

Minnesota Deer Population and Management Archive

Articles are in alphabetical order. Related articles may be grouped. Some links to the original article may no longer be active, but the link will go to the original source where the full article may be found by searching that website. A snippet of information is saved here from copyrighted articles.

2024

[Anderson: In north woods deer hunting debate, we're not seeing the forest](#) February 18, 2024 Yahoo! Sports

... wolves appear to be sustaining themselves on food sources other than deer, and therefore — at least for the time being — their numbers are not tracking downward in concert with deer populations, as is usually the case in predator-prey cycles... others say that increasing the breadth and quality of northeast habitat is the best chance hunters have to boost the region's deer numbers...

[Video of wolf killing deer in northern Minnesota becomes political fodder](#) February 13, 2024 Minnesota, Star Tribune

...U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber, R-Minn., [posted the video](#) on several social media sites along with a warning. "As you can see, wolves lost any fear of humans and are increasingly dangerous to livestock and pets and decimating our deer here," ..,

[This year's mild winter largely beneficial for fish and wildlife species](#) February 3, 2024 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald

... "The past couple of winters were hard on deer, of course, and deer right now, throughout, I'd say all of Minnesota, are doing just fine and able to access food..."
[Blane Klemek, Northwest Region wildlife manager] ..,

[Final Deer Harvest Numbers in Minnesota Are Historically Low](#) January 18, 2024 WJON

... down this year compared to last year by approximately 8%... the final 2023 numbers and with all the seasons combined Minnesota had 158,746 deer harvested... 2023 was the lowest amount of deer harvested since 2014..,

[Shakopee Mdewakanton, University of Minnesota partner on deer research](#) January 10, 2024 Minnesota, Red Lake Nation News

... "Managing deer populations in densely populated areas is important, but little is actually known about suburban deer ecology," ... will use low-flying helicopters with nets to catch deer, fit them with GPS radio collars ...

2023

[Suit seeks halt to tightened deer farm regulations](#) December 29, 2023 Minnesota, MPR News

... A group of Minnesota deer farmers is suing the state over new regulations that they allege are intended to eradicate the industry. In May, state lawmakers approved a moratorium on new deer farms in an effort to halt the spread of chronic wasting disease ...

[Agencies expect further decline in the number of Minnesota deer farms](#) December 27, 2023 Outdoor News

... The number of white-tailed deer farms in Minnesota dropped from 195 at the end of fiscal year 2020 to 125 at the end of fiscal year 2023 ... the state Legislature passed several new laws that altered oversight and regulations for certain farms...

[Cougar spotted on video roaming through Minneapolis's Lowry Hill neighborhood](#)

December 5, 2023 Minnesota, CBS News

... Cougars are rarely seen in the state but occasionally do appear, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Since 2004, there have been 77 [verified cougar sightings](#)... "It's really rare," DNR Large Carnivore Specialist Dan Stark said. "To have it in a densely human-populated area ...

[A new Minnesota deer hunters group wants to shake up the politics of wolf control](#)

November 30, 2023 Star Tribune

... most recently estimated the state's population at about 2,700 wolves... A big part of HFH's recruitment pitch is that no one is fighting for a wolf hunt. The group believes a hunt is needed... this year plummeted 35% below the five-year mean. The snow has made deer more vulnerable to wolves and other predators, the DNR has said... a string of deep-snow winters ...

[Deer registrations continue long decline](#) November 29, 2023 Minnesota, The Timberjay

... Reductions in deer numbers due to winter mortality and cuts in antlerless permits combined to account for most of that drop.

The seven northeastern Minnesota permit areas that experienced the highest WSI readings last winter saw a collective registration decline of 34 percent over last year and 44 percent over deer registrations in 2021...the last two winters have been generally considered severe due mostly to deep and dense snowpack ...

[The DNR needs to act as wolves decimate deer in northeast Minnesota](#) November 17,

2023 Star Tribune

... DNR brass will tell you the northeast deer problem is the result of a perfect storm, blaming bad winters, an aging forest and oh, yes, wolves... "This fall, in seven days of hunting, I've seen the same doe twice," he said. "That's it." ...

[Wolves aren't to blame for a disappointing deer hunt. data show](#) November 22, 2023

Wisconsin, Southern Minn

... hunters in the northeast are generally less likely to bag a buck than hunters elsewhere, and that there's been a slight downward trend in the odds of a successful hunt in both the northeast and statewide. That said, the numbers are still well above lows set in 2014 and 2015, when some [especially harsh winters](#) drove deer populations down...

[Minnesota DNR Conservation Officer weekly reports. Few Deer](#) November 16, 2023

Ely Echo

... Many hunters contacted stated that the snow cover that initially attracted them to the area also had the effect of showing there were very few deer present in the woods...

[District 6 - Two Harbors]

[Minnesota firearms deer harvest rallies but remains below 2022 numbers](#) November 14, 2023 Grand Forks Herald

... Hunters had registered 106,538 deer through Monday, Nov. 13, statistics showed. That's down 5% from 2022, 16% when compared with the five-year mean and 29% when compared with 2017 harvest totals in the same time frame...

[The State of Minnesota's Whitetail Population: Challenges and Opportunities](#) November 8, 2023 EnergyPortal.eu

... The recent opening weekend of the firearms deer season in Minnesota has raised concerns about the state's whitetail population. Reports from field officers suggest a significant decline in deer sightings ... The encroachment of human development and changes in land use patterns may be shrinking the available habitat for deer, forcing them into more remote areas...

[Data and observations back it up: Not much bang in Minnesota deer opener](#) November 8, 2023 AOL

... According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the statewide harvest of deer during the opener last weekend was 13% below last year's mark, which was lower than the year before. As of Tuesday morning, hunters had registered 75,900 deer statewide...

[Hunters May See Fewer Deer in Northern MN During Firearms Opener](#) November 2, 2023 Minnesota, Lakeland PBS

... "Overall, deer populations are faring pretty well throughout most of the state. In northern Minnesota, our deer populations did face [a] second consecutive severe winter,

and so hunters may see lower deer numbers in northern Minnesota,” said Barb Keller, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ Big Game Program Leader. “In response to that, we have lower bag limits ...

[Humans have substantially altered the relationship between wolves and deer, finds study](#) October 30, 2023 Minnesota, University of Minnesota

... By altering forest ecosystems, humans have created an environment that possibly favors the predators... published in [Ecological Applications](#) ... Wolves disproportionately hunt and kill deer fawns around recently logged areas ...

[Minnesota Deer Hunters Face Major Regulation Changes In 2023](#) October 23, 2023 B105country

... The Minnesota DNR increased the bag limit or lottery permits in 12 deer permit areas this year, 80 DPAs have the same designation as last year, and 38 DPAs have reduced bag limits or lottery permits...

[What Minnesota deer hunters can expect this season \[2023-24\]](#) October 16, 2023 DNR News

... Deer populations are increasing in southern Minnesota, and deer fared well over the winter... Deer populations remain robust and highly productive in central Minnesota, and deer also fared well over the winter... Deer populations in many northern areas of Minnesota are still struggling to recover, following back-to-back severe winters... Deer populations are mostly stable in northwestern Minnesota...

[Billboard's claim ignites social media controversy](#) October 4, 2023 Minnesota, The Timberjay

...The billboard, which is expected to remain up for a few more days at least, makes a controversial claim— that the state’s estimated 2,800 gray wolves consume 54,000 white-tailed deer fawns a year... the Sturgeon River chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association ... is the entity that rented the billboard ...

[All About Habitat](#) September 21, 2023 Minnesota DNR News

... In the northeast part of the state, the Minnesota DNR planted more than 63,000 conifer and oak trees across multiple sites through the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant program (with help from North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District). These trees are critical for creating snow shelters and travel corridors for deer in their wintering areas along the St. Louis River...

[Minnesota DNR invites deer hunters to share wildlife observations](#) August 28, 2023 MN DNR

... “We’re asking deer hunters to share their observations of wildlife to help broaden our knowledge about deer and other wildlife species,” said Eric Michel, Minnesota DNR ungulate research scientist. “This is our fourth year using a community science approach, and we’re hoping to build on the helpful results from the last few years.” The Minnesota DNR uses the information to supplement population estimates ...

[Minnesota DNR assuming oversight of state’s deer farms as new laws take shape](#)
August 24, 2023 Minnesota, Outdoor News

... One of the changes: the Minnesota DNR having full authority over those deer farms. The DNR previously had had regulatory authority of whitetailed deer farms until 2005, when the Legislature transferred that authority to the state’s Board of Animal Health...

[Northeast Minnesota deer permit areas predominantly bucks-only for 2023 deer](#) August 18, 2023 WTIP

... white-tailed deer populations have declined in the northeast region of Minnesota in the past decade ... Following continued low deer populations due to wolf predation and severe winters in recent years, the [DNR has continued to scale back antlerless lottery permits](#) ...

[Collaboration looks to boost moose habitat across northeast Minnesota](#) August 21, 2023 Ely Echo

... the 2023 population estimate of 3,290 moose marks a decade of Minnesota's moose population remaining relatively stable ... without consistent, large-scale, natural disturbance on the landscape from wildfire and wind events, wildlife managers use vegetation management techniques like timber harvest to mimic these disturbances for moose habitat creation...

[Significant deer hunting regulation changes this year](#) August 13, 2023 Minnesota, MessageMedia.co

... After a tough winter, deer hunters in northern Minnesota might see fewer deer. In central and southern Minnesota, deer likely fared well... 38 DPAs have reduced bag limits or lottery permits ...

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issues reminders for 2023 deer hunting season](#) August 1, 2023 KTTC

... In northern Minnesota, our deer populations did face second consecutive severe winter. And so, hunters may see lower deer numbers in Minnesota...

[Deer hunting regulations, hunting licenses now available](#) August 1, 2023 Minnesota DNR News

... After a tough winter, deer hunters in northern Minnesota might see fewer deer. In central and southern Minnesota, deer likely fared well. "Hunters in most of Minnesota can expect a season similar to last year in terms of how many deer they can harvest," Keller said. "The lower bag limits in northeast and north-central Minnesota aim to allow deer populations to recover after back-to-back severe winters. Deer are resilient and we are hopeful deer populations there will gradually recover along with lower harvests, especially if we get some mild winters." The Minnesota DNR increased the bag limit or lottery permits in 12 deer permit areas this year, 80 DPAs have the same designation as last year, and 38 DPAs have reduced bag limits or lottery permits...

[DNR finds a new way to study fawns](#) July 14, 2023 Minnesota, Ely Echo

... “We wanted to determine whether we could find a more effective way of locating newborn fawns in our study area, and that led us to drones with thermal infrared,” ... Before drones, researchers would find and collar fawns by walking through the fields trying to get lucky...

[Cook County becomes first in the state to ban deer and elk farms](#) May 5, 2023

Minnesota, WTIP

... The ban on cervid farms will prohibit deer farms in an effort to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). The unanimous vote by the county board on April 25 updates the county's zoning ordinance to prohibit cervid farms...

[Legislators vote for ban on new deer farms to fight wasting disease](#) May 5, 2023

Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... agreement reached Thursday night by a conference committee ... The negotiated deal, brokered by Sen. Kelly Morrison, DFL-Deephaven, also would shift oversight of deer farms from the Board of Animal Health to the Department of Natural Resources...

[U of M researchers develop technique for rapid detection of neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's and CWD](#) May 1, 2023 Minnesota, University of Minnesota

... The method will likely open a door for earlier treatment and mitigation of various diseases that affect humans, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and similar diseases that affect animals, such as chronic wasting disease (CWD). Their new study is published in [Nano Letters](#)...

[Biologist “not hitting the panic button” despite 30% drop in moose count](#) April 7, 2023

Minnesota, StarTribune

... "Stabilized doesn't mean the population is constant," John Giudice, DNR wildlife biometrician, said in the news release. Instead, annual changes since 2013 "appear to be relatively small on average and random, with some years showing a population increase and others a decrease. ... Minnesota moose remain at risk given long-term trends." ... [[read the news release from DNR](#)]

[As winter drags on in Minnesota, more deer will die](#) April 6, 2023 Duluth News Tribune

... it's not just deer that die outright that continues to keep the Arrowhead region deer herd down. Female deer that survive winter in severe areas are likely to give birth to just one fawn, or none at all, instead of the usual twins, a factor that will hold the regional population down for years to come..,

[All this snow is bad news for young deer](#) April 5, 2023 Minnesota, Detroit Lakes Tribune

..."We are having our most severe winter since at least 2013-14, and I expect significant winter mortality in fawns, and potentially some adult deer," said Robert Baden, DNR area wildlife supervisor..,

[Massive natural resource bill advances at Minnesota Capitol](#) April 4, 2023 Duluth News Tribune

... Move responsibility for deer and elk farms from the state Board of Animal Health to the DNR, and also require live animal testing of captive deer and elk as well as other stricter regulations on cervid farms, including a ban on any new farms and restrictions against importing any animals from areas with any history of chronic wasting disease...

[Record snow and cold are having a deadly impact on Minnesota's deer population](#)

March 29, 2023 KARE 11

... This has been the eighth snowiest winter in Minnesota history and it hasn't just been a headache for humans. The winter has had a much deadlier impact on the state's deer population..,

[Bill would give DNR more flexibility in elk management](#) March 25, 2023 Minnesota, Yahoo News

... The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would no longer be required to set elk populations based on depredation complaints under legislation now making its way through the Minnesota Legislature...

[Deer harvest down 7% from a year ago, DNR says](#) February 25, 2023 Minnesota, Marshall Independent

... harvested about 170,000 deer during the 2022 season ... “Lower deer numbers in northern Minnesota and poor weather during opening weekend in some parts of the state likely contributed to lower firearms season harvest,” said DNR Big Game Program Leader Barb Keller...

[Tough weeks still ahead for whitetails](#) February 22, 2023 The Timberjay

... For whitetail deer, deep snow is typically the biggest challenge for winter survival ...A 2020 analysis of northcentral Minnesota climate trends by a U.S. Forest Service researcher confirms that winters have warmed significantly in recent decades, which is helpful to whitetail deer. Yet, snowfall has been on the rise as well, at least in the past decade, as milder air is able to hold more water vapor and helps lead to deeper snowfalls than was the norm in the recent past ...

[Minnesota DNR announces 2022 deer season preliminary harvest results, CWD management findings](#) February 21, 2023 DNR News

... “Lower deer numbers in northern Minnesota and poor weather during opening weekend in some parts of the state likely contributed to lower firearms A season harvest,” ... CWD was detected in 26 hunter-harvested deer through the 2022 fall seasons. Of these, 73% were from the southeast, a region that continues to see persistent CWD infections in wild deer...

Moose habitat planning effort receives America the Beautiful Challenge grant

January 19, 2023 Minnesota, DNR News

... A federal grant award will fund collaborative planning by the DNR to further large-scale moose habitat restoration in northeast Minnesota. The award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, through the [America the Beautiful Challenge](#), will provide \$443,600 to the DNR for the planning effort, with a goal of an implementation plan for moose habitat restoration on three areas of 10,000 to 50,000 contiguous acres each...

[DNR invites public input on deer population goals](#) January 17, 2023 Minnesota, Northland Press

... “We’re excited to hear people’s thoughts and encourage anyone with an interest in deer management to give feedback on deer population trends in the areas where they live, work and recreate,” said Todd Froberg, DNR big game program coordinator... Beginning Monday, Jan. 23 ...

[DNR finalizes wolf management plan. learn what it means for deer and moose in northern Minnesota](#) January 5, 2023 Minnesota, WTIP

... The DNR estimates that the moose population lingers between 3000-4000. Compared to upwards of 8000 in 2005... moose in northeastern Minnesota appear to be declining primarily due to high mortality, fewer breeding-age females, and reduced numbers of calves surviving to adulthood ... in the northeast, wolf predation is the leading cause of death for moose calves during their first 30-50 days of life...

2022

[Will Minnesota's moose ever thrive again?](#) December 31, 2022 inforum

... First it was northwestern Minnesota's moose that disappeared, in the 1990s, from thousands to virtually none over just one decade. Then, northeastern moose numbers crashed by 70% from a modern high of 8,840 moose estimated in 2006 to just 2,700 by 2013..,

[Minnesota Democrats hope to sharply limit the deer farm industry in push to fight CWD](#)

December 16, 2022 MinnPost

... Minnesota farms that raise elk and deer for meat or captive hunts could soon face sharp limits from DFL lawmakers concerned about a critical disease risk to wild herds. Chronic wasting disease ...

[To combat CWD, late-season deer hunting announced for 9 areas of Minnesota](#)

December 2, 2022 Minnesota, Bring MeTheNews

... The Minnesota DNR has announced that late-season deer hunting will be allowed in nine permit areas across the state, in an effort to combat the deadly Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)...

[Minnesota deer season generates big bucks](#) November 7, 2022 KSTP-TV

... Pre-pandemic numbers from the DNR showed retail sales connected to the deer hunt meant \$260 million in retail sales and generated \$33 million in sales taxes...

[Northeastern Minnesota outlook for Saturday's firearms deer opener](#) November 4, 2022, WDIO

... "In northeastern Minnesota deer populations have struggled to recover from several severe winters and the winter of 2021 was indeed severe in many parts of northeastern and some parts of north central Minnesota. So, we have reduced harvest opportunities in some parts of this area ..."

[Fewer hunters, CWD and warm temps impact upcoming deer opener](#) November 2, 2022 Minnesota, KARE 11

... Deer hunting has a \$500 million economic impact on the state and if license sales continue to fall, so too will funding for conservation efforts... The DNR says the number of deer hunters is declining — by as much as 3% yearly ...

[Northeastern Minnesota outlook for Saturday's firearms deer opener](#) November 4, 2022, WDIO

... "In northeastern Minnesota deer populations have struggled to recover from several severe winters and the winter of 2021 was indeed severe in many parts of northeastern and some parts of north central Minnesota. So, we have reduced harvest opportunities in some parts of this area ..."

[Reps. Hansen, Ecklund, and Becker-Finn Urge Action to Combat Chronic Wasting Disease](#) October 26, 2022 Minnesota Legislature

... “The Legislature must take immediate action to prevent the spread of CWD which is devastating our deer population. The health of our natural environment hinges on our ability to manage this crisis,” ... The representatives are also proposing expanded deer monitoring for PFAS, and neonicotinoids in deer to track and understand additional factors which impact the health of the deer population...

[Pesticide exposure tied to deer die-off in Minnesota](#) October 7, 2022 Lewiston Tribune

... State biologists found neonicotinoids in nearly all — 94% — of deer spleens collected from road kill and sent in by hunters last fall. Alarming, roughly two-thirds of those deer had higher concentrations of the chemicals than a threshold found to potentially lower fawn survival and cause bone and genital deformities in a captive deer study...

[Nearly all Minnesota deer exposed to pesticides linked to pollinator die-off](#) September 10, 2022 StarTribune

... pesticides linked to bee, butterfly and pollinator deaths across the nation are being found in the organs of far more of Minnesota's wild deer, and in higher concentrations, than previously thought. State biologists found neonicotinoids in nearly all — 94% — of deer spleens collected from road kill ...

[Minnesota DNR shares changes to upcoming deer hunting season](#) September 9, 2022 WTIP

... Deer populations along the North Shore and the greater Superior Uplands Arrowhead region have steadily declined. And after a harsh winter, deer populations show no signs of improvement...

[New deer season regulations offer ample opportunities for northwest Minnesota](#) August 5, 2022 Yahoo! Sports

... in the far northwest were ... mortality wasn't as much of a factor as maybe a lot of us thought going into deer season-setting ... "When we get into that farm country, the habitat just isn't there, and that's a big part of it," Klemek said. "The deer permit areas there are managed, typically, more restricted." ...

[Fewer Minnesota doe permits in some areas after deep-snow winter](#) August 1, 2022

Duluth News Tribune

... Deer hunters across Minnesota will have about the same opportunities to bag a deer or two this fall compared to last, except in parts of northern Minnesota, where a deep-snow winter pushed the Department of Natural Resources to reduce the number of antlerless deer permits in an effort to rebuild the herd...

[State of Wolves: 5 key takeaways](#) July 9, 2022 Star Tribune

... Minnesota is the only place in the contiguous United States to never kill all its wolves... several hundred survived deep in the northern woods ... More than 2,700 wolves live in Minnesota ... Their effect on deer populations also has not changed since the late 1990s...

[However vague, there's movement in state's most recent wolf management plan](#) July 2, 2022 Minnesota, StarTribune

... "Among the collared cow moose in our study group this spring, 100 percent of calves suffered mortality," said Seth Moore, director of biology and environment for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. "About half were killed by wolves and about half by bears. Because of the tough winter, we also had some stillborn calves." ...

[Fawns collared, tracked for second year as part of long-term study](#) June 13, 2022

Minnesota DNR News

... With the aid of a contracted drone pilot, the research team locates fawns, usually one to five days old, in their natural habitat. From there, a team of three to four people on the ground locates and captures the fawn to check length, weight and overall health while also slipping on a flexible GPS collar that expands as the young deer grows...

[Winter conditions keep grip Up North, but whitetails show resilience](#) April 21, 2022 Star Tribune

... weather-related fawn deaths have been reported sporadically across the northern tier ... under conditions that have hampered their mobility and feeding ... For moose in the region ... this spring's deep snow could bring a blessing by suppressing reproduction of ticks that feed on them ...

[White-tailed buck, moose antlers shed over winter exposed for picking](#) April 9, 2022 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Some people collect sheds to make money, and there are buyers paying big bucks for sheds used to make decorations, for dog chews and for medicinal purposes ... It's illegal to shed hunt in all national parks, Minnesota state parks and state Scientific and Natural Areas...

[Winter conditions keep grip Up North, but whitetails show resilience](#) April 21, 2022 Star Tribune

... weather-related fawn deaths have been reported sporadically across the northern tier ... under conditions that have hampered their mobility and feeding ... For moose in the region ... this spring's deep snow could bring a blessing by suppressing reproduction of ticks that feed on them ...

[Another tough winter for northern Minnesota deer](#) March 20, 2022 Duluth News Tribune

... this is now the sixth winter out of the past 10 that has been unusually snowy in parts of northern Minnesota, a string not seen since the 1970s ... Repeatedly snowy winters have prevented Arrowhead region deer numbers from rebounding over the past decade ...

[Minnesota lawmakers drop deer farmer provision from \\$10 million drought aid bill](#) March 22, 2022 Duluth News Tribune

... \$500,000 specifically for deer farmers affected by extreme drought conditions last year. The provision drew opposition from Democrats who control the Minnesota House of Representatives ...

[White-tailed deer farmers could get financial help after feeling impacts of movement bans](#) March 16, 2022 Minnesota House of Representatives - Minnesota Legislature ... [HF3903](#), sponsored by [Rep. John Burkel](#) (R-Badger), would appropriate \$1 million to the Department of Agriculture to reimburse farmers for expenses and lost revenue due to the temporary movement bans. Payments of up to \$10,000 would be on a first-come, first-served basis ...

[Minnesota's winter's severity burdening deer Up North](#) March 4, 2022 StarTribune ... From the southern boundary of Crow Wing County to the tip of the Northwest Angle, Minnesota's whitetail deer have been battling winter conditions considered severe or well on their way to becoming severe ... scattered reports of fawns dying from starvation ...

[The Uncertain Future of the Minnesota Moose Population](#) February 23, 2022 Field & Stream ... the state 's moose population fell 66 percent between 2006 and 2013, from 9,000 to under 3,000...For the nine years since, the population has remained stable... Decades of milder winters ... the tick population goes up... moose with thousands of ticks on them ...

[Deep snow, subzero nights work against northern Minnesota deer again](#) February 19, 2022 TwinCities.com ... the region's white-tailed deer are likely to feel the impacts of yet another harsh winter... "Deer appear to be struggling as we approach close to two feet of snow on the ground, and a lot of winter left," Fondie wrote in his report this week. "Wolf activity is plentiful." ...

[DNR tells hunters to get used to low deer numbers in northeast](#) January 28, 2022

Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Never mind the odds are stacked against the state's remnant moose population. Shorter, warmer winters. Tick infestations. Wolves. Bears. Liver flukes. Bacterial infections... But it's deer the DNR has in its moose-benefiting crosshairs, saying — correctly — that while whitetails can carry (and spread) brainworm benignly, the parasite poses a major threat to moose survival in the northeast...

2021

[As anglers and hunters drop out, DNR seeks more sustainable funding](#) December 17,

2021 Minnesota, southernminn.com

... for decades the state has relied on license and registration fees and taxes on equipment to fund a significant portion of its natural resource conservation and management... As more and more anglers and hunters stop fishing and hunting, there are fewer people replacing them...

[Readers agree: NE Minnesota deer are scarce — or worse](#) December 12, 2021 Star

Tribune

... Considered a crisis by many who live Up North, the deer scarcity is adversely affecting the region's economy and culture... intermittent tough winters. But their low numbers also reflect the region's intensified timber cuttings, which too rarely consider wildlife's welfare in their designs...

[Tough winters, hungry wolves, habitat losses: Why deer numbers in the northeast remain low](#) December 4, 2021 Minnesota, StarTribune

... several consecutive mild winters might be needed to increase northern Minnesota deer populations "above the point where they outproduce what predators can consume." ... We need 40 to 60 percent canopy closure for deer yards and other areas

that winter deer. That's hard to get when the majority of aspen stands are being harvested at 45 years." ...

