,036 of these permits were used. The number of DMAP properties receiving tags has increased from 13 to 119 since the 2003-2004 season. The number of buck tags issued to DMAP properties since the 2003-2004 season has increased from 358 to 1,991, and the number of buck tags used since the 2003-2004 season has increased from 262 to 1,036 (**Figure 8**).

DMAP Antlerless Tags

MDWFP issues antlerless tags to DMAP properties. This allows the harvest of antlerless deer in excess of the annual and daily bag limits. These tags have been issued since the implementation of DMAP.

An example of proper usage of a management buck tag.

When antlerless seasons were liberalized statewide, the need for antlerless tags was reduced. However, some landowners and managers still have the need for more antlerless harvest than state bag limits allow.

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

DMAP biologists issued 4,803 tags to 173 DMAP clubs during the 2007-2008 season. The increase in tags issued since the 2003-2004 season correlates to increased interest in deer management in Mississippi (**Figure 9**).

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 97 permits sold during the 2007-2008 hunting season.

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

Deer Tags

Figure 7: Buck Tags Issued and Used on WMAs

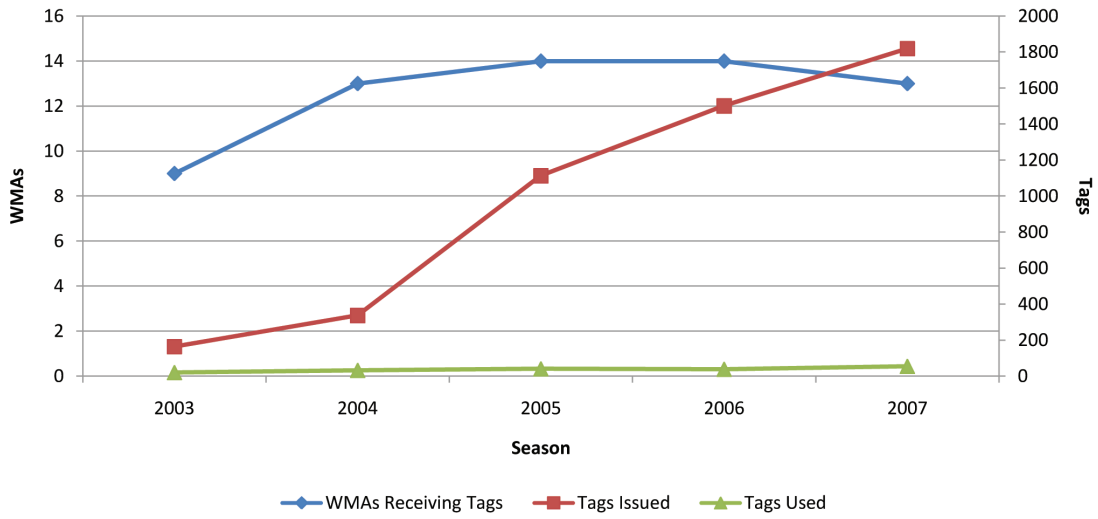


Figure 8: Buck Tags Issued and Used on DMAP Properties

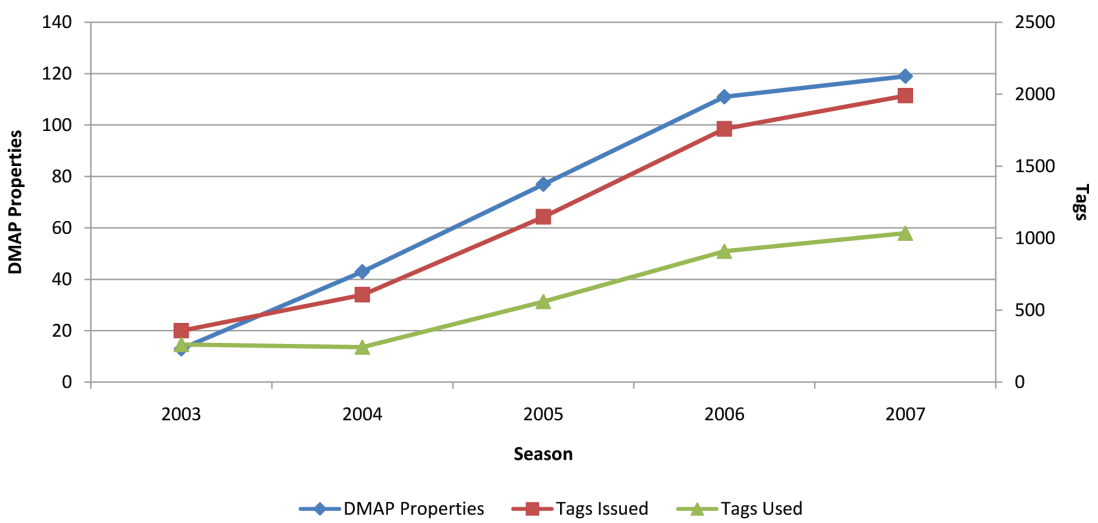
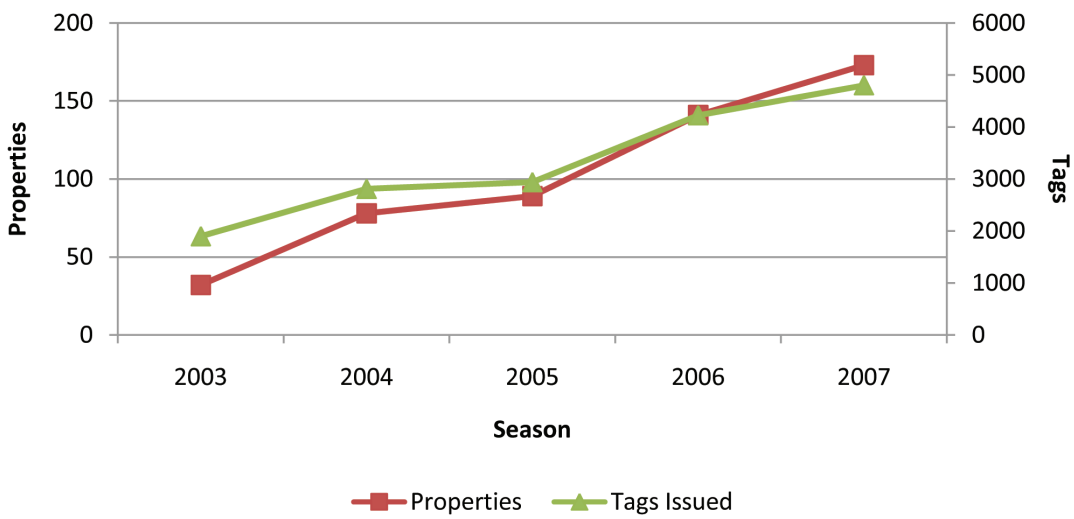


Figure 9: Antlerless Deer Tags Issued on DMAP Properties



Antler Regulations

The 2007-2008 hunting season was the third season for Deer Management Zone 2 in southeast Mississippi. This zone includes private and open public lands south of U.S. Hwy. 84 and east of MS Hwy. 35. Within the zone, deer hunting opportunity is allowed October 15 through February 15. The objectives of Deer Management Zone 2 are as follows:

1) To protect adult does caring for late born fawns by opening the season two weeks later (Oct. 15). This recommendation was based on Deer Herd Health Evaluation Data, which illustrates late January-early February breeding;

2) To provide more hunting opportunity during the breeding period (Feb.1-15). This recommendation was based on Deer Herd Health Evaluation Data, which illustrates late January-early February breeding; and

3) To improve the age structure of adult bucks through more restrictive antler criteria. A legal buck in Zone 2 is defined as having at least 4 antler points AND a minimum inside spread of 10 inches OR a minimum main beam length of 13 inches.

Zone 1 includes areas north of U.S. Hwy. 84 plus areas south of U.S. Hwy. 84 and west of MS Hwy. 35. A legal buck in Zone 1 is defined as having at least 4 antler points.

Inside spread antler criteria placed on many Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are in their fourth year of existence. Antler criteria on many WMAs were amended for the 2007-2008 hunting season to include a minimum main beam length while eliminating the 4 point restriction. Under the new WMA 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 regulation changes. See the Wildlife Management Area Harvest Information for the 2007-2008 Season (**Table 2**) to determine which WMAs had inside spread and main beam criteria during the 2007-2008 season.

Beginning in the 2003-2004 season, buck tags were issued to WMAs and DMAP properties allowing additional harvest of sub-optimal bucks. For more information on buck tags, see the Deer Tags section of this report on page 36.

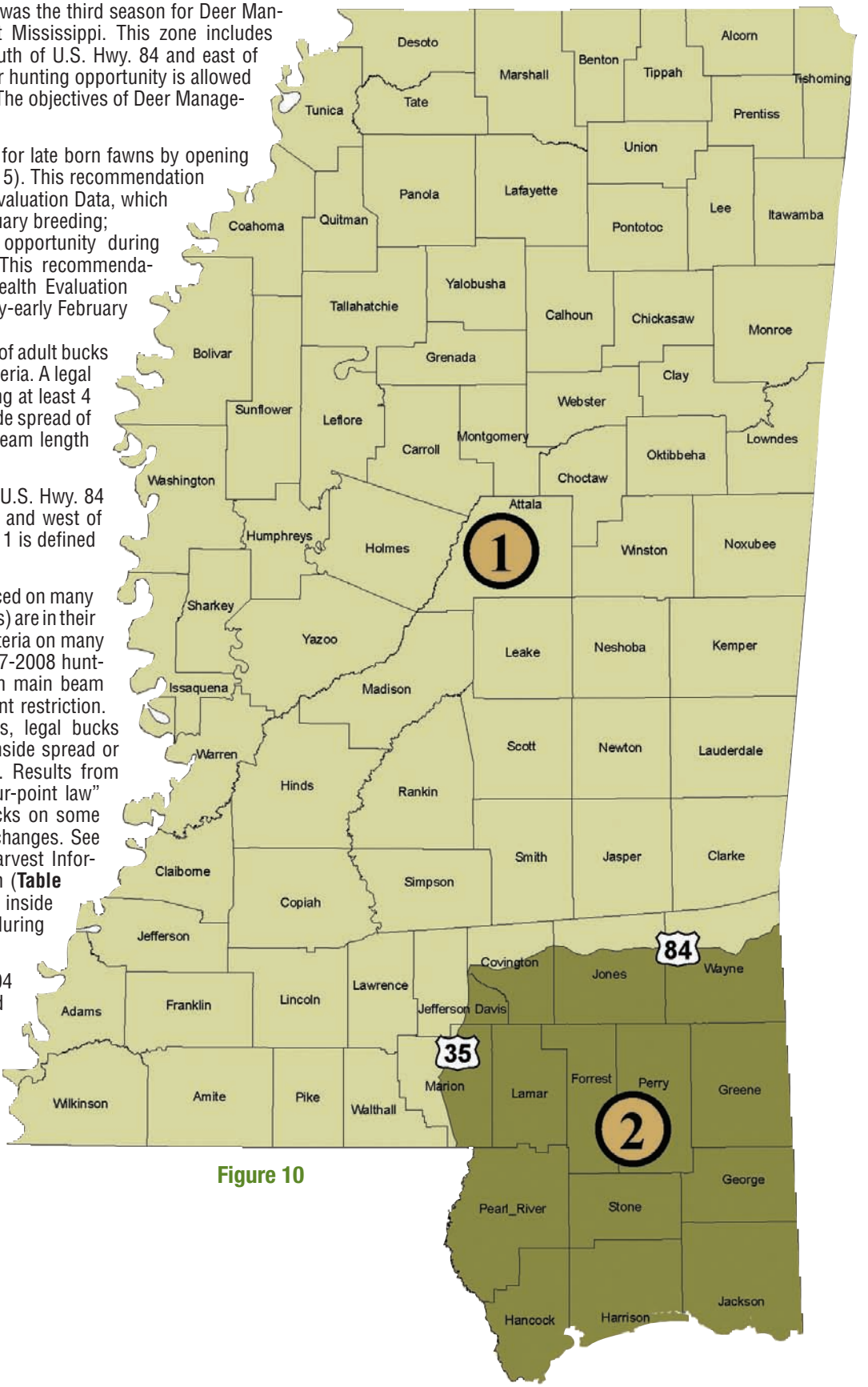


Figure 10

High-Fenced Enclosures

Photo courtesy of MDWFP

New regulations for high-fenced enclosures containing white-tailed deer became effective July 1, 2008. The Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks adopted Public Notice W1-3780 on November 29, 2007. Public Notice W1-3780 implemented new permit requirements and size restrictions for enclosures containing white-tailed deer. Following are highlights of the new regulations for white-tailed deer enclosures:

• The owner must obtain an annual Facility Permit from the MDWFP. The Facility Permit fee is $300.00 per year for high-fenced enclosures containing 300 acres or less. If the enclosure contains more than 300 acres, the Facility Permit fee is $1.00 per enclosed acre. The permit will be valid from July 1 through June 30. Additional commercial enclosure fees may apply pursuant to Section 49-11-5, Mississippi Code of 1972.

• All white-tailed deer enclosures constructed after December 31, 2007, must contain a minimum of 300 contiguous acres of which at least 50 percent of the total enclosed area must contain suitable habitat for white-tailed deer and is not susceptible to flooding under ordinary conditions.

• An existing high-fenced enclosure containing less than 10 acres, confining white-tailed deer, and registered with the MDWFP prior to December 31, 2007, may be allowed. Reproduction of white-tailed deer within such an enclosure is prohibited. Any offspring produced shall be reported within five days of birth to the MDWFP and surrendered to the MDWFP.

• All permitted high-fenced enclosures containing white-tailed deer shall be enrolled in the Enclosure Management Assistance Program. 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 by May 1 for the permitted high-fenced enclosure on forms provided by the MDWFP.

• White-tailed deer may not be transported from the wild and placed into a high-fenced enclosure.

• All target white-tailed deer within a high-fenced enclosure must be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease. Target deer are deer exhibiting clinical symptoms of the disease.

• As a condition of receiving a permit, high-fenced enclosure owners/operators are declared to have consented to periodic inspections of high-fenced enclosures by the MDWFP. All high-fenced enclosures containing white-tailed deer shall be inspected by the MDWFP at least once annually.

The above regulations were passed to conserve and protect native wildlife and to protect our recreational economy dependent on native wildlife resources. Visit www.mdwfp.com/deer to read all of the new enclosure regulations.

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, all DMAP summary tables and graphs now include harvest reports from WMA's that collect deer harvest data.

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 12**). This decline reduced both total acreage and number of cooperators in DMAP. Current enrollment includes 698 cooperators with 2.29 million acres. The increase in clubs from last season can be attributed to the new organizational structure of the Wildlife Bureau with deer biologists in areas of the state where there has been a need in past, but no biologist and the addition of more non-MDWFP DMAP consultants. Total DMAP harvest has mirrored the changes in cooperators and acreage in DMAP over the past few years (**Figure 13**).

The ability to collect and analyze DMAP data has been exceptional. Hundreds of thousands of deer are now part of the statewide DMAP database. In excess of 10,000 deer have annually been available for comparative purposes since 1983 (**Figure 13**). 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 2 million acres is credible and can be used to examine trend data. The extensive statewide coverage of 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 12-22**. 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 (2003-2007). 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 3.0 years old in 2007 (**Figure 15**). In addition, these older age class bucks are being produced and harvested on a declining acreage base (**Figure 16**). One possible reason for the drop in acres per 3½ year old bucks over the last couple of seasons is the more liberalized use of management buck tags which allowed DMAP properties to harvest sub-optimal adult bucks. In addition, the average spread, number of points, beam length, and circumference on all harvested bucks has increased proportionally.