[Minnesota Hunters Shot Fewer Deer Again This Year](#) November 28, 2021

RecentlyHeard

... registering 130,820 deer statewide, down 8 percent from 2020 and off 10 percent from the five-year average... all of northeastern Minnesota, were down 6 percent from 2020 and down a whopping 35 percent from the five-year average, likely because far fewer doe permits were issued after a string of tough, deep-snow winters held deer populations down ...

[Deer harvest up in area, but population goals not overshot](#) November 26, 2021

Minnesota, West Central Tribune

... The wildlife manager suspects a couple of factors kept the overall harvest from increasing as much as it could have with the more liberal limits. There remains a strong bias for bucks among hunters, and no doubt many did not harvest does in favor of waiting for the buck they wanted...

[Two key reasons lower Minnesota deer registrations](#) November 23, 2021 INFORUM

... final registrations for the 100 series management units, which includes all of northeastern Minnesota, were down 6% from 2020 and down a whopping 35% from the five-year average, likely because far fewer doe permits were issued after a string of tough, deep-snow winters held deer populations down, especially north of Duluth...

[What Minnesota deer hunters can expect this season](#) October 18, 2021 Minnesota DNR

News

... Overall deer populations are strong throughout the southern region... Deer populations are robust in the central Minnesota and are above to well-above goal levels ... Areas farther north with extensive public lands are still struggling to recover from past harsh winters...

[Hunting season is coming; have dry conditions impacted this year's hunt?](#) September 16, 2021 Minnesota, KBJR 6

..."For the most part, I'm not anticipating there'll be significant impacts to our deer population here in Minnesota due to the drought," Keller said. According to Keller, the more temperate weather last winter helped deer populations thrive...

[DNR invites deer hunters to share their wildlife observations](#) September 13, 2021 Minnesota DNR News |

... Using a mobile device or desktop computer, hunters can enter information on the [DNR website](#) about wildlife they see during each day of hunting including deer, turkeys, bears, fishers and other species. Hunters also will be able to report specific information about any deer they harvest, including antler size... The DNR uses the results from this crowdsourced data collection effort to compare what hunters see to population estimates ...

See an elk? Let us know! August 27, 2021 Minnesota, DNR News

You can now [report elk sightings online](#), which helps the DNR better understand elk movement and distribution. While the tool will not show elk reports prior or during the elk hunting season, you may submit your elk sighting at any point during the year...

[DNR keeps a lid on area deer permits](#) August 25, 2021 Minnesota, Tower Timberjay News

... Last year's exceptionally mild winter isn't translating into more generous bag limits for deer hunters this fall, at least here in northeastern Minnesota.... "We can no longer carry the deer that we once did," said Rusch, adding that lack of good winter cover on public lands, as a result of shorter forest rotations on state lands, is making deer more vulnerable to winter conditions as well as predators...

[New Regulations Could Lead to Larger Deer Harvest](#) August 6, 2021 Minnesota, WJON News

... Most areas across Central the Minnesota DNR permit will allow for up to 3 deer during the firearms season... the deer population in Central Minnesota has exceeded the amount the DNR would like to see...

[As Minnesota wolf plan is revised, advocates concerned](#) April 5, 2021 Aitkin

Independent Age

... There are approximately 2,700 wolves in Minnesota — the number has remained mostly consistent over the past five years, within some annual variation. Most areas that can support wolf populations are pretty well established, so we don't expect to see any increase in wolf numbers in Minnesota..,

[Northeastern Minnesota deer herd finally catching break with mild winter](#) March 4 2021

Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... All of Minnesota has seen a mild winter ... a string of deep-snow winters, including five of the past eight and three in a row through last year, have combined to hold deer numbers down..,

[Drones helping modernize deer counts through locating fawns](#) March 4, 2021

Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Minnesota Department of Natural Resources whitetail biologists until recently flew over various deer permit areas. This method provided accurate census information, but was expensive and too dependent on safe flying weather and other variables...

[Even in this cold, deer can endure bitter winters](#) February 13, 2021 Minnesota,

StarTribune

... it's unlikely many, if any, deer in the area died because of the frigid temperatures, in part because this most recent cold snap has been fairly short in duration and in part because deep snow hasn't been a problem... "Dense pine stands in wintering areas do provide less snow, but they don't have much food for deer," ...

[Proposal would end shotgun slugs statewide for deer hunting](#) February 4, 2021

Minnestoa, Voice Of Alexandria

... safety was not the primary reason for having a slug zone in the first place. It was to help the deer population stabilize and even increase in some areas. It was thought that since rifles are more accurate at longer distances, more deer would be harvested in areas where they were allowed...

[Deer Harvest Numbers Up 7% in 2020](#) January 28, 2021 Minnesota, WJON News

... More than 195,000 deer were harvested which Glen says is a good total and that total is up 7% from the 2019 numbers. Archery hunters saw an 11% increase... reasons for this include an increase in licenses sold and mild weather..

[As Minnesota wolf plan is revised, advocates concerned](#) April 5, 2021 Aitkin

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... There are approximately 2,700 wolves in Minnesota — the number has remained mostly consistent over the past five years, within some annual variation. Most areas that can support wolf populations are pretty well established, so we don't expect to see any increase in wolf numbers in Minnesota..

[Northeastern Minnesota deer herd finally catching break with mild winter](#) March 4 2021

Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... All of Minnesota has seen a mild winter ... a string of deep-snow winters, including five of the past eight and three in a row through last year, have combined to hold deer numbers down..

[DNR keeps a lid on area deer permits](#) August 25, 2021 Minnesota, Tower Timberjay News

... Last year's exceptionally mild winter isn't translating into more generous bag limits for deer hunters this fall, at least here in northeastern Minnesota.... "We can no longer carry the deer that we once did," said Rusch, adding that lack of good winter cover on public lands, as a result of shorter forest rotations on state lands, is making deer more vulnerable to winter conditions as well as predators..

2020

[As fertilizers spread worldwide, researchers find herbivores can't keep up with excess grasses](#) December 26, 2020 Minnesota

Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Herds of wild zebra, buffalo, deer, and other herbivores on six continents can't can keep up with all the extra plant life dominating grasslands ... including Minnesota ... "Our big obvious herbivores — bison — are gone," she said. "We still have deer and rabbits and domestic grazers, but they are not keeping up." ...

[How the Isle Royale wolf-moose study began](#) December 11, 2020 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... The moose-wolf relationship on Isle Royale eventually went sour for the wolves. With warmer winters limiting ice bridges to the mainland, and no new wolves venturing out the island, the animals became inbred and suffered genetic deformities...

[Deer harvest down heading into final weekend](#) November 20, 2020 Minnesota, Ely Echo ... The 2020 deer harvest is down 17.2% compared to 2019 in the nine Deer Permit Areas within the Tower DNR Area (117, 118, 119, 130, 131, 132, 176, 177, 178). DNR wildlife manager Tom Rusch said the buck kill, the best indicator of population change over time, is down 16.4% in the same permit areas ...

[Wolves preying on beavers in Minnesota reshape wetlands](#) November 13, 2020 Washington Post

... they tend to hunt alone for smaller prey, including fawns and beavers, in summer. ... "Once a wolf takes out a beaver," Gable said, "it takes a while for another beaver to return to the site." ... Wolves preying on beavers profoundly affect northern Minnesota's wetland ecosystems because dams built by individual beavers — those not associated with beaver colonies — quickly fall apart...

[A warm, quiet deer opener north of Duluth](#) November 7, 2020 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... deer numbers have been down for the past decade or so thanks to repeated heavy-snow winters. "And wolves. The wolves really came in about 10 years ago and it hasn't been the same," ..,

[Firearms deer season looks good for southern Minnesota](#) November 1, 2020

Minnesota, Mankato Free Press

... Last winter was mild and was followed by a utopian spring in which deer fawns and adults proliferated in the absence of deadly weather. Simply put, this means deer hunters will find more deer. That's especially true here in south-central Minnesota...

[Deep-snow winters have held Northeastern deer herd down](#) October 30, 2020

Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Stretch of tough winters has been worst in 50 years for parts of Arrowhead region... fewer or no doe permits are issued in many management areas... A string of deep-snow and cold winters — five of the past eight and now three in a row — have combined to hold deer numbers down ...

[Tougher hunting in Rusch's 2020 deer season forecast](#) October 30, 2020 Minnesota,

The Ely Echo

... A deer population that is below population goals in all areas rebounding from the severe winters of 2013 + 2014 and 2018, 2019 and 2020 in permit areas in Northern St. Louis and Lake Counties... Field staff are reporting below average fawn reproduction in heavily forested areas for the third consecutive year. This is a result of back to back deep snow winters from 2018 to 2020...

[What Minnesota deer hunters can expect this season](#) October 19, 2020 Minnesota DNR

... Permit areas in the northern portions of the northeast region, have had long, severe winters for the last eight years. In areas that had significant snow depth last winter — which has a more profound impact on deer survival than temperatures — more deer died and fewer fawns were born in the spring...

[Lake Superior caribou may be gone from mainland](#) October 16, 2020 Minnesota, Duluth

News Tribune

... Lake Superior's last surviving wild caribou appear to be thriving on their new island homes, free from the constant menace of wolves, for now ... Caribou were common all around Lake Superior — including Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan — before European settlement...

[Minnesota moose won't get federal Endangered Species Act protection](#) September 15, 2020 Duluth News Tribune

... This winter saw the ninth year of a diminished but fairly stable population that comes after the state's moose numbers crashed rapidly, from a modern high of 8,840 moose estimated in 2006 to just 2,700 in 2013. This year's official estimate by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, using aerial surveys in mid-winter, was roughly 3,150 ...

[Minnesota's wolf population](#) September 13, 2020 DNR

... In the 1960s, the population was estimated to be as low as 350. Wolf numbers trended upward during the next 40 years, peaking at about 3,000 from 2002 until 2005. Since 2014 the population estimate has been about 2,700 with a current population estimate of 2,699...

[Southeast deer movement study](#) September 1, 2020 Minnesota, DNR News

...Combining information from the past two years of the study, DNR biologists found that approximately one-third (34%) of deer studied either made permanent moves away from their birthplaces or made seasonal migratory movements between their summer and winter home ranges. Most deer traveled, on average, about 11 miles before settling; 72% of the dispersing deer did not travel far enough to leave the southeast CWD management and control zones...

[Bigger bag limits, voluntary CWD testing new for Minnesota's 2020 deer season](#) August 23, 2020 Minnesota, StarTribune

... some regions of northeast Minnesota remain mired on the opposite end of the deer-abundance spectrum. Some areas (see map) where whitetail populations are down due to recent tough winters and wolf depredation are governed by bucks-only restrictions this year... In one such area — 118 — the DNR estimates deer density at only four per square mile..,

[Wolf researchers in Voyageurs National Park believe unlikely food source may be behind moose success](#) August 3, 2020 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Beavers are so abundant in Voyageurs National Park that they may be helping moose populations by becoming food for wolves... a small and isolated moose population is surviving, even as others in Minnesota have been cut in half or wiped out...

[Volunteers remove fence for wildlife near Togwotee](#) July 29, 2020 Minnesota, Buckrail

... to help reduce wildlife entanglements in old, unused fencing. Volunteers and workers removed 1.25 miles of three-strand barbed wire and fence posts that were no longer in use near Warm Springs Creek...

[Minnesota 2020 deer season rules released](#) July 22, 2020 Duluth News Tribune

... The deep snow, which started to pile up in November, was most troublesome for deer in northern St. Louis County and in Lake and Cook counties inland from Lake Superior
... Wildlife managers in those areas restrict the number of antlerless deer taken by hunters in an effort to rebuild the herd faster..,

Update: Southeast deer movement study June 26, 2020 Minnesota, DNR News

... DNR biologists continue to monitor the 28 deer (19 does, 9 bucks) collared in 2019 and the additional 46 fawns (27 does, 19 bucks) collared in February 2020... While most fawns' travels average 11 miles, some move farther... Learn more and watch for updates on the newly updated [study webpage](#)...

[New deer population goals are set](#) May 27, 2020 Minnesota, Southwest Media

... In general, the goals are to increase deer populations in the north, stabilize populations in the northwest and west, and slightly decrease populations in the central portions of the areas addressed this year...The DNR lists complete details on the [goal-setting webpage](#) ...

[DNR willing to let eastern Minnesota elk plan move forward](#) May 17, 2020 Duluth News Tribune

... in a recent letter to Fond du Lac tribal officials, said the DNR “is prepared to discuss the next steps” of a potential elk reintroduction... The effort needs backing from local and state political leaders. There’s also the matter of finding millions of dollars to pay for elk relocation from other states ...

[Tower-area deer faced 114 days of deep snow](#) April 12, 2020 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Winter severity index for Arrowhead region was well into severe category, will impact deer herd for years... The problem was made worse by a sudden warm spell in March that, when temperatures fell again, created a thick crust on the snow. That crust allowed predators like wolves to run on top while loping deer broke through ...

[Fewer doe permits expected for the 2020 season](#) April 11, 2020 Minnesota, Mesabi Daily News

... the 2019-20 winter season ranked in the top 10 for severity over the past 50 years in northern St. Louis and Lake Counties... a lot of deer most likely didn’t make it through the season ...

[Biologists racing to save moose find clues in the forest floor](#) April 11, 2020 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... A scourge of parasitic brainworms has been weakening, sickening and killing moose throughout much of their traditional territory. But the moose that spend springtime under

the tall pines and spruce trees of the state's remaining pockets of conifer woods seem to avoid the bug ...

[Last Lake Superior caribou surviving on their new island homes](#) April 5, 2020

Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... once numbered in the thousands across a wide swath of three states and Ontario, are surviving on just two islands ... After a dramatic airlift operation in 2018, an estimated 23 caribou seem to be doing well on Ontario's Slate Islands ...

[Fond du Lac tribal council supports elk restoration](#) March 30, 2020 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... The Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee has given the go-ahead for the long-developing effort to restore elk to eastern Minnesota ... State support, funding sources and a disease-free source of elk all still remain unclear...

[Aerial survey shows Minnesota moose population is stable](#) March 9, 2020 Minnesota, DNR News

... This winter, the DNR estimated the moose population to be 3,150. Although this is a lower number than last year's estimate, due to the variance in this type of estimate, officials do not consider this a decline..,

[Deer are starting to die from winter's deep snow](#) March 1, 2020 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... several months of deep snow on the ground may have catastrophic consequences for many of the Northland's whitetail deer... mortality due to winter weather and predation will be significantly above average after this winter...,

[2020 winter shaping up to be hard on deer?](#) February 27, 2020 Minnesota, ECM Publishers

... If this wet pattern continues it will spell trouble for not only deer but turkeys and other animals... The DNR estimates that after the fawns are born each spring, Minnesota has between 900,000 and 1,000,000 deer. A severe winter can greatly reduce those numbers...

[Researchers fight to save moose](#) February 24, 2020 Minnesota, pinecitymn.com

... its population in Minnesota has declined by more than 50 percent since 2006 ... population: 8,60 in 2005; 8,840 in 2006; 6,860 in 2007; 7,890 in 2008; 7,840 in 2009; 5,700 in 2010; 4,900 in 2011; 4,230 in 2012; 5,700 on 2010; 4,900 in 2011; 4,230 in 2012; 2,760 in 2013; 4,350 in 2014; 3,450 in 2015; 4,020 in 2016; 3,710 in 2017; 3,030 in 2018; 4,180 in 2019 ...

[2019 Minnesota Elk Harvest Report](#) February 25, 2020 Minnesota DNR

... In 2019, a total of 15 elk were harvested in zones 20 and 30 (Table 2). This gives us a total hunter success rate of 56% for Zone 20 and 50% for Zone 30...

[Minnesota paying out 135K annually due to wolf kills](#) February 22, 2020

MPR News

... Every year, gray wolves kill dozens, if not hundreds, of farm animals in Minnesota. ... in the last decade, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has paid out an average of \$135,000 on about 110 wolf depredation claims each year ... there do seem to be more wolf kills when the whitetail deer population ... goes down quickly ...

[Wolf pack structure is interesting view of a family dynamic](#) February 13, 2020

Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... The population of gray wolves, also known as timber wolves, is about 13,000 in the United States, with the majority living in Alaska. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources estimates that there are 2,650 wolves in the state...

[Climate change, altered landscape taking toll on Minnesota wildlife](#) February 2, 2020

Post-Bulletin

... worried about the deer population in southwest Minnesota, where river corridors provide the main habitat. The floodplain is submerged for extended time periods, harming even water-tolerant tree species and the undergrowth. When the waters finally recede, there isn't the vegetation the deer need for the winter months...

[Counties strategize to dispose of deer carcasses, but work remains](#) January 28, 2020, Minnesota, StarTribune

... as last year's firearms deer season was drawing near in Crow Wing County and in southeastern Minnesota, officials had to scramble for places to empty public-use dumpsters loaded with deer remains. Prions, the infectious agent for CWD, can travel from carcasses of infected animals to the landscape...

[The fight for Minnesota's Moose](#) January 23, 2020, UMN News

... its population in Minnesota has declined by more than 50 percent since 2006 ... collaborating... to ... decipher whether a parasite called brainworm is the number one threat to Minnesota's largest wild animal...

[2019 Minnesota Elk Harvest Report](#) February 25, 2020 Minnesota DNR

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Aerial survey shows moose population is stable

March 9, 2020 Minnesota DNR News

For the ninth year in a row, Minnesota's moose population remains relatively stable, but reproductive success – one of the factors that has the greatest impact on moose survival over time – remains low.

This winter, the DNR estimated the moose population to be 3,150 animals (between a range of 2,400 and 4,320). Due to the variance in this type of annual population estimate, this year's estimate does not suggest a decline from last year's estimate of 4,180 moose. The survey provides an estimate rather than documenting the precise

number of moose because biologists cannot see or count every moose across the 6,000-square mile survey area. They survey a portion of the moose range every year to generate the estimate.

While the recent population stability is good news, DNR researchers point out that Minnesota moose remain at risk over the long term. The moose population has declined from an estimated 8,840 animals in 2006.

Low reproductive success and continued deaths from brainworm and other diseases make it difficult for Minnesota's moose population to recover.

Both the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the 1854 Treaty Authority contributed funding and personnel for the annual survey. [The survey](#)

[Minnesota moose won't get federal Endangered Species Act protection](#) September 15, 2020 Duluth News Tribune

... This winter saw the ninth year of a diminished but fairly stable population that comes after the state's moose numbers crashed rapidly, from a modern high of 8,840 moose estimated in 2006 to just 2,700 in 2013. This year's official estimate by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, using aerial surveys in mid-winter, was roughly 3,150

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[Deer are starting to die from winter's deep snow](#) March 1, 2020 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... several months of deep snow on the ground may have catastrophic consequences for many of the Northland's whitetail deer... mortality due to winter weather and predation will be significantly above average after this winter...

[Fewer doe permits expected for the 2020 season](#) April 11, 2020 Minnesota, Mesabi Daily News

... the 2019-20 winter season ranked in the top 10 for severity over the past 50 years in northern St. Louis and Lake Counties... a lot of deer most likely didn't make it through the season ..,

[Tower-area deer faced 114 days of deep snow](#) April 12, 2020 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Winter severity index for Arrowhead region was well into severe category, will impact deer herd for years... The problem was made worse by a sudden warm spell in March that, when temperatures fell again, created a thick crust on the snow. That crust allowed predators like wolves to run on top while loping deer broke through ...

[Hunters will have more opportunities to harvest deer this season](#) July 20, 2020 DNR News

... hunters in general will see more chances to harvest deer,” said Barbara Keller, DNR big game program leader. “These opportunities are due to increases in deer populations in much of the state and as part of our response to chronic wasting disease in southern Minnesota.” ..,

[Minnesota 2020 deer season rules released](#) July 22, 2020 Duluth News Tribune

... The deep snow, which started to pile up in November, was most troublesome for deer in northern St. Louis County and in Lake and Cook counties inland from Lake Superior ... Wildlife managers in those areas restrict the number of antlerless deer taken by hunters in an effort to rebuild the herd faster..,

[Bigger bag limits, voluntary CWD testing new for Minnesota's 2020 deer season](#) August 23, 2020 Minnesota, StarTribune

... some regions of northeast Minnesota remain mired on the opposite end of the deer-abundance spectrum. Some areas (see map) where whitetail populations are down due to recent tough winters and wolf depredation are governed by bucks-only restrictions this year... In one such area — 118 — the DNR estimates deer density at only four per square mile..,

[Firearms deer season looks good for southern Minnesota](#) November 1, 2020 Minnesota, Mankato Free Press

... Last winter was mild and was followed by a utopian spring in which deer fawns and adults proliferated in the absence of deadly weather. Simply put, this means deer hunters will find more deer. That’s especially true here in south-central Minnesota..,

[Deer Harvest Numbers Up 7% in 2020](#) January 28, 2021 Minnesota, WJON News

... More than 195,000 deer were harvested which Glen says is a good total and that total is up 7% from the 2019 numbers. Archery hunters saw an 11% increase... reasons for this include an increase in licenses sold and mild weather...

[Minnesota’s wolf population](#) September 13, 2020 DNR

... In the 1960s, the population was estimated to be as low as 350. Wolf numbers trended upward during the next 40 years, peaking at about 3,000 from 2002 until 2005. Since 2014 the population estimate has been about 2,700 with a current population estimate of 2,699..,

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... Wildlife managers in those areas restrict the number of antlerless deer taken by hunters in an effort to rebuild the herd faster..,

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[A warm, quiet deer opener north of Duluth](#) November 7, 2020 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... deer numbers have been down for the past decade or so thanks to repeated heavy-snow winters. "And wolves. The wolves really came in about 10 years ago and it hasn't been the same," ..,

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...Combining information from the past two years of the study, DNR biologists found that approximately one-third (34%) of deer studied either made permanent moves away from their birthplaces or made seasonal migratory movements between their summer and winter home ranges. Most deer traveled, on average, about 11 miles before settling; 72% of the dispersing deer did not travel far enough to leave the southeast CWD management and control zones..,

[The graying of the deer woods](#) November 20, 2020 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... In 2012 Minnesota sold 521,951 deer hunting licenses. By 2019 that dropped to 462,095, down nearly 12% in just seven years. Even amid the pandemic rush to get outside, 2020 deer license sales have been flat with 2019..,

Field reports: What Minnesota deer hunters can expect this season

October 19, 2020, Minnesota DNR News

Nearly half a million firearms deer hunters are preparing for the firearms deer season that opens Saturday, Nov. 7, and offers opportunity to spend time outdoors with friends and family, find adventure outdoors and put venison in the freezer.

Hunters help keep deer populations in line with population goals across the state. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' wildlife managers report favorable weather so far this year and good opportunities to harvest deer in most areas.

Hunters need to know the boundaries of the deer permit areas and any chronic wasting disease regulations that apply where they hunt. Detailed information about each permit area and CWD area can be found on the DNR's [interactive deer map](#). Additional information about CWD areas, carcass movement restrictions and voluntary sampling can be found at mndnr.gov/cwd.

Northwest deer report

Deer hunters in northwestern Minnesota will have similar regulations as the 2019 seasons and deer populations are strong in most areas. In many permit areas, hunters are allowed to harvest more than one deer. Hunters in this region should check their [deer permit area boundaries](#), as several have shifted since last year.

Water levels and whether ground is wet or dry can affect how hunters access hunting locations. Weather patterns in the region were very different from north to south this year. In the far northwest, there was heavy summer rain and strong winds. In contrast, areas in the southern part of the region have not received as much rain and are drier.

Northeast deer report

Permit areas in the northern portions of the northeast region, have had long, severe winters for the last eight years. In areas that had significant snow depth last winter — which has a more profound impact on deer survival than temperatures — more deer died and fewer fawns were born in the spring. This has required more lottery management zones this season than in past years.

In the southern portion of the region, where winter was somewhat milder, hunters will be allowed to harvest more deer in an effort to stabilize and in some cases further reduce local deer populations to goal levels. Where deer had access to good habitat, field observations show normal fawn production.

Hunters have good potential for success by focusing on prime food sources for deer such as mowed hayfields, forest areas that are growing back after being cut, and agriculture crops.

Central deer report

Strong early archery harvest and positive reports from hunters and DNR field staff point to what could be another outstanding year of deer hunting across central and southeastern Minnesota. Robust deer populations across the region have resulted in many permit areas with regulations allowing hunters to harvest more than one deer.

Dry conditions during the late summer and early fall mean crops are being harvested without delay ahead of the firearms opener. Average-to-high acorn production will keep deer in the oak woods this fall and provide hunters with another strategy for scouting and selecting hunting locations. Excellent summer habitat conditions provided plentiful forage and cover.

Southern deer report

Weather conditions for deer and other farmland wildlife were favorable in 2020. Winter conditions were milder, with above-average temperatures and shallower snowpack compared with 2019, with no spring snow storms.

Habitat conditions reflected the favorable weather. River floodplains, which offer some of the best deer habitat and deer hunting in the southern region, finally had a year to recover from persistent flooding over the last few years. As such, these floodplain habitats are once again offering excellent cover for deer, which bodes well for deer hunters.

Upland grassland areas and wetland basins are in good shape as well, but hunters will encounter lower water levels or completely dry wetland basins especially in the extreme southwest.

As always, the largest wildcard in this landscape in determining overall deer harvest is the amount of standing crop remaining in the field during firearms deer season. The crop harvest is in full swing right now and ahead of the long-term average — that's another positive sign for hunters looking forward to deer season

2019

[DNR looking into possible illegal sales of venison](#) December 24, 2019 Minnesota

Press Pubs

... “We are trying to nip the commercialization of wild game. People should not be making a profit off of it; it can decimate a population,” he said. “We have never allowed

the sale of deer meat. It has been outlawed for decades for that sole reason...
resources that belong to all of us...

[Firearms deer harvest declines in northwest Minnesota](#) December 23, 2019

wadenapj.com

... hunters in the DNR's Northwest Region registered 8.7% fewer deer during this year's firearms deer season than they did in 2018 ... Minnesota hunters had shot and registered 178,940 deer as of 7 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, according to the Department of Natural Resources, a total that includes all seasons except special hunts...

[St. Louis County set to oppose elk reintroduction effort](#) November 24, 2019 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Despite overwhelming public support for reintroducing wild elk to eastern Minnesota, and despite ample science that shows the forest habitat for elk here looks good, the St. Louis County Board appears ready to formally oppose the idea on its home turf... Elk were native to much of Minnesota but were extirpated from the state in the late 1800s due to farming, logging and unregulated hunting...

...

[2019 Hunting Harvest Looks Good](#) November 8, 2019 Minnesota, HeraldReview

... Rusch's office is forecasting a deer population that is rebounding from the severe winters of 2013 and 2014 and is now on the low end of established population goals for Deer Permit Areas (DPA) in Northern St. Louis and Lake Counties. However, wildlife managers are reporting the deer herd is on the lower end of established population goals in most permit areas ...

[County board hears from elk introduction opponents](#) October 30, 2019 Minnesota, Tower Timberjay News

... proposal to introduce elk in northeastern Minnesota ... "Right now, very few of the farmers have to carry crop insurance, but if you bring the elk in, and they start eating your hay fields ... and wrecking your fences, you'll have to carry crop insurance to get

reimbursed,” ... opposed the elk project because he feared it would place additional restrictions on the logging industry...

[Minnesota DNR 2019-20 Deer Forecast](#) October 14, 2019

... Deer populations are robust across the central region ... an average year for acorn production ... A deep snow pack in late winter resulted in reports of deer mortality – mostly fawns – over a large portion of southwestern Minnesota.,

[Habitat and public support elk in St. Louis County](#) October 9, 2019 Minnesota, Tower Timberjay News

... Researchers concluded that the relative lack of commercial agriculture in northeastern Minnesota, combined with the abundance of public land, might be more suitable to sustaining a substantial elk population... the 681 square-mile study area could sustain approximately 550 elk, or a bit under one per square mile. “These estimates probably underestimate biological carrying capacity ...

[Rift within DNR over logging in state wildlife areas](#) August 12, 2019 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... While logging and young forests are good for some species at some times of year — deer, grouse and bear all favor young aspen, for example — the same species also need bigger, older trees in winter...

[Resolution would reduce potential elk restoration area](#) August 5, 2019 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... one St. Louis County commissioner is asking the County Board to pass a resolution asking the Fond du Lac Band to remove one area entirely ... “While these studies have shown support for the potential restoration/reintroduction of elk, other concerns which may have a negative impact on deer populations, area farmers and public safety also have been identified,” ...

[DNR releases 2019 deer hunting regulations: Here's what's new](#) July 30, 2019

Minnesota, Bring Me The News

... Dogs may be used to retrieve a wounded deer or bear, provided the dog is on a leash

... Hunters are able to harvest an unlimited number of antlerless deer in areas of southeast Minnesota and north-central Minnesota with CWD...

[NRB approves 2019 deer season regulations, including no buck-only units](#) May 25, 2019 Minnesota, jsonline.com

... for the first time in 10 years, all 72 counties have antlerless permits available; and more county delegations each year are expressing frustration at failures to reduce deer numbers ...

[Douglas County hunters get some doe permits after all](#) April 28, 2019 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... In March the committee voted to hold an essentially bucks-only hunting season in 2019 ...The consensus among those at the March meeting was that the deer herd was down and that they wanted a lower harvest to help build deer numbers back up..

[Despite 'average' WSI, winter was not normal](#) April 27, 2019 Minnesota, International Falls Journal

... Deer in forested areas cannot be seen readily enough to count, so we estimate populations with the help of computers. We know important factors that contribute to populations from past observations... Given the winter we just had ... I will be recommending conservative seasons in permit areas 108 and 119..

[Minnesota DNR commissioner talks budget priorities](#) April 21, 2019 Park Rapids Enterprise

... The DNR's current budget is about \$1 billion... calls for \$1.8 million for research to better estimate deer populations... provide \$4.6 million from the state's General Fund for monitoring and responding to chronic wasting disease in wild deer ...

[Winter takes heavy toll on northern Minnesota deer](#) April 6, 2019 Duluth News Tribune ·
... for deer across northern Minnesota, especially in the Arrowhead region, the winter of 2018-19 is still having an impact that may be felt for years to come. Wildlife experts said deer mortality due to winter weather and predation will be "significantly ...

[Deer Hunt Management](#) April 3, 2019 Minnesota, fox21online
... This past year, the DNR says the deer population drastically decreased. Wildlife experts are hoping hunters will be more mindful of letting the deer grow so that population can grow once again...

[New Isle Royale study could clarify the mystery of what's led to the decline of Minnesota's moose](#) March 25, 2019 Minnesota Public Radio News
... the National Park Service captured 20 female moose and fitted them with GPS collars, so they can track where they forage on the island, and ultimately, how they die... is in the midst of a plan to bring up to 30 wolves to the island in the next three to five years...

[Seven new wolves on Isle Royale](#) March 25, 2019 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune
... Six wolves that appeared destined for starvation on Lake Superior's Michipicoten Island were trapped over the weekend and helicoptered to Isle Royale where they should find plenty of moose to dine on... now apparently 15 wolves on the island with about 1,500 moose...

[Few chances for antlerless deer in Douglas County this fall](#) March 23, 2019 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune
... many hunters say they were disappointed with the low number of deer in the county and that they want to have a very conservative season in 2019 to help rebuild the herd...

[Vilas Co. Deer Harvest Recommendations Revealed](#) March 15, 2019 Minnesota, WXPB

... The preliminary recommendation of the Vilas County DNR Deer Advisory Council (CDAC), meeting in Boulder Junction last week, was to continue the position to maintain the deer population ... The estimated population was 17,500 or 23 per square mile of deer range...

[A return to wolf hunting in Minnesota?](#) March 13, 2019 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Dan Stark, DNR large carnivore specialist, said Minnesota's wolf population has been stable for many years, edging up when deer are abundant in northern forests and down when there's fewer whitetails to prey upon. The most recent survey, conducted last winter, estimated 2,655 wolves in the state ...

[Minnesota moose holding their own](#) March 11, 2019 Brainerd Dispatch

... a modern high of 8,840 moose estimated in 2006 to just 2,700 in 2013... This year's aerial survey ... accounted for an estimated 4,180 moose total. That's up considerably from last year's estimate of 3,030. But because there's such a large range of variability in the survey, the increase is considered statistically insignificant...

[Some deer will die as winter snows pile up](#) March 2, 2019 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... the DNR's winter severity index already has hit 100 in his area with several weeks of winter yet to go. "You can see the deer really struggling to get through the snow. Especially the fawns," Rusch said. "It's getting worse for them with every snowfall." ...

[Southeast Minnesota deer movement study](#) February 28, 2019 Minnesota, DNR News

... the average winter home range size was 1.60 km² for juvenile females, 2.28 km² for juvenile males and 2.96 km² for adult males. These winter home range estimates align with our expectations of deer activity at this time of year. During the spring dispersal period from mid-April through mid-July, 28 percent of juvenile bucks and 40 percent of juvenile does dispersed from their birth range...

[Fee reallocation could boost funding for DNR deer management](#) February 19, 2019

Minnesota House of Representatives - Minnesota Legislature

... [HF600](#) would reduce a portion of funds allocated to the Game and Fish fund, redirecting that money instead to the Department of Natural Resources' deer management account. Currently, the DNR receives \$2 per license to be used for deer habitat improvement and deer management programs. The bill would increase that amount to \$16 per license...

[Minnesota's once-mild winter turning nasty of late for state deer](#) February 12, 2019 Star Tribune

... with recent snowfalls pushing the Arrowhead's snowpack beyond 2 feet in depth with areas along the North Shore approaching or surpassing depths of 40 inches. Even at 15 inches of snow, deer movements are hampered....

[Minnesota elk plan deserves thought and care](#) January 27, 2019 The Lake Country Echo

... an elk's eating is about 85 percent grazing and 15 percent browsing ... Deer at the park are roughly the reverse in dietary preferences, at 75 percent browsing and 25 percent grazing...In winter, however ... elk ... become browsers of necessity ... compete with deer...

[DNR shoots wayward mule deer acting strangely near Thief River Falls](#) January 24, 2019 Minnesota, inforum

... Mule deer aren't common in northwest Minnesota or northeast North Dakota, but the animals do occasionally stray into the region... a motorist who had to physically shoo the buck off the road...

Deer Farm Activities: [Down on the deer farm, chronic wasting disease is critical issue](#) December 1, 2019 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

... 339 deer and elk farms licensed in Minnesota. Here's what types of activities are going on at those farms. Some farms may have more than one activity. Breeding: 86 farms. Exhibitions/competitions: 17 farms. Hobbyist: 169 farms. Hunting preserve site:

16 farms. Meat production: 67 farms. Other animal products: 9 farms. Trophy animal sales: 102 farms. Urine production: 7 farms. Velvet antler production: 21 farms. Source: Minnesota Board of Animal Health ...

[Deer Population Shapes Outlook for Upcoming Hunting Season](#) November 8, 2019 Minnesota, WDIO

... Minnesota DNR is reporting the deer population will be similar to 2018 ... "Because of the tough winter we had last year I think the population is down some," ... It seems that the deer population still has not recovered since the winter of 2014 ...

[2020 winter shaping up to be hard on deer?](#) February 27, 2020 Minnesota, ECM Publishers

... If this wet pattern continues it will spell trouble for not only deer but turkeys and other animals... The DNR estimates that after the fawns are born each spring, Minnesota has between 900,000 and 1,000,000 deer. A severe winter can greatly reduce those numbers...

DNR announces appointments to its statewide deer advisory committee

June 13, 2019

Nineteen individuals will provide input on deer management issues, serving on a new committee the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources created to foster the exchange of information and ideas between the agency and the public.

The DNR established this deer advisory committee as part of the 2019-2028 Minnesota White-tailed Deer Management Plan to enhance two-way dialogue with interest groups on specific deer management topics.

"We selected members to represent the breadth of deer management interests in Minnesota," said Barbara Keller, the DNR's big game program supervisor. "We're

really excited to begin a productive dialogue with this advisory group and see what new ideas, perspectives and input they can lend to deer management.”

Members represent varied interests in deer hunting and conservation, farming, urban deer issues and forest management across the state. Committee members will serve three-year terms. The committee will meet quarterly, with the first meeting set to occur later this summer. Committee member names are available on the DNR’s deer advisory committee webpage at <http://bit.ly/DeerAdvisoryCommittee>.

The DNR strives to maintain a healthy wild deer population that offers recreational and economic opportunities, while addressing conflicts between deer, people and other natural resources. Habitat management, hunting, research and monitoring are some of the primary tools used to manage the Minnesota deer population.

[DNR talks deer](#) March 28, 2019 Minnesota, Fergus Falls Daily Journal-
... The winter of 2018-2019 was a rough one in many parts of the state with both heavy snow depths and many days and nights of sub-zero weather. Otter Tail County was not spared. “We certainly lost some fawns,” ..,

[Deer Hunt Management](#) April 3, 2019 Minnesota, fox21online
... This past year, the DNR says the deer population drastically decreased. Wildlife experts are hoping hunters will be more mindful of letting the deer grow so that population can grow once again..,

[Winter takes heavy toll on northern Minnesota deer](#) April 6, 2019 Duluth News Tribune ·
... for deer across northern Minnesota, especially in the Arrowhead region, the winter of 2018-19 is still having an impact that may be felt for years to come. Wildlife experts said deer mortality due to winter weather and predation will be "significantly ..,

[Despite 'average' WSI, winter was not normal](#) April 27, 2019 Minnesota, International Falls Journal

... Deer in forested areas cannot be seen readily enough to count, so we estimate populations with the help of computers. We know important factors that contribute to

populations from past observations... Given the winter we just had ... I will be recommending conservative seasons in permit areas 108 and 119.,
[Douglas County hunters get some doe permits after all](#) April 28, 2019 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune
... In March the committee voted to hold an essentially bucks-only hunting season in 2019 ...The consensus among those at the March meeting was that the deer herd was down and that they wanted a lower harvest to help build deer numbers back up.,
[Deer hunting primer for 2019 season](#) October 1, 2019 Minnesota, StarTribune
... Last winter was tough in some areas of the northeast and the harvest might be down there... new this year, hunters can use dogs to find wounded deer... The new North-Central CWD zone was established after a wild deer near a captive deer farm in that area was found last year to have been infected with CWD.,
[2019 Hunting Harvest Looks Good](#) November 8, 2019 Minnesota, HeraldReview
... Rusch's office is forecasting a deer population that is rebounding from the severe winters of 2013 and 2014 and is now on the low end of established population goals for Deer Permit Areas (DPA) in Northern St. Louis and Lake Counties. However, wildlife managers are reporting the deer herd is on the lower end of established population goals in most permit areas ...

DNR regional wildlife managers detail what deer hunters can expect

October 14, 2019, Minnesota DNR News Release

Nearly half a million firearms deer hunters are preparing for the season that opens Saturday, Nov. 9, and offers opportunity to spend time with friends and family, find adventure outdoors and put venison in the freezer.

Hunters help keep deer populations in line with population goals across the state, and wildlife managers report good opportunities to harvest deer. But they also caution hunters that scouting could be more important this year due to wet access and habitat conditions over the spring and summer.

Hunters need to know the boundaries of the deer permit areas and any chronic wasting disease (CWD) zones where they hunt. Detailed information about each permit area and CWD zone can be found on the DNR's interactive deer map at mndnr.gov/deermap. Additional information about CWD zones and sampling requirements can be found at mndnr.gov/cwd.

Northwest deer report

John Williams, northwest region wildlife manager

A quick look at the 2019 deer permit area map shows a lot of opportunity for harvesting deer in the northwest region this year. Permit areas designated as intensive in 2018 (a three-deer limit) largely stayed the same in 2019, with the only exception being permit area 287 (Itasca State Park) going to a two-deer limit under the managed designation. Other permit areas have liberal hunting strategies, including increased lottery antlerless permit numbers or a change from hunters choice to managed designations. Only a couple of permit areas had more restrictive hunting strategies selected for the 2019 season.

The recent rains in the northwest will be an issue hunters need to contend with as the landscape is, and likely will be, very wet. Ditches and streams could be issues for access and hunters should keep in mind their footwear for hunting in wet conditions. These wet conditions also affect the ability to harvest crops, and standing corn can make it difficult for hunters to find and locate deer. Weather is always a factor in hunting, even when there are abundant deer on the landscape.

In any year, scouting prior to the season is a wise choice. Deer stands that were in good shape last year could be storm-damaged this year. Areas that were accessible under normal to dry conditions may require a different route in this year. In addition, making sure that your rifle or shotgun shoots true is worth that time on the range to give you the confidence to take a good shot. All this is better done before Nov. 9, and the sooner the better.

Northeast deer report

Angela Aarhus-Ward, northeast region wildlife manager

In the northeast region, the permit area designation map shows more lottery deer areas compared to last year and fewer antlerless permits for areas that were lottery last year. This represents a more conservative antlerless deer harvest strategy designed to provide hunting opportunities, while helping populations to grow and stabilize around previously established deer population goals for those permit areas.

The more conservative strategy is a result of lingering concerns over the effect of last winter on deer survival and fawn production. The DNR recorded elevated winter severity due to deep snow and prolonged winter conditions that lasted well into April, particularly in the northeastern part of the region where winter conditions were the most severe.

To the south, where winter was much milder, management designations stayed largely unchanged from 2018, allowing for more hunting opportunity in an effort to stabilize and in some cases further reduce local deer populations to goal levels.

New this year: In the middle of the state near Brainerd, disease management zone 604 contains all of former permit areas 242 and 247 along with parts of 155, 171 and 246. Zone 604 was created after a wild deer tested positive for CWD this past winter. Permit area 604 has unlimited antlerless harvest; mandatory CWD sampling during all deer seasons and carcass movement restrictions in effect. Deer feeding and attractant bans are also in place here.

Rain and wet conditions have persisted throughout much of the fall season. Hunters may find water in areas that are typically dry this time of year and forest road access may be difficult or impassable in some locations.

Central deer report

Jami Markle, central region wildlife manager

Deer populations are robust across the central region, and deer observations and sign (rubs and scrapes) are picking up considerably as fall conditions set in. Seasonal patterns and movements are sure to increase as the peak breeding time approaches. Fall color and leaf drop varied across the region by early October, from 20 percent at Whitewater Wildlife Management Area in the southeast to 70 percent in the north at Mille Lacs WMA.

Wildlife managers are reporting very good fawn production this year. Healthy body weight and condition can make it hard to discern fawns from yearlings in some cases. Hunters will see some does with single fawns as they head afield, and there will be plenty of does out there with two fawns as well.

It has been an average year for acorn production and other important forest nuts and forage. Deer are still focused on abundant natural foods, keeping them in the woods and along the forest edges. With a later frost this year and plenty of green browse to feed on, deer should be healthy going into the winter.

Archery harvest has been slow due to warm and very wet conditions during the early season, but is picking up in October. Saturated soils and flooded field roads have all but halted crop harvest, which could play into opening weekend strategy for hunters.

Opportunities abound for deer harvest in the central region with most permit areas designated as managed or intensive, allowing for the use of bonus antlerless permits. The metro permit area (701) and CWD management zone (600 series) are designated for unlimited antlerless harvest.

In southeastern Minnesota, deer permit areas within the CWD control and CWD management zones have unlimited antlerless harvest; mandatory CWD sampling during all deer seasons; and carcass movement restrictions are in effect. Deer feeding and attractant bans are also in place here.

Southwest deer report

David Trauba, southwest region wildlife manager

A deep snow pack in late winter resulted in reports of deer mortality – mostly fawns – over a large portion of southwestern Minnesota. As such, wildlife managers took a more conservative approach in setting antlerless permit numbers. We have learned through experience that tough winters do negatively affect deer even in southern Minnesota where deer food is not considered a limiting factor.

In years following severe winters, managers take a more conservative harvest strategy. By being conservative in antlerless permit numbers, we can hold deer densities stable and maintain an increasing trend across most permit areas. The good news is that overall, most deer densities remain at goal level across the region.

The conservative strategy meant that 2019 antlerless permit levels remained the same across most deer permit areas as in 2018. Only two permit areas offered fewer antlerless permits (275, 294) as managers felt the overall population trend was moving downward. Two permit areas offered a modest increase in antlerless permits (289, 291) and cited an increasing population trend along with a good habitat base as reasons to be more liberal in permit numbers. Three deer permit areas remained as hunter choice (281, 290, 230) due to abundant deer habitat especially in the Minnesota River corridor along with most land in private ownership.

The true wild card entering the firearm deer season will be the continued trend of abundant rainfall and river flooding. Hunters will encounter and notice hundreds of thousands of acres of unplanted fields across the southern region. In addition, many traditional food plots on our state WMAs did not get planted or were planted to alternative crops. This has the potential to shift deer use especially later in the year.

All major river systems have flooded out multiple times. This has had an impact on the floodplain habitat base that is often viewed as the best habitat corridors. Because the habitat base has changed this year, hunters are going to need to scout and adapt to altered habitat conditions. This is true in all years, but more so in 2019.

[Minnesota moose holding their own](#) March 11, 2019 Brainerd Dispatch

... a modern high of 8,840 moose estimated in 2006 to just 2,700 in 2013... This year's aerial survey ... accounted for an estimated 4,180 moose total. That's up considerably from last year's estimate of 3,030. But because there's such a large range of variability in the survey, the increase is considered statistically insignificant..

[Researchers fight to save moose](#) February 24, 2020 Minnesota, pinecitymn.com

... its population in Minnesota has declined by more than 50 percent since 2006 ...
population: 8,60 in 2005; 8,840 in 2006; 6,860 in 2007; 7,890 in 2008; 7,840 in 2009;
5,700 in 2010; 4,900 in 2011; 4,230 in 2012; 5,700 on 2010; 4,900 in 2011; 4,230 in
2012; 2,760 in 2013; 4,350 in 2014; 3,450 in 2015; 4,020 in 2016; 3,710 in 2017; 3,030
in 2018; 4,180 in 2019 ..,

Southeast Minnesota deer movement study

Minnesota DNR, February 28, 2019

In 2016, chronic wasting disease was discovered in wild white-tailed deer in southeastern Minnesota's Fillmore County. The recent detection of the disease offers an opportunity to understand the ways CWD may spread across the rolling terrain of this geographically unique corner of the state.

The study is designed to gather data on deer movement and first began in March 2018. During the first season of the study, a total of 109 deer were outfitted with GPS collars.

The study is focused on deer movements because not much is known about how they use the landscape in and around the CWD management zone, which is called deer permit area 603.

Study update

Based on preliminary analysis of the data, the average winter home range size was 1.60 km² for juvenile females, 2.28 km² for juvenile males and 2.96 km² for adult males. These winter home range estimates align with our expectations of deer activity at this time of year.

During the spring dispersal period from mid-April through mid-July, 28 percent of juvenile bucks and 40 percent of juvenile does dispersed from their birth range. The longest movement measured so far is that of a juvenile doe that traveled approximately 77 linear miles from where she was collared. The average dispersal distance travelled for juvenile does was 30.4 km (n=8) and 14.6 km (n=8) for juvenile bucks.

When we remove two outliers (does that travelled a linear distance of 64 km and 124 km, respectively), the average dispersal distance for does declines to about 10 km. Only 17 percent of collared adult bucks moved greater than five miles from their winter range.

Current collar statistics [Updated 11/27/2018]

Age & gender	Number being tracked
Juvenile bucks	24
Juvenile does	17
Adult bucks	6
Total	47

[Wolves in the neighborhood?](#) December 11, 2019 Minnesota, Park Rapids Enterprise ... the most recent estimate of Minnesota's wolf population is 2,700, based on data from radio-collared wolves. The average size of a wolf pack is five wolves, covering about a 60-square-mile area...

[Wolf pack structure is interesting view of a family dynamic](#) February 13, 2020 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... The population of gray wolves, also known as timber wolves, is about 13,000 in the United States, with the majority living in Alaska. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources estimates that there are 2,650 wolves in the state...

2018

[Volunteer scientists play important role in wildlife research project](#) January 4, 2018

Minnesota, Brainerd Dispatch

... a camera-trap project at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. A network of 120 trail cameras was deployed in 2017 across the site's 5,400 acres. So far, the cameras have captured almost 1 million images of animals, including whitetail deer ...

[Wolf, entangled in snare, shot in Duluth](#) February 12, 2018 Minnesota, Duluth News

Tribune

... DNR said its annual survey showed an estimated 2,856 wolves spread among 500 packs, up from 2,278 wolves in 438 packs in the 2015-2016 survey. Wolf numbers had remained stable or declined some for several years before last year's jump, including after state hunting and trapping seasons were allowed from 2012 to 2014...

[Looks like another mild winter for deer](#) February 7, 2018 Minnesota, Tower Timberjay

News

... the North Country deer population looks poised for a fourth-straight milder-than-usual winter ... "Four consecutive mild-to-moderate winters is the prescription for northern forest deer population recovery from the severe winters of 2012-13 and 2013-14." ...

[Welcome to cold Minnesota](#) February 1, 2018 TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press

... northern Minnesota is the only place in the Lower 48 where wolves were never wiped out, and where moose are more abundant than deer... thanks to the cold. Their biggest threat right now: warm winters...

[New study links wolf numbers to moose calf survival](#) January 30, 2018 Minnesota,

Duluth News Tribune

... renowned wolf researcher David Mech is reporting a stark correlation between wolf population levels and survival of moose calves... wolf numbers more than doubled while moose declined ...

[Examining the complex coexistence of wolves, moose](#) February 3, 2018 Minnesota,

Minneapolis Star Tribune

... When there have been fewer moose calves to feed on within a confined study area, mostly located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, wolves have died off. The relationship helps explain why moose numbers in northeastern Minnesota have been holding their own after crashing when wolf density was surging from 2002 to 2010...

[Deer feeding rules don't mesh with outdoors writer's observations](#) January 25, 2018

Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

...Recreational feeding is different from baiting. Baiters attract deer to a food pile (corn, grain, apples, etc.) for the purpose of hunting them. It's illegal in Minnesota. Recreation feeding is legal, except in [\[see map\]](#) ... The reason? Some captive deer (those in an enclosure) had verified cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) ...

[DNR commissioner faces a landscape full of challenges](#) January 20, 2018 Minnesota,

Minneapolis Star Tribune

... The very next deer season in Minnesota is setting up as a period that could “finalize the recovery” of the state’s wild deer herd. The winter has been relatively mild ... There’s a fear at the DNR that sloppy deer farms could spread CWD from tame deer to the state’s priceless wild herd...

[Deer management plan will tackle population size, harvest limits](#) January 20, 2018

Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... The Department of Natural Resources is entering the final stages of crafting Minnesota’s first comprehensive deer management plan ... Creation of such a plan was among the audit’s recommendations ... The agency’s wildlife section wants that set at 190,000 ... the 30-year harvest average is 199,000 whitetails, while the 15-year average is 214,000...