The percentage of harvested bucks in the older age classes (4½+) has increased as well (**Figure 17**). This increase is the result of a shift in buck selection by hunters from younger age class bucks (1½ year olds) to older animals. Notice in the same graph, the corresponding decline in the percentage of younger age class bucks, which occur in the annual harvest. These are very evident when comparing the past 10 years to the 1991-1994 average.

Statewide condition data are presented in **Table 11**. 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.

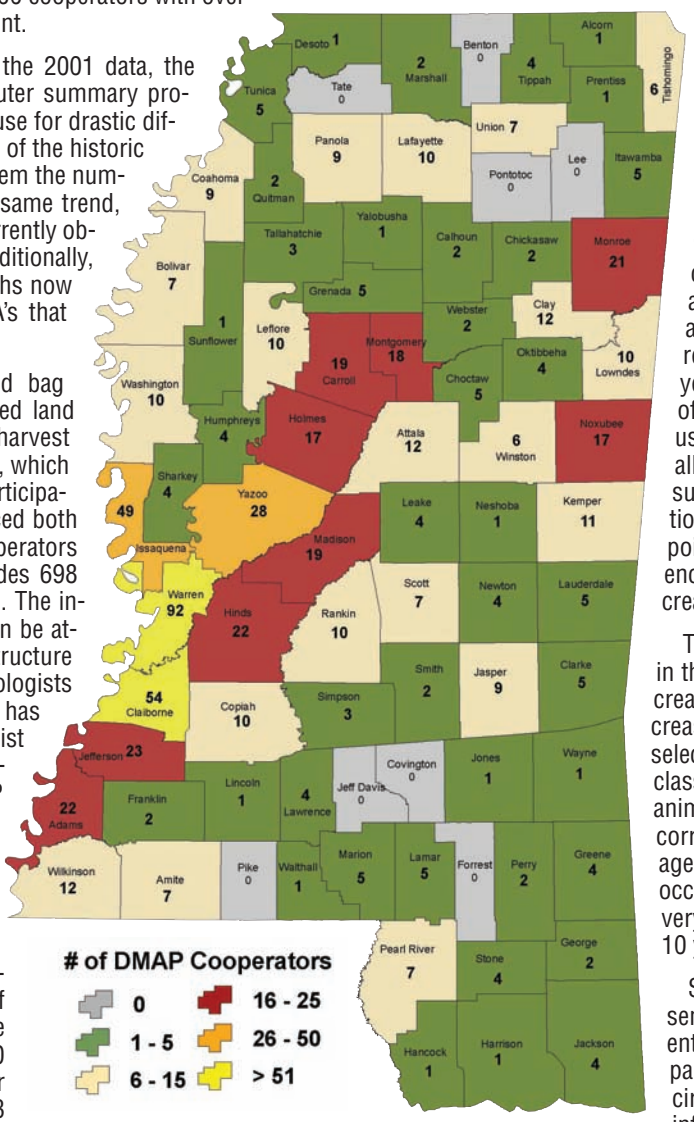


Figure 11: DMAP Cooperators by County

Soil region condition data are presented in **Tables 12-22**. 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.

Mississippi DMAP Data

Figure 12: DMAP Acreage & Cooperators

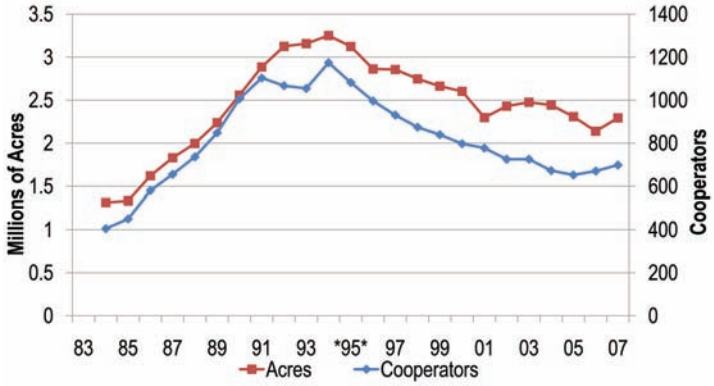


Figure 13: DMAP Deer Harvest

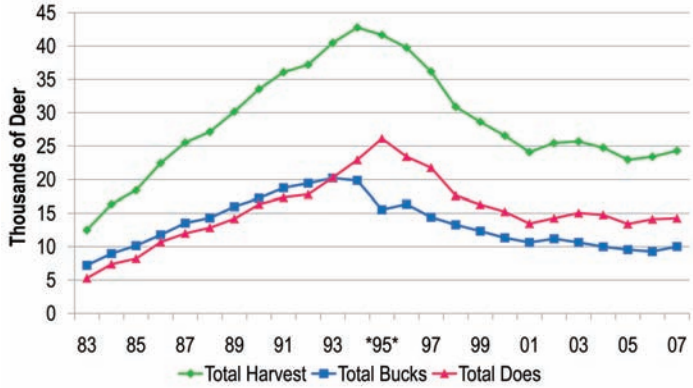


Figure 14: Acres/Deer Harvested

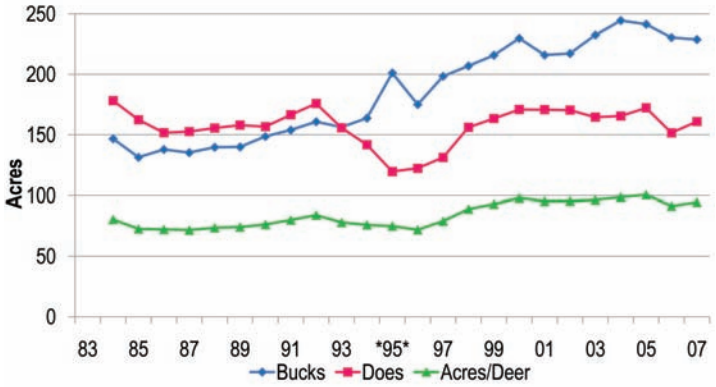


Figure 15: Average Age All Bucks

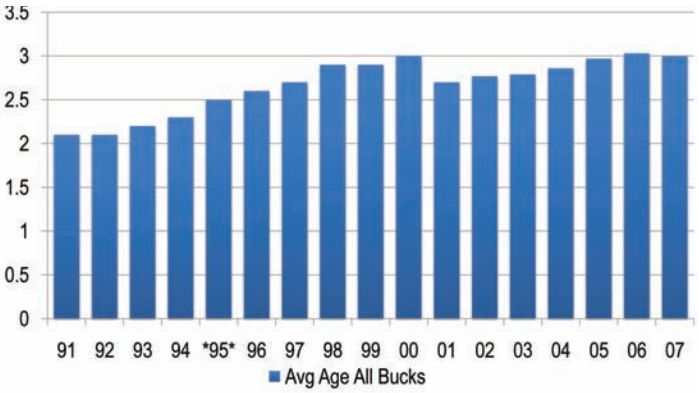


Figure 16: Acres/3.5+ Bucks

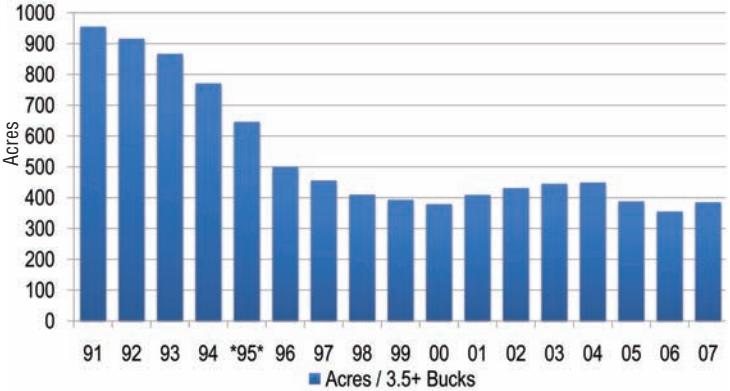


Figure 17: Percent Bucks by Age Class

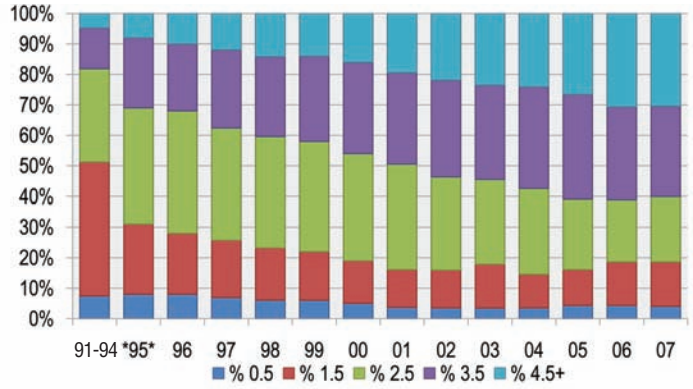


Table 8. DMAP Participation and Harvest by County During the 2007-2008 Season

County	Cooperators	Acres	Harvest		
			Bucks	Does	Total
Adams	22	74,988	379	572	951
Alcorn	1	26,000	5	1	6
Amite	7	27,679	150	206	356
Attala	12	41,064	187	273	460
Benton					
Bolivar	7	41,824	263	369	632
Calhoun	2	11,688	48	33	81
Carroll	19	52,454	363	511	874
Chickasaw	2	29,500	34	37	71
Choctaw	5	31,800	72	103	175
Claiborne	54	95,365	739	1,226	1,965
Clarke	5	19,600	47	123	146
Clay	12	30,243	104	113	217
Coahoma	9	44,750	242	340	582
Copiah	10	28,678	130	341	471
Covington					
Desoto	1	5,000	14	7	21
Franklin	2	3,700	30	24	54
George	2	18,750	9	8	17
Greene	4	10,652	25	29	54
Grenada	5	15,000	48	103	151
Hancock	1	5,880	7	8	15
Harrison	1	1,400	1	3	4
Hinds	22	45,688	343	590	933
Holmes	17	30,226	168	305	473
Humphries	4	9,800	24	75	99
Issaquena	49	111,362	754	1,104	1,858
Itawamba	5	61,848	211	122	333
Jackson	4	24,510	47	32	79
Jasper	9	43,478	106	200	306
Jefferson	23	55,419	305	626	931
Jeff Davis					
Jones	1	35,000	21	13	34
Kemper	11	35,492	232	292	524
Lafayette	10	62.658	163	233	396
Lamar	5	14,374	29	23	52
Lauderdale	5	20,222	47	82	129
Lawrence	4	13,501	52	102	154
Leake	4	11,730	61	93	154
Lee					
Leflore	10	13,187	65	173	238
Lincoln	1	3,642	18	21	39
Lowndes	10	24,248	76	151	227
Madison	19	45,216	241	671	912
Marion	5	30,695	159	159	318
Marshall	2	5,200	18	68	86
Monroe	21	61,777	219	343	562
Montgomery	18	30,404	213	351	564
Neshoba	1	7,655	16	45	61
Newton	4	9,198	55	71	126
Noxubee	17	54,900	283	406	689
Oktibbeha	4	12,494	34	76	110
Panola	9	19,312	115	228	343
Pearl River	7	40,245	88	63	151
Perry	2	41,778	52	35	87
Pike					
Pontotoc					
Prentiss	1	6,000	8	8	16
Quitman	2	12,214	37	75	112
Rankin	10	28,986	125	169	294
Scott	7	42,410	107	136	243
Sharkey	4	67,464	79	118	197
Simpson	3	14,000	51	78	129
Smith	2	9,267	43	43	86
Stone	4	93,292	18	13	31
Sunflower	1	1,585	3	4	7
Tallahatchie	3	4,795	11	39	50
Tate					
Tippah	4	17,213	51	103	154
Tishomingo	6	21,847	101	143	244
Tunica	5	29,204	59	176	235
Union	7	23,444	75	84	159
Walthall	1	5,325	28	30	58
Warren	92	150,819	1,243	1,684	2,927
Washington	10	34,934	257	388	645
Wayne	1	11,500	7	1	8
Webster	2	7,610	41	42	83
Wilkinson	12	35,365	247	357	604
Winston	6	16,700	89	106	195
Yalobusha	1	4,872	23	57	80
Yazoo	28	63,815	425	599	1,024
TOTAL	698	2,293,935	10,246	15,636	25,882

Mississippi DMAP Data
Table 9. Harvest Summary of Bucks by Age Class

Season	Sample	0.5 Bucks		1.5 Bucks		2.5 Bucks		3.5 Bucks		4.5+ Bucks		Avg. Age	Total	Acres/
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	All Bucks	3.5+ Bucks	3.5+ Bucks
1993	18,585	1,301	7	8,527	46	5,488	30	2,489	13	852	5	2.1	3,341	740
1994	19,128	1,530	8	7,063	37	6,529	34	3,020	16	1,045	5	2.2	4,065	685
1995	14,650	1,172	8	3,391	23	5,503	38	3,367	23	1,187	8	2.5	4,554	560
1996	16,350	1,308	8	3,246	20	6,489	40	3,601	22	1,697	10	2.3	5,298	500
1997	14,405	1,296	9	2,737	19	5,474	38	3,601	25	1,585	11	2.4	5,186	456
1998	13,278	1,062	8	2,257	17	4,913	37	3,452	26	1,859	14	2.5	5,311	410
1999	12,336	864	7	1,727	14	4,441	36	3,577	29	1,850	15	2.5	5,428	393
+2000 +	11,329	680	6	1,586	14	3,965	35	3,285	29	1,813	16	2.6	5,098	379
2001	10,639	426	4	1,277	12	3,511	33	3,192	30	2,021	19	2.7	5,213	457
2002	11,258	450	4	1,351	12	3,377	30	3,490	31	2,477	22	2.8	5,967	434
2003	10,737	433	4	1,546	14	2,974	28	3,328	31	2,512	23	2.8	5,841	455
2004	10,100	440	4	1,121	11	2,828	28	3,363	33	2,424	24	2.9	5,787	463
2005	9,719	428	4	1,127	12	2,196	23	3,343	34	2,634	27	3.0	5,977	402
2006	10,246	366	4	1,445	14	2,059	20	3,156	31	3,135	31	3.0	6,291	380
2007	10,026	348	3	1,464	15	2,136	21	2,978	30	3,048	30	3.0	6,026	385

Mississippi DMAP Data
Table 10. Harvest Summary of Antlerless Deer by Age Class

Season	Sample	0.5 Bucks		0.5 Does		1.5 Does		2.5 Does		3.5+ Does		Avg. Age
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	All Does
1993	20,481	1,218	6	1,827	9	4,756	23	4,352	21	8,328	41	2.4
1994	23,330	1,470	6	2,339	10	4,769	20	5,353	23	9,399	40	2.5
1995	25,997	1,187	5	2,691	10	5,903	23	5,599	22	10,619	41	2.4
1996	23,410	1,171	5	2,341	10	5,150	22	5,150	22	9,598	41	2.5
1997	21,763	1,088	5	2,176	10	4,788	22	4,570	21	9,140	42	2.5
1998	17,601	704	4	1,584	9	3,872	22	3,696	21	7,744	44	2.6
1999	16,288	652	4	1,466	9	3,420	21	3,746	23	7,004	43	2.6
+2000 +	15,228	457	3	1,066	7	3,350	22	3,350	22	7,005	46	2.7
2001	13,451	390	3	713	5	3,040	23	3,242	24	5,959	44	2.7
2002	14,305	386	3	916	6	3,018	21	3,448	24	6,723	47	2.7
2003	15,145	363	2	924	6	3,423	23	3,332	22	7,058	47	2.8
2004	14,894	343	2	998	7	3,172	21	3,277	22	6,777	46	2.7
2005	13,618	409	3	953	7	2,642	19	2,996	22	6,686	49	2.8
2006	15,636	422	3	1,048	7	3,033	19	3,440	22	8,021	51	2.9
2007	14,252	385	3	955	7	3,278	23	3,135	22	6,485	46	3.2

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.