Deer feeding ban continues in 11 central and north-central Minnesota counties

August 27, 2018 DNR News

Southeastern Minnesota ban continues for 6 counties and includes attractants

A deer feeding ban is in place until at least 2019 for 11 central and north-central Minnesota counties surrounding two facilities where multiple captive deer were infected with chronic wasting disease.

“Feeding bans in central and north-central Minnesota are precautionary and part of our overall strategy to limit CWD, if it exists in wild populations,” said Lou Cornicelli, wildlife research manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. “Wild deer in these areas are not known to have CWD. These feeding bans are a proactive step to keep CWD at bay.”

In 2017, DNR completed the first of three years of surveillance in these areas and no disease was found.

Central Minnesota counties affected by the ban are Kandiyohi; McLeod; Meeker; Stearns; Wright; and the portion of Renville County north of U.S. Highway 212.

North-central Minnesota counties affected are Aitkin; Crow Wing; Morrison; the portion of Cass County south of Minnesota highways 34 and 200; and the portion of Mille Lacs County north of County Road 11.

Attractants are not prohibited in the central and north-central counties.

In Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted, Mower, Wabasha and Winona counties, a ban on both deer feeding and use of attractants has been in place since 2017 and will continue for the foreseeable future. Wabasha County was added this year because CWD was detected in captive deer in Winona County.

"People should know that feed is not just a pile of corn or grain," Cornicelli said.

"It includes salt and mineral blocks that many hunters use as well as fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay and other food that is capable of attracting or enticing deer."

One of the most probable mechanisms for CWD spread among deer is over a food or attractant source that concentrates animals. Feeding bans are intended to reduce the number of areas where deer can come into close contact, either directly or indirectly.

The feeding ban in southeastern Minnesota also includes attractants such as deer urine, blood, gland oil, feces or other bodily fluids. These products include such things as bottled estrus and mock scrape drips.

People who feed birds or small mammals must do so in a manner that prevents access by deer or place the food at least 6 feet above the ground.

Food placed as a result of normal agricultural practices is generally exempted from the feeding ban. Cattle operators should take steps that minimize contact between deer and cattle.

“Not feeding deer is a simple step that anyone can take to help prevent the spread of disease,” Cornicelli said. “Although well-intentioned, feeding wildlife often does more harm than good.”

Mandatory precautionary CWD testing will be done over opening weekend of the firearm season in portions of the feeding ban areas to determine whether the disease may have spread from captive to wild deer. This year, DNR has narrowed the surveillance area and more information can be found on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/cwd.

Deer hunters will have more opportunities this fall in Minnesota

July 30, 2018 Minnesota, DNR News

Licenses available Aug. 1; deadline to apply for antlerless permits is Sept. 6

Additional deer hunting opportunities will be available this fall because numbers continue to rebound across the state and now many areas have populations at or above goal levels, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

“Deer populations have responded well to favorable winter weather and our generally conservative harvest levels in recent years,” said Erik Thorson, acting big game program leader for the DNR. “So we have been able to expand hunting

opportunities once again in much of the state in order to reduce populations or stabilize growth.”

This year, there are more deer permit areas where hunters can use bonus permits to harvest more than one deer, and fewer areas where hunters need to apply in a lottery to shoot an antlerless deer.

Mandatory testing for chronic wasting disease (CWD) continues this year: in the disease management zone (deer permit area 603) during all deer seasons; in most permit areas in southeastern Minnesota during the first two days of both the A (Nov. 3 and 4) and 3B (Nov. 17 and 18) firearm seasons; and in several deer permit areas in Crow Wing and Meeker county areas in north-central and central Minnesota during the first two days of the A firearms season.

Hunters can buy deer licenses and apply to the lottery for antlerless deer permits beginning Wednesday, Aug. 1. The deadline to apply for the antlerless permit lottery is Thursday, Sept. 6. Archery deer season opens Saturday, Sept. 15, and firearms deer season opens Saturday, Nov. 3.

Every year harvest regulations are reviewed, taking a wide variety of information into consideration. Wildlife research scientists use the previous year’s harvest data, winter severity, aerial survey information where available and other information to estimate late winter deer abundance in each permit area. These estimates are compared to established population goals for each area, and along with observations from DNR area wildlife managers, hunters, farmers, foresters and others, form the basis for final season recommendations.

"As part of our new statewide White-tailed Deer Management Plan, we are scheduling local meetings across the state for citizens, including hunters, to come and discuss deer hunting regulations and management with area DNR wildlife managers," Thorson said.

The regulations for each of Minnesota's deer permit areas are set to manage populations toward goals established for each area. These goals are based on information from the DNR and local citizens through a periodic public goal-setting process.

In just one of the state's 130 permit areas, only bucks can be hunted. In 39 areas, hunters must be chosen in a lottery to harvest an antlerless deer (down from 48 areas last year). In 36 areas, hunters have the choice of harvesting a doe or a buck (down from 38 areas last year). Bonus permits allowing hunters to harvest more than one deer may be used in 54 permit areas (up from 43 areas last year) and for most special hunts. Four permit areas in southeastern Minnesota will also be open again for an early antlerless-only hunt in October.

Buying a license

Hunters who purchase a license by Sept. 6 are automatically entered into the lottery for an antlerless permit. Those who do not wish to harvest an antlerless deer are encouraged to purchase their license after the lottery deadline.

Hunters may apply using both their firearm and muzzleloader licenses. If a hunter is selected for both licenses, only one antlerless deer can be taken.

Deer hunting licenses, lottery applications and special hunt applications are available at any DNR license agent, by telephone at 888-646-6367 or online at mndnr.gov/buyalicense. Lottery winners will be notified in October.

Permit area changes

Changes to permit area boundaries made last year remain in effect this year. In southeastern Minnesota, portions of permit areas 347 and 348 were merged to form permit area 603 when CWD was detected. In northeastern Minnesota's moose range, all or some of permit areas 122, 127, 176, 178, 180 and 181 from 2016 were realigned to form permit areas 130, 131, 132 and 133.

Southeast Minnesota CWD sampling

Mandatory CWD testing of deer harvested within the disease management zone – deer permit area 603 – throughout all hunting seasons continues this year.

Carcass movement restrictions remain in place until a test result is reported due to continued infection found in this area.

Sampling of hunter-harvested deer for CWD will be mandatory during the first two days of both the A (Nov. 3 and 4) and 3B (Nov. 17 and 18) firearm seasons this year in most permit areas in southeastern Minnesota. Those areas are 255 (Nov. 3 and 4 only), 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348 and 349 (Nov. 3-4 and Nov. 17-18). This expanded area is due to the discovery of CWD in nine farmed deer in Winona County, two wild deer in Forestville State Park and a wild deer in Eau Claire County, Wisconsin.

North-central and central Minnesota CWD sampling

Hunter-harvested deer from permit areas surrounding two CWD-positive deer farms in Crow Wing and Meeker counties will again be tested for CWD this fall during the first two days of the A firearms deer season (Nov. 3-4), but this mandatory testing will be in smaller, more focused areas. Those areas are:

- North-central (Crow Wing County area): Deer permit areas 242 and 247.
- Central (Meeker County area): Deer permit areas including portions of 277 and 283 east of state highway 4, the portion of 219 south of state highway 55, and the portion of 285 north of Minnesota Highway 7.

No positive deer were found during the 2017 deer season and wild deer in these areas are not known to have CWD. Because disease symptoms are slow to develop, DNR conducts sampling for 3 consecutive years. This is the second year for these areas and further testing will determine if the disease has spread to the wild.

Additional maps and CWD sampling stations can be found in the 2018 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations handbook. Complete CWD sampling, testing and disease management information is regularly updated on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/cwd and details will be announced as they become available.

[DNR aims to reduce deer numbers in northwestern Minnesota](#) October 28, 2018

Bemidji Pioneer

... After a pair of relatively severe winters earlier this decade, the deer numbers dropped to 15 deer per square mile in parts of northwest Minnesota. Currently, however, the population has rebounded to as many as 19 to 22 deer per square mile..,

[Outlook better for hunters this deer firearms season](#) October 30, 2018 Minnesota, Star Tribune

... Projections hint of an increase of at least 10 percent, possibly more... deer hunting restrictions were loosened this year in 37 percent of the state's deer permit areas to

reflect gains in the whitetail herd. A string of mild winters, coupled with several years of conservative deer management ..,

[2018 Minnesota Deer Forecast](#) October 30, 2018 Game & Fish

... “We are closer to goal in the Northeast and around the Metro and Central Farmlands transition zone. The Southwest is a mixed bag — some units are at goal, some are below, and we need to build those herds some. Deer are pretty vulnerable to hunting there, and antlerless restrictions will remain in place fairly tightly.” ... [Erik Thorson, Acting Big Game Program Leader]

DNR invites public to attend deer open houses

August 13, 2018

Anyone interested in deer can talk with area wildlife managers from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at meetings scheduled across the state meant to encourage discussions about deer and deer management, enhance local relationships and foster two-way communication.

These area-level engagement meetings organized by the DNR are one of the first steps identified for implementing the state’s new White-tailed Deer Management Plan.

“The format of the meetings will be similar to the ones held in April, when our draft plan was released,” said Erik Thorson, DNR acting big game program leader.

“The focus this time will be on the upcoming deer season, progress in meeting population goals, local DNR management efforts and listening to citizen suggestions on improving deer management.”

These local open-house style meetings will provide hunters and others interested in deer a forum for sharing their observations, talking to DNR wildlife managers, reviewing new deer-related information – including the final deer plan – and discussing options for the future. No formal presentations have been planned, so people can arrive any time during the scheduled meeting times.

The DNR encourages anyone who can't attend a scheduled meeting to contact a local wildlife manager for additional information or to address any questions about deer management. A list of area wildlife offices is available online at mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife.

More information about the state's deer management plan is available at mndnr.gov/deerplan.

[Looks like another mild winter for deer](#) February 7, 2018 Minnesota, Tower Timberjay News

... the North Country deer population looks poised for a fourth-straight milder-than-usual winter ... "Four consecutive mild-to-moderate winters is the prescription for northern forest deer population recovery from the severe winters of 2012-13 and 2013-14." ...

[Winter severity index exceeds 100](#) March 14, 2018 Minnesota, International Falls Journal ... winter severity index has surpassed 100, reports Larry Petersen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wildlife supervisor for the International Falls area. The WSI for the International Falls area Wednesday was 108, Petersen reports, noting the average WSI for this date is about 102. The WSI was 74 last year at this date, and 36 two years ago...

[Minnesota moose numbers low but stable](#) February 15, 2018 Southernminn.com ... annual winter moose estimate came in at 3,030 moose, an 18 percent drop compared to 3,710 moose in 2017. The agency said the decline was statistically insignificant... 90 percent certain that the population is somewhere between 2,320 and 4,140 moose...

[Reference to northeast moose management is dubious in Minnesota's deer plan](#) April 12, 2018 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Minnesota moose are in trouble. The iconic animals have disappeared from the northwest and have declined significantly in the northeast, numbering there most recently about 3,000, down from nearly 9,000 in 2006. No one knows exactly why..,

[Why no recovery in border country?](#) April 11, 2018 Minnesota, Tower Timberjay News

... Biologists hope new study will answer why deer haven't bounced back in northwestern St. Louis County ... Across most of northeastern Minnesota, the whitetail deer herd is rebounding. Recent mild winters have allowed the region's deer population to recover from high mortality back in 2013 and 2014 ...,

[Firearm deer season now less than a week away](#) October 27, 2018 Minnesota, Mesabi Daily News

... officials are forecasting a deer population that is recovered from the severe winters of 2013 and 2014 in Northern St. Louis and Northern Lake Counties ... "The last four winters have been mild to moderate, as measured by the DNR Winter Severity Index. As a result, fawn production has been excellent with twin fawns the norm in the better areas. " ..,

[How many deer do Minnesota hunters harvest each year — and where do they find them?](#) November 13, 2015 MinnPost

... 2014, when Minnesota hunters harvested just over 139,000 deer — a number the DNR considers conservative. And it's way down from the peak harvest of the last 20 years: in 2003, hunters took nearly 300,000 deer... As the DNR has sought to regulate the deer harvest, they have largely done so by restricting the number of antlerless deer killed by hunters...

[Didn't get your deer? You've got company](#) November 18, 2015 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

... Bow hunters are seeing more coyotes than deer, he said. The old trails are still there, but not as many deer are walking on them ... Nelson said he'd like to take a look at the models this winter to see if the hunter's choice permit is leading to overhunting...

[Wolf, entangled in snare, shot in Duluth](#) February 12, 2018 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... DNR said its annual survey showed an estimated 2,856 wolves spread among 500 packs, up from 2,278 wolves in 438 packs in the 2015-2016 survey. Wolf numbers had remained stable or declined some for several years before last year's jump, including after state hunting and trapping seasons were allowed from 2012 to 2014...

[Deer-wolf population dynamics offer fodder for debate in Minnesota](#) April 15, 2018 Bemidji Pioneer

... "The federal recovery plan for the gray wolf identified a recovered population number of 1,251 to 1,400 wolves," Engwall said. "DNR's winter wolf population survey in 2016-17 estimated the population to be approximately 2,856 ... The wolf has recovered, and management should be returned to the state." ... the wolf population isn't the limiting factor for deer numbers, DNR officials say.,

[Minnesota's wolf population remains stable](#) September 24, 2018 Valley News Live
... Minnesota's wolf population estimate was 2,655 wolves and 465 wolf packs during the winter of 2017-2018 within Minnesota's wolf range, an estimate that is statistically unchanged from the previous winter ...

[Minnesota wolf population remains stable](#) September 30, 2018 Grand Forks Herald
... Minnesota had an estimated wolf population of 2,655 wolves and 465 wolf packs during the winter of 2017-2018 within the state's wolf range ... statistically unchanged from the previous winter's estimate of approximately 2,856 wolves and 500 wolf packs.,

[A return to wolf hunting in Minnesota?](#) March 13, 2019 Minneapolis Star Tribune
... Dan Stark, DNR large carnivore specialist, said Minnesota's wolf population has been stable for many years, edging up when deer are abundant in northern forests and down when there's fewer whitetails to prey upon. The most recent survey, conducted last winter, estimated 2,655 wolves in the state ...

[Deer-wolf population dynamics offer fodder for debate in Minnesota](#) April 15, 2018

Bemidji Pioneer

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[Observing the social structure of deer](#) April 15, 2018 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times

... the segregation of sexes that takes place in the winter months. For the most part, the does are with the does and the bucks form bachelor groups... in the weeks ahead as the mature does will chase away last year's fawns as they prepare to drop this year's crop...

[Turning the page on deer management](#) April 13, 2018 Minnesota, Daily Globe

... More than \$11 million are raised by the sale of deer licenses ... as a result of an audit conducted by the state auditor's office ... the DNR has taken its recommendations and created a state-wide 10-year deer management plan...

[Reference to northeast moose management is dubious in Minnesota's deer plan](#) April 12, 2018 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Minnesota moose are in trouble. The iconic animals have disappeared from the northwest and have declined significantly in the northeast, numbering there most recently about 3,000, down from nearly 9,000 in 2006. No one knows exactly why...

[Why no recovery in border country?](#) April 11, 2018 Minnesota, Tower Timberjay News ... Biologists hope new study will answer why deer haven't bounced back in northwestern St. Louis County ... Across most of northeastern Minnesota, the whitetail deer herd is rebounding. Recent mild winters have allowed the region's deer population to recover from high mortality back in 2013 and 2014 ...

[Minnesota DNR releases deer management plan calling for smaller harvest than what hunters' group wants](#) April 9, 2018 StarTribune

... Minnesota hunters will harvest 200,000 whitetails a year — 25,000 fewer than some wanted — while gaining greater input over the animals' management if a first-ever statewide deer plan is adopted ...

[Conjoined White-Tailed Deer \(*Odocoileus virginianus*\) Fawns](#) GJ D'Angelo, L Cornicelli, CE Clarkson... - The American Midland ..., 2018

... In May 2016 conjoined white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) fawns were found deceased in southeastern Minnesota. The bodies of the fawns were joined ventrally and laterally with two separate necks and heads. This is the first case described of conjoined two-headed white-tailed deer brought to full-term gestation and delivered...

[New plan fosters better understanding of deer management, more citizen input](#) April 10, 2018 Minnesota, KLAS Press Release

... annual harvests less than 200,000 will indicate a need for more conservative regulations to rebuild deer populations. Harvests greater than 200,000 will suggest hunting regulations need to be liberalized ... 35 open-house meetings in April will help people understand the deer plan...

[DNR releases deer management plan](#) April 9, 2018 Minnesota, MPR News

... a statewide harvest target of 200,000 deer ... DNR will take public comment on the plan through May 9, including 35 public meetings across the state in April... [read the draft plan](#) ...

[Two rules to change in Duluth bowhunt for deer](#) April 7, 2018 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... the hunt will no longer carry a "metro" designation ... The Duluth bowhunt was started 13 years ago as a way to reduce an overpopulation of deer in the city. Through those years, city hunters have taken a total of 6,143 deer, according to the ABA...

[DNR commissioner Landwehr talks muskies, deer plan](#) April 3, 2018 Minnesota, Echo Press

... "I think it's going to end up being a population that provides for a 40 percent success rate," he said. "Figure 500,000 hunters and 40 percent success, that means shooting 200,000 deer." ... The deer plan will not specifically address many operational issues ...

[Deer registration in years past](#) March 25, 2018 Minnesota, Aitkin Independent Age

... in the early 1970s that mandatory deer registration was implemented for successful deer hunters... Prior to that, there was a postcard attached to the license that successful hunters were supposed to send in after the season to provide harvest information to the department...

[Helicopter aids in MN DNR deer movement study](#) March 18, 2018 Minnesota, KTTC

... The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is studying deer movement in Minnesota's chronic wasting disease management ... This project's goal is to capture 115 whitetail deer of various ages and sex classes and get GPS collars attached ...

[The data on moose and fire](#) March 14, 2018 Minnesota, Tower Timberjay News

... the decline of moose in northeastern Minnesota... Biologists have known for some time that moose like areas regenerating after fire, but Schrage's data shows just how strong that affinity really is. "If you like moose, fire should be your friend," ... moose stick to regenerating forest burns almost like Velcro...

[Elk surveys mailed to 8500 homes in Northland as reintroduction effort inches forward](#)

March 13, 2018 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... The goal, if elk are reintroduced, is that they will stay mostly on public, forested lands and avoid potential trouble on agricultural or other private lands. So far researchers are finding plenty of places elk would thrive. But the unknown aspect of any reintroduction plan is public support...

[Conjoined deer fawns offer UGA researcher glimpse into rare wildlife deformity](#) May 7,

2018 Minnesota, UGA Today

... The conjoined twin fawns, which were stillborn, are believed to be the first ones found to have reached full term and then be delivered by their mother. The only other examples of conjoined twin fawns have been found still in utero ...

[Loss of Deer Park's white doe was tragic, unnecessary](#) April 25, 2018 Minnesota,

Winona Daily News

... the little white doe that we have come to know and love is gone... acquired from a deer farm in Winona County a couple of years ago...the DNR decided that these three deer should be analyzed for the disease to make sure that they were not contaminated with CWD... the tests for this disease came back negative on all three deer ...

Glenwood, [Hunters, farmers talk deer management in Glenwood](#) April 24, 2018

Minnesota, Echo Press

... it is the public's turn to voice their opinions on the [deer] plan... close doe-to-buck ratios and how that helps lead to a healthier herd. Notably, more does tend to be bred during their first estrous cycle in November, leading to more fawns being dropped at the

same time, which helps more of them avoid predators and get to a size that has them ready to face Minnesota's winters...

[Groups react to Minnesota DNR's new deer-management plan](#) August 6, 2018, Outdoor News

... "We know now, after years of research, that about 30 to 40 percent of mortality of adult moose comes from brainworm ... That is the largest single mortality caused to moose, and our deer numbers are already lower than 10 per square mile, so it stands to reason that's not enough." ...

[Deer hunters will have more opportunities this fall](#) July 30, 2018 Minnesota, DNR News

... "Deer populations have responded well to favorable winter weather and our generally conservative harvest levels in recent years," said Erik Thorson, acting big game program leader for the DNR. "So we have been able to expand hunting opportunities once again in much of the state in order to reduce populations or stabilize growth." ...

[Deer study yields stunning results](#) July 25, 2018 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

... a juvenile whitetail doe ... was radio collared last spring in southern Fillmore County ... made the 80-mile trek to Cannon Falls in nearly a straight line ... About 33 percent of juvenile females dispersed at least five miles from where they were captured, while 29 percent of the males moved out that far...

[DNR announces first plan to manage deer population](#) July 24, 2018 Minnesota, Star Tribune

... a target harvest of 200,000 whitetails... DNR deer biologists pushed for a target of 190,000 deer... [the deer plan](#)

[The decline of moose in northwestern Minnesota](#) July 22, 2018 Bemidji Pioneer

... one glaring fact is undeniably clear: the moose population of Minnesota's great northwest is significantly diminished... unless something extraordinary happens to change the apparent downward population trend, some wildlife biologists have predicted that moose will eventually become extinct in that part of Minnesota...

[White-tailed deer in Finland: From 5 to 100,000 in 80 years](#) July 8, 2018 Minnesota, YLE News

... eight deer were captured near the Minnesota city of Virginia ... A 3.5-hectare enclosure with green grass, forest, swamps, and lakeside access awaited the deer at Laukko Manor, and the animals soon thrived. In 1938 ... today the species is the country's second-most populous game animal ...

[Seeking ways to boost hunter, angler numbers](#) June 4, 2018 Minnesota, SW News Media

... Efforts to increase the number of hunters and anglers in Minnesota will gain new focus with advice from a 15-member council that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is establishing to zero in on hunter and angler recruitment ... Citizens can nominate themselves through June 22 ...

[GLCC begins with tree-planting project](#) May 28, 2018 Minnesota, Marquette Mining Journal

... the DNR's focus for the tree project is primarily game species like white-tailed deer. However, other species could benefit from the habitat improvement. "... It's all about enhancing wildlife habitat, so we've been planting trees and doing invasive work," Debiak said. "In total, we'll have about 15,000 hemlock in the ground by the time this year's done." ...

'No more deer' [DNR officials hear complaints from area hunters](#) August 29, 2018 Minnesota, Marshall Independent

... Many of those attending the Minnesota meeting called for shortening the deer season so less deer are killed. Some suggested the season should start after Thanksgiving. There was also a lot of concern about predators and cars killing too many deer...

[Increased timber harvest on state lands is good for hunters and all Minnesotans](#) September 27, 2018 Brainerd Dispatch

... deer—depend to a large extent on young forest. These cover types provide excellent food and protection from predators throughout much of the year. And, no surprise, young forest is largely a result of good timber management and harvest...

[Minnesota's wolf population remains stable](#) September 24, 2018 Valley News Live

... Minnesota's wolf population estimate was 2,655 wolves and 465 wolf packs during the winter of 2017-2018 within Minnesota's wolf range, an estimate that is statistically unchanged from the previous winter ...

[DNR deer meetings attract few hunters](#) September 8, 2018 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... the DNR cut back antlerless permits in the most northeastern permit area in the state, in Cook County, as deer numbers there have been slower to rebound ... In Tower, ... deer numbers have "absolutely" recovered from the back-to-back hard winters of 2013-2014 ...

[Minnesota hunters asked to observe deer gut piles](#) October 18, 2018 Winona Daily News

... The purpose of this research is to better understand what and when species use deer gut piles provided by hunters across the state... looking for hunters with their own game camera to set the camera on their gut pile and leave it to record pictures ...

[Minnesota opening weekend deer harvest down from last year](#) November 7, 2018 Grand Forks Herald

... registered 62,702 deer, of which 36,149 were bucks, during the opening weekend of the state's firearms deer season ... That's down about 14.5 percent from last year's opener ...

[Minnesota hunters prep for Saturday firearms deer season opener](#) October 1, 2018 Duluth News Tribune

... Nearly 500,000 hunters are expected to be afield statewide on Saturday and (along with archery and muzzleloader hunters) are expected to shoot more than 200,000 deer

over the season. About half the deer shot during the season are shot opening weekend...

[Early deer license sales decrease](#) October 31, 2018 Minnesota, KBJR 6

... as the deer opener approaches, there is still a slight decline, closer to 2 percent.

“The funding that we get to manage deer populations, and to manage the hunt, comes from deer hunting licenses sales...

[2018 Minnesota Deer Forecast](#) October 30, 2018 Game & Fish

... “We are closer to goal in the Northeast and around the Metro and Central Farmlands transition zone. The Southwest is a mixed bag — some units are at goal, some are below, and we need to build those herds some. Deer are pretty vulnerable to hunting there, and antlerless restrictions will remain in place fairly tightly.” [Erik Thorson, Acting Big Game Program Leader] ...

[Outlook better for hunters this deer firearms season](#) October 30, 2018 Minnesota, Star Tribune

... Projections hint of an increase of at least 10 percent, possibly more... deer hunting restrictions were loosened this year in 37 percent of the state’s deer permit areas to reflect gains in the whitetail herd. A string of mild winters, coupled with several years of conservative deer management ...

[Pondering the mystery of hunting the deer rut in Minnesota](#) October 29, 2018

Minnesota, Star Tribune

... why Minnesota's firearms deer season coincides with the rut? ... the state chose a time friendly to buck hunters to reduce pressure on antlerless deer and boost deer populations. Today the gun season could revert to a later start without adverse population effects ...

[DNR aims to reduce deer numbers in northwestern Minnesota](#) October 28, 2018

Bemidji Pioneer

... After a pair of relatively severe winters earlier this decade, the deer numbers dropped to 15 deer per square mile in parts of northwest Minnesota. Currently, however, the population has rebounded to as many as 19 to 22 deer per square mile...

[Firearm deer season now less than a week away](#) October 27, 2018 Minnesota, Mesabi Daily News

... officials are forecasting a deer population that is recovered from the severe winters of 2013 and 2014 in Northern St. Louis and Northern Lake Counties ... “The last four winters have been mild to moderate, as measured by the DNR Winter Severity Index. As a result, fawn production has been excellent with twin fawns the norm in the better areas. ” ...

[This diving, pooping moose is saving its ecosystem—for now](#) October 21, 2018 Minnesota, Science Magazine

... Foraging for underwater plants [almost tripled the amount of nitrogen in the water](#), where tiny organisms had easy access to it, the team reported in 2017... [on land] each moose passes about 78 grams of nitrogen through urination or defecation each day. [That's the equivalent of two 20-kilogram bags of fertilizer a year](#) ...

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[Minnesota deer kill down 9.5 percent from last year](#) November 14, 2018 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald

... through Sunday had registered 132,633 deer, down from 146,537 last year. The biggest drop was in the 100-series permit areas of northeast Minnesota, where preliminary numbers showed a 17.7 percent decline ...

[Baiting still tops list of Minnesota deer hunt violations](#) November 11, 2018 Duluth News Tribune

... Hunters who set out corn, apples, carrots or prepared bait products to lure in their buck continue to be the leading source of violations ... Statewide licenses sales, at 392,056 through opening day, were down 2 percent compared to last year...

[Blame modern timber harvesting for erasing wildlife habitat](#) December 1, 2018

Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Itasca County ... was wooded and wild with a wonderfully diverse habitat. But during the past 10 years it largely has been logged off... There seems to be no evidence to explain the low grouse numbers and struggling deer population other than the destruction of habitat and the forest monoculture left in the wake of modern timber harvesting...

[Minnesota's firearms deer season never fully recovers from slow start](#) December 8, 2018 Star Tribune

... the combined 2018 whitetail harvest stood Wednesday at 181,100... 5.3 percent lower than the statewide total from the same period in 2017 ... worst results have been in northeastern Minnesota, where 12 percent fewer whitetail tags have been filled compared to 2017... reports showed stable populations ...

[Thank modern timber harvesting for creating wildlife habitat](#) December 8, 2018

Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Deer die in hard winters because of a lack of available food. However, thanks to food resources enhanced by modern logging techniques and young forest habitats, Minnesota's deer population is the highest it has been since 2010...

2017

2017 Regional Deer Report, October 23, 2017, Minnesota DNR

Northwest

John Williams, northwest region wildlife manager

More deer on the landscape in the northwest region should help hunters better enjoy the season and have good prospects for a successful hunt.

Another mild winter on top of the previous two mild winters has largely enabled deer populations to be at or near goal levels in most permit areas. Fawn production was also good this year; another indication of does coming through the winter in good health.

Recent rains have filled basins that were previously dry due to drought-like conditions in late summer, and water levels are up on many of the marshes and lakes in the region. Hunters should be prepared to deal with wetter than average conditions if they are hunting in or need to cross lowland areas.

In general, hunters will be able to harvest more deer. In several permit areas the designations changed to allow more overall harvest. Some permit areas moved from a

designation of lottery, which requires hunters to apply in advance to shoot an antlerless deer, to a hunters choice designation that allows a hunter to use one license to shoot either a buck or antlerless deer.

Other permit areas changed designations from hunters choice to managed. In permit areas designated as managed, hunters can harvest two deer through use of a regular license and a bonus antlerless permit. Permit areas that did stay in the lottery designation this year may have more permits available than in previous years.

Northeast

Dave Olfelt, northeast region wildlife manager

Three consecutive, relatively mild winters have contributed to good fawn production and high numbers of twin births. Snow depth was moderate throughout much of the region and a relatively early green-up of forage has supported deer that appear to be in excellent physical condition.

Where good habitat exists, deer populations are approaching or are at established population goals. While deer are not evenly distributed within permit areas because of habitat differences and varying levels of hunting pressure, harvest regulations have relaxed in many northern Minnesota permit areas to allow more deer harvest. Duluth, several Iron Range cities and some state parks continue to hold special hunts to reduce deer numbers.

Rain and wet conditions have persisted throughout much of the fall season. Hunters may find water in areas that are typically dry this time of year and forest road access may be difficult or impassable in some locations.

Hunters in far northeastern Minnesota's primary moose range should review the new deer permit area maps for boundary and numbering changes.

Central

Jami Markle, assistant central region wildlife manager

"Deer are everywhere" is a common refrain across the central region this fall. Deer populations seem to have bounced back from a decline following the severe winter of 2013-2014.

In fact, many deer permit areas in the region have met or are above population goals, meaning more permits will be available this fall. With rebounding deer populations and ample hunter opportunities, wildlife managers are anticipating a strong harvest in 2017.

Deer look healthy as they shed their reddish summer coats for the more muted gray-brown tones that will carry them through the winter. Summer habitat conditions were ideal with an excellent growing season and plentiful native forage and cover. Does with twin fawns seem to be the norm rather than the exception this year.

Wildlife managers and landowners have noted an abundant acorn crop in the central and southeast portion of the region this fall which will keep deer feeding and browsing in the oak woods.

Wet conditions in late September and early October have postponed agricultural harvest so hunters may see standing crops well into the firearms season. Fall leaf drop is reported to be later than normal in the southern part of the state, but by early November sightlines should be opened up and the forest floor will have a new layer of fallen leaves. Buck scrapes and rubs are starting to appear and hunters can expect to see deer movement and patterns change as the rut approaches.

Many permit areas in the central region are designated as managed this year, allowing harvest of two deer through the use of a regular license and a bonus antlerless permit. Five permit areas are designated as intensive, which allows for harvest of three deer using additional bonus permits. There are additional harvest opportunities in the 601 metro deer management area and the 603 chronic wasting disease management zone, both of which offer harvest of an unlimited number of antlerless deer.

Southwest

David Trauba, southwest region wildlife manager

Two consecutive mild winters coupled with past conservative harvest strategies have allowed deer numbers to increase throughout southwestern Minnesota. In addition, wildlife managers reported good fawn production. As a result, more antlerless permits were provided for this fall's hunting season. However, permits numbers continue to be low in select permit areas, mostly in extreme southwest, due to the loss of Conservation Reserve Program acres. Managers in these permit areas are having a difficult time increasing deer numbers due to limited habitat availability.

Conversely, hunters need to be aware that permit areas 281 and 290 moved to a hunters choice designation for the first time due to an abundance of deer along the Minnesota River corridor.

Two wild cards for hunters will be the amount of standing crops and river flooding. Historically the amount of standing crops drives opening weekend hunter harvest along with weather conditions. Large rainfall amounts in mid-October have resulted in flooded fields and river flooding. Crop harvest is behind schedule but this can change very quickly so it is too early to predict what amount of crops will be in the field, if any, before opening day. However, hunters should prepare for high water in select river corridors; the high water can influence deer use of these habitats. Many deer have been forced out of the river valleys into the surrounding uplands. As always, hunters need to scout and adapt to conditions.

Bill Aims to Protect Venison, Bald Eagles February 16, 2017 Minnesota, KEYC
... would prohibit the use of lead ammunition for deer ... The aim of House File 1356 is two-fold: To protect the health of families who consume venison, and prevent the poisoning of our national symbol, the bald eagle ...

[DNR and whitetail hunters group ponder dollars and deer](#) March 4, 2017 Minnesota, Star Tribune

... Here's how the \$30 from a deer license is currently set up," Engwall said. "One dollar goes into a special deer-bear management account. Fifty cents goes into an emergency deer feeding/deer health [think CWD] account. Fifty cents goes into a wolf management account. Twenty-six dollars goes into the Game and Fish Fund. And only \$2 goes into the dedicated deer management account...

[DNR removes deer carcasses, admits error](#) January 6, 2016 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin
... The "discovery" of a site where the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has been dumping deer carcasses for years has prompted a public outcry — and an admission from the DNR that in this case its protocols were not being followed...



[Hunters Angry Over DNR Deer Dumping in Rochester](#) January 4, 2017, Minnesota, KAALtv.com

... he stumbled upon dozens of deer carcasses near a trail in the Wildlife Management Area... the DNR has been disposing deer at this particular site for a "number of years that are not fit for human consumption." ...

[Hunters and anglers are paying enough](#) February 15, 2017 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin
... with the state's Game and Fish Fund poised to go into the red in 2019, Gov. Mark Dayton has proposed a budget that would raise the cost of a fishing license from \$22 to \$25, and raise the deer license fee from \$30 to \$34...

[Hunters voice their opinions at deer management meeting in Alexandria](#) February 3, 2017 Minnesota, Alexandria Echo Press
... Almost 60 people " ... I think there's a lot of corruptness in publicly run, whether it's government or DNR, so accountability (is needed) on how they're spending people's money..." ... Concern over the accuracy of the deer numbers and where the DNR gets that data was a popular topic ...

[Lake Superior's last caribou nearly gone; Ontario rushes to move remaining herd to avoid wolves](#) December 10, 2017 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune
...Northern Minnesota was home to woodland caribou for thousands of years, well into the 1900s... they've been gone since the 1940s, pushed out by indiscriminate hunting, logging, fires, deer and wolves... the planned source of the caribou, the Slate Islands, which had upwards of 650 caribou in the 1990s, is now down to just a few, with those expected to be gone soon ..,

[Mild winter so far good news for northern deer](#) February 4, 2017 Minnesota, Mesabi Daily News
... for northern St. Louis and Northern Lake counties on Wednesday and so far the winter of 2016-17 hasn't been much of a winter at all. That bodes well for the whitetail deer population in northern Minnesota, which finds itself in the midst of a third mild winter in a row ...

[Deer management plan meeting well-attended](#) March 2, 2017 Minnesota, Monte News
... Deer hunting generates \$500 million annually to the state's economy," said Murkowski. About 650,000 licenses were sold and about 173,000 deer were harvested in 2016, which was up from the 2015 harvest of almost 160,000. This year's mild winter should contribute to increased deer reproduction this year...

[Minnesota DNR proposes license and park fee increases](#) January 26, 2017 Minneapolis Star Tribune
... the resident deer hunting license from \$30 to \$34... The last time Minnesota raised these user fees was in 2013 ...

[DNR seeks to increase license fees](#) February 27, 2017 Minnesota, Herald Review
... Deer hunters face a fee increase from \$30 to \$34 for residents and \$165 to \$185 for non-residents... the Minnesota House and Senate ... will ultimately decide whether the

DNR can institute a fee hike... say the fee increases are needed due to rising costs. If the money isn't available, cuts will be necessary...

[Minnesota firearms deer hunters hope to see more bucks this fall](#) October 28, 2017

Duluth News Tribune

... deer populations are approaching or are at established population goals," said Dave Olfelt, DNR ... "Three consecutive, relatively mild winters have contributed to good fawn production and high numbers of twin births. Snow depth was moderate ... a relatively early green-up of forage..,"

[Conservative deer season expected](#) October 8, 2015 Minnesota, SW News Media

... Following a milder winter and a conservative deer season last year, hunters this fall may see more deer ... This year, they may see deer they can't shoot, but this helps provide more opportunity in the future...

[Minnesota moose numbers stabilizing after steep decline](#) February 27, 2017 Minnesota

Public Radio News

... The state estimates 3,710 moose live in the northeastern part of the state ... statistically unchanged from the estimate of 4,020 a year ago ... compared to 2006, because the state's highest moose population estimate of 8,840 ...

Minnesota Moose Population 2005 to 2016, November 4, 2017

Source: [Deer bringing death to Minnesota's moose](#) November 4, 2017 Startribune.com

[MN DNR deer management meetings](#) January 17, 2017 Minnesota, KFGO

... People interested in deer will have a chance to discuss goals and values that could define Minnesota's first-ever deer management plan in a series of 12 public engagement meetings the Department of Natural Resources will host throughout the state between Tuesday, Jan. 31, and Thursday, March 2 ...

[New Bill Seeks To Prohibit Drone Use In Hunting](#) January 22, 2017 Minnesota, CBS

Local

...SF 124. The recently introduced bill would prohibit the use of unmanned aircraft for taking or harassing deer and other wildlife...

[Ongoing wolf legal battle](#) September 17, 2017 Minnesota, Aitkin Independent Age

... Currently, the wolf population estimate in Minnesota is about 2,400 while in the three midwestern states (Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan) the estimate is around 3,800 wolves...
[Minnesota wolf population appears to rise 25 percent](#) September 25, 2017 The Capital Journal
... DNR's 2016-2017 population survey estimated that Minnesota had about 500 packs and 2,856 wolves at midwinter ...

[Ongoing wolf legal battle](#) September 17, 2017 Minnesota, Aitkin Independent Age
... Currently, the wolf population estimate in Minnesota is about 2,400 while in the three midwestern states (Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan) the estimate is around 3,800 wolves...
[Minnesota wolf population appears to rise 25 percent](#) September 25, 2017 The Capital Journal
... DNR's 2016-2017 population survey estimated that Minnesota had about 500 packs and 2,856 wolves at midwinter ...

[Northeast moose population stable](#) March 18, 2017 Minnesota, Mesabi Daily News
... rapid decline of the population since 2006. That year the DNR reported an estimated 8,840 moose in northeastern Minnesota. This year's estimate is 3,710... survey was conducted from Jan. 5 to Jan. 14 ...

[Outdoors groups urge legislators to approve fee increases](#) March 18, 2017 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune
... a deer hunting license would rise from \$30 to \$34. ... The DNR will need the fee increase revenue not only for its regular activities, but also to develop a new deer management plan now in the works and to combat chronic wasting disease in deer ...

[Minnesota's wolf population](#) March 22, 2017 KMSP-TV
... peaking in 2003-2004 with about 3,020 wolves ... the wolf population has been steady the last few years, around 2,300

[Winter Severity Index was mild, good for deer, hunters](#) March 24, 2017 Minnesota, Mesabi Daily News
... snow depth and duration of the season are the most important factors in deer winter survival in northern Minnesota, the herd is in very good condition for this time of year... noted fawn production should be excellent this spring...

[Deer permit areas aligned with Northeast moose range](#) March 24, 2017 Minnesota, Northern Wilds

... “We are looking to stabilize the deer population within the moose range and to raise deer numbers outside the moose range,” said Adam Murkowski, DNR big game program leader....

[Logging, intentional fires planned in Superior National Forest to improve moose habitat](#) April 26, 2017 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... plans to cut more and larger swaths of trees are getting high praise. Wildlife biologists and others say more logging and more fire are the only hope for Minnesota's dwindling moose herd...

[Minnesota's deer population recovers, and hunters will be allowed to shoot more this fall](#) June 3, 2017 TwinCities Pioneer Press

... Following several years of tight hunting restrictions and mild winters, Minnesota's deer population has recovered ...

[Potential eastern Minnesota areas for elk restoration effort identified](#) May 31, 2017 Duluth News Tribune

... The elk restoration plan has focused on Carlton, southern St. Louis and northern Pine counties and the three specific areas "were identified as having the best conditions for supporting elk someday," ... it's the public acceptance aspect that's expected to be the most challenging...

[New deer permit areas set in the northeast](#) June 21, 2017 Minnesota, Tower Timberjay News

... Within primary moose range, the DNR will manage for lower but stable deer densities as recommended by the 2014 deer population public advisory committee and the 2011 moose management plan. Outside of primary moose range, deer will be managed for higher densities...

[Maintaining a food plot for whitetails isn't baiting](#) July 20 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... in Minnesota, hunting deer over bait is illegal ... the DNR is considering a statewide ban on deer feeding. The main concern ... is that the practice puts animals in proximity to one another and possibly increases the spread of diseases such as chronic wasting. The ban would not include planting food plots...

[Parasites, infections, wolves taking toll on Minnesota moose](#) June 27, 2017 Duluth News Tribune

... wolves killed nearly one-third. But eight of those 18 moose eaten by wolves, 40 percent, were sick before wolves attacked... Parasites were close behind, killing 30 percent of the moose, including a brainworm ... 21 percent of the confirmed deaths were caused by bacterial infections, often infected wounds or injuries...

[Plenty of deer harvest opportunities locally](#) August 7, 2017 Minnesota, Alexandria Echo Press

... mild winters and recent conservative management strategies in helping the deer populations rebound ... There are 130 permit areas in 2017. In one deer permit area only bucks can be hunted (down from five areas last season). In 48 areas, hunters must be chosen in a lottery to harvest an antlerless deer (down from 67 areas)...

[2017 Minnesota Deer Forecast](#) September 19, 2017 Game & Fish

... in many of southwestern Minnesota's permit areas, wildlife managers have a hard time increasing the deer population... The highest deer densities ... occur in the central and transition zones where the prairies give way to forests ...

[Ongoing wolf legal battle](#) September 17, 2017 Minnesota, Aitkin Independent Age

... Currently, the wolf population estimate in Minnesota is about 2,400 while in the three midwestern states (Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan) the estimate is around 3,800 wolves..,

[Minnesota wolf population appears to rise 25 percent](#) September 25, 2017 The Capital Journal

... DNR's 2016-2017 population survey estimated that Minnesota had about 500 packs and 2,856 wolves at midwinter ...

[Hunters get their chance for more deer input](#) September 27, 2017 Minnesota, Alexandria Echo Press

... Many hunters wanted more transparency from the DNR on how decisions were made. A better doe-to-buck ratio and age structure within the herd were popular talking points. ...

[MDHA's Engwall discusses Minnesota deer-hunting issues](#) October 29, 2017 Duluth News Tribune

... there are still plenty of areas in the Northland where population numbers have not recovered to where they should be. It will take several years of conservative harvests ... Last year, about 32 percent of Minnesota's firearms deer hunters shot a deer ...

[Minnesota firearms deer hunters hope to see more bucks this fall](#) October 28, 2017 Duluth News Tribune

... deer populations are approaching or are at established population goals," said Dave Olfelt, DNR ... "Three consecutive, relatively mild winters have contributed to good fawn production and high numbers of twin births. Snow depth was moderate ... a relatively early green-up of forage..."

Bemidji, [Officials say 'fantastic' deer season ahead](#) October 28, 2017 Minnesota, Bemidji Pioneer

... We've been conservative in our antlerless harvest the past few seasons and that has enabled us to maintain our adult does ... this spring's deer population in the Bemidji area between 21 and 28 per square mile. The goal figure is 18 to 24 ...

[UMN scientist seeks crowd-funding for moose research project](#) October 28, 2017 Minnesota, TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press

... The solution to a mystery that's killing Minnesota's moose could come down to slug and snail DNA contained in moose and deer droppings. And a University of Minnesota scientist eager to analyze that poop is looking for the public's help... [You can donate here...](#)

[Deer hunting license sales slow, but need for early permits reduced](#) October 24, 2017
Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... In 2016, more than 162,000 total licenses had been sold with two weeks remaining before the opener. This year, the number of licenses sold was 115,551. Money from deer licenses is vital to the DNR's core Game & Fish Fund for wildlife management...

[Minnesota to collar more than 100 wild deer with tracking devices to fine-tune its fight against CWD](#) October 14, 2017 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... to study how far they roam and what corridors they follow... carry out the work on hilly, forested land that rings Fillmore County's 371-square-mile CWD management zone... will help computer scientists create predictive models ...

[Survey sheds light on importance of Minnesota wildlife management](#) October 2, 2017
Grand Forks Herald

... Users are most interested in pheasant hunting (80 percent), duck hunting (37 percent) and firearms deer hunting (31 percent)...

[By tradition, start of deer hunting and the rut coincide](#) November 1, 2017 Minnesota,
Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Since 1959, the Minnesota firearms deer hunting season has opened on the Saturday nearest Nov. 6, inextricably linking it to the short window of time when bucks make themselves most vulnerable to ambush. Transfixed by romance ... "People agree we should do better buck management, but they can't agree on what method," ...

[DNR signs emergency rule for 2017 deer season](#) November 4, 2017 Minnesota, Greene
County Daily World

... deer populations are generally higher in permit areas to the west and south of Tower (176, 177 and 178) and lowest in permit areas to the east and north (108, 117, 118, 119, 130 and 131)... the statewide season framework this year is more liberal than 2016, designed to maintain the population at population goals...

[Door County plans to manage its herd](#) November 15, 2017 Minnesota, Fox11online.com

... Deer management leaders say in many areas of the forest zone, deer habitat needs to improve ... In the last 15 years, many of the timber sales were stopped up, or tied up in court for a long time...

[Minnesota deer harvest up 10 percent](#) November 14, 2017 Daily Globe

... DNR is projecting the 2017 total deer harvest to be around 200,000. The 2016 total harvest was 173,213...

[Minnesota deer harvest increases 16 percent over last year](#) November 21, 2017 Duluth News Tribune

... hunters registered 161,057 deer through the third weekend of deer season ... 53 percent were bucks, compared to 63 percent during the same period in 2016...

[Preliminary numbers show hunters and deer harvest down in southeast Minnesota](#)

November 19, 2017 Winona Daily News

... firearms hunter numbers were down 10 percent from 2016 ... Opening weekend harvest was down 6.5 percent ... The drop in harvest is despite efforts to increase the number of deer removed in southeastern Minnesota to combat chronic wasting disease ...

[Minnesota deer harvest rises 15 percent, boosted by larger herd and more opportunity](#)

December 6, 2017 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... a combination of more deer and more liberal regulations... participation was down about 2.5 percent from a year ago, when the DNR sold 446,323 licenses for the regular firearms season. In southeastern Minnesota, where the DNR is managing the state's largest-ever outbreak of chronic wasting disease ... license sales declined 6 percent...

[New deer permit area boundaries boosted harvest in moose range](#) December 6, 2017

Minnesota, Tower Timberjay News

... DNR biologists have shown that whitetail deer abundance is a primary driver of adult moose mortality in northern Minnesota. The more deer, the research shows, the more debilitating, and ultimately fatal, diseases and parasites, you'll find in moose...

[Antlerless harvest boosts NE Minnesota deer registrations](#) December 9, 2017 Bemidji

Pioneer

... "The reliable measure of the population is the buck harvest, and that was basically flat." [Craig Engwall, executive director of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association]. ... hunters reported seeing plenty of small bucks and does but few large bucks. That's likely due to losses suffered in a series of harsh winters ...

[Lake Superior's last caribou nearly gone; Ontario rushes to move remaining herd to avoid wolves](#) December 10, 2017 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

...Northern Minnesota was home to woodland caribou for thousands of years, well into the 1900s... they've been gone since the 1940s, pushed out by indiscriminate hunting, logging, fires, deer and wolves... the planned source of the caribou, the Slate Islands, which had upwards of 650 caribou in the 1990s, is now down to just a few, with those expected to be gone soon ...

[Study weighs pros and cons of harvest levels](#) December 27, 2017 Minnesota, Tower

Timberjay News

... Should the state's forests be managed mostly for industry ... While deer generally benefit from increased browse availability in the immediate aftermath of logging, Rusch said there's an extended period as new aspen grows back, where the sites offer little useful habitat for deer and make them more vulnerable to the effects of winter...

[Isle Royale moose getting smaller](#) December 18, 2017 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... the size of moose skulls has shrunk 16 percent over the past 40 years. The Michigan Technological University research, which analyzed the skulls of 662 full-grown

moose on the island, also found that moose that experience a warmer-than-average first winter tend to live shorter lives...

2016

[Audit of Minnesota Deer Management Full Report](#) May 25, 2016

[from the [Report Summary](#)]: an estimated one million white-tailed deer statewide in 2013 ... DNR's current model is sound and aspects of DNR's methods to estimate deer populations are commendable and align with best deer management practices; however, we identified weaknesses in DNR's statistical methods, data resources, records management, and validation of its deer estimates ...In recent years, DNR has used more conservative deer permit area designations intended to limit how many deer hunters may kill, and to increase deer numbers in many areas. As of 2015, DNR estimates of deer populations and deer goals varied significantly around the state ...

[DNR needs better plan, better numbers on deer](#) May 26, 2016 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is embarking on its first statewide plan for deer, and intends to invite not just hunters to the table, but also a wide range of interest groups that includes conservationists, local governments, foresters, ecologists, auto insurance companies and anyone else ...

[Legislative audit: DNR deer management sound but needs improvement](#) May 26, 2016 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... The legislative audit suggested the DNR broaden the kind of information it considers in setting deer population goals. Information on deer-vehicle crashes, the impact of deer on forests and agricultural land and changes in land use should also be included in the discussion of deer population goals ...

[Audit calls for formal deer management plan in Minnesota](#) May 26, 2016 Minnesota, Minnesota Public Radio News

... the audit concluded that establishing a statewide deer management plan would communicate to the public how the DNR prioritizes deer goals relative to other species, help lay out strategies to improve deer hunting, and better define expectations. The audit also called on the DNR to improve the statistical methods ..

[Deer management good but needs improvement](#) May 28, 2016 Minnesota, Detroit Lakes Online

... After reviewing the audit, DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr agreed that “a formal deer management plan would help to define, clarify and prioritize deer management goals, objectives and resources.” ...

[Better deer numbers expected this season in northwest](#) Minnesota October 30, 2016 INFORUM

... "The amount of CRP we had basically 10 years ago was providing improved habitat in the more agricultural areas of the region ... crop prices got high enough and CRP contracts expired ...With that change, our ability, habitat-wise, to hold the same number of deer is diminished...