+2000+ Bag limit changed to 3 bucks and 3 antlerless with DMAP and FMAP participants exempt from the annual bag limit; 2 additional antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment. Four points or better' law remain in effect.

Table 11. Statewide Compiled DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	2,290,502	2,293,935	2,392,181	2,518,344	2,532,160	2,430,506	2,297,401	2,602,586	2,662,032	2,748,231	3,105,186	2,405,424
Total Deer	24,278	25,882	23,337	24,994	25,882	25,451	24,090	26,557	28,624	30,879	39,138	24,875
Bucks	10,026	10,246	9,719	10,100	10,737	11,191	10,639	11,329	12,336	13,278	19,562	10,166
Does	14,252	15,636	13,618	14,894	15,145	14,260	13,451	15,228	16,288	17,601	19,576	14,709
Acres/Deer	94	89	103	101	98	95	95	98	93	89	79.5	97
Bucks	228	224	246	249	236	217	216	230	216	207	159	237
Does	161	147	176	169	167	170	171	171	163	156	160	164
Avg Age ALL Bucks	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.2	2.7
Avg Points ALL Bucks	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.2	6.7	6.6	6.3	4.8	7.0
Avg Length ALL Bucks	16.4	16.5	16.6	16.4	16.0	16.0	15.7	14.6	14.2	13.5	10.4	15.6
Avg Spread ALL Bucks	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.4	13.0	13.0	12.8	11.9	11.6	11.0	8.7	12.7
Acres/3.5+Bucks	385	380	402	463	455	431	457	379	393	410	808	416
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	5	6	6	8	4
Weight*	67	66	74	66	71	75	66	64	63	64	63	65
% 1.5 Yr	15	14	12	11	14	12	12	14	16	17	44	13
Weight*	113	115	115	112	111	118	115	116	118	115	115	115
Points	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.4	3.6	4.5	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.1	3.2	3.9
Circumf.	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.4
Length	5.5	6.8	6.7	7.2	7.4	9.0	8.3	8.4	8.7	8.2	6.8	7.9
Spread	5.7	6.3	6.4	6.7	6.6	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.2	6.0	6.9
% 2.5 Yr	21	20	23	28	28	30	34	35	36	36	31	24
Weight*	148	148	149	149	148	150	145	147	149	146	148	148
Points	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.0	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.9
Circumf.	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4
Length	14.8	14.7	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.7	14.3	14.4	14.5	14.1	14.0	14.4
Spread	12.0	12.0	11.9	12.0	11.7	11.9	11.6	11.7	11.9	11.5	11.4	11.8
% 3.5 Yr	30	31	34	33	31	31	30	30	28	26	14	32
Weight*	169	169	170	169	172	169	166	168	170	165	163	169
Points	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.5	7.8
Circumf.	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0
Length	17.6	17.6	17.5	17.3	17.6	17.2	17.1	17.4	17.4	16.9	16.7	17.4
Spread	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.0	14.1	13.9	13.8	14.1	14.2	13.6	13.5	14.0
% 4.5+ Yr	30	31	27	24	23	22	19	16	14	14	5	27
Weight*	184	185	185	185	186	184	182	182	183	178	173	183
Points	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.3
Circumf.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.5
Length	19.9	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.5	19.4	19.6	19.4	19.0	18.6	19.6
Spread	15.9	15.8	15.7	15.7	15.6	15.5	15.4	15.6	15.5	15.0	14.9	15.6
# 4.5 Yr	1795	1677	1611	1462	1511	1484	1250	1257	1183	1082	589	1611
Weight*	182	183	182	183	184	182	179	181	182	176	173	181
Points	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.3
Circumf.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.4
Length	19.6	19.3	19.2	19.4	19.4	19.2	18.9	19.4	19.1	18.7	18.6	19.2
Spread	15.6	15.5	15.4	15.6	15.4	15.3	15.1	15.5	15.4	14.8	14.8	15.3

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

Table 11. Continued

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
# 5.5 Yr	722	840	651	531	576	579	467	395	372	339	151	664
Weight*	185	186	189	189	190	186	185	186	185	181	174	186
Points	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.6	8.5	7.9	8.5
Circumf.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.6
Length	20.1	19.9	20.4	20.2	20.2	20.0	20.1	19.9	20.1	19.6	18.9	20.1
Spread	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.0	16.0	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.8	15.4	15.1	15.9
# 6.5 Yr	348	330	236	194	202	146	159	125	112	118	44	262
Weight*	188	191	192	192	191	191	187	186	187	182	176	189
Points	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.6	8.5	8.7	8.3	8.4
Circumf.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.7
Length	20.7	21.0	20.8	20.4	20.5	20.6	20.6	20.4	19.9	20.1	19.4	20.5
Spread	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.1	15.9	16.4	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.7	15.2	16.2
# 7.5 Yr	82	99	78	65	71	45	63	39	48	35	18	79
Weight*	190	192	192	189	190	192	183	187	189	185	168	188
Points	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.7	8.3	8.6	9.0	8.1	8.6	8.5	7.4	8.5
Circumf.	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.7
Length	21.3	21.0	20.6	20.8	20.5	20.2	20.0	20.6	19.8	20.2	18.3	20.5
Spread	16.6	16.3	16.0	16.6	16.6	15.3	15.8	16.2	15.8	15.8	15.0	16.1
# 8.5+ Yr	63	60	46	27	36	44	36	29	23	13	11	46
Weight*	189	185	195	183	186	180	190	183	179	191	171	185
Points	8.3	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.4	7.4	9.1	10.5	7.5	8.2
Circumf.	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.5	5.3	4.3	4.6
Length	20.9	20.7	19.8	18.6	19.3	20.1	19.5	19.6	20.4	21.5	18.5	20.0
Spread	16.7	16.2	15.5	15.0	15.2	15.7	15.2	16.5	16.4	16.8	14.4	15.9
Doe Age Classes												
%0.5 Yr	7	7	7	7	6	6	5	7	10	10	13	7
% 1.5 Yr	24	20	20	22	23	21	23	23	22	23	59	22
% 2.5 Yr	23	20	22	25	23	23	25	23	24	22	66	23
% 3.5+ Yr	47	53	51	47	48	47	45	47	45	45	70	49
Doe Weights*												
Weight 0.5 Yr	67	65	66	64	67	66	64	63	62	63	11	63
Weight 1.5 Yr	98	98	98	96	96	99	97	96	96	95	23	97
Weight 2.5 Yr	111	109	111	109	108	110	108	107	108	107	24	109
Weight 3.5+ Yr	117	116	117	115	116	116	117	114	115	113	42	115
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	11	11	13	11	10	12	10	12	13	12	60	11
2.5 Yr	60	59	57	56	56	58	58	61	64	59	96	58
2.5+ Yr	68	68	66	63	64	65	66	68	71	68	108	67
3.5+ Yr	72	71	70	67	68	69	70	72	75	73	115	71
All Antlerless H'vst												
% 0.5 Yr Bk Fawns	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	7	3
% 0.5 Yr Doe Fawns	7	7	7	7	6	6	5	7	9	9	10	7
%1.5 Yr Does	23	19	19	21	23	21	23	22	21	22	22	21
% 2.5 Yr Does	22	22	22	22	22	20	24	22	23	21	22	22
% 3.5+ Yr Does	46	51	49	46	47	47	44	46	43	44	39	48

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

Mississippi Soil Resource Areas

Figure 19

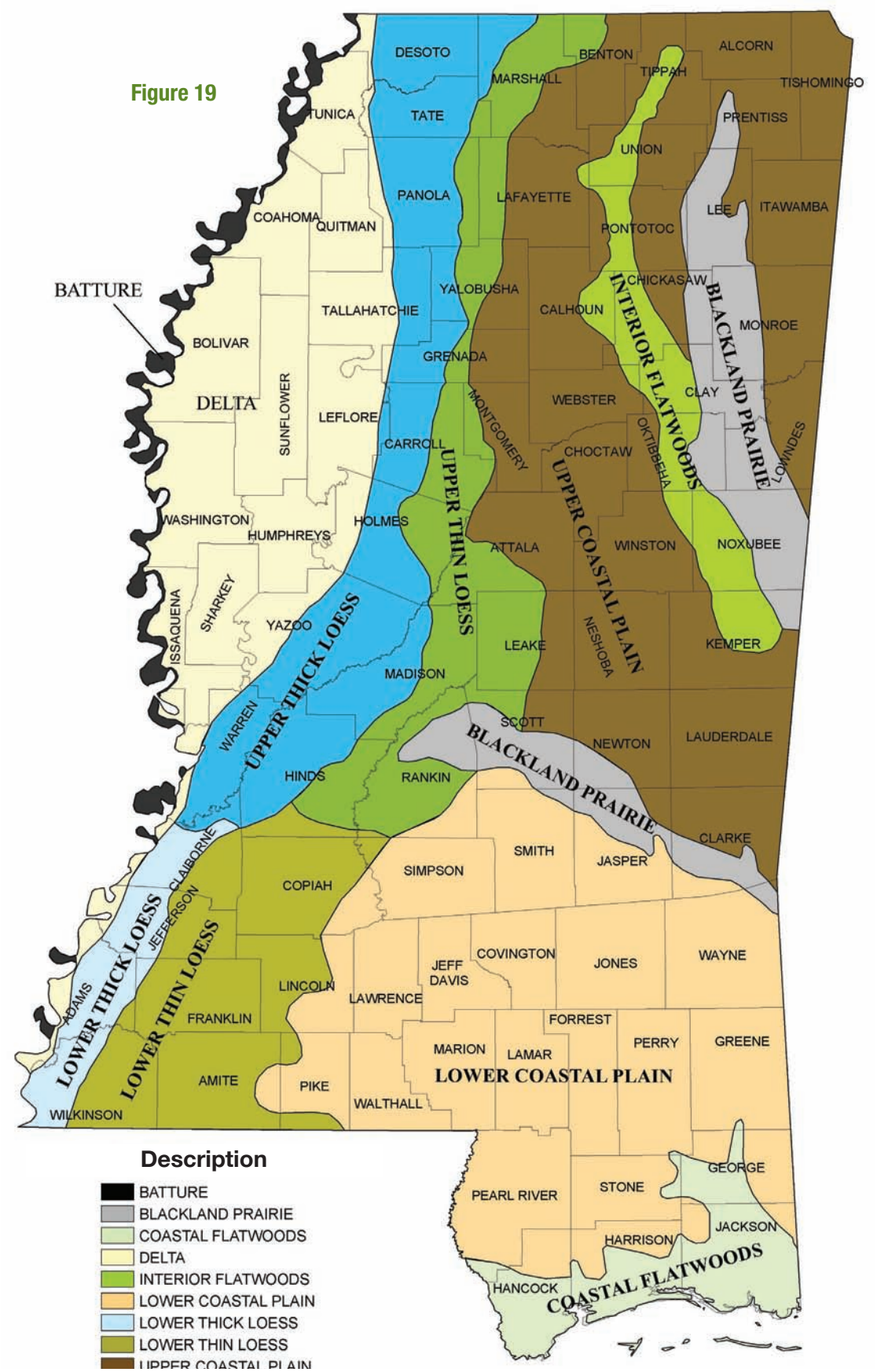


Table 12. Batture Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	243,537	244,927	250,094	239,098	233,379	236,582	207,187	178,239	171,795	173,182	172,527	242,207
Total Deer	4,629	4,490	4,409	4,186	4,624	4,711	4,073	3,191	2,950	2,933	2,906	4,468
Bucks	1,904	1,820	1,788	1,605	1,902	1,935	1,530	1,300	1,308	1,444	1,449	1,804
Does	2,725	2,670	2,621	2,581	2,722	2,776	2,543	1,891	1,642	1,489	1,457	2,664
Acres/Deer	53	55	57	57	50	50	51	56	58	59	60	108
Bucks	128	135	140	149	123	122	135	137	131	120	119	135
3.5+ Bucks	156	165	180	207	170	191	215	232	239	240	693	176
Does	89	92	95	93	86	85	81	94	105	116	120	91
Avg Age ALL Bucks	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.4	3.5
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	7	5	5	6	3.3
Weight*	68	69	67	72	84	77	65	70	70	74	73	71.9
% 1.5 Yr	7	6	6	5	5	5	9	7	6	9	28	6
Weight*	124	124	115	116	112	119	115	130	129	127	134	118
Points	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.9	4.4	4.4	4.0	3.9	2.5
Circumf.	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.2
Length	6.3	6.7	5.1	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.8	9.2	9.5	8.6	8.2	5.9
Spread	6.6	6.1	5.4	6.0	6.0	6.3	7.1	8.7	8.6	7.9	7.1	6.0
% 2.5 Yr	13	12	15	16	15	21	24	27	34	36	49	14
Weight*	169	165	160	165	166	166	164	168	167	165	169	165
Points	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.4
Circumf.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.7
Length	17.0	16.9	16.3	16.9	16.8	16.5	16.4	16.7	16.8	16.2	15.5	16.8
Spread	14.0	13.8	13.3	13.7	13.8	13.6	13.4	13.7	13.7	13.4	13.0	13.7
% 3.5 Yr	31	33	35	35	40	38	36	35	36	32	14	35
Weight*	188	183	184	185	187	184	183	188	189	185	187	186
Points	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.2	8.1
Circumf.	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3
Length	19.4	19.3	19.6	19.5	19.5	19.0	19.0	19.9	19.9	19.3	18.7	19.5
Spread	15.7	15.5	15.7	15.8	15.6	15.3	15.4	16.2	16.1	15.5	15.4	15.6
% 4.5+ Yr	46	44	41	42	36	32	27	24	19	18	4	42
Weight*	197	193	192	193	195	194	192	202	197	193	198	194
Points	8.5	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.4
Circumf.	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6
Length	21.3	20.8	21.1	20.9	20.8	20.5	20.7	21.4	20.9	21.0	20.8	21.0
Spread	17.0	16.6	16.6	16.7	16.6	16.4	16.4	17.1	17.0	16.8	16.8	16.7
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	10	10	6	6	11	9	8	10	11	10	14	9
2.5 Yr	71	64	51	58	55	60	57	63	70	51	58	60
3.5+ Yr	78	77	67	69	65	71	65	77	75	63	68	71
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	8	7	6	6	8	7	6	9	11	10	11	7
% 1.5 Yr	28	20	19	22	18	21	24	24	18	19	20	21
% 2.5 Yr	24	24	27	25	27	25	30	25	28	27	30	25
% 3.5+ Yr	41	50	48	47	47	47	40	42	43	44	39	47
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	72	68	68	66	68	68	64	67	68	67	68	68
1.5 Yr	104	104	98	98	101	101	98	104	106	101	108	101
2.5 Yr	116	114	114	112	112	114	114	115	114	115	121	114
3.5+ Yr	123	121	121	119	122	121	121	123	124	122	126	121