[Cougar pair spotted fighting in northern Minnesota](#) November 12, 2016 Duluth News Tribune

... One cougar chased a deer and then got into a brief altercation with a second cougar ... Dan Stark, large carnivore specialist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, said the sighting appears to be legitimate...

[Deer Baiting Violations On Record Pace This Season](#) November 22, 2016 Minnesota, KNSI Radio

... with six bow hunting weekends left and 16 days of Muzzleloader hunting to go, that they are on pace to issue more citations for baiting than at any time since they started cracking down over ten-years ago...

[Deer Feeding Stations at Gopher Campfire Wildlife Sanctuary in Hutchinson](#) May 3, 2016 Minnesota, Crow River Media

... building a shelter to go over hay [alfalfa] ... “It’s to make the deer more visible, to pull them up,” Schuette said. “They won’t eat the hay because it is wet and full of goose poop.”...

[Deer Hunters in Central Minnesota Asked to Look for Wolves Opening Weekend](#)

November 4, 2016 KSTP.com

... In the spring of 2015, grey wolves showed up at Cedar Creek. They were seen quite often on pictures from trail cameras... The wolves thrived on the abundance of deer and the protection of the science reserve ... the farthest south a reproducing pack of wolves has been found in Minnesota in recent history...

[Deer population looks favorable](#) April 10, 2015 Minnesota, Hibbing Daily Tribune

... “The 2015-2016 winter was definitely in the mild category, even as it drags into early April,” ... snow depth is the most important factor in deer winter survival in northern Minnesota ... This is the second mild winter in a row following two extremely harsh years ... Fawn production should be excellent in spring 2016...

[More fawns, more deer being seen by wildlife officials](#) July 10, 2016 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... People are seeing lots of twin fawns with adult does this spring, a sign that recent mild winters are allowing the deer population to rebound somewhat across Northeastern Minnesota. ... Most deer permit areas across Northeastern Minnesota remain slightly below deer-density goals or around the goal range ...

[Minnesota DNR Unveils Deer Season Framework](#) July 28, 2016 Outdoors with Sam Cook - AreaVoices

... a somewhat more liberal season ... During the past two firearms deer seasons, few antlerless deer permits have been issued so that the deer herd can recover from several severe winters in recent years...

[Minnesota DNR loosens deer season regulations in some permit areas](#) July 31, 2016 Grand Forks Herald

... bag limits that are more liberal than they have been the past couple of years... That's definitely the case in northwest Minnesota, ... permit areas near the Canadian border and along the Red River ... The uptick in licenses reflects an increase in deer numbers after two mild winters...

[Minnesota Deer Forecast for 2016](#) October 11, 2016 Game & Fish

... deer numbers have been on a downward trend in many portions of the state... deer harvests have dipped to less than half what they were in the early 2000s ... We have had conservative harvest regulations for the past two years, which should be conducive to deer herd growth ...

[Oak trees' acorn production down across Minnesota](#) October 21, 2016 St. Cloud Times

... downturn is widespread across the state among the four native species — Northern red, Northern pin, bur and white oak. Red oaks' acorn production tends to peak every two to five years ... white oaks' every two to three years...

[Population on way up](#) October 30, 2016 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... We've had two consecutive mild winters coupled with conservative harvest regulations. That will result in increased deer populations and slightly increased hunting opportunities for hunters. ... We know that in the northeastern part of the state, deer numbers were down after those severe winters. ... Minnesota has one of the only CWD-free deer herds in the Midwest...

[A Minnesota tradition, firearms deer season, opens Nov. 5](#) October 31, 2016 Wahpeton Daily News

...DNR projects the total harvest at 165,000 to 185,000 deer, up from a little more than 159,000 last year...

[Hunters should expect to see more deer this year, but not many big bucks](#) November 1, 2016 Minnesota, Ely Echo

... in northeast Minnesota ... "We're going to see a lot of those young fawns from this year and forks and spikers." ... The last two winters have been very mild ...

[DNR predicts promising deer opener: Rice County officials urge safety](#) November 1, 2016 Minnesota, Southernminn.com

... “Based on our observations, the deer herd is quite healthy in Rice County,” she said. “We have liberalized the season because of that.” Although one-deer limits are the norm for the state of Minnesota, Rice County hunters can expect, for the most part, a two-deer limit...

[Deer harvest up 10 percent across Northeastern Minnesota](#) November 8, 2016

Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... the opening-weekend harvest was 18,473, up from 16,710 last year. The buck harvest was up from 13,878 in 2015 to 14,664 (6 percent). The buck harvest is often a more reliable indication of herd strength ...

[Deer harvest up 30%](#), down statewide November 8, 2016 Minnesota, Mesabi Daily News

... Statewide, it appears the harvest is down so far as hunter have bagged 66,130 deer so far this season compared to 71,389 at this time last year... lots of young deer as the herd is recovering from the harsh winters of 2013 and 2014...

[Based on 2016 harvest, state's deer herd appears to be growing](#) January 12, 2017 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... the preliminary 2016 statewide deer harvest was 171,026, a 7 percent increase from the 2013-2015 harvest average of 157,972. The past two relatively mild winters have aided the recovery...

[DNR highlights elk plan comments](#) February 7, 2016 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald

... Minnesota has about 130 elk in three herds ... comments on the elk plan from people who live outside the elk range mostly were supportive of a larger elk herd, while those who live nearby generally favored a slower approach...

[DNR to begin elk research project in northwestern Minnesota](#) February 8, 2016 Valley News Live

... “We know very little about elk in Minnesota. Our goal is to improve understanding of the species and ultimately develop management programs that benefit elk and their habitat ... will collar approximately 20 adult female elk ...

[DNR sheds light on elk capture, collaring effort](#) February 23, 2016 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald

...The elk were collared as part of a two-year research project to learn more about elk movements and habitat use in northwest Minnesota. This is the first-ever research project to be conducted on Minnesota's elk herd. Minnesota has an estimated population of about 83 elk between its three herds....

[Elk survey results underscore importance of elk research](#) February 17, 2016

Minnesotda, Voice Of Alexandria

... The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' aerial survey counts elk in three herds in the state's elk range. This year's survey results show large population swings in two of the three herds that might be caused by elk traveling into and out of Canada ...

[DNR proposes holding deer numbers down in northeast Minnesota to help struggling moose](#) February 27, 2016 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... the DNR says deer densities in a newly defined "moose region" will be kept at about the same levels hunters have seen in recent years — levels that in some instances are at or near modern-day lows ... to reduce conflicts between deer and moose, particularly the prospect of moose becoming infected with brainworm ...

[DNR seeks to fine-tune the moose-deer divide](#) February 26, 2016 Minnesota, Timberjay Newspapers

... "Aligning deer permit area boundaries to the known moose range is part of the DNR's strategy to promote the health of moose populations in northeastern Minnesota," said Murkowski. "The nice thing for deer hunters and wildlife watchers is this proposal also allows for growth in deer herds outside the moose range where more deer on the landscape won't negatively affect moose." ...

[DNR proposal would change some deer permit areas in primary moose range](#) February 25, 2016 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... In areas of Minnesota's primary moose zone, deer populations are managed at lower levels than in areas managed primarily for deer...

The proposal includes changing boundaries for some existing deer permit areas ...

[Moose plan proposal would bring change to local deer areas](#) February 24, 2016

Minnesota, Mesabi Daily News

...The changes are part of finalizing a moose plan that is designed to help the state's struggling population. Although causes for the dwindling numbers remain a mystery, it is known that moose suffer increased mortality due to the passing of deer-borne parasites and diseases...

[DNR releases preliminary deer harvest numbers for 2015](#) January 6, 2016 Minnesota,

SC Times

... The Minnesota deer harvest yielded 159,227 animals in 2015, according to preliminary numbers ... up nearly 20,000 compared with the previous season's harvest of 139,442 ... License sales totaled 609,382, up from 598,594...

[DNR survey finds Minnesota wolf population stable](#) August 21, 2016 Minnesota, Duluth

News Tribune

... Minnesota had an estimated 2,278 wolves last winter ... statistically unchanged from the estimate of 2,221 in 2015 ... The average pack covered about 62 square miles ... As deer numbers dropped earlier in the decade "we've observed a decline in prey that translated into larger wolf pack territories ...

[Food plots for wildlife: Diversity works well for me](#) May 19, 2016 Minnesota, Minneapolis

Star Tribune

... food plots for deer and other wildlife ... begin by planting clover, or a clover mix (chicory is a common addition), for several reasons. Clover is generally easy to grow, does well in a variety of soil conditions, and is a reliable source of nutrition ... I've planted thousands of shrubs (especially redosier dogwood, which is a favorite winter food for deer) ...

Help create Minnesota's first-ever deer plan

Join us, DNR News, September 20, 2016

Applications are open for citizens interested in serving on a statewide deer management plan advisory committee that will provide guidance, input and feedback beginning this December and continuing throughout the planning process.

The committee's recommendations, along with broader public input, will help DNR develop its first-ever deer management plan, which will provide strategic guidance on deer management into the future.

The committee

Twenty citizens will serve on the statewide committee. Approximately two-thirds of seats will be filled by invited representatives of hunting, agriculture, conservation, forestry and other organizations. Five to seven "at-large" seats are available to any interested citizens who wish to apply.

Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate a willingness to work collaboratively with others from diverse perspectives and who have knowledge of deer management issues in Minnesota.

The committee is expected to meet approximately monthly (4-6 hours/meeting) between December 2016-December 2017. Meetings typically will be conducted during daytime business hours on weekdays at a central location (such as St. Cloud) or other locations of the committee's choosing. DNR will provide lunch at the meetings and mileage reimbursement for members driving to and from meetings.

More information about the committee's work and responsibilities are outline in the [committee charter](#), which outlines the purpose and expectations for the committee.

Apply today

Complete the [online application](#) by 11 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016.

Selected members will be notified by Nov. 21. To request a paper copy of this application, or for questions about the application process, please contact Katie Clower via email at katie.clower@state.mn.us or by calling 651-259-5182.

Other opportunities to be heard

Any interested citizens who are not involved in the advisory committee are encouraged to attend a public input meeting, submit a comment, or participate in other ways.

[Latest moose count provides little good news](#) February 17, 2016 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... The state's annual aerial survey, taken in January, estimated the state's moose population at 4,020, up slightly from the previous year... The population has dropped by more than half since 2006... Researchers blame invasive parasites, diseases of greater severity and warmer weather — conditions that can combine to make moose more vulnerable to predators...

[Mild winter good news for deer](#) February 13, 2016 Minnesota, Virginiamn

... according to the Winter Severity Index (WSI) put out by the DNR, the weather so far has put very little stress on the animals ... The result of two extreme winters — in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 — was that 'bucks only' was the mandate across the Northland during all hunting seasons ... Fawn production should be excellent in spring 2016 ...

[Weather big factor in deer mortality](#) August 20, 2016 Minnesota, Hibbing Daily Tribune

... 2013 and 2014 had 40 inches and 30 inches of snow, respectively. Both years were of course poor deer years, and in 2013 the DNR even reported one of Minnesota's worst fawn crops since 1996... The mix of woods and fields around the Iron Range is better for fawn survival than the dense forested regions of Lake County...

[Minnesota deer and grouse hunting groups partner to save forest habitat Up North](#)

March 15, 2016 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... two Grand Rapids-based hunting organizations share an interest in similar habitat and already have been working together on a plan to buy thousands of acres of private forest in Cass, Wadena and Hubbard counties...

[Minnesota deer hunters will get more chances in 2016 due to herd growth](#) August 2, 2016 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Craig Engwall, executive director of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, said the new hunting regulations reflect the practical notion that more deer are on the state's landscape. Statewide, the whitetail herd is estimated at 1 million strong. Last year, hunters harvested 159,343 of the animals...

[Antlerless harvest boosts NE Minnesota deer registrations](#) December 9, 2017 Bemidji Pioneer

... "The reliable measure of the population is the buck harvest, and that was basically flat." [Craig Engwall, executive director of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association]. ... hunters reported seeing plenty of small bucks and does but few large bucks. That's likely due to losses suffered in a series of harsh winters ...

[Thank modern timber harvesting for creating wildlife habitat](#) December 8, 2018 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Deer die in hard winters because of a lack of available food. However, thanks to food resources enhanced by modern logging techniques and young forest habitats, Minnesota's deer population is the highest it has been since 2010...

[Somewhat higher deer harvest likely this fall; licenses on sale](#) August 1, 2016 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... "In northern and northeastern areas, the 2016 hunting regulations will remain somewhat conservative to allow for a controlled increase in deer numbers, resulting in lottery and bucks only designations. "In the highly productive deer permit areas in west central and southeast Minnesota ... regulations are meant to use hunting as a tool to help manage local deer populations...

[Rebounding deer population relaxes hunting limits](#) August 5, 2016 Minnesota, Fergus Falls Daily Journal

...much of the eastern half of the county ... will present hunters the opportunity to bag twice as many deer this year. ... south of Fergus Falls, had a limit of 100 one-deer permits last year. That number has been dropped to 25 for 2016. Wells faults lenient limits, which lead to overhunting in prior years. That, combined with tough winters, has thinned out what used to be an abundant population of deer near his property...

[Minnesota DNR appeals ruling that invalidated major deer poaching bust](#) April 15, 2016 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Department of Natural Resources on Friday appealed a ... a district court ruling that said DNR agents needed more than a tracking order to secretly attach a GPS tracking device ... 37 dead deer ... an intact piebald white-tailed fawn ...

[Minnesota scrambles to rekindle hunting, fishing, outdoors participation](#) August 20, 2016 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Unless Minnesota reverses well-established declines in hunting and fishing participation among young people, license sales will crash and endanger the state's priceless outdoors identity...

[Population on way up](#) October 30, 2016 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... We've had two consecutive mild winters coupled with conservative harvest regulations. That will result in increased deer populations and slightly increased hunting opportunities for hunters. ... We know that in the northeastern part of the state, deer numbers were down after those severe winters. ... Minnesota has one of the only CWD-free deer herds in the Midwest...

[MDHA's Engwall discusses Minnesota deer-hunting issues](#) October 29, 2017 Duluth News Tribune

... there are still plenty of areas in the Northland where population numbers have not recovered to where they should be. It will take several years of conservative harvests ... Last year, about 32 percent of Minnesota's firearms deer hunters shot a deer ..

[Researchers race to save Minnesota's dwindling moose population](#) January 20, 2016 Northland's NewsCenter

... the best team of scientists and researchers working to understand what has cut the moose population by 60 percent since 2006. "The population in Northeastern Minnesota was over 8,000 and then it started declining precipitously," said DelGiudice. Now that number sits at less than 3,500...

[Minnesota elk plan worries ranchers](#) January 26, 2016 Prairie Business

... Schmiedeberg is on the front lines of a controversial plan to increase Minnesota's wild elk population from about 130 to about 200. He and other ranchers say elk damage hay, crops and fences, costing producers time and money...

[Moose in Minnesota: Speculation on decline](#) December 2, 2016 Hometown Focus

... "In 2006, an estimated 8,800- moose still roamed across Lake, Cook, and St. Louis counties... the latest estimate places the region's moose population at 3,450 animals."

... in the early 1990s ... region's once stable population of about 4,000 moose continued to dwindle ... Disappearing habitat, deer encroachment on habitat, increased parasites, sustained warmer weather, and predators ...

[So far, mild winter is good news for Northland's whitetails](#) February 7, 2016 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... With moderate snow depths, deer can range more easily.... For the past two deer seasons, the DNR has issued few antlerless deer permits in Northeastern Minnesota in an effort to conserve does and let the deer herd rebound. After back-to-back severe winters in the mid-1990s, a series of mild winters allowed the deer herd to recover rapidly...

[State deer hunters group opposes expanding crossbow hunting](#) March 1, 2016 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) has rejected a proposal to expand crossbow hunting in Minnesota... some gun hunters also oppose the expansion of crossbow hunting. They worry the deer harvest could be skewed, particularly the buck harvest, and perhaps especially that of big bucks...

[White-tailed Deer fawn risk from Gray Wolf predation during summer](#)

LD Mech, A Morris, S Barber-Meyer 2016 Minnesota, The Canadian Field-Naturalist
[The link opens and downloads a PDF file]

Little is known about how often various prey animals are at risk of predation by Gray Wolves (*Canis lupus*). We used a system to monitor the presence during the day of

two radio-collared Gray Wolves within 2 km of a radio-collared White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) with a fawn or fawns in August 2013 in the Superior National Forest of northeastern Minnesota. We concluded that the fawn or fawns were at risk of predation by at least one wolf at least daily.

2015

[10 DNR open houses in MN will shape future of deer herd management](#) February 2, 2015 Minnesota, Northland's NewsCenter

... According to Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Executive Director Craig Engwall, people don't want to see the deer herd fluctuate in numbers as it has in the past 20 years, due in part to severe winters, and starvation...

[2015 Deer Goal Setting Background on Advisory Team Process and Recommendation Development](#) [PDF] April, 215 Minnesota, dnr.state.mn.us

... In 2013, Minnesota DNR initiated a new public process to revisit deer population goals in

Southeast Minnesota. The new process emphasized collection of public input (mail surveys, online questionnaires and public meetings) prior to convening stakeholder advisory teams selected to represent the diversity of perspectives related to deer management...

[Angry lawmakers tell DNR to boost deer herd, especially up north](#) February 12, 2015 Minnesota, TwinCities Pioneer Press

... As recently as 1972, the deer population was so low that no hunting was allowed. But populations rebounded dramatically, and between 1990 and 2010, many years saw more than 200,000 deer taken. However, the total harvest has fallen steadily since 2010...

[As deer disappear, DNR agrees to develop management plan](#) March 4, 2015

Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... At the urging of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, state Department of Natural Resources officials have agreed to develop a deer management plan, which will include a harvest goal. "We'd like them to manage to a harvest level of 225,000 per year by 2019," ... Rep. Brian Johnson, R-Cambridge, said the deer population is so low in northern Minnesota it probably has hurt the economy and deer license sales...

[As moose population dwindles, agencies work to give them a fighting chance](#) May 20,

2015 Minnesota, Northland's NewsCenter

... Experts say it's not quite clear what's causing this drop, but are blaming forest fires, warmer temperatures, and a number of diseases...

[Audit likely after hunters challenge DNR](#) April 9, 2015 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star

Tribune

... A vote Friday by a Legislative Audit Commission subcommittee is expected to move a DNR deer audit plan forward ... Estimating deer herd size is at crux of dissatisfaction ... hunters say DNR management is also to blame for the decline [in deer harvest] ...

Borderland, [Local deer harvest up](#) December 3, 2015 Minnesota, The Journal

... "We don't know how much can be attributed to a change in population or just better weather ... Nice weather increased hunter participation ... four of the last seven years have brought worse than average winters...

[DNR commissioner is proud of inroads made](#) December 12, 2015 Minnesota,

Minneapolis Star Tribune

... With deer, we had been trying to downsize the herd and that didn't sound like a bad thing. Then we got dinged with two bad winters. I wish I would have spent more time getting more background information about our goal-setting...

Brainerd, [Local hunters share concern of low deer numbers](#) February 13, 2015

Minnesota, Brainerd Daily Dispatch

..."There's hardly anything left out there," said Les Vroman, a local deer hunter... part of a public comment opportunity at the Franklin Arts Center hosted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)...

[Camp Ripley deer by the number](#) January 23, 2015 Minnesota, Brainerd Daily Dispatch

... During a deer study conducted from 1999 to 2002 researchers recorded all of the causes of deer mortality. Of 29 radio-collared adult female deer that died during the study, over 50 percent died from hunting, but less than 15 percent from predation, not all of which was attributed to wolves...

[Conservative deer season](#) August 7, 2015 Minnesota, messagemedia.co

... management continues to rebuild deer numbers across much of the state ... In 70 of Minnesota's 128 deer permit areas, hunters must be chosen in a lottery to shoot an antlerless deer. Only bucks can be hunted in 14 areas ...

[Dayton calls for felony-level penalties against poachers](#) March 27, 2015 Minnesota, San Francisco Gate

... Gov. Mark Dayton wants to crack down on poachers with tougher criminal penalties and longer license revocations ... a new felony-level penalty ...

[Deer Debate in Minn.](#) March 1, 2015 Minnesota, Valley News

... Last fall, about 130,000 deer were killed in the state, a far cry from the 290,000 harvested in Minnesota in 2003... DNR sought to have the state's forests certified as being sustainably managed... None of these required the DNR to reduce the number of deer that roamed the forests...

[Deer hunters asked to consider copper vs. lead](#) August 24, 2015 Minnesota, SC
Times

... “If we wish to continue our image as hunters, as conservationists, we should not be causing collateral damage in connection to deer hunting,” ... fragmented lead can wind up in venison...

[Deer hunters group and DNR clash over deer population goals](#) April 14, 2015
Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Engwall fired off another letter Monday to McInenly and DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr. “We are significantly disappointed in how the goal-setting process has evolved,” he wrote. The written exchanges between the DNR and the deer hunters group are posted on the MDHA’s website, www.mndeerhunters.com ...

[Deer hunters group says DNR's deer population review is seriously flawed](#) April 5, 2015
Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... “The DNR refused to allow teams to make recommendations for population increases above 50 percent ... If a group couldn’t get the 80 percent supermajority, it would officially have no recommendation,” ... Craig Engwall, executive director of the 15,000-member Minnesota Deer Hunters Association ...

[Deer hunters seek \\$19 million to save forest](#) June 6, 2015 Minnesota, Minneapolis
Star Tribune

... The conversion of thousands of acres of central Minnesota’s pine forests to potato fields has sparked environmental concern... the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) is proposing a novel and ambitious \$19 million plan to buy about 10,000 acres of forest from Potlatch Corp. in Cass, Wadena and Hubbard counties to prevent their conversion to cropland ...

[Deer hunters seek \\$19 million to save forest](#) June 6, 2015 Minnesota, Minneapolis
Star Tribune

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[Deer Management from a Business View](#) September 6, 2015 Minnesota,
MNBowhunters.org

... . The MN deer herd is managed for a 'Social Capacity' that is meant to be a compromise between the groups that want more deer, and the groups that want fewer deer. It can be thought of as a business with a very diverse customer base ... Because of their less than stellar performance, an audit of our DNR's deer team is now underway...

[Deer Population Management](#) April 20, 2015 Minnesota, Office of the Legislative
Auditor

... From 1970 through 2000, deer population strategies generally aimed to increase populations in the state's deer permit areas. This resulted in a greater number of deer and increased concern over their negative impacts. Goals since the early 2000s often sought to reduce deer populations. Since then, the annual number of deer harvested has followed a decreasing trend with a high of 290,525 in 2003 and a low of 139,442 in 2014... Assessing DNR's deer population estimates would require some technical expertise. ... such an analysis could be premature at this time...

[Did our DNR sell the Herd for Pennies?](#) February 16, 2015 Minnesota, Minnesota
Bowhunters Inc.

... The truth is the DNR planned to cut the herd in half, and they did it behind our backs ... Certified forests are a green initiative that gives companies the option to use

timber grown under a certain set of conditions and parameters. One of these parameters is the deer herd must be lowered to a level that allows certain measurable new tree growth. If you want your wood certified you have to lower the deer herd, and the decrease was to be substantial in MN...

[DNR approves new deer population goals](#) June 21, 2015 Minnesota, messagemedia.co

... Of the 40 deer permit areas with new goals, 26 will be managed for deer densities higher than those established by the previous goals; eight will be managed at similar densities to former goals; and six will be managed for densities below former goals...

[DNR says it will write statewide deer management plan with harvest goal](#) March 8, 2015 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... At the urging of a statewide deer hunting group, wildlife officials with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have agreed to write a deer management plan and manage the state's deer herd with a specific harvest goal in mind... we can't control is weather, which is the biggest factor in deer population numbers ...

[DNR to fly deer and elk surveys](#) January 5, 2015 Minnesota, News Releases

... Low-flying helicopters will be used for white-tailed deer population surveys planned by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for January through March in central and southeastern Minnesota, if suitable snow conditions develop. "We use aerial surveys to help monitor deer populations in portions of Minnesota," said Gino D'Angelo, DNR farmland deer project leader... Aerial elk surveys are also planned for the Kittson County and Grygla elk ranges in northwestern Minnesota...

[DNR weather timeline for deer statistics](#) September 5, 2015 Minnesota, Virginiamn

... With a milder than normal winter in 2014, it looks like the animal numbers are climbing. However, at least one more season of conservative harvest will be needed to

get the herd back on track toward a healthy status...The winter of 2013-14 was the most sever winter on record in the last 50 years ...

[Don't blame wolves for fewer moose](#) April 22, 2015 Minnesota, Timberjay Newspapers ... "Brain worm is certainly one of the large factors but not the only factor. Deer and habitat are the two biggest factors ... Deer are the source of the brain worm parasite which is benign in that species but can be fatal to infected moose. The high deer population also supports a large wolf population, which prey on moose, particular the young during calving season." ... MNR Kenora district biologist Bruce Ranta ...

[Elk in northeast Minnesota? Tribe seeks studies](#) February 6, 2015 Minnesota, TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press ... the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa are applying for state conservation grants ... The problem in northwestern Minnesota, where there has been a small elk herd since the 1930s, is that the elk have settled in an area of intensive agricultural production. Local farmers and lawmakers have moved to keep that herd as small as possible...

[Endangered, threatened or over-populated: The debate continues](#)February 13, 2015 Minnesota, Lake County News Chronicle ... there is good evidence that the decline in the moose population seems to correlate with the years when the wolf population increased. He said the predation of young moose and early deaths of older moose due to disease or other factors contribute to a declining population...