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

Table 13. Delta Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	02-06
Acres	276,212	300,107	304,838	317,354	289,297	283,851	240,653	178,239	269,772	256,237	254,153	297,562
Total Deer	2,647	2,968	2,808	2,900	3,016	2,938	2,652	3,476	3,503	3,393	3,909	2,868
Bucks	1,068	1,148	1,190	1,166	1,226	1,343	1,096	1,360	1,469	1,467	1,830	1,160
Does	1,579	1,820	1,618	1,734	1,790	1,595	1,556	2,116	2,034	1,926	1,457	1,708
Acres/Deer	104	101	109	109	96	97	91	84	77	76	66	208
Bucks	259	261	256	272	236	211	220	215	184	175	140	257
3.5+ Bucks	426	408	341	450	399	407	432	243	375	416	962	405
Does	175	165	188	183	162	178	155	138	133	133	124	174
Avg Age ALL Bucks	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.1	3.1
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	4	6	3	3	4	3	5	5	5	5	8	3.9
Weight*	75	74	76	73	69	75	67	69	73	65	70	73.5
% 1.5 Yr	20	18	8	5	8	5	8	9	12	13	41	12
Weight*	126	125	124	127	124	133	120	134	135	131	134	125
Points	2.4	2.3	2.4	3.4	3.3	4.2	3.8	4.1	5.0	4.2	3.5	2.8
Circumf.	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.2
Length	5.0	5.0	5.3	7.1	7.7	8.9	6.5	8.1	9.2	8.8	7.3	6.0
Spread	5.0	4.9	5.5	7.0	7.0	8.3	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.6	6.4	5.9
% 2.5 Yr	17	13	17	24	22	28	28	32	34	40	36	19
Weight*	170	171	170	174	175	170	164	167	168	167	169	172
Points	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.4
Circumf.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7
Length	16.8	16.5	16.5	16.9	16.5	15.8	15.6	15.6	15.8	15.3	15.1	16.6
Spread	14.0	13.9	13.6	14.2	13.6	13.0	12.9	13.1	13.2	13.0	12.8	13.9
% 3.5 Yr	27	30	38	35	36	37	33	36	33	28	12	33
Weight*	192	189	189	190	191	187	183	191	191	187	187	190
Points	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.3	8.1	7.9	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.2
Circumf.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.3
Length	19.5	19.3	19.1	19.0	18.9	18.2	18.4	19.0	18.6	18.4	18.0	19.1
Spread	15.9	15.9	15.5	15.7	15.2	14.8	14.8	15.6	15.5	15.2	14.9	15.6
% 4.5+ Yr	33	34	35	32	30	26	25	18	16	14	4	33
Weight*	204	199	199	197	200	196	198	204	202	200	197	200
Points	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.8	8.4	8.4	8.5
Circumf.	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.6
Length	20.9	20.6	20.7	20.9	20.3	20.0	20.2	21.0	20.8	20.2	19.5	20.7
Spread	17.0	16.6	16.6	16.7	16.0	16.2	16.0	17.0	16.6	16.1	15.8	16.6
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	13	16	16	12	10	12	13	20	18	14	16	13
2.5 Yr	64	61	60	58	58	59	57	68	70	59	58	60
3.5+ Yr	71	71	68	67	68	69	68	76	78	70	71	69
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	6	9	8	9	7	7	6	8	10	9	12	8
% 1.5 Yr	23	21	19	21	24	21	23	22	20	22	21	22
% 2.5 Yr	26	20	24	27	24	26	25	23	23	25	27	24
% 3.5+ Yr	45	50	48	43	45	46	45	47	47	44	41	46
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	71	69	69	67	72	73	70	70	69	67	66	70
1.5 Yr	107	108	105	103	105	106	103	107	107	103	109	106
2.5 Yr	119	119	118	117	119	119	116	117	117	116	121	119
3.5+ Yr	129	126	125	124	127	126	124	124	123	121	129	126

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

Table 14. Upper Thick Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	257,833	291,625	284,330	254,675	256,586	242,703	236,886	196,733	234,944	245,798	210,775	269,010
Total Deer	4,335	5,318	4,594	4,129	4,036	3,595	3,680	2,909	3,722	3,596	2,732	4,482
Bucks	1,646	1,969	1,784	1,554	1,477	1,416	1,404	1,142	1,509	1,466	1,443	1,686
Does	2,689	3,349	2,810	2,575	2,559	2,179	2,276	1,767	2,213	2,130	1,457	2,796
Acres/Deer	59	55	62	62	64	68	64	68	63	68	78	60
Bucks	157	148	159	164	174	171	169	172	155	168	146	160
3.5+ Bucks	284	263	286	289	297	316	344	392	399	493	1179	284
Does	96	87	101	99	100	111	104	111	106	115	169	96
Avg Age ALL Bucks	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.1	2.4	2.9
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	6	6	6	4	5	5	6	6	8	9	7	5.4
Weight*	66	67	68	69	74	69	70	69	69	68	72	68.8
% 1.5 Yr	21	18	16	15	12	10	11	12	17	17	53	16
Weight*	115	119	118	114	112	124	120	121	128	129	132	116
Points	2.3	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.8	4.4	3.6	4.2	4.4	4.4	3.9	2.6
Circumf.	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.1
Length	4.5	6.4	5.7	5.7	5.9	8.5	7.5	8.2	8.8	8.6	8.1	5.7
Spread	4.9	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.9	7.4	7.3	7.6	7.7	7.7	6.9	5.5
% 2.5 Yr	17	19	23	25	23	30	32	38	36	40	28	21
Weight*	152	155	156	154	154	160	154	156	161	160	163	154
Points	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0
Circumf.	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
Length	14.9	15.1	15.1	14.7	15.0	15.2	14.8	14.8	15.1	14.7	14.9	15.0
Spread	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.6	12.5	12.2	12.2	12.6	12.3	12.5	12.4
% 3.5 Yr	28	28	33	33	34	33	31	31	28	27	11	31
Weight*	175	176	178	175	178	176	173	179	186	185	190	177
Points	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.1	7.9
Circumf.	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1
Length	17.9	18.2	18.1	17.9	18.1	17.6	17.4	17.9	18.2	18.6	18.6	18.0
Spread	14.6	14.7	14.7	14.3	14.7	14.4	14.2	14.5	14.9	15.0	15.3	14.6
% 4.5+ Yr	28	29	22	23	26	22	20	13	11	7	2	26
Weight*	189	189	191	189	192	193	189	193	201	200	211	190
Points	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.3
Circumf.	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.7	5.0	4.6
Length	20.0	20.1	19.9	19.8	19.9	19.8	19.6	20.3	20.4	20.5	21.1	19.9
Spread	15.9	16.0	16.0	15.9	15.8	16.0	15.8	16.1	16.3	16.2	17.1	15.9
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	10	12	13	11	10	13	8	11	13	13	12	11
2.5 Yr	56	58	59	56	54	66	61	64	64	61	60	57
3.5+ Yr	74	71	73	68	66	70	70	72	77	70	66	70
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	6	6	7	7	7	7	6	6	10	11	12	7
% 1.5 Yr	23	19	19	20	22	20	21	24	22	23	23	21
% 2.5 Yr	22	21	22	23	20	22	22	22	25	23	25	22
% 3.5+ Yr	49	54	52	50	51	51	51	48	43	43	41	51
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	69	65	65	65	67	65	66	64	66	69	66	66
1.5 Yr	102	101	102	100	99	106	103	103	104	104	107	101
2.5 Yr	115	113	115	113	113	115	114	115	117	116	120	114
3.5+ Yr	122	120	122	120	121	122	123	122	125	124	128	121

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

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

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	145,152	149,025	144,886	147,216	160,276	153,658	148,830	166,906	193,570	211,427	233,912	149,311
Total Deer	2,619	2,779	2,406	2,651	2,914	2,864	2,721	3,022	3,515	4,299	6,077	2,674
Bucks	1,012	1,045	1,064	1,111	1,125	1,218	1,239	1,252	1,407	1,871	2,776	1,071
Does	1,607	1,734	1,342	1,540	1,789	1,646	1,482	1,730	2,108	2,458	1,457	1,602
Acres/Deer	55	54	60	56	55	54	55	55	55	50	39	56
Bucks	143	143	136	133	142	126	120	129	138	116	84	139
3.5+ Bucks	230	231	232	205	254	218	244	284	313	276	417	230
Does	90	86	108	96	90	93	100	96	92	87	73	93
Avg Age ALL Bucks	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.4	3.1
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	4	4	6	3	2	3	3	5	7	5	7	3.5
Weight*	62	61	109	63	64	67	70	66	61	67	63	71.7
% 1.5 Yr	11	9	9	9	10	9	12	14	14	15	34	10
Weight*	107	113	111	107	112	121	113	111	119	113	117	110
Points	2.6	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.5	4.4	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.3	3.1	3.0
Circumf.	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2
Length	4.2	7.1	5.9	6.5	7.3	9.1	7.7	6.0	7.0	6.4	6.5	6.2
Spread	5.4	6.7	6.1	6.2	6.8	7.8	7.1	6.3	6.7	6.5	6.0	6.2
% 2.5 Yr	21	19	19	23	31	27	30	34	35	39	38	23
Weight*	147	147	148	145	152	149	148	150	149	146	151	148
Points	7.1	7.0	7.2	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.0
Circumf.	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5
Length	14.8	14.4	14.8	14.0	14.5	14.6	14.1	14.3	14.2	13.8	14.3	14.5
Spread	12.2	11.6	12.0	11.8	11.9	11.9	11.2	11.6	11.6	11.2	11.8	11.9
% 3.5 Yr	31	29	35	35	27	30	29	27	26	23	16	31
Weight*	164	165	165	166	169	168	164	170	168	166	169	166
Points	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.7	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.8
Circumf.	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1
Length	17.5	17.3	17.3	17.2	17.3	17.1	16.8	17.3	17.2	16.8	17.1	17.3
Spread	13.9	14.0	14.0	13.6	13.8	13.7	13.6	14.0	13.7	13.5	13.8	13.9
% 4.5+ Yr	33	39	32	30	31	28	23	20	18	18	5	33
Weight*	178	182	182	183	185	184	183	184	186	181	182	182
Points	8.5	8.5	8.8	8.5	8.5	8.7	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.5
Circumf.	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Length	19.6	19.5	19.3	19.3	20.0	19.6	19.2	19.9	19.5	19.4	19.5	19.5
Spread	15.4	15.4	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	15.4	15.6	15.5	15.1	15.4	15.4
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	9	8	10	7	6	12	10	8	11	7	9	8
2.5 Yr	59	54	61	50	59	65	58	62	62	53	60	57
3.5+ Yr	73	74	76	65	73	75	74	72	78	71	72	72
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	6	6	8	7	5	4	4	7	9	9	10	6
% 1.5 Yr	24	21	20	24	26	22	23	24	21	25	24	23
% 2.5 Yr	22	19	21	22	20	19	21	23	19	21	25	21
% 3.5+ Yr	48	55	51	47	50	51	48	48	51	45	42	50
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	63	64	67	61	64	67	66	63	61	64	60	64
1.5 Yr	93	98	97	94	96	101	98	96	96	96	97	96
2.5 Yr	109	110	110	110	111	110	111	112	110	109	111	110
3.5+ Yr	113	117	118	116	117	116	117	117	116	117	118	116

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

Table 16. Upper Thin Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	146,496	115,177	97,661	180,440	182,139	193,902	171,215	181,754	187,806	211,555	221,531	144,383
Total Deer	1,752	1,685	1,319	2,030	1,964	1,974	1,818	2,020	2,459	2,757	3,045	1,750
Bucks	740	634	549	884	838	935	890	999	1,004	1,145	1,656	729
Does	1,012	1,051	770	1,146	1,126	1,039	928	1,021	1,455	1,612	1,457	1,021
Acres/Deer	84	68	74	89	93	98	94	90	76	77	73	83
Bucks	198	182	178	204	217	207	192	182	187	185	134	196
3.5+ Bucks	416	360	258	450	490	539	422	520	567	596	1365	395
Does	145	110	127	157	162	187	184	178	129	131	163	141
Avg Age ALL Bucks	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.6	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.4	2.6
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	7	5	6	4	4	7	3	4	6	9	7	5.3
Weight*	66	61	67	62	66	97	66	58	62	63	63	64.3
% 1.5 Yr	21	16	19	16	22	23	15	15	16	23	52	19
Weight*	106	107	116	115	118	121	117	116	118	116	112	112
Points	2.6	3.0	3.5	3.8	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.2	3.4
Circumf.	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2
Length	4.9	6.0	7.3	7.3	8.3	9.2	7.9	8.5	8.3	8.4	6.7	6.8
Spread	5.0	6.1	7.0	6.8	7.2	7.7	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	5.8	6.4
% 2.5 Yr	23	25	27	32	28	30	34	47	45	37	31	27
Weight*	143	141	144	143	148	147	147	142	145	144	144	144
Points	6.6	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.6
Circumf.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4
Length	14.0	14.3	13.9	13.7	13.9	14.0	14.0	13.8	14.4	13.9	13.6	13.9
Spread	11.1	11.5	11.2	11.1	11.5	11.4	11.7	11.3	11.7	11.2	11.0	11.3
% 3.5 Yr	28	29	32	35	29	25	28	27	26	23	9	31
Weight*	159	155	157	156	159	160	154	158	166	165	164	157
Points	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.8	7.9	8.1	7.9	7.3
Circumf.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.8
Length	16.1	16.1	15.9	15.8	15.8	16.3	15.5	16.7	17.3	17.3	17.3	15.9
Spread	12.9	12.7	13.1	12.7	12.9	13.4	12.5	13.3	14.0	13.7	14.0	12.9
% 4.5+ Yr	22	25	16	14	17	14	17	8	7	8	2	19
Weight*	169	169	168	171	173	171	166	171	171	173	174	170
Points	8.1	8.0	7.8	8.0	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.1	8.4	8.8	8.4	8.0
Circumf.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.3
Length	18.3	18.1	18.0	18.4	18.0	18.2	17.8	18.7	19.0	19.0	19.3	18.2
Spread	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.5	14.4	14.7	14.2	15.0	15.2	14.9	15.4	14.5
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	11	11	22	20	10	17	11	10	13	14	9	15
2.5 Yr	56	54	59	54	55	61	51	59	59	60	54	56
3.5+ Yr	69	65	61	70	70	71	66	67	70	71	65	67
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	9	9	9	6	11	11	7	5	11	10	12	9
% 1.5 Yr	23	22	21	24	26	24	24	26	23	24	24	23
% 2.5 Yr	20	17	23	23	19	19	23	26	28	24	25	20
% 3.5+ Yr	49	53	47	47	44	45	43	43	38	42	39	48
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	63	60	62	61	73	74	66	63	63	62	60	64
1.5 Yr	92	91	95	93	97	98	96	89	92	94	93	94
2.5 Yr	105	103	109	107	105	106	107	102	102	105	104	106
3.5+ Yr	111	110	109	112	112	112	112	109	110	110	111	111

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

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

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	138,214	105,389	135,699	182,122	175,641	178,461	171,661	223,985	230,662	236,033	214,591	147,413
Total Deer	1,639	1,627	1,413	2,251	2,526	2,284	2,173	2,776	3,426	3,915	3,892	1,891
Bucks	619	536	531	841	921	897	836	1,043	1,157	1,379	1,705	690
Does	1,020	1,091	882	1,410	1,605	1,387	1,337	1,733	2,269	2,536	1,457	1,202
Acres/Deer	84	65	96	81	70	78	79	81	67	60	55	79
Bucks	223	197	256	217	191	199	205	216	199	171	126	214
3.5+ Bucks	456	340	306	360	395	377	419	430	391	364	578	371
Does	136	97	154	129	109	129	128	130	102	93	99	123
Avg Age ALL Bucks	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.4	2.9
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	5	5	4	2	2	2	2	4	8	7	9	3.7
Weight*	66	66	69	69	74	131	71	61	60	66	62	68.6
% 1.5 Yr	14	16	11	10	15	12	11	11	13	14	39	13
Weight*	106	109	116	109	115	122	121	115	115	111	110	111
Points	2.6	2.9	3.7	3.0	3.8	4.4	3.9	3.8	4.2	3.6	2.8	3.2
Circumf.	1.8	2.1	2.3	1.8	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.1
Length	4.7	5.3	7.6	6.5	7.7	8.9	7.7	7.4	8.0	7.3	5.8	6.4
Spread	5.2	5.8	7.0	7.7	7.1	7.7	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.6	5.6	6.5
% 2.5 Yr	26	18	21	24	28	27	31	35	28	32	30	23
Weight*	146	150	148	144	149	150	143	144	145	143	142	148
Points	6.7	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.3	6.7
Circumf.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3
Length	14.2	14.7	14.1	13.5	13.8	14.1	13.9	14.1	13.7	13.9	13.6	14.0
Spread	11.5	11.6	11.5	11.0	10.9	11.4	10.9	11.3	11.1	11.0	10.7	11.3
% 3.5 Yr	28	28	38	38	33	31	29	28	27	28	16	33
Weight*	167	166	164	162	168	167	164	163	163	159	163	166
Points	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5
Circumf.	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9
Length	17.2	16.8	16.2	16.3	16.8	17.1	16.5	17.0	16.6	16.2	16.7	16.7
Spread	13.6	13.2	12.9	13.3	13.4	13.7	13.3	13.5	13.4	12.8	13.3	13.3
% 4.5+ Yr	28	33	26	26	23	25	23	22	24	19	7	27
Weight*	178	180	177	179	181	181	179	176	177	174	176	179
Points	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2
Circumf.	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.4
Length	19.7	18.8	18.7	18.7	19.1	19.3	19.3	18.9	18.9	18.9	19.2	19.0
Spread	15.3	15.1	14.7	14.8	14.9	15.0	15.1	15.0	14.9	14.9	15.0	15.0
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	13	9	9	11	10	12	14	9	10	9	11	11
2.5 Yr	62	66	61	64	61	61	64	60	62	57	61	63
3.5+ Yr	75	74	74	72	74	77	74	74	77	77	75	74
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	7	7	7	6	4	5	3	7	9	10	10	6
% 1.5 Yr	23	19	21	25	25	23	24	24	22	24	23	23
% 2.5 Yr	23	16	17	19	20	19	22	23	22	20	24	19
% 3.5+ Yr	47	58	55	50	51	47	47	46	47	46	43	52
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	68	65	67	64	64	74	70	61	59	62	59	66
1.5 Yr	96	96	99	96	98	101	99	95	95	94	94	97
2.5 Yr	110	107	110	107	109	110	108	107	104	106	107	109
3.5+ Yr	116	115	115	115	115	116	116	114	113	114	115	115

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

Table 18. Black Prairie Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	97,497	146,206	147,416	226,540	212,342	217,575	186,663	142,720	155,976	173,388	156,927	166,000
Total Deer	940	995	1,010	1,486	1,715	1,663	1,475	1,246	1,328	1,455	1,994	1,229
Bucks	384	396	417	632	898	785	722	540	629	675	857	545
Does	556	599	593	854	817	878	753	706	699	780	1,457	684
Acres/Deer	104	147	146	152	124	131	127	115	117	119	79	135
Bucks	254	369	354	358	236	277	259	265	248	257	186	304
3.5+ Bucks	301	617	737	852	826	659	547	539	551	642	913	667
Does	175	244	249	265	260	248	248	203	223	222	139	242
Avg Age ALL Bucks	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.1	2.4	2.5	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.4	2.7
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	1	2	3	6	4	5	5	7	4	6	8	3.3
Weight*	76	65	74	64	61	63	63	62	60	63	64	67.7
% 1.5 Yr	10	10	9	9	38	20	17	15	17	22	49	15
Weight*	112	118	124	115	106	114	110	114	116	116	113	115
Points	3.3	3.6	3.9	4.5	3.2	5.0	4.6	5.1	4.9	4.5	3.3	3.7
Circumf.	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.5
Length	6.7	8.5	8.6	8.8	6.3	9.5	8.5	9.7	9.0	8.8	6.9	7.8
Spread	6.6	6.9	7.9	7.3	5.7	7.4	6.8	8.1	7.6	7.0	6.3	6.9
% 2.5 Yr	22	23	25	39	28	30	33	29	34	32	23	27
Weight*	146	144	147	147	136	141	130	132	142	139	143	144
Points	7.0	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.3	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.1	6.7
Circumf.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4
Length	14.7	14.6	14.8	14.5	13.5	13.8	13.3	13.5	14.0	13.8	13.7	14.4
Spread	11.9	12.0	12.1	11.7	10.9	11.1	10.8	10.9	11.3	11.2	10.9	11.7
% 3.5 Yr	37	39	39	32	20	30	28	28	30	27	15	33
Weight*	156	160	164	166	158	155	154	154	158	152	160	161
Points	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.4	7.4	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.3	7.6
Circumf.	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.9
Length	16.5	16.5	16.9	16.8	16.4	16.1	16.1	16.6	16.9	16.0	16.4	16.6
Spread	13.5	13.3	13.5	13.7	13.0	12.9	13.0	13.1	13.4	12.6	13.2	13.4
% 4.5+ Yr	29	26	24	14	11	14	15	21	15	13	6	21
Weight*	167	182	182	179	178	170	170	174	177	168	173	178
Points	8.7	8.4	8.2	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.6	8.3	8.6	8.3	8.0	8.3
Circumf.	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.4
Length	18.7	19.3	19.1	18.2	18.6	18.3	18.6	18.7	18.5	18.7	18.4	18.8
Spread	14.8	14.9	15.0	14.1	14.8	14.8	15.0	14.6	14.8	14.3	14.5	14.7
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	13	19	24	16	10	11	9	12	16	9	14	16
2.5 Yr	52	57	64	61	55	61	57	52	58	50	57	58
3.5+ Yr	66	73	70	70	63	71	66	66	66	62	66	68
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	7	8	8	8	5	9	7	8	10	11	12	7
% 1.5 Yr	23	18	24	20	30	19	25	24	23	21	24	23
% 2.5 Yr	21	20	21	31	21	20	20	18	20	20	19	23
% 3.5+ Yr	50	55	47	42	45	47	45	50	47	48	47	48
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	76	67	71	63	55	54	56	55	62	61	59	67
1.5 Yr	97	97	96	95	92	94	90	90	95	93	95	96
2.5 Yr	106	107	108	106	104	103	100	101	105	104	105	106
3.5+ Yr	115	115	117	114	111	110	110	109	111	110	113	114

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

Table 19. Upper Coastal Plain Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	485,608	496,277	521,073	490,352	553,556	511,330	496,206	557,521	705,830	727,380	879,440	509,373
Total Deer	3,537	3,992	3,906	3,772	3,662	3,724	3,595	4,786	5,409	5,719	8,488	3,774
Bucks	1,577	1,689	1,688	1,626	1,632	1,749	1,804	2,155	2,648	2,536	4,677	1,642
Does	1,960	2,303	2,218	2,146	2,030	1,975	1,791	2,631	2,761	3,183	1,457	2,131
Acres/Deer	137	124	133	130	151	137	138	116	130	127	105	135
Bucks	308	294	309	302	339	292	275	259	267	287	188	310
3.5+ Bucks	664	654	721	908	766	689	703	631	762	797	997	743
Does	248	215	235	228	273	259	277	212	256	229	237	239
Avg Age ALL Bucks	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.8	3.2	3.1	2.4	2.6
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	4	3	4	5	2	3	3	4	6	7	7	3.5
Weight*	64	60	65	65	63	61	60	59	58	62	58	63.3
% 1.5 Yr	18	17	14	16	19	20	16	20	21	24	51	17
Weight*	107	108	107	109	107	113	112	112	113	112	108	108
Points	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	3.2	3.9
Circumf.	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.3
Length	6.9	8.0	7.6	8.3	8.7	9.2	9.1	9.2	9.3	8.9	6.7	7.9
Spread	6.5	6.9	6.8	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.4	5.8	7.0
% 2.5 Yr	28	30	32	41	33	32	38	35	38	33	24	33
Weight*	136	137	137	140	136	139	138	137	138	137	134	137
Points	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.0	6.5
Circumf.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3
Length	13.8	13.8	13.2	13.8	13.4	14.1	13.7	13.7	14.0	13.7	13.2	13.6
Spread	11.0	11.1	10.8	11.1	10.7	11.3	11.1	11.1	11.3	10.9	10.5	10.9
% 3.5 Yr	29	31	31	27	30	28	28	27	25	24	14	30
Weight*	150	153	151	152	153	152	152	150	156	152	152	152
Points	7.4	7.3	7.0	7.3	7.1	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.2
Circumf.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.8
Length	16.2	15.8	15.6	15.8	15.7	15.7	15.9	16.1	16.4	15.8	15.6	15.8
Spread	13.0	12.8	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.7	12.7	12.9	13.2	12.6	12.7	12.7
% 4.5+ Yr	21	19	19	12	16	16	14	14	10	12	5	18
Weight*	161	168	164	167	164	166	167	164	171	170	164	165
Points	8.3	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.3	8.0	7.6	7.9
Circumf.	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.2
Length	18.2	17.8	17.4	17.8	17.9	18.2	18.4	18.2	18.3	17.9	17.7	17.8
Spread	14.4	14.4	14.1	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.4	14.8	14.8	14.5	14.1	14.3
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	10	11	12	12	14	14	10	12	16	15	13	12
2.5 Yr	50	53	57	57	51	56	59	57	65	57	56	54
3.5+ Yr	69	69	68	67	69	68	71	67	72	70	65	68
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	7	7	7	8	4	7	6	8	10	10	11	7
% 1.5 Yr	23	20	22	21	24	22	24	23	24	24	24	22
% 2.5 Yr	21	19	20	25	22	18	23	24	23	22	20	21
% 3.5+ Yr	50	55	52	46	50	48	43	45	43	44	45	50
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	59	59	62	63	60	59	60	58	57	59	58	61
1.5 Yr	88	89	89	88	87	90	89	87	89	88	89	88
2.5 Yr	98	97	99	100	97	100	100	97	99	97	99	98
3.5+ Yr	106	107	107	106	105	105	107	103	104	105	105	106

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

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

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	386,070	334,957	397,543	397,659	402,461	343,592	334,038	202,709	264,521	328,344	308,965	383,738
Total Deer	1,373	1,376	1,142	1,468	1,500	1,590	1,512	1,506	1,721	2,163	2,944	1,372
Bucks	665	654	541	596	698	838	832	686	812	977	1,467	631
Does	708	722	601	872	802	752	680	820	909	1,186	1,457	741
Acres/Deer	281	243	348	271	268	216	221	135	154	152	104	282
Bucks	581	512	735	667	577	410	401	295	326	336	210	608
3.5+ Bucks	1173	1091	1636	1446	2064	1108	1152	672	740	820	1098	1482
Does	545	464	661	456	502	457	491	247	291	277	209	517
Avg Age ALL Bucks	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.9	3.2	3.1	2.4	2.6
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	2	2	3	4	3	2	3	3	3	7	10	2.8
Weight*	60	57	68	71	60	62	61	55	58	61	56	63.3
% 1.5 Yr	10	18	11	16	13	11	12	15	18	18	47	14
Weight*	104	109	109	104	110	113	111	109	108	107	102	107
Points	3.1	3.9	4.0	3.7	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.0	2.7	3.8
Circumf.	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.4
Length	6.5	8.5	8.9	7.3	8.5	8.9	8.6	8.4	8.5	7.5	5.4	7.9
Spread	5.9	7.2	7.5	6.4	7.0	7.2	7.8	7.2	6.9	6.8	5.3	6.8
% 2.5 Yr	33	28	36	33	56	46	53	38	35	34	25	37
Weight*	135	133	135	138	136	134	134	132	131	130	126	135
Points	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.4	6.4	5.2	6.6
Circumf.	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.2
Length	13.6	13.7	13.5	13.6	13.6	13.7	13.6	13.6	12.9	12.7	11.5	13.6
Spread	11.1	11.1	10.9	11.2	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.2	10.7	10.2	9.3	11.0
% 3.5 Yr	31	34	31	33	20	26	22	30	28	26	14	30
Weight*	149	143	148	149	147	142	151	152	145	145	146	147
Points	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.1	7.4
Circumf.	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.7
Length	15.6	15.5	15.0	15.5	15.5	15.2	16.2	15.5	15.3	15.3	15.0	15.4
Spread	12.7	12.5	12.6	13.0	12.5	12.4	13.0	12.8	12.5	12.3	12.1	12.6
% 4.5+ Yr	24	18	18	14	9	12	10	14	16	15	6	17
Weight*	158	160	153	154	156	155	162	158	158	153	155	156
Points	8.1	8.2	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.2	7.9	7.5	8.1
Circumf.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.1
Length	18.0	18.2	17.2	17.6	17.7	17.8	18.2	17.7	17.8	17.3	17.0	17.7
Spread	14.4	14.6	13.9	14.6	13.9	14.5	14.8	14.5	14.3	14.1	13.8	14.3
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	13	11	15	12	6	19	8	21	17	19	14	11
2.5 Yr	50	60	48	52	60	58	61	63	68	69	58	54
3.5+ Yr	61	62	68	66	64	66	71	73	70	73	68	64
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	5	5	4	5	4	3	5	7	6	8	11	5
% 1.5 Yr	18	18	17	19	20	19	20	18	22	20	23	18
% 2.5 Yr	22	23	23	30	38	30	40	25	24	22	21	27
% 3.5+ Yr	56	54	56	46	38	47	35	51	48	50	45	50
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	60	57	62	63	57	55	57	55	57	56	54	60
1.5 Yr	88	88	88	88	83	88	86	90	87	85	86	87
2.5 Yr	99	100	96	96	96	95	93	95	97	94	95	97
3.5+ Yr	102	103	101	102	101	100	99	101	101	100	100	102

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

Table 21. Coastal Flatwoods Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	51,404	49,790	47,790	63,810	55,927	55,650	55,650	51,850	52,850	51,850	46,517	53,744
Total Deer	150	110	47	67	148	156	178	202	161	202	177	104
Bucks	118	63	23	29	82	89	116	101	93	101	105	63
Does	32	47	24	38	66	67	62	101	68	101	1,457	41
Acres/Deer	343	453	1017	952	378	357	313	257	328	257	526	629
Bucks	436	790	2078	2200	682	625	480	513	568	513	1332	842
3.5+ Bucks	643	2165	2987	4908	3728	2319	2140	960	1229	1127	3445	2886
Does	1606	1059	1991	1679	847	831	898	513	777	513	3219	1274
Avg Age ALL Bucks	3.1	2.6	3.3	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.0	2.7
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	0	2	0	0	3	0	1	1	1	2	17	0.9
Weight*	0	58	0	0	70	0	48	35	45	60	36	25.5
% 1.5 Yr	17	11	9	10	11	8	6	17	8	7	31	12
Weight*	101	120	106	94	96	83	106	103	106	106	96	103
Points	2.6	4.2	2.0	4.5	4.6	4.0	4.1	3.7	3.3	3.8	2.5	3.6
Circumf.	2.1	2.4	0.0	2.9	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.3	1.9	2.3	1.4	1.9
Length	4.5	7.9	0.0	7.6	9.2	6.9	7.9	7.7	7.4	8.1	4.3	5.8
Spread	6.6	7.2	0.0	5.5	7.1	5.6	6.6	7.9	7.6	7.0	5.7	5.3
% 2.5 Yr	14	46	18	48	68	64	72	31	39	42	29	39
Weight*	135	143	114	128	130	125	122	126	120	123	120	130
Points	6.7	7.1	4.8	5.8	5.9	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	4.9	6.0
Circumf.	2.9	3.5	2.9	3.3	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.4	3.1
Length	14.1	14.3	13.3	12.8	12.1	12.6	12.3	12.1	11.4	11.9	10.0	13.3
Spread	10.9	12.6	10.3	11.2	9.7	9.9	9.8	10.0	9.5	9.7	7.8	10.9
% 3.5 Yr	30	27	32	29	16	19	16	41	35	32	16	27
Weight*	140	152	146	130	134	132	139	132	136	131	115	141
Points	7.0	8.0	7.6	7.0	6.5	7.3	7.2	6.4	6.6	5.8	5.1	7.2
Circumf.	3.2	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.8	2.9	3.2	2.9	2.5	3.6
Length	15.1	16.4	16.7	15.5	14.5	15.2	15.6	13.3	13.6	12.0	10.7	15.6
Spread	12.0	13.3	13.5	12.3	12.2	13.2	12.3	11.1	10.9	9.7	8.9	12.6
% 4.5+ Yr	39	15	41	13	3	9	5	11	17	17	6	22
Weight*	161	145	160	132	141	155	165	163	155	136	116	148
Points	7.6	7.8	7.9	8.3	6.0	7.9	8.5	7.5	7.5	7.3	5.1	7.5
Circumf.	4.1	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.3	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.6	2.8	3.9
Length	16.9	16.3	17.9	16.4	11.9	16.5	18.9	16.6	16.9	15.4	11.5	15.9
Spread	14.1	13.2	13.9	12.7	9.1	13.2	14.8	13.6	13.0	11.9	9.6	12.6
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	9	0	0	43	22	7	18	18	0	25	6	15
2.5 Yr	50	33	60	33	77	50	50	54	80	63	65	51
3.5+ Yr	71	55	56	45	43	65	47	65	56	68	67	54
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	3	3	14	18	3	8	8	8	5	7	0	8
% 1.5 Yr	38	20	19	21	30	22	22	19	13	13	10	25
% 2.5 Yr	13	10	24	18	38	35	41	29	25	27	23	20
% 3.5+ Yr	47	67	43	44	30	35	30	45	57	53	67	46
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	67	37	44	48	70	68	61	52	57	58	0	53
1.5 Yr	87	81	89	81	83	77	84	81	76	86	41	84
2.5 Yr	81	78	79	92	92	85	86	90	84	81	69	84
3.5+ Yr	91	98	98	92	96	89	90	94	93	92	90	95