[Fall and its hunting seasons](#) September 16, 2015 Minnesota, The Journal ... We are in a bucks-only season framework this year [this area] in the hope of building the deer population up as quickly as possible. Fortunately, our past winter was about average. This allowed for the does and their fawns to be healthier. We have been seeing more fawns ...

[Fond du Lac elk restoration inches ahead](#) February 1, 2015 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa are applying for state conservation grants that would help pay for an intensive University of Minnesota study to determine if adequate public land habitat exists in the area to support a population of elk...

[Good news for deer numbers](#) March 7, 2015 Minnesota, Virginiamn

... this year's mild winter will benefit the northern Minnesota deer population... The winter of 2014 was ranked by the National Weather Service as the second most severe on record, topped only by the winter of 1875 ... five of the last seven years have been hard, and that the winter of 2014 wiped out a number of deer already in trouble... last year we didn't have any fawns," ...

[Groups seek Endangered Species Act protection for Midwest moose](#) July 9, 2015 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Citing the dramatic decline in moose numbers in Minnesota — down 60 percent in less than 10 years — the Center for Biological Diversity and Honor the Earth said it was time for the feds to lend their help in the big animal's rescue and recovery...

[Help dummy down the MN deer fact set](#) January 17, 2015 Minnesota, All Things Habitat

... our DNR uses a model to estimate the size of the herd... In 2008, Marret Grund (MN DNR Wildlife Populations and Research) came right out and said the model is performing so poorly ... MN DNR manipulation of the numbers used to estimate the size of the herd makes the model function on paper, but that model is not working for the hunters of Minnesota ...

[History of Minnesota deer hunting and management](#) October 23, 2015 Hometown Focus

... . European settlement of southern and central Minnesota during the mid- to late-1800s cleared forests for lumber and agriculture, which improved habitat quality for deer by creating new openings. However, as agricultural land conversion expanded, habitat quantity declined and so did deer numbers. Market and subsistence hunting accelerated the population decline in deer numbers; by the 1880s deer were rare in many parts of Minnesota ...

[How many deer do Minnesota hunters harvest each year — and where do they find them?](#) November 13, 2015 MinnPost

... 2014, when Minnesota hunters harvested just over 139,000 deer — a number the DNR considers conservative. And it's way down from the peak harvest of the last 20 years: in 2003, hunters took nearly 300,000 deer... As the DNR has sought to regulate the deer harvest, they have largely done so by restricting the number of antlerless deer killed by hunters...

[How many deer is enough in Minnesota?](#) February 20, 2015 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... those seeking a review, or audit, of the agency's whitetail program want events leading to the state's current deer shortage dissected in detail, and processes put in place to prevent a recurrence... the chance the legislative auditor will actually critique deer management in the state isn't good ... Aiding the rebuilding of the state's whitetail herd is the current relatively mild winter...

[How to provide winter cover for wildlife](#) January 15, 2015 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... consider planting evergreens — any species of spruce, pine or fir trees that retain their needles during winter... On cold winter days, especially when the wind is blowing from the north, deer and other wildlife will often gather on the downwind side of my evergreen plantings ...

[Hunter group addresses herd stability, buck maturity](#) October 24, 2015 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times

... Traditionally, 85 percent of the bucks harvested in Minnesota in a typical year are only 1½ years old.... a movement slowly starting ... establish a stronger and more stable local deer population from year to year. Second, to balance the age structure of the herd, particularly when it came to bucks... the River Bottom Whitetails group has certainly seen their efforts pay off ...

[Hunters Challenge DNR Deer Management Practices](#) February 20, 2015 Minnesota, CBS Minnesota

... [Minnesota Bowhunters](#) president Brooks Johnson talked about the changing landscape of the deer population ... some deer hunting groups are looking into hiring outside help to look at the state's deer population if the state does not perform an audit...

[Lawmakers to DNR: We want more deer up north](#) February 23, 2015 Minnesota, wadenapj.com

... echoing a refrain among many of the state's half a million deer hunters: Deer populations in many areas have fallen unacceptably low, and the quality of a fall tradition is suffering... As recently as 1972, the deer population was so low that no hunting was allowed. But populations rebounded dramatically ...

[Legislative auditor will examine Minnesota's deer population management](#) April 22, 2015 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Minnesota's deer population management program will be audited this year by the state's Legislative Auditor — a move pushed by some deer hunters critical of the Department of Natural Resources deer management...

[Listen to the people: protect wolves](#) March 19, 2015 Minnesota, SC Time

... Former Wisconsin DNR biologist Adrian Wydeven stated, "Wolves are not driving deer numbers down to dangerous levels. The biggest factor that affects our deer herd are winters and the hunting harvest. When wolves have established themselves, deer are going to be more elusive..."

[Mild winter should help boost deer population](#) March 28, 2015 Minnesota, messagemedia.co

... If mild conditions persist, those conditions combined with a conservative 2014 deer harvest could signal the start of a rebound in the state's white-tailed deer populations... Following the two consecutive severe winters of the late 1990s, the deer population rebounded to pre-severe winter levels within two to three years ...

[Mild winter's timing could not have been better for deer](#) March 22, 2015 Minnesota, wadenapj.com

... After two straight winters of tough conditions, the winter of 2014-2015 got off to an early and chilly start ... in the second week of March hollered "spring." ... Schultz is expecting good deer reproduction this spring...

[Minn. cattlemen angered by court ruling restoring wolf protection](#) January 26, 2015 Minnesota, AG Week

... critics point to a recent Washington State University study, which found that killing wolves to protect livestock leads to more cattle deaths, not fewer, at least initially. "It just disrupts the pack and leads to more problems for farmers," ... The average wolf will take 18 to 20 adult-sized deer per year ...

[Minn. Hunters Gearing Up For Firearm Deer Season](#) November 6, 2015 Minnesota, CBS Minnesota

... Last year, hunters spent more than \$725 million on equipment, food, licenses and permits. "Half a million people all going out tomorrow ... this year's regulations are the

same as last. You can find what you need to know in the regulations handbook [on their website](#)...

[Minnesota deer facts](#) October 19, 2015 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

... A whitetail's home range is about one square mile... Last year's total deer harvest was about 140,000. Because of a conservative 2015 season designed to boost the statewide population, total deer harvest in 2015 is again anticipated to be relatively low. The DNR is projecting total harvest to come in around 140,000 to 155,000 deer...In total, about 628,000 deer hunting licenses and permits (all types) were sold in 2014...

[Deer population rebounding](#) October 31, 2015 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times

... "We're still kind of on a rebound, but last year was a huge rebound year for deer in Central Minnesota, to a point where we're going to have to look seriously in the near future at controlling that population," ...

[Minnesota Deer Hunting: Still in rebuilding mode](#) November 1, 2015 Grand Forks Herald

... One-deer limits remain in most of the state, with numerous permit areas restricted to bucks-only for hunters who didn't receive an antlerless permit by lottery ... "We are continuing to build the deer population across much of the state, and we do that by harvesting fewer antlerless deer," ...

[Deer population strong in area](#) November 1, 2015 Minnesota, SC Times

... last year's conservative regulations prevented a lot of deer, especially antlerless deer, from being harvested. Toss in a mild winter last year and very good recruitment of fawns this spring and there's no doubt there's more deer ... 70 percent of Minnesota's firearms deer harvest usually occurs during the first three or four days of the season...

[2015 Ely-Tower area deer season forecast released](#) November 2, 2015 Minnesota, ElyEcho.com

... DNR ... forecasting a deer population on the rise but still below management goals for Northern St. Louis and Northern Lake Counties. Wildlife managers report the deer herd is below population goals in 7 of 9 of the deer permit areas in our area but rebounding from recent tough winters. Five out of the last 8 winters have negatively impacted the deer herd and fawn production in the Tower Area...

[Recovery mode](#) November 4, 2015 Minnesota, The Bismarck Tribune

... Yes, deer numbers are down... deer are still rebounding from some rough winters that overlapped liberal hunting seasons. That said, DNR wildlife managers say hunters are likely to see more deer this year than last year...

[Deer Hunters Preparing for Minnesota Firearms Opener](#) November 4, 2015 WDIO-TV

... The Minnesota DNR is restricting most hunters to one deer this season. Some of the Northland has a buck-only one-deer limit, other areas have a lottery one-deer limit...

[Minn. deer hunting opener: A perfect storm?](#) November 6, 2015 Minnesota, Northland Outdoors

... "Minnesota needs a four-point restriction," Beimert said referring to a restriction that would prohibit shooting deer with four points or less. "You just can't shoot the little deer." ... In northeastern Minnesota, last winter wasn't mild, but it was milder than average. However, compared to some other areas of the state, a deer population recovery in the region can be slower ...

[Anticipation builds for Saturday's deer opener; deer populations on the rise](#) November 6, 2015 Minnesota, Hometown Focus

... Deer populations are on the rise following a milder winter and a conservative hunting season last year. This season will again be a conservative one, which means fewer antlerless deer permits were issued. Harvesting fewer does allows deer populations to grow and helps provide more opportunity in the future...

[Increased deer kill indicates deer population recovering](#) December 17, 2015

Minnesota, Bemidji Pioneer ·

... "With bucks-only regulations, hunter success ranges from 15 to 20 percent, depending on the permit area. That means only one in six or seven put venison in the

freezer in 2015. That's tough hunting. Barring an extreme winter, that will change next deer season." ...

[Minnesota Deer Forecast for 2015](#) September 8, 2015 Game & Fish

... we had the winter of 2013-14. It killed deer. And fawn birth rates dropped. It surely contributed to the drop in antlerless tags last year. This season should be better. After our relatively mild 2014-15 winter, there are more deer on the ground, according to our DNR. We should see a few more antlerless tags in our hands, but not too many, as the herd still is coming back...

[Minnesota deer hunters' leader wants bigger herd, more DNR transparency](#) October 18, 2015 TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press

... As executive director of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Engwall's charge is to represent nearly 20,000 dues-paying members who are generally believed, by policy makers and lawmakers in St. Paul, to represent the interests of the roughly 500,000 deer hunters who live in Minnesota ...

[Minnesota deer management facing new scrutiny](#) April 26, 2015 TwinCities Pioneer Press

... The Minnesota legislature's non-partisan watchdog will scrutinize how the state manages its deer population ... The news is a victory for many of the state's roughly 500,000 deer hunters who have seen the deer population -- and their hunting fortunes -- fall steeply in the past two years ...

[Minnesota DNR approves new deer population goals](#) June 10, 2015 Valley News Live

... 85 percent of the 40 areas will be managed for populations higher than those experienced in 2014; the remaining will see no change... With respect to the four advisory team recommendations not accepted by the DNR, the agency chose more moderate population increases ...

[DNR sets deer population goals, despite objections](#) June 10, 2015 Minnesota, SC

Times

... In the DNR goal-setting process, citizen advisory teams weren't allowed to make recommendations for population increases of more than 50 percent. The Deer Hunters Association argued that in many cases, population increases of greater than that amount were warranted...

[Minnesota DNR's deer management to be audited](#) May 3, 2015 Duluth News Tribune

... the auditor's office listed three possible "evaluation issues" ... 1. How does the DNR estimate and monitor Minnesota's deer population ... How does the DNR establish the state's deer population goals ... 3. To what extent do the DNR's deer population goals reflect an appropriate balance between stakeholder interests?...

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[Minnesota DNR's deer management to be audited](#) May 3, 2015 Duluth News Tribune

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state's deer population goals ... 3. To what extent do the DNR's deer population goals reflect an appropriate balance between stakeholder interests?...

[Minnesota family finds success raising elk on farm](#) May 16, 2015 TwinCities Pioneer Press

... Luckyland sells elk in quarters, halves and full portions at about \$4 per pound at hanging weight... "I had really enjoyed hunting for elk while living in Bozeman, Mont. -- but actually at the time, I had no idea people raised elk," ...

[Minnesota moose research halted by Gov. Dayton](#) April 28, 2015 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Gov. Mark Dayton Tuesday put an end to Minnesota's ambitious moose research project out of concern that it is harming the animals it's designed to help. He said human handling of adults and calves when scientists collared them with GPS tracking devices resulted in too many deaths of the animals...

[Minnesota Supreme Court Upholds Deer Hunting Conviction](#) February 26, 2015 KSTP.com

... The Minnesota Supreme Court has ruled a man who had a loaded weapon while he was concealed in a deer blind was "pursuing" deer and needed a hunting license...

[Minnesota Supreme Court Upholds Deer Hunting Conviction](#) February 26, 2015 KSTP.com

... The Minnesota Supreme Court has ruled a man who had a loaded weapon while he was concealed in a deer blind was "pursuing" deer and needed a hunting license...

[Minnesota's deer herd will increase, but from what?](#) March 6, 2015 Outdoor News

... Despite the mountain of public perception that the herd has been cut almost in half, our DNR is still presenting computer-generated herd estimates that do not jibe with

any data set collected by any group... Brooks Johnson, President of Minnesota Bowhunters Inc.

[Minnesota's deer kill lowest since '80s](#) January 8, 2015 Outdoor News

... Hunters killed just more than 139,000 deer during all seasons in 2014 ... the total kill is the lowest in nearly three decades. Hunters killed 139,723 deer in 1989 and 138,230 in 1986...

[Minnesota's deer population appears to be rebounding](#) July 29, 2015 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... restrict the harvest of does while continuing to build whitetail numbers ... officials project a fall kill of 140,000 to 155,000 animals. Last season, hunters killed 139,442 whitetails, the fewest in at least 25 years...

[Minnesota's moose numbers drop again; DNR says decline 'will likely continue'](#)

February 18, 2015 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Using aerial surveys by the state DNR, the total in Minnesota has dropped from 8,840 in 2006 to 3,450... the number of calves that survive to their first year has also been low. "This indicates the population will likely continue to decline in the foreseeable future," ... Studies also have connected winter moose deaths to a warming climate ...

[No end to declining trend in northeast moose herd](#) February 19, 2015 Minnesota, Outdoor News

... DNR researchers are heading into their third year of concurrent studies looking separately at both adult moose and calves, trying to figure out why they are dying ... just because a moose might be killed by a wolf doesn't mean there weren't some other underlying causes that made that moose susceptible to being killed by the wolf...

[Minnesota: Why a Deer Management Audit Will Prove Nothing](#) April 28, 2015 Tom Remington

... If we look at the issue of “how do these methods compare with other states,” the assumption is being made here that “other states” do it right. Do they? Isn’t this an example of blind faith in a system designed for outcome-based wildlife management goals from others with little or no interest, and sometimes outright opposition to, managing deer for surplus harvest, i.e the interests of hunters? ...

[MN Deer Hunters Association looking to purchase land for public hunting](#) May 9, 2015 Minnesota, Park Rapids Enterprise

... Minnesota Deer Hunters Association is proposing a Crow Wing River Watershed habitat project, with hopes to acquire Potlatch Corporation lands and open the property to the public for hunting and recreational opportunities...

[Moose Are Dying in Horrible Ways Due to Climate Change](#) May 8, 2015 Minnesota, Motherboard

... In Northeast Minnesota, moose numbered about 8,000 a decade ago. Today, that number is roughly 3,500. As new evidence unspools, one clear thread has emerged: in years of [warmer, shorter winters](#), the moose are plagued by health problems. It’s a trend that can be seen across the United States...

[More deer seen after milder winter](#) August 1, 2015 Minnesota, DL Online

... Mid-summer reports from wildlife managers around the state place the overall deer population recovery on solid footing ... Last winter brought mild temperatures and little snow... Abundant spring and early summer rainfall has provided excellent summer deer forage ...

[Nohre talks state of local deer herd](#) March 18, 2015 Minnesota, Echo Press

... We need a real accurate survey done on the deer herd in the state of Minnesota... We've got a lot of members that put in food plots. We're getting probably 1,600 pounds of seed corn, 1,100 pounds of soybeans and I think about 500 pounds of sunflowers...

[North Shore residents sound off to DNR about deer numbers](#) February 15, 2015

Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... One after another, North Shore residents walked to the microphone to tell wildlife officials with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources that too many wolves roam the north woods and that they've driven down the deer herd... "I think we should close the deer season ...

[North to deer country...](#) April 11, 2015 Minnesota, Herald Review

... in 1960, the state's record deer harvest was in 1959 when 200,102 resident firearms hunters took 104,335 deer for a 53% success rate. He also said that the take was mostly in the north as southern Minnesota had very few deer and that up North anything that was brown was down...

[Now on endangered list, wolves are difficult to control](#) April 27, 2015 Minnesota,

Minnesota Public Radio News

... The state Department of Natural Resources estimates there are about 2,400 wolves in Minnesota... Our deer population is down, we've had some rough winters, and wolves have to eat, of course ...

[Panels make deer population recommendations in Northeastern Minnesota](#) April 2,

2015 Duluth News Tribune

... the panel's recommendations: Permit area 180, no consensus; permit area 122, 25 percent increase; permit area 127, no change; permit area 117, no change; permit area 126, no consensus...

[Poaching case should be wakeup call](#) February, 2015 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... We shouldn't buy into the perverse logic that squealing on a poacher makes us the jerks. The offender is the one attacking our collective reputations and our sport. This much we know: Only 6 percent of the U.S. population hunts. We are members of a shrinking minority, and we've got a cheating problem in our ranks...

[Public input sought on North Shore deer population goals](#) February 7, 2015 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Residents of Northeastern Minnesota will have two opportunities to offer their thoughts about deer population ... DNR staff will make a presentation on deer populations and management, after which meeting participants may comment ... Comments also can be e

[Schomacker hosts deer hunting town hall meeting](#) December 29, 2015 Minnesota, Marshall Independent

... coordinated by Gary Clark and other local deer hunters frustrated with the DNR's management of the deer population in southwest Minnesota ... fears that unless changes are made in the DNR's deer management strategy, hunters will soon be forced seek opportunities to hunt out of state ...

[Outdoors headliners: the stories of the year](#) December 26, 2015 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... The problem of too few whitetail deer also drew attention in 2015. With bucks scarce in northern Minnesota, legislators were pressured to shake things up. They ordered an audit of the DNR's management practices due by spring...

[DNR commissioner is proud of inroads made](#) December 12, 2015 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... With deer, we had been trying to downsize the herd and that didn't sound like a bad thing. Then we got dinged with two bad winters. I wish I would have spent more time getting more background information about our goal-setting...

[Should worst Minnesota poachers be charged with felonies?](#) May 8, 2015 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... A trophy 8-point buck deer. was recently shot by bow and arrow hunter ... Gov. Mark Dayton pushed a bill last week in the Legislature calling for more stringent penalties and longer license revocations ...

[State's wildlife faring well in mild winter](#) January 24, 2015 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times ... Pheasants, deer, turkeys and grouse all are benefiting from the mild winter conditions up to this point... "It's exactly what the doctor ordered for this northern deer herd and the conditions are good region-wide," ...

[The purpose of antlers](#) September 6, 2015 Minnesota, Grand Rapids Herald-Review ... While a buck with antlers may turn and face predators ... Antlers serve a sexual function in two ways: First they are used against rivals in the battle to mate with does, and also antlers attract the attention of does ...

[To save moose, coalition spends millions on habitat](#) May 22, 2015 Minnesota, mprnews.org

... The number of moose in Minnesota has fallen to 3,450, down from 4,350 in 2014, according to the state Department of Natural Resources. Since 2006, the moose population has dropped by 60 percent... a coalition of groups is spending nearly \$3 million to restore the animal's habitat ...

[Under Bill, 84-Year-Old Could Get Another Shot at a Deer](#) April 13, 2015 Minnesota, AM 1240 WJON

... A provision tucked in House Republicans' budget bill for environmental and natural resource agencies would allow hunters 84 and older to kill a doe without a permit...

[VNP moose numbers appear stable](#) May 5, 2015 Minnesota, The Journal

... Voyageurs National Park wildlife biologists have completed an annual moose survey and found continued apparent stability in the low-density population in the park... the 2015 population estimate for the Kabetogama Peninsula at 46 moose, similar to estimates from 2009-2014 of 40 to 51 moose...

[White tail adults are pretty cool, too](#) July 31, 2015 Minnesota, Worthington Daily Globe

... white tail deer were hunted down to a U.S. population of only about 300,000. Today with proper management they now number in the range of 30 million. The smallest of these lives in Florida, and as we move to the northern part of their range, which is Minnesota and Canada, they get bigger... about 70 percent of the bucks get harvested every year in the farmland zones of Minnesota...

[Why Wisconsin has more deer than Minnesota](#) November 20, 2015 TwinCities Pioneer Press

... Roughly twice as many deer have been killed by hunters in Wisconsin each year in recent decades ... Half of Minnesota is above the northern third of Wisconsin that is forested habitat, where our deer densities tend to be lower ... the deeper one gets into northern pine forests, the less hospitable the landscape is for deer ...

[With Handwritten Plea, 84-Year-Old Hunter Charms Lawmakers](#) February 7, 2015

Minnesota, CBS Local

... Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk is pushing to allow residents 84 and older to take a doe without a special permit — just as Krog asked ...

[Woodland caribou populations continue downward trend](#) April 11, 2015 Minnesota, DL-Online

... most of the northern third of Minnesota once harbored these gorgeous and gregarious members of the deer family ... historic caribou trails can still be observed crisscrossing through the Big Bog adjacent to the Red Lakes ... The last known caribou from this part of Minnesota are thought to have disappeared by the 1930s and perhaps lingering into the 1940s...

[WSI drastically lower than last year](#) February 6, 2015 Minnesota, International Falls Journal

... The measure resource managers use to indicate the winter severity on Minnesota's deer herd is less than half of what it was last year at this time... was 41 Jan. 31, reports Larry Petersen, DNR area wildlife manager. The WSI was 84 last year on this date, and 45 two years ago...

2014

[Amid Dwindling Deer Populations, DNR Asking for Hunters Input on Management](#)

April 1, 2014 Minnesota, WDIO-TV

... "Interestingly enough we're getting hunters that are giving ideas such as stop the season... maybe put a one or two year moratorium on the season ...

[Video of starving button buck](#)

[Anderson: In some ways, deer population fix is up to hunters](#) March 21, 2014

Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... in many parts of the state there are too few deer, in part because weather bets DNR wildlife managers placed a few years back boomeranged. Bad as last winter was, particularly for northern whitetails, this winter is worse ...the agency doesn't

manage deer for maximum density — the land's "carrying capacity" — but instead to levels it believes most everyone can live with ...

[Audit of MN DNR Deer Management, Petition](#) September 17, 2014 Minnesota, Bowsite.com

... [see video below] ... A planned 9% reduction has cut the MN deer herd 50% in less than 10 years, and our DNR refuses to acknowledge it has happened. If you feel the herd has been reduced further than scheduled in your hunting area, show your support by signing and sharing this petition in your social circles...

[Blaine students collar deer for research](#) April 14, 2014 Minnesota, KARE-11.com

... The northern suburban Deer Hunters Association donated a \$2,500 tracking collar for the project giving students a chance to follow the deer for the next two to three years...

[Central Minnesota deer harvest down about 25%](#) November 15, 2014 St. Cloud Times

... 67,000 total deer have been shot in the state through Nov. 10, down from 100,000 at this point in 2013. ... "We still have a lot of problems with baiting, not just locally, but everywhere and I don't understand that; just because you can buy it in the store doesn't make it legal ... And now with the snow, we've started seeing more people shooting at deer from the road." ...

[Changes to deer season to benefit older bow hunters](#) September 12, 2014 Minnesota, MPRNews

... Minnesota lawmakers passed new regulations earlier this year that allow hunters over the age of 60 to use crossbows during the regular bow hunting season, which opens Sept. 13 and runs through December...

[Comments sought on proposed archery deer hunt in Wildlife Refuge](#) July 26, 2014

Minnesota, U.S. Forest Service

A 30-day comment period for a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge draft hunting plan to reduce white-tailed deer population densities will begin on Monday and end Aug. 27... The draft hunt plan is available online on the refuge website: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley/. Paper copies are available at both the Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center, located at 15865 Carver Highlands Drive in Carver, and the Bloomington Main Office at 3815 American Blvd. E. in Bloomington. Written comments will be accepted at the Bloomington Office or via email at minnesotavalley@fws.gov. Please include "Draft Hunt Plan" in the subject line...

[Complaints over Minnesota's falling deer harvest grow louder](#) January 14, 2014

Minnesota, StarTribune

... While there's some agreement the deer population is too low, there's plenty of disagreement over why. Last winter was hard on deer in the north, and this winter isn't looking much better... the DNR's deer density goal-setting process from 2005-07 ... Fifteen groups, each with about 20 citizens selected by the DNR, met with the agency, and it was decided to reduce deer densities substantially in many areas by liberalizing hunting regulations...

[Conservation Officer Report, slow deer season](#) November 10, 2014 Minnesota,

WDIO-TV

... reports the least amount of activity he has seen for deer hunting. Overall, the worst deer hunting he has seen along with the lowest numbers of deer hunters. A number of traditional hunting camps sat vacant...

[Conservative 2014 Deer Season Will Rebuild Herd, Challenge Hunters](#) October 29, 2014 Minnesota, Ammo Land

... under a plan devised with hunter and landowner input, the DNR deliberately reduced the size of the herd. Today's populations are close to the goal numbers we set some six years ago. The severe winters of the last two years have driven herd levels lower than where we'd wanted them...