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

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

	Season										Average	
	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00+	99	98	91-94	03-07
Acres	96,756	97,333	95,029	78,756	63,604	63,200	66,210	40,870	38,770	36,270	69,015	86,296
Total Deer	999	951	713	574	328	409	514	397	429	373	1,107	713
Bucks	431	435	296	243	147	212	265	179	199	135	517	310
Does	568	516	417	331	181	197	249	218	230	238	1,457	403
Acres/Deer	97	102	133	137	194	155	129	103	90	97	63	133
Bucks	224	224	321	324	433	298	250	228	195	269	135	277
3.5+ Bucks	515	459	609	796	1097	658	534	486	487	548	642	695
Does	170	189	228	238	351	321	266	188	169	152	120	214
Avg Age ALL Bucks	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.4	2.6
% 0.5 Yr Bucks	6	5	3	6	4	3	2	4	9	12	9	4.9
Weight*	67	64	64	63	61	59	61	59	64	67	63	63.8
% 1.5 Yr	10	14	17	13	21	8	10	15	18	16	45	15
Weight*	109	105	124	105	110	116	122	117	119	114	111	111
Points	2.4	3.0	2.5	3.0	4.1	4.9	5.6	5.4	4.4	3.8	3.0	3.0
Circumf.	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.0
Length	4.1	6.6	6.2	6.4	9.3	9.7	11.2	11.9	9.0	7.3	6.5	6.5
Spread	4.6	7.3	7.0	7.2	7.6	7.1	8.3	9.0	7.9	7.3	6.0	6.7
% 2.5 Yr	36	28	21	36	33	34	33	34	33	23	25	31
Weight*	144	143	143	151	134	142	143	145	144	138	137	143
Points	6.9	6.6	6.4	7.0	6.0	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.4	5.7	6.6
Circumf.	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.3
Length	15.0	13.7	14.1	14.5	12.8	14.9	14.2	14.4	14.0	13.8	13.0	14.0
Spread	11.9	11.1	11.2	12.3	10.0	11.3	11.7	11.4	12.0	11.5	10.1	11.3
% 3.5 Yr	31	33	38	25	25	32	35	30	25	35	16	30
Weight*	158	160	157	161	167	162	159	160	164	152	153	161
Points	7.8	7.4	7.9	7.3	7.4	7.7	7.8	8.2	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.6
Circumf.	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.8
Length	16.8	16.6	15.9	15.8	15.4	16.7	16.5	16.6	15.0	15.5	15.6	16.1
Spread	13.1	13.2	12.6	13.0	12.6	13.0	13.4	13.5	12.5	12.3	12.5	12.9
% 4.5+ Yr	17	21	21	21	17	17	18	17	15	14	5	19
Weight*	174	172	184	184	158	185	176	179	179	171	176	175
Points	8.4	8.2	7.9	8.3	7.5	8.6	9.0	8.0	8.6	7.9	8.5	8.1
Circumf.	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.0	4.3	4.2
Length	18.6	18.4	17.9	18.8	17.0	19.8	18.8	19.4	18.8	18.0	18.5	18.1
Spread	14.4	14.6	14.2	14.7	13.8	15.5	15.1	14.7	16.0	14.3	15.0	14.3
% Doe Lactation												
1.5 Yr	11	6	19	19	10	16	11	12	8	18	15	13
2.5 Yr	56	55	55	48	57	51	55	69	51	67	53	54
3.5+ Yr	75	68	69	66	71	73	67	66	67	75	65	70
Doe Age Classes												
% 0.5 Yr	5	4	6	10	5	3	1	6	5	17	11	6
% 1.5 Yr	23	25	20	23	28	17	19	27	27	21	28	24
% 2.5 Yr	26	28	20	27	21	19	27	26	26	19	20	24
% 3.5+ Yr	47	43	55	41	46	53	49	41	42	43	42	46
Doe Weights*												
0.5 Yr	61	58	58	60	60	56	68	56	58	65	60	60
1.5 Yr	93	91	92	94	93	94	93	94	94	96	93	93
2.5 Yr	102	106	106	108	105	103	103	105	105	101	103	106
3.5+ Yr	110	110	113	115	116	112	117	114	114	111	111	113

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

Enforcement of Deer Hunter-Related Citations 2007-2008

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 24** on page 59. Yearly trends in various citations show some variability.

A total of 2,376 citations were written during the 2007-2008 deer hunting season. This is a decrease of 191 citations from the previous season. The total number of citations was at an all time high in 2003-2004. Over the past 4 hunting seasons, citations have been significantly lower (**Table 23** and **Figure 18**). The decline in citations may be attributed to a combination of factors: violations actually decreased, fewer hunters in the woods, and new or no officers in an area.

It is logical to assume that if fewer citations were written for a specific violation, then a decreased incidence of that violation occurred. Hunting from a motor vehicle and headlighting were violations that notably decreased for the 2007-2008 deer season. Some violations are still occurring at dangerously high levels. Failure to wear hunter orange, which increased slightly 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 the land without a hunter's knowledge. The most common citation in the past deer season was hunting from public roads, which also poses a significant safety threat.

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, number of violations should decrease. However, many hunters are ignoring license requirements and taking their chances. This is evident by the increase in citations for no hunting license by residents.

The number of baiting citations for the 2007-2008 season decreased slightly from last year. However, hunter acceptance of baiting continues to increase. Bait is readily available and a big seller. When a citation is written and a conviction obtained, the minimal fine for this offense is hardly a deterrent to prevent future baiting.

With more hunters managing their land for bigger deer, 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 2 officers, but with concerned sportsmen, they have eyes and ears all over the county.

Figure 18: Total Citations

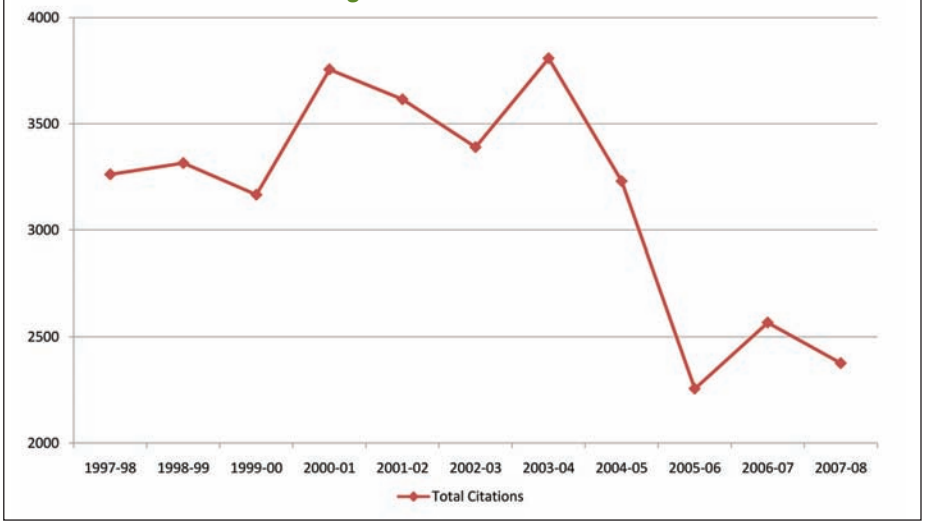


Table 23. Statewide Citations Summary by Most Frequent Violations During Deer Season

Season Totals	Hunt From		No Hunter Orange	No License		Baiting	Tres-passing	Head-lighting	Total Citations
	Motor Vehicle	Public Road		Resident	Non-Resident				
1997-98	476	1063	403	335	112	313	278	282	3262
1998-99	433	1037	409	378	152	356	290	260	3315
1999-00	238	938	415	422	87	449	318	299	3166
2000-01	236	1137	612	505	118	519	297	332	3756
2001-02	120	840	702	491	179	781	275	227	3615
2002-03	99	867	658	491	184	569	240	282	3390
2003-04	136	914	700	482	159	724	330	363	3808
2004-05	104	725	652	391	125	689	283	261	3230
2005-06	57	528	271	445	68	365	343	179	2256
2006-07	59	609	363	341	115	554	223	303	2567
2007-08	33	575	401	356	102	544	207	158	2376

Table 24. Citations Summary of Most Frequent Violations During 2007-2008 Deer Season

County	Hunt From Motor Vehicle	Hunt From Public Road	No Hunter Orange	No License Resident	No License Non-Res	Baiting	Tresspassing	Headlighting	Total Citations
Adams	0	0	7	1	9	13	0	0	30
Alcorn	1	14	6	3	4	0	6	7	41
Amite	1	12	15	2	4	17	2	3	56
Attala	6	17	9	4	1	28	3	4	72
Benton	1	14	5	1	1	4	1	0	27
Bolivar	0	4	2	1	0	1	4	0	12
Calhoun	2	17	5	7	1	1	5	0	38
Carroll	1	0	9	7	1	22	3	2	45
Chickasaw	0	16	3	2	0	6	4	4	35
Choctaw	2	6	5	6	0	5	0	2	26
Claiborne	0	3	6	4	3	8	2	0	26
Clarke	0	2	24	3	3	32	1	0	65
Clay	0	7	9	9	2	2	7	0	36
Coahoma	0	0	4	3	0	1	0	0	8
Copiah	0	2	8	2	7	5	2	0	26
Covington	0	3	4	2	0	6	0	2	17
Desoto	0	4	1	5	2	4	3	1	20
Forrest	0	5	3	7	0	2	4	5	26
Franklin	0	1	2	1	1	8	0	0	13
George	0	8	2	11	3	4	0	6	34
Greene	1	21	9	11	1	7	2	3	55
Grenada	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Hancock	0	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	10
Harrison	0	8	2	2	0	1	1	4	18
Hinds	0	0	2	1	1	3	3	0	10
Holmes	1	1	7	1	2	3	2	0	17
Humphreys	1	3	3	5	1	0	2	1	16
Issaquena	0	2	4	3	0	7	4	1	21
Itawamba	0	35	12	17	0	14	11	16	105
Jackson	0	9	6	11	2	0	9	4	41
Jasper	0	4	17	6	2	37	2	0	68
Jeff Davis	0	0	0	2	1	4	1	0	8
Jefferson	0	1	8	5	1	14	0	1	30
Jones	0	7	9	8	0	8	0	0	32
Kemper	0	6	16	11	7	45	7	0	92
Lafayette	0	16	5	3	4	5	3	2	38
Lamar	0	3	15	3	2	13	0	3	39
Lauderdale	0	1	5	8	1	16	5	0	36
Lawrence	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
Leake	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	2	10
Lee	0	7	1	9	0	4	0	12	33
Leflore	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	4	11
Lincoln	0	7	5	2	2	9	2	1	28
Lowndes	0	2	6	1	0	5	4	7	25
Madison	0	12	2	2	0	1	3	8	28
Marion	3	10	14	8	0	10	4	4	53
Marshall	0	7	6	4	1	6	2	2	28
Monroe	0	24	6	17	0	7	17	5	76
Montgomery	0	3	2	1	2	6	0	0	14
Neshoba	2	2	7	6	0	9	3	0	29
Newton	0	16	4	8	1	9	2	2	42
Noxubee	0	3	4	1	1	1	7	1	18
Oktibbeha	0	0	1	3	0	2	2	0	8
Panola	0	12	9	7	2	26	6	0	62
Pearl River	0	2	3	2	1	0	1	1	10
Perry	0	33	4	11	1	7	1	1	58
Pike	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
Pontotoc	0	8	5	4	0	5	6	6	34
Prentiss	0	23	1	5	0	3	2	2	36
Quitman	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Rankin	1	1	3	7	0	0	3	0	15
Scott	0	1	3	1	1	3	3	0	12
Sharkey	4	14	7	10	2	0	1	2	40
Simpson	0	6	2	9	0	12	0	0	29
Smith	0	21	3	5	0	3	0	7	39
Stone	0	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	10
Sunflower	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	6
Tallahatchie	0	3	1	3	0	1	4	0	12
Tate	0	0	5	5	1	14	1	0	26
Tippah	0	1	1	4	0	1	1	3	11
Tishomingo	0	4	0	3	3	0	1	0	11
Tunica	1	4	4	1	0	4	4	0	18
Union	0	11	1	2	1	5	3	11	34
Walthall	2	3	10	2	2	14	4	2	39
Warren	0	2	4	3	1	5	5	2	22
Washington	0	1	1	6	0	1	0	0	9
Wayne	0	23	4	3	4	6	0	0	40
Webster	0	2	4	4	1	7	0	0	18
Wilkinson	0	2	7	1	5	5	0	0	20
Winston	0	11	2	2	1	0	0	0	16
Yalobusha	0	11	0	7	1	2	4	1	26
Yazoo	1	2	3	3	0	2	6	1	18

2007-2008 Hunting Incident/Accident Summary

Vicki Gardner, Alpen Optics, harvested her first white-tailed deer while on a hunt in Copiah County with Mississippi Outdoors cameraman Scooter Whatley.

A hunting accident/incident is one in which a person is injured by the discharge of a hunting firearm, bow and arrow, or a fall from a hunting tree stand arising from the activity of hunting.

There were 26 total hunting related incident/accidents investigated in Mississippi during the 2007-2008 hunting season, a slight decrease from last season. Of these, 10 were firearm/bow related with 3 fatalities and 16 were tree stand related with 2 fatalities.

The majority of hunting incidents occurred while deer hunting, but there were also incidents reported while dove, duck, rabbit, and turkey hunting. (**Figure 19**).

Firearm related accidents decreased from last year and treestand accidents increased. Hunting accidents declined from 2001until 2006, but total number of accidents has remained relatively constant for the last two seasons. (**Figure 20**).

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 9,848 sportsmen in Hunter Education during the 2007-2008 season (**Figure 21**). Hunting accidents in Mississippi average about one injury for every 13,000 licensed hunters, which is an average of around seven 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.

Youths 12-15 years of age must complete a Hunter Education course in order 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 and older. Youths under 12 years of age must still be under adult supervision while hunting. An apprentice license was created for residents over the age of 15 which do not have the required certificate of hunter education. This apprentice license may be purchased one time only 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 new hunter education requirements, we are confident accident numbers will continue to decline.

2007-2008 Hunting Incident/Accident Data

Figure 19: Hunting Incident by Animal Hunted

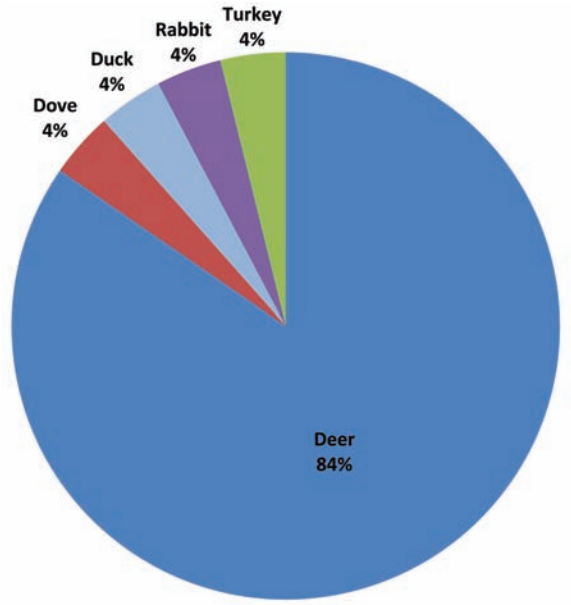


Figure 20: Hunting Incidents

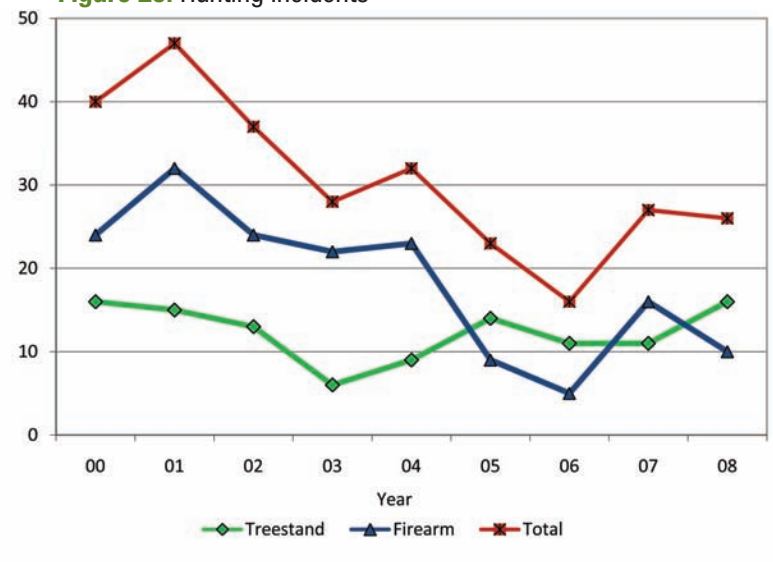


Figure 21: Students Trained by Year

Regional Body and Antler Size Differences in White-tailed Deer: The Beginning

Amy C. Blaylock, Steve Demarais, Bronson Strickland, and Chad M. Dacus

Previous research has documented that deer body weight and antler size vary across soil regions, with greater body mass and antler size in areas of greater soil fertility. However, this information is known only for deer 6 months of age and older. Our objective was to compare fawn size at birth across three soil regions differing in size of harvested deer: the Delta (larger size), Thin Loess (intermediate size), and Lower Coastal Plain (smaller size).

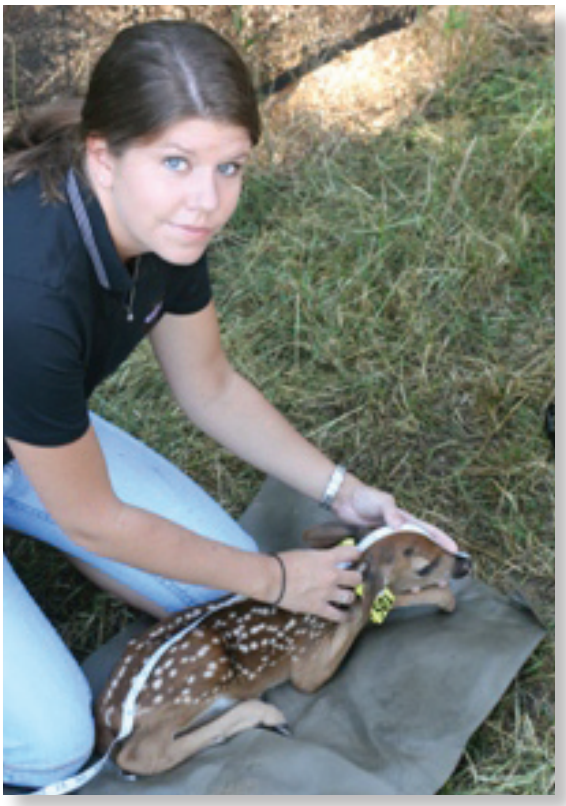
During 2005 and 2006, MDWFP biologists captured bred, adult does from each region and transported them to Mississippi State University for fawning. The soil region of capture affected weight and size of fawns at birth. Fawns born to does from the Lower Coastal Plain weighed less and were smaller than fawns born to does from the Thin Loess and Delta soil regions, similar to patterns observed in adult deer. Growth patterns of these fawns are being further studied as part of the larger project investigating causes of regional variation in body and antler size. This project was supported by the MDWFP using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds, Purina Mills, and private individuals.

Buck Movements in Response to Hunter Density

Andy Little, Steve Demarais, Ken Gee, and Stephen Webb

How many times have you wondered what would happen to the young buck you passed because it didn't meet your management criteria? Would he end up being seen and harvested by another hunter? And, how does hunter density affect buck movements? Do more hunters on your property cause bucks to become less available for harvest by pushing them into heavy cover and nocturnal movement patterns? These are some of the questions to be addressed by Mississippi State University and The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Oklahoma during the gun seasons of 2008 and 2009. Deer movements will be studied at three hunter densities; 1 hunter per 75 acres, 1 hunter per 250 acres, and no hunters on a sanctuary area. We will study buck movements using Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking collars placed on 54 male white-tailed deer 2.5 years old and older. During the hunting season, tracking collars will automatically take locations of the bucks every 8 minutes. Hunters will also carry a GPS unit. We will determine how vulnerable bucks are to harvest and how bucks move and select habitat at different hunter densities. Support for this project is provided by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation.

Andy Little



Emily B. Clemons

Regional Body and Antler Size Differences in White-tailed Deer: Habitat Quality or Genetics?

Emily B. Clemons, Steve Demarais, Chad M. Dacus, and Bronson Strickland

Body mass and antler development of Mississippi's deer population varies by soil region. Although most biologists believe regional differences are due to soil and habitat quality, research is needed to address concerns that there are genetic limitations to antler size. Wild does were captured by the MDWFP in the Delta, Thin Loess, and Lower Coastal Plain soil regions. Their offspring are being raised on optimum nutrition to eliminate potential nutritional effects related to their original habitats. These first generation deer are breeding with deer from the same region at Mississippi State University to produce offspring for a second generation, to eliminate any lingering ancestral effects from the source regions. If there are no body and antler size differences after being raised on optimum nutrition, then genetic limitations can be eliminated as a possible explanation. If differences remain after two generations, then genetics may play a role in body and antler size variation across Mississippi. This research will provide information on regional variation for land owners, so they can have knowledgeable insight for management with respect to their soil fertility. This is a long-term study that requires data collection from two generations of bucks and final results are not expected until 2013. Support for this project is from the MDWFP using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds, Purina Mills, and private individuals.

Estimating Antler Size from Pictures Using Computer Software

Jeremy Flinn, Steve Demarais, Ken Gee, Bronson Strickland, and Stephen Webb

Judging antler size is a skill desired by many deer enthusiasts. Estimating inside spread or beam length is required for some antler restrictions, but judging total antler size using Boone and Crockett score is much more difficult. The widespread use of infrared-triggered cameras (trail cameras) has led to frequent pictures of bucks with unknown antler size. We are attempting to create computer software that will allow estimation of specific antler measurements and gross Boone and Crockett score from photographs. This software will be developed using bucks with known antler scores that have been photographed in Mississippi and Oklahoma. We hope to make the software available on the Mississippi State University and MDWFP web sites. Support for this project is provided by the MDWFP using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds and by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation.

Jeremy Flinn

Deer Forage is Affected by Pine Plantation Establishment Methods

Phil Jones, Scott Edwards, and Steve Demarais

Pine plantation establishment using large amounts of herbicides raised concerns that it would negatively impact deer forage. We measured spring and summer forage production and quality over a range of 5 management intensities in 1 – 5-year-old plantations established on commercial forestland in southern Mississippi (around Hattiesburg) from 2002 – 2006. Establishment intensities ranged from mechanical site preparation followed by a single year of banded herbaceous weed control (low intensity) to both chemical and mechanical site preparation followed by 2 years of broadcast herbaceous weed control (high intensity).

Phil Jones

Mechanical site preparation produced high amounts of deer forage, but nutritional quality was low. Chemical site preparation cleared away lower quality woody vegetation remaining from the previous stand and allowed establishment of more nutritious forbs. Herbaceous weed control applied in spring to control vegetation competing with the newly planted pines reduced forb coverage. Because broadcast weed control affected the entire stand, it reduced forage production more than banded.

When nutritional needs were calculated for body maintenance only, nutritional carrying capacity was greater in the least intensive treatment. However, because body growth, pregnancy, lactation, and antler growth create greater nutritional demands in spring and summer, the best overall combination of forage quality and quantity was found in treatments with chemical site preparation and banded (not broadcast!) herbaceous weed control. Plant nutritional quality is greater on more fertile soils, so the results of this study may be applicable only to the Lower Coastal Plain of Mississippi (lower quality soils). This project was supported by the MDWFP using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, and Weyerhaeuser, Plum Creek, and Molpus Timberlands.

What Does the Moon Have to Say About Deer Breeding Season?

Mike Dye, Steve Demarais, Bronson Strickland, Chad M. Dacus, Dale Prochaska, and Harry Jacobson

Hunting magazines regularly address variation in deer conception dates, which makes exciting reading for hunters wanting an edge on a buck mindlessly chasing does during the rut. The "rutting moon theory" proposed by Charles Alsheimer claims that breeding in the South begins 7 to 21 days after the third full moon following the autumnal equinox (the beginning of Autumn in September when day length and night length are equal). We tested the rutting moon theory using a large sample of individual adult does in research pens from Mississippi State University and Kerr Wildlife Management Area in Texas. We also tested it using a large group of wild populations that have been studied extensively by the MDWFP. The statistical analyses are too complicated to explain in this short note, but it suffices to say we used an exhaustive set of analyses to fairly test this theory that gets so much coverage in hunting magazines. Our results were clear and irrefutable – there was absolutely no relationship between breeding dates of individual and populations and the timing of the "rutting moon." So, don't worry how many days it might be since a certain moon to set your hunting plans. You should still plan your buck hunting with knowledge of the rut, because a doe in season has a remarkable influence on buck behavior. But, when you want to know the best estimate of breeding dates in your hunting area just take a look at the breeding date map located on the MDWFP web site at www.mdwfp.com/deer. Support for this project was provided by Mississippi State University, the MDWFP, and Texas Parks and Wildlife using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds.

Mike Dye

Magnolia Records Program

By: Rick Dillard

The year 2008 marks the 8th year of the Magnolia Records Program. Since the beginning, almost 4,700 deer have been scored, with over 3,000 deer meeting 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 22**). The total number of bucks qualifying for Magnolia Records in each county is depicted in **Figure 23**.

The 2007-2008 hunting season will certainly be recognized in Mississippi deer hunting history as one of the best for numbers of trophy bucks harvested. In fact, a total of 9 bucks were large enough to qualify for the Boone & Crockett record book (**Table 27** and **Table 28**). The largest typical buck scored 176 6/8 and was taken by Paul Warrington in Bolivar County. The largest non-typical buck scored 207 6/8 and was taken by youth hunter Shelby Tate in Amite County. Joe Watt's buck from Madison County was the largest taken by muzzleloader and scored 161 4/8 typical. David Jones harvested the largest muzzleloader non-typical from Holmes County with a score of 171 3/8. Rob Stockett's buck (167 2/8) from Tallahatchie County was the largest typical taken by archery and now stands as the new state record in that category. Lastly, the largest non-typical archery buck was harvested by Roger Tankesly in Madison County and scored 170 3/8.

Rob Stockett – Archery State Record

For many hunters, the true measure of a bonafide trophy is a buck with an inside spread surpassing 20 inches. To date, over 535 deer with inside spreads greater than or equal to 20 inches have been entered. The widest deer on record was harvested during the 2007-2008 hunting season by Terry Cruse in Chickasaw County with an inside spread of 26 5/8 inches. The deer also qualified for the Boone & Crockett Record Book with net score of 205 5/8 non-typical. The second widest buck on record was also harvested during this season by Brad Scrimpshire in Clarke County with an inside spread of 26 4/8 inches and a net score of 155 4/8 typical.

Numerous bucks with gross scores exceeding 170 inches were harvested across the entire state this season including non-traditional trophy areas such as the piney woods area of the southeastern region and the hill country in the northern region. To view recent and past entries in Magnolia Records and their photos visit: www.mdwfp.com/level2/wildlife/magnoliarecords/default.asp.

Figure 22:
MRP Antler Score Range

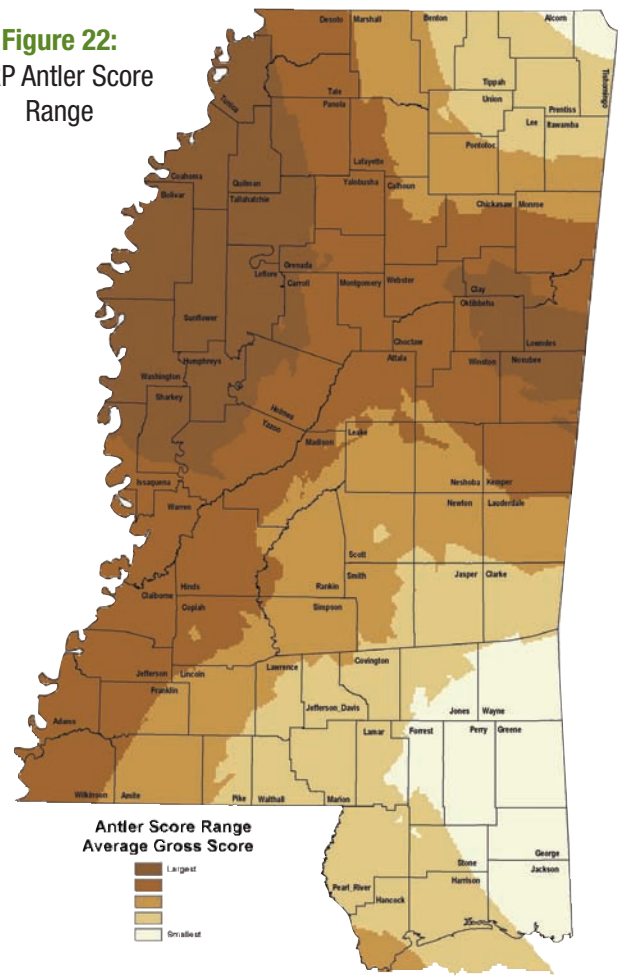
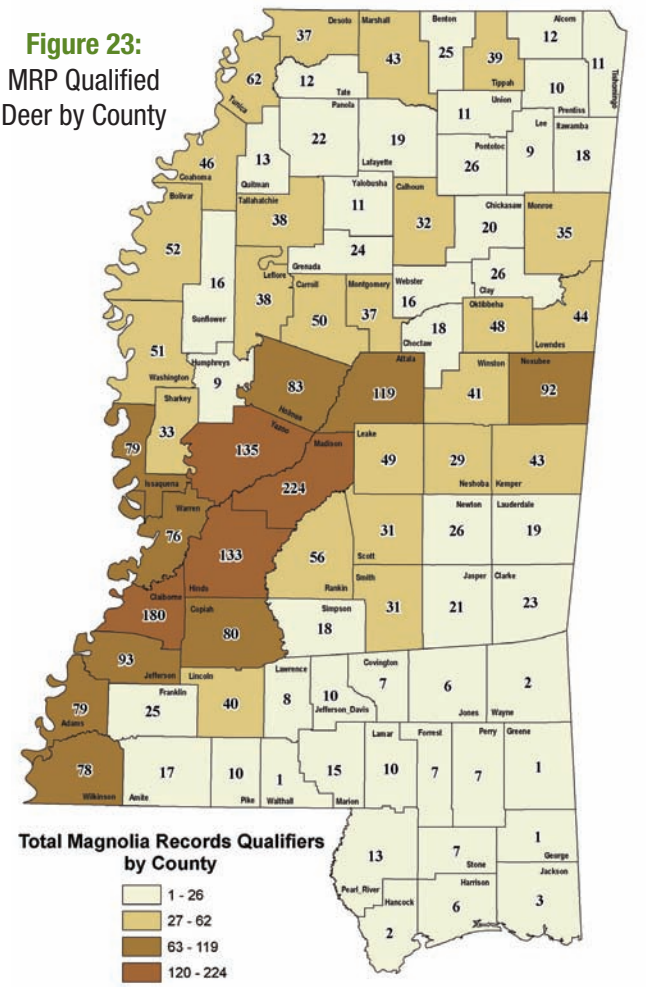


Figure 23:
MRP Qualified Deer by County



Pope and Young Deer Taken in Mississippi

Table 25. 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 3/8	2	Wyn Diggs	2006-07	Holmes
6	177 3/8	2	Adam McCurdy	2005-06	Holmes
7	173 3/4	1	Jimmy Riley	2000-01	Adams
8	170 3/8	2	Roger Tankesly	2007-08	Madison
9	165 5/8	1	James Goss, Jr.	1987-88	Washington
10	163 1/4	2	Rich Nichols	2007-08	Leake

Table 26. Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 125)

RANK	SCORE	STATUS	TAKEN BY	SEASON	COUNTY
1**	167 2/8	2	Rob Stockett, III	2007-08	Tallahatchie
2	165 6/8	2	Carl Taylor	2004-05	Issaquena
3	164 7/8	1	James House	1999-00	Issaquena
4	160 1/8	1	Odis Hill, Jr.	1989-90	Washington
5	159 6/8	1	Steve Nichols	1986-87	Washington
6	158 4/8	1	John Harvey	1989-90	Adams
7	157 1/8	3	Ryan H. McCarty	2006-07	Clay
8	157	1	James Morris	1998-99	Tunica
9	156 7/8	2	Allen Henry	1993-94	Simpson
10	156 2/8	1	Chris Cordell	1996-97	DeSoto

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

Boone and Crockett Deer Taken in Mississippi

Table 27. Non-Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 195)

RANK	SCORE	STATUS	TAKEN BY	SEASON	COUNTY
1 **	295 6/8	1	Tony Fulton	1994-95	Winston
2	225	1	Richard Herring	1988-89	Lowndes
3	221 2/8	1	Milton Parrish	1972-73	Holmes
4	220 3/8	1	Dean Jones	1976-77	Oktibbeha
5	219 6/8	2	Brian Smith	2006-07	Marshall
6	219 2/8	1	Matt Woods	1997-98	Hinds
7	217 5/8	1	Mark Hathcock	1977-78	Carroll
8	216 5/8	4	(Pick up) Matthew Freeny	1989-99	Winston
9	212 5/8	2	Stephen McBrayer	2005-06	Pontotoc
10	212	1	Wayne Parker	1999-00	Madison
11	210	4	(Pick up) Chip Haynes	2000-01	Madison
12	209 6/8	1	Ronnie Strickland	1981-82	Franklin
13	207 6/8	2	Shelby Tate	2007-08	Amite
14	207 3/8	1	Larry Reece	2001-02	Madison
15	205 6/8	1	Joe Shurden	1976-77	Lowndes
16	205 5/8	2	Terry Cruse	2007-08	Chickasaw
17	205 2/8	3	Jimmy Baker	2007-08	Webster
18	205	1	(Pick up) Tommy Yateman	1959	Lowndes
19	204	1	Denver Eshee	1996-97	Webster
20	202 5/8	1	George Galey	1960'S	Carroll
21	202 4/8	1	William Westmoreland	2001-02	Pontotoc
22 +	202 1/8	1	Oliver Lindig	1983-84	Oktibbeha
22 +	202 1/8	2	Bobby Smith	1992-93	Tate
24	201 6/8	1	Jimmy Ashley	1985-86	Wilkinson
25	201 3/8	1	Ray Barrett	2002-03	Washington

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

Boone and Crockett Deer Taken in Mississippi

Table 28. Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 170)

RANK	SCORE	STATUS	TAKEN BY	SEASON	COUNTY
1 **	182 7/8	1	Glen Jourdan	1986-87	Noxubee
2	182 2/8	1	R. L. Bobo	1955-56	Claiborne
3	181 5/8	1	Ronnie Whitaker	1980-81	Wilkinson
4	180 4/8	1	W. F. Smith	1968-69	Leflore
5	180 2/8	1	Steve Greer	1995-96	Madison
6	179 2/8	1	Marlon Stokes	1988-89	Hinds
7	178 5/8	1	Grady Robertson	1951-52	Bolivar
8	176 6/8	2	Paul Warrington	2007-08	Bolivar
9	176 5/8	1	Sidney Sessions	1952-53	Bolivar
10	176 1/8	1	J.D. Hood	1972-73	Monroe
11 +	175 2/8	1	Johnnie Leake, Jr.	1977-78	Wilkinson
11 +	175 2/8	1	Charlie G. Wilson, II	2001-02	Neshoba
13	175	2	Kyle Gordon	2005-06	Madison
14 +	174 6/8	1	O. P. Gilbert	1960-61	Coahoma
14 +	174 6/8	1	Jeremy Boelte	1997-98	Adams
16 +	174 1/8	1	William Ladd	1999-00	Noxubee
16 +	174 1/8	4	Mike Shell-owner	1940	Warren
16 +	174 1/8	1	Bill Walters	1995-96	Coahoma
19	173 5/8	1	Geraline Holliman	1982-83	Lowndes
20	173 3/8	1	Richard Powell	1994-95	Coahoma
21	173 2/8	4	Allen Hunley	2007-08	Hinds
22	173	2	Steve Simmons	2007-08	Tallahatchie
23	172 5/8	1	Adrian Stallone	1983-84	Adams
24 +	172	1	Barry Barnes	2003-04	Yazoo
24 +	172	1	Nan Foster New	1977-78	Adams

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

In Conclusion

Photo by Christopher Shea

Status

As in previous reports, data collected from a wide array of sources during the 2007-2008 season continued to indicate a diverse statewide deer herd. Unique populations continued to exist in all regions of the state. The 2007-2008 season will go down as one of the best ever recorded, from a bumper acorn crop to a new state archery record.

Condition data and field habitat evaluations conducted by biologists continued to document the effects of current and long-term overpopulation in some areas of the state. Degradation of deer habitat and noticeable substandard condition indicators such as low reproduction were prevalent. Many locations in the state have experienced on-going damage of native browse by overpopulation of the deer herd since the early 1970's. Deer habitat on poorer soils has been damaged at a greater level than habitat on more fertile soils. In addition, habitat damage on lower fertility soils requires a longer recovery time than on the more fertile soils in regions like the Mississippi Delta. Reduction of deer populations to levels where habitat can recover is unacceptable to many hunters. The result has been continued over-use of quality browse species by deer.

The positive effects of Hurricane Katrina are beginning to be realized. Positive effects of a devastating hurricane are hard to fathom, however there were many beneficial outcomes from the storm. In 2005, access was limited in many areas and hunter man-days and harvest declined in southeast Mississippi. Access to these lands was improved prior to the 2006-2007 season, but man-days and harvest did not returned to pre-Katrina levels. During the 2007-2008 season, access returned to normal, harvest increased, habitat began to recover, and older deer were harvested.

Declines in deer condition and habitat quality have occurred in regions of the state where extensive acreage were converted from agriculture to pine monocultures in the late 1980s. Assorted federal and state incentive programs perpetuated this condition by providing cost-share opportunities to landowners. The result was an increasing acreage of densely planted plantations of pine on sites with a history of agriculture. Herbicide applications to other pine plantations to prevent competition and thereby eliminating browse plants caused decreased body weights and reproduction. Minimal amounts of deer forage were found in these sites, which allow only a moderate deer population to cause over-utilization of the browse that does occur. The result was a poor herd health due to a lack of quality and quantity of native browse plants. However, most of these pine monocultures are at mid-rotation age (14-20 years old). Timber thinning has begun on some of these sites, resulting in additional browse production because sunlight is reaching the forest floor where it has been lacking in the past. These thinning along with mid-rotation stand improvements (i.e., herbicide application and/or prescribed fire) will drastically improve browse production.

For the fifth year, a tool was offered to landowners and hunting clubs which suffer from extreme overpopulation or whose objective is to reduce total deer numbers. This tool is also effective for the removal of management bucks on above average habitat. Legislation was passed in 2003 allowing the harvest of sub - 4 point bucks by special permit; and was altered to include management bucks in 2005. Landowners or clubs must meet certain requirements, such as cooperating with an approved wildlife biologist and be enrolled in DMAP for a minimum of at least one year to be eligible for these tags. A written justification from the biologist must be approved by the MDWFP Deer Committee before management tags will be issued to a property. The biologist recommendations are used to determine the management buck criteria on individual properties.

Recommendations

Statewide variance in parameters such as breeding dates, condition indicators, and changes in habitat quality continue to warrant intelligent site-specific deer management recommendations. Because of the extreme diversity in management needs across the state, landowners can implement these recommendations only if they are provided with a season framework that offers maximum opportunity or with special permits that allow additional opportunity.

A liberal antlerless season framework is mandatory if landowners are to meet management goals. Antlerless opportunity should be provided to allow landowners in all regions of the state the opportunity to manage deer populations. Decision makers will receive an increasing number of negative reports associated with antlerless hunting opportunity, as behavioral changes in the deer population create changes that make deer less visible to hunters. Continued complaints will arise as hunters incorrectly associate decreasing deer populations to antlerless season opportunity. These complaints will be more frequent in areas of the state with poor soil quality, previously high deer populations, and/or declining habitat quality.

An effective method to monitor statewide harvest on a county basis is needed to take deer management to the next level in Mississippi. Harvest data, which would include sex, harvest method, and county of harvest would provide information from which detailed analyses of the deer herd could occur. A telephone-based reporting system, which provides this type of information, is currently in use in many states across the Southeast. Harvest data at a county level are instantaneously available to wildlife officials in these states. Voluntary implementation of a similar, efficient and cost-effective system, known as Tel-Chek, began in 2002, but has been underutilized. A mandatory tagging and reporting system like Tel-Chek would provide biologists with much needed data, and law enforcement officers with a new tool to catch violators.

Evaluation of the 4-Point Law has led to a recommendation by the MDWFP Deer Committee to eliminate this law. The new proposal is to divide the state into 3 Deer Management Zones and use a minimum spread or main beam length criteria based on local parameters in place of one statewide point based criteria. The proposal includes recommendations to change the antlerless bag limit from 3 antlerless deer with any weapon and 2 additional antlerless deer with archery equipment to 5 antlerless deer with any weapon. Additionally, the proposal is to alter the 3 buck bag limit to 2 bucks that meet antler criteria and one buck of choice (AKA “Charlie” Buck). This would give the hunter more flexibility to manage the deer herd on their property.

Research funding should continue. Continued advancement of the state deer program hinges on the professional association and interaction with current deer research projects. The MDWFP Wildlife Technical Staff has benefited professionally from this relationship with Mississippi State University for over 20 years. Many of the advances in the management of Mississippi’s deer herd would not have occurred without this relationship. The opportunity to find answers, which address practical management questions, should continue to receive priority.

Existing data collection procedures on public and private lands must continue if responsible harvest recommendations for these lands are expected. Extensive baseline data exists from which objective evaluations can be conducted to examine the effects of changes in habitat, hunting opportunity, and harvest schemes. The annual mail survey will continue to be a valuable tool to monitor trends in a variety of important categories.

Information and education should remain the top priority of the deer program in Mississippi. Deer management needs are well documented in most regions of the state. Landowner and hunter understanding, acceptance, and support of sound deer management will continue to determine the success of deer management in Mississippi. Deer management objectives should be better communicated to the users of this resource. Without landowner and hunter support, success is not expected. When provided the freedom, sportsmen in Mississippi have proven they can make informed decisions that benefit the deer resource if they are provided with the correct management and biological information.

Notes

Notes

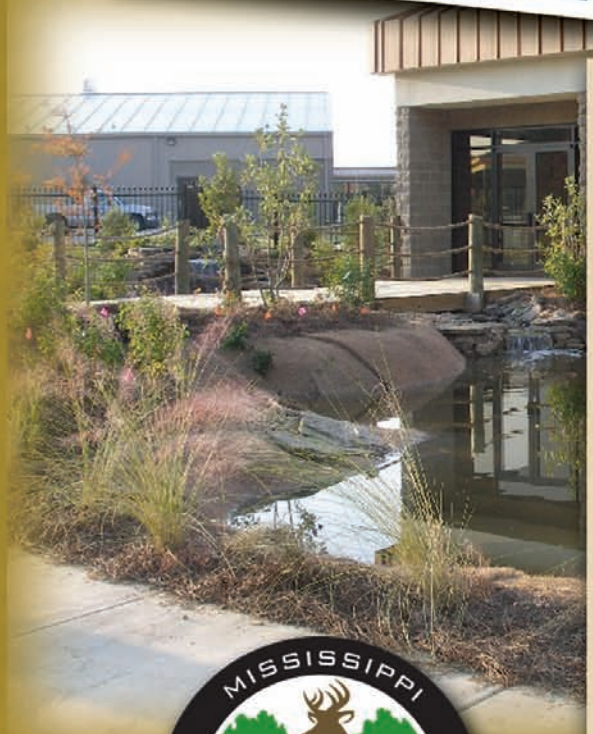
Notes

Mississippi Outdoors for KIDS

2008-09 CURRENT PROJECTS

- Ms Archery in Schools
- Pascagoula River Fish Restocking *(Partnered with MS Power Foundation)*
- Whitetail Deer Research Program
- MS Kids Outdoors
- Fallen Officers Memorial
- North Ms. Fish Hatchery

Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks



Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks

Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Protect and Preserve our Wildlife Heritage! Your tax deducible contribution will help the Foundation ensure that Mississippi's natural resources will be available for generations to come. Donations are accepted at all license locations.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

www.mdwfp.com
www.foundationmwfp.com
or call (601) 432-2355

The MDWFP is an equal opportunity employer and provider of programs and services. If anyone believes they have been subjected to discrimination on the basis of political affiliation, race, color, national origin, marital status, sex, religion, creed, age, or disability, they may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Office of Administrative Services, P.O. Box 451, Jackson, MS 39205-0451, or the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1801 L. Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20507.

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
P.O. Box 451 | Jackson, Mississippi 39205

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

TO:

STANDARD MAIL
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jackson, MS
Permit 449

POSTMASTER: This package may be opened for inspection if necessary.