[Conservative deer season set; hunting licenses go on sale Aug. 1](#) July 23, 2014 Minnesota, MDNR News

Hunters can expect a conservative 2014 deer season designed to rebuild deer numbers across much of the state, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said. "Hunters should check the 2014 hunting regulations closely because only one deer can be harvested in 95 percent of the state," ... Northeastern Minnesota hunters will feel the greatest impact from a bucks-only season... The DNR strongly advises hunters to review new deer hunting regulations, permit area designations and boundary changes before applying. Current and up-to-date information is available [online](#). Information about deer management and upcoming deer population goal setting during the next two years is available [online](#).

[Councils ask for input on deer numbers](#) November 27, 2014 Minnesota, Eau Claire Leader-Telegram

... We have gotten away from numbers — we no longer have goals like 25 deer per square mile of deer habitat. Kroll said hunters don't believe the state Department of Natural Resource's deer population estimates anyway, so why have them. Instead we have "increase," "maintain," "decrease" for goals ...

[Decline in hunting permits shows shifting leisure trends](#) July 16, 2014 Minnesota, Twin Cities Daily Planet

... In the [12 years of data](#) available from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources there has been a marked stagnation in hunting and fishing licenses. The hunting license numbers remain at 2000 levels, despite state population growth ... Lost licensing revenue and declining interest in hunting can and should prompt policy priority reflection ...

[Deer feeding project cost: \\$200,225](#) July 16, 2014 Minnesota, Mesabi Daily News
... The harsh conditions last winter prompted the action when the Winter Severity Index rose to a level that threatened the survival of many deer in northeastern Minnesota... “There were a total of 969 individuals who obtained feed through the program. These volunteers put feed out to 1,123 documented sites across the 13 DNR-approved deer permit areas in northeastern Minnesota,” according to the MDHA release...

[Deer feeding update for northern Minnesota](#) April 4, 2014 Walkermn
... It is week 5 of the Emergency Winter Deer Feeding Initiative and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) has purchased 110 tons of feed that was distributed Saturday. This is an increase of 22 tons from last week....

[Deer hunters' group initiates hunter observation survey](#) September 18, 2014 Minnesota, Northland Outdoors
... Members of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association are being asked to log their observations of deer and other wildlife while they hunt this fall... “It’s not research. It’s data,” said Mark Johnson ... He concedes that the DNR has been cool to the idea of using hunter observations ...

[Deer Hunting Season's 'Orange Friday' Bolsters Retail Sales](#) November 7, 2014 Minnesota, KSTP

... According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, deer hunting leads to \$234 million in in-state retail sales and generates another \$28 million in state and local tax revenue...

[Deer Hunts At State Parks This Fall](#) September 12, 2014 Minnesota, KLGR

... DNR advises park visitors to wear blaze orange or bright colors at parks that remain open during special hunts ... For a list of parks that are open, partially open or closed during the 2014 hunting season, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/hunting.html

[Deer model failing Minnesota](#) September 19, 2014 Minnesota, Minnesota Bowhunters Inc.

... Zone 346 has received the most aerial recalibration (herd monitoring) effort of any zone in the state, and the model calculated the actual deer numbers with less than 46% accuracy. Get 54% wrong on a test in school, and you fail the test. Our deer model is failing in the real world. If the model fails in a heavily monitored SE MN zone, how well do we think it is performing in the rest of the state? The model is failing all across MN...

[Deer numbers drop in northwest Minnesota](#) March 21, 2014 Minnesota, Brainerd Daily Dispatch

... Deer populations in Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding state lands in northwest Minnesota declined dramatically from last winter, results from a recent aerial survey show... a density of 5.6 deer per square mile, Knutsen said, far below the refuge's goal of 15 to 20 deer per square mile...

[Deer plans need prompt consideration](#) January 11, 2013 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times

... The bottom line is that we probably shot too many deer in the early 2000s, peaking with a record harvest in 2003 of more than 290,000 deer. Those types of numbers were in no way sustainable and deer numbers were actually reduced by

design....Even some DNR officials admit that the foot should have been taken off the gas a few years earlier...

[Dinner for deer: Emergency feeding program to begin](#) March 5, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... More than 200 volunteers with the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) will distribute the feed pellets over the next six weeks. "If we feed about one pound of food per deer per week, we're hoping to take care of about 20,000 deer for six weeks," said Mark Johnson, MDHA executive director... People are enthusiastic about feeding deer, Johnson said. "The amount of recreational feeding is unbelievable," ...

[Emergency deer feeding could begin this week across Northland](#) March 2, 2014 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association ... is working with a grant of \$170,000 from the DNR earmarked for deer feeding, hoping to reach as many deer as possible until the snow recedes. The money comes from a 50-cent surcharge on deer licenses ... Deer permit areas eligible for deer feeding must be below population goals ...

[Minnesota Hunters Distribute Tons of Food to Starving Deer](#) March 6, 2014 One Green Planet

... After pressure from deer hunters, however, the DNR has provided \$170,000 to purchase deer feed. This is the first incident that the state has sponsored an emergency deer feed since 1997 ... "We had a guy walk into our office yesterday and said, 'I've got a warehouse you can use,'" ...

[Massive emergency deer feeding efforts begin in northern part of Minnesota](#) March 6, 2014 Minnesota, Northland's NewsCenter

... Early Thursday morning, outside Widdes Feed and Farm Supply in Esko, dozens of cars and trucks could be seen loading up on specially formulated bags of deer feed before scattering throughout the Northland. "Some of them are hunters, some of them aren't hunters," said MN Deer Hunters Association Executive Director Mark Johnson. "It's... people who are interested in deer ...

[DNR declines emergency winter deer feeding](#) February 6, 2014 Minnesota, FOX 9 News

... a tough winter ... local conservation groups that hoped the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would help deer make it through are disappointed the agency won't. "This has been one of our more severe winters that we've had in several years," Wayne Johnson, of the Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association ... A total of 50 cents from each deer license sold is put in a special fund for emergency feeding and disease testing, but the last time the DNR approved winter feeding was 1998 ...

[DNR deer decision: Bad for hunters, good for deer](#) November 13, 2014 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

... in an effort to rebuild the herd, the DNR is limiting hunters in most of the state to one deer. The goal is a total deer kill of 120,000. By way of comparison, in 2003, Minnesota hunters killed nearly 300,000 deer ...

[DNR Nixes Expanded Hunting in Natural Areas](#) August 19, 2014 Minnesota, AM 1240 WJON

... Steve Hirsch, director of the DNR's Ecological and Water Resources Division, says heavy public opposition prompted the decision...

[DNR official, bowhunting advocate discuss deer management](#) November 2, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... For much of the 1970-1990s, our management was designed to build deer numbers and the population responded. By the early 2000s, there were concerns regarding impacts of higher deer densities ... High harvests during the past decade (supported by higher bag limits and the availability of antlerless permits) were intentional to move the population lower ... this year's harvest was designed to boost the population...

[DNR to allow deer feeding](#) February 12, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... In a turnabout some call “shocking,” the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin emergency deer feeding in northern Minnesota ... The effort is expected to cost about \$170,000, and will be the first time the DNR has fed deer since the winter of 1996-1997 ... the DNR wants to act “in good faith,” Telander said, with an emergency deer feeding account whitetail hunters have paid into for about 15 years with 50-cent license surcharges...

[DNR to fly deer and elk surveys, including Mille Lacs](#) January 15, 2014 Minnesota, messagemedia.co

... “In the transition zone between agricultural and forested lands, which generally stretches from the northwest to southeast across Minnesota, we use aerial surveys to recalibrate the deer population model,” said Gino D’Angelo, DNR farmland deer project leader...

[DNR to hold public meetings on southeastern deer population goals](#) February 7, 2014 Minnesota, MN Department of Natural Resources -- News Releases

... “This first step in the DNR’s goal-setting process is designed so citizens can express their views on deer numbers and issues associated with deer management,” ... The meetings are scheduled from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at Lake City Lincoln High School, 300 S. Garden St., and from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25, at the St. Charles Elementary School auditorium, 925 Church Ave. Beginning Monday, Feb. 10, people may visit www.mndnr.gov/deer for more information and background on the goal-setting process. They also may provide input on the goal-setting process and deer management by completing an online questionnaire. Written comments also can be mailed to: Leslie McInenly, DNR, Box 20, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155.

[DNR to issue more wolf-hunting licenses, allow more animals to be bagged](#) July 24, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... A total of 3,800 hunting and trapping licenses will be available, 500 more than last year ... The latest population survey results estimate that 2,423 wolves lived in Minnesota's wolf range this past winter, 212 more than estimated a year earlier. ...

[DNR's missteps keep deer feeding controversy alive](#) March 14, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... 1989, a very severe winter, and a bill was passed early in the legislative session to allot \$300,000 for deer feeding ... A subsequent DNR study said that while the state's farmland deer benefited, northern deer were helped minimally... the severe winter of 1995-1996, in which \$750,000 was allotted for emergency deer feeding. Legislators also established a special deer-feeding account that year, supported by 50 cents from each deer-hunting license...

[DNR, MDHA to conduct deer listening sessions statewide](#) February 14, 2014 Minnesota, DNR News Release

... The Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) will co-sponsor the meetings. Meeting dates and locations will be announced later this month. We've been hearing from hunters who are concerned about current deer numbers and potential population impacts as a result of this winter," said Paul Telander, DNR wildlife section chief. "These listening sessions provide an opportunity for direct interaction and communication." The sessions will be open to the general public. Anyone interested in deer management is encouraged to participate. In addition to the public sessions, comments will be accepted on the [DNR's deer management Web page](#).

[DNR: Minnesota hunters will bag far fewer deer this season](#) October 21, 2014 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... our total harvest this year may end up coming in around 120,000 ... far below the 170,000 bagged last year... Hunters can only pursue bucks in some parts of

Minnesota, fewer antlerless permits were offered and a one-deer bag limit rules most of the state. [response to decline in deer population] ...

[Dogs threaten deer](#) March 22, 2014 Minnesota, Aitkin Independent Age

... winter stressed deer now face a serious threat from wolves ... Dog owners need to be especially watchful ... 97B.011 dogs pursuing big game – A person who observes a dog wounding, killing or pursuing in a manner that endangers big game may kill the dog ... between January 1 and July 14, if the person is not a peace officer ...

[Deer councils set goals for counties](#) November 7, 2014 Minnesota, Eau Claire Leader-Telegram

... Deer numbers should remain about the same in the western two-thirds of Eau Claire County, which is part of the state's Central Farmland Zone, but deer should be increased in the eastern third of the county, which is part of the Central Forest Zone, according to preliminary recommendations from the County Deer Advisory Council...

[Elk backers lobbying to increase herd in Minnesota](#) April 4, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Though largely a mountain animal now, more than 10 million elk roamed the United States and parts of Canada before white settlement ... The continent's elk population has dropped to about 1 million ... Pennsylvania ... The last native elk was shot there in 1877. But not long afterward, between 1913 and 1926, state game officials reintroduced the animals, transporting them from Yellowstone National Park ...

[Expect deer permit areas to drop back](#) April 18, 2014 Minnesota, messagemedia.co

... With the brutal winter ... I think most in the far northeast will probably be Bucks only this year ... Antler Point Restriction (APR) ... is designed to save two thirds of the yearling bucks (one and a half years old) and move them to the two and a half year old

class. About one third of the yearlings will be harvested as some will have small racks with four points on one side ... This regulation seems to work quite well ...

[Feed deer? Minnesota DNR will, with a sigh](#) February 15, 2014 Minnesota, Pioneer Press

... three years of falling deer harvests and a fall that saw the fewest number of deer killed by hunters in a decade. ... emergency deer feeding ... foisted on the DNR, really -- by the Legislature in 1997, following back-to-back severe winters that saw an estimated 30 percent of the herd perish in 1995-96 and an additional 8 percent die in '96-97... A pellet mixture will be used ... Deer stomachs accustomed to woody food can't handle a sudden diet of corn; it can kill them...

[Feeding the deer](#) June 1, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Volunteers distributed about 1 million pounds over seven weeks, and figure they fed about 16,000 deer, or about 17 percent of the deer in those areas. About \$200,000 was spent, or \$12.50 a deer...

[Feeding the Deer: Volunteers Take to the Woods](#) March 23, 2014 Minnesota, Virginiamn

... recognition needs to be given to the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association and it's volunteers... approaching 1,000 volunteers who are coming together in several deer management areas to lend aid to one of God's most amazing creatures.... the DNR ... accept that there will be a significant number of animals lost, but believe the species will carry on through the most severe winters, without a questionably effective and costly feeding program...

[Officials hope winter fades before whitetail feed runs out](#) March 15, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Nearly 1,000 volunteers will have distributed about 660,000 pounds of feed for wild deer ... The Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge ... Officials counted 600 deer — a

density of 5.6 deer per square mile, well below the goal of 15 to 20 deer per square mile ...

[Firearms deer harvest down 44 percent in NE Minnesota](#) November 18, 2014

Outdoors with Sam Cook

... The buck harvest in the region — all Series 100 deer permit areas — was down 28 percent from last year. The antlerless deer harvest was down 82 percent, largely because so many deer permit areas were restricted to bucks-only hunting this fall...

[Fond du Lac Band mulls Elk restoration](#) March 15, 2014 Minnesota, Brainerd Dispatch

... elk were abundant and native to the area until they were shot out by the late 1800s as European immigrants settled the area... The first thing we need to do is a habitat study to see if the proper habitat is there for them to thrive... Illinois, West Virginia and New York currently are considering reintroducing elk...

[Fond du Lac Band mulls elk restoration](#) March 9, 2014 Minnesota, Inforum

... Tribal leaders of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa have authorized the band's natural resources staff to study the concept of reintroducing "omashkoozoog" in southern St. Louis, Carlton and northern Pine counties... elk were abundant and native to the area until they were shot out by the late 1800s as European immigrants settled the area....

[Food for thought on deer feeding](#) March 12, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Over the past 16 years Minnesota deer hunters have contributed about \$5.5 million to an account originally intended to pay for emergency deer feeding to help whitetails survive winters. Most of that money — \$4.8 million — has been spent, but none on feeding deer, until now. This month the Department of Natural Resources has allocated \$170,000 from the account ...

[Has Minnesota TB Zone 101 feeding ban been lifted](#) March 9, 2014 Grand Forks Herald

... The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources actually lifted the feeding ban Feb. 15, said John Williams, regional wildlife supervisor for the DNR in Bemidji...

[Has Minnesota TB Zone 101 feeding ban been lifted](#) March 9, 2014 Grand Forks Herald

... The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources actually lifted the feeding ban Feb. 15, said John Williams, regional wildlife supervisor for the DNR in Bemidji...

[Hunters across Minnesota saw a decline in deer](#) January 4, 2014 St. Cloud Times

... with the archery season wrapping up on Dec. 31, the numbers tabulated to date show that hunters shot 172,250 deer this past season. That's a 6.5 percent decline from the previous year. and likely the lowest number of deer shot in Minnesota since 1998 when 158,854 were taken... hunter participation was nearly identical to 2012 ...

[Hunters Harvest 54,000 Deer in MN November](#) 12, 2014 Minnesota, FOX 21 Online

... Minnesota hunters registered 54,000 deer during the first three days of firearms deer season, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources... the number of deer registered dropped 30,000 from 2013...

[Hunters say there aren't enough deer](#) June 1, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... "We fully understand that most hunters want more deer, and we also agree that deer numbers are currently low across much of Minnesota. We are taking steps immediately to increase deer numbers where they are below goals. Hunters in most of Minnesota will see a very conservative deer season next fall ...DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr ...

[Hunters upset about small herds dispute DNR's deer data](#) September 4, 2014

Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... a movement is afoot that would have the Legislature order an audit — or some type of review — of the way the DNR oversees the state's deer. The effort is led by Brooks Johnson of the Twin Cities, president of Minnesota Bowhunters Inc. (mnbowhunters.org) ... Inspired in part by audits of deer management in recent years in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania ...

[Hunting Ammunition and Implications for Public Health](#) [PDF] March, 2014 Minnesota,

Julia Ponder, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota

... In 2008, food banks had to remove venison contaminated with lead from their shelves.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states there is no level of lead exposure in children known to be without adverse effects. Based on these recognized health risks, MN, Wisconsin and North Dakota wildlife agencies and state health departments have recommended that pregnant women and children do not eat any game harvested with lead ammunition. Additional human health studies are needed to determine the extent of ill health effects that lead ammunition is having...

[In Minnesota, wildlife experts campaign for copper bullets](#) October 2, 2014

Minneapolis Star Tribune

... data from 1,277 bald eagles admitted to the center from 1996 to 2009. It showed, Henderson said, that 334 (26 percent) of the eagles had lethal lead levels and that 80 percent of the remaining eagles had elevated lead levels. The study, Henderson said, was correlated with the month of admission (mainly during the fall firearms season) and within the northern rifle zone...

[Law requires permit for antlers from road-kill deer](#) August 22, 2014 Minnesota,

International Falls Journal

... an International Falls man who pleaded guilty to a state game violation wants people to know they can't take the antlers off a road-killed deer without a permit... He was sentenced to one year jail and \$3,700 fine and fees. The jail time and all but \$800 were stayed on court conditions ...

[Local deer harvest down 12%](#) November 20, 2014 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times

... The gun-deer season harvest for most of Stearns, Wright and Sherburne counties was down about 12 percent compared with last year ... change in regulations from a two-deer limit last year to a one-deer limit this year...

[Long, hard winter has been tough on deer](#) April 6, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... winter severity index (WSI) — used to predict winter's impact to wildlife — is breaking records ... Until recently most of the dead whitetails Tom Rusch has encountered were fawns. "Now we're seeing and getting reports of adult deer starving, too," said Rusch, DNR area wildlife manager at Tower in northeastern Minnesota...

[Low deer population, cold weather impair firearms opener](#) November 12, 2014 Minnesota, SC Times

... Reports were especially bad in the far north, where a brutal winter pummeled the deer herd... very few bucks seen and many stating they are pulling the plug after sitting all weekend and not seeing a thing ...

[MDHA issues final report on 2014 emergency deer feeding](#) July 7, 2014 Minnesota, Outdoors with Sam Cook

... A total of 1,056,000 pounds of feed, or 528 tons, was purchased and distributed across more than 12,000 square miles during the six-week initiative. A total of 969

individuals obtained feed through the program. ... For the complete report, go to the [MDHA website](#) [PDF] ...

[Minnesota deer debate: Too many or not enough?](#) February 2, 2014 Duluth News Tribune

... "In most areas of the state, the population has sunk way below goal." DNR officials had recognized the deer population was declining before last fall's hunt and offered far fewer antlerless deer permits. But that wasn't going to change deer numbers immediately. "We're working to recover the population," said Jeff Lightfoot, DNR regional wildlife manager at Grand Rapids. "We need a little help from our winter weather." ...

[Minnesota deer harvest down 22 percent over 2013](#) November 30, 2014 Duluth News Tribune

... In Northeastern Minnesota (Series 100 permit areas), preliminary figures showed the firearms harvest at 29,000, down 41 percent from 49,000 in 2013 ...

[Minnesota Deer Hunting Forecast for 2014](#) October 2, 2014 Minnesota, gameandfishmag.com

... The harvests started tailing off in 2008, and by 2009 the number of deer shot was down below 200,000, at 194,186. It's been dropping ever since, but we're probably seeing the flat line now ...

[Minnesota deer hunting: Southeast population process begins with civil meeting](#) February 21, 2014 Pioneer Press

... many who spoke ... said the population is clearly down even in the southeast, an area of the state where population densities are higher than many areas... opinions ran the gamut, from self-described "meat hunters" who opposed the antler restrictions ... to mature buck advocates who said they want season dates changed so deer aren't hunted during the rut, or fall mating season. ...

[Minnesota DNR Announces Process To Revisit Deer Population Goals in 2015](#) August 28, 2014 AmmoLand.com

... Preliminary details of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' upcoming 2015 deer population goal-setting process now are available on the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/deer. "Working with citizens to achieve conservation and management goals is integral to the mission of the DNR," ...

[Minnesota launches deer vs. trees debate](#) April 20, 2014 Minneapolis Star Tribune
... the state launches a three-year process to reset its deer population ... Gary Alt, the biologist who was appointed by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge to decrease deer herds, said the story is similar in nearly every big deer hunting state. Hunters overprotect female deer to increase fawn production, multiplying their chances of shooting a buck... [[deer density and forest regeneration](#)]

[Minnesota Legacy Amendment has backed nearly 10000 projects since 2008](#) July 19, 2014 TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press

... The moose population in northern Minnesota's forests is dwindling, but a tax that voters raised in 2008 could help save the giants... A handful of other states have looked into expanding outdoors-related spending, and a few did by raising taxes, but Minnesota lawmakers found they needed to include money for arts and culture projects, such as theaters and artwork, for the measure to get enough legislative votes...

[Minnesota moose die from wolves, ticks, abandonment and disease](#) August 9, 2014 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... deaths of 54 that were tracked as part of the biggest and most high-tech research study ... By far the greatest number, primarily calves, were killed by bears and wolves. A number were abandoned by their mothers ... Calves suffered a 71 percent mortality

rate after only one summer, ... Moose need a mortality rate of 50 or 55 percent in the first year of life to maintain their population ...

[Minnesota Moose Population](#) July 18, 2014 Bowhunting.com

... The population has in fact dropped more than 50% since 2006. Starting in 2012, the Minnesota DNR indefinitely closed the moose hunt for the state. They also launched a 1.2 million dollar moose mortality study to try and indentify the cause of these drastic declines. Many wildlife biologists believe the milder and shorter winters of the late 2000s and early 2010s may have been detrimental to moose ...

[Minnesota wildlife panel debates ways to reduce lead ammo](#) February 6, 2014 Pioneer Press

... a solution to the issue of bald eagles eating lead bullet and shotgun slug fragments while scavenging for food. Options for putting eagles on a lead-free diet include a mandatory ban on lead ammunition as well as a voluntary approach that lets hunters learn about non-lead alternatives such as copper bullets...

[MN deer feed distribution sites now operate from 8 AM to 12 PM](#) March 15, 2014

Minnesota, Northland's NewsCenter

... From the [Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association](#): Anyone can feed deer as long as you have access to a deer yard on public land, and have a good idea how many deer are there. Come to the distribution location closest to you on Saturday morning 8am-Noon, and we'll get the documentation we need and send you on your way with deer feed! ...

[Nature Matters: Is deer feeding making a difference?](#) March 18, 2014 Minnesota, Northland's NewsCenter

... It's estimated that 12 to 16-thousand deer are being fed. Some will argue that's a drop in the bucket compared to the state deer herd size of a million ... the Minnesota DNR wants feeders to remember that whole corn is potentially fatal to deer...

[Emergency Deer Feeding](#) March 19, 2014 Minnesota, WDIO-TV

... "They're starting to see some die off. That's part of why we're doing this," said Brad Trevena of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. Trevena says the deep snow and subzero nights have been especially hard...

[MN deer in Arrowhead Region benefiting from mild winter, little snow cover](#) December 29, 2014 Minnesota, Northland's NewsCenter

... Without much snow, Quarberg says deer have easier access to food, and have a stronger chance against predators... The fawns are heavier when they're born ...

[MN firearms deer license sales on pace with previous years](#) November 5, 2014 Minnesota, Areavoices

... License revenue pays for the vast majority of the DNR's research, monitoring and management of the state's game species, as well as maintaining quality wildlife habitat on the state's 1.3 million acre wildlife management area system. License revenue helps fund DNR conservation officer ...

[New deer population goals for southeastern Minnesota announced](#) May 29, 2014 Minnesota, MNDNR

... More deer in much of southeastern Minnesota is the anticipated outcome of a citizen-led deer population goal-setting process that increases deer numbers in five of the nine permit areas under review... DNR increased goal densities in deer permit areas 341, 342, 345, 347 and 348. Permit areas 343, 346 and 349 will maintain existing goal densities. Whitewater Wildlife Management Area, permit area 344, will maintain current densities...

[No DNR deer feeding in Ely area ...](#) February 21, 2014 Minnesota, Ely Echo

... "We don't have anything hard on that but we're doing a lot of research here now," said Rusch. "But most moose managers feel any concentration of wintering moose

and deer would be negative and would pass brain worm along. Can we make a direct correlation? No, not at this time." ...bRusch did say that NRRI is in the process of studying deer in the Ely area and in the moose range...

[Northern Minnesota deer feeding begins](#) March 9, 2014 Duluth News Tribune

... About 28 tons were scheduled for pickup from Thursday through Saturday ... One volunteer said he was hauling feed to a site where 100 deer were yarded up, Johnson said. MDHA's Jenny Foley said she spoke to a volunteer who planned to haul feed to a site where more than 300 deer were yarded ...

Overuse of "depredation tag" impacting number of deer, November 18, 2014

Minnesota

The Caledonia Argus

... Besides the hunt there is something else going on at a neighborhood farm near you. There is a wholesale slaughter going on. The tool this agri- business is using is called a depredation tag. Apparently any farmer who claims crop damage is able to purchase an unlimited quantity of these tags for a buck apiece. I am not talking five or six but rather dozens upon dozens of them...

[Petition asks Minnesota DNR to increase deer herd populations](#) January 18, 2014

Pioneer Press

... Following a fall in which hunters kill the fewest deer in more than a decade, the volume is rising among some quarters of Minnesota's deer hunting community calling for change... This fall, hunters killed roughly 171,000 deer, the third straight year of decline... "There's also concern that this is shaping up to be a severe winter, much like last winter turned out to be. I think a lot of hunters are worried about how many deer will survive." ...

[Plight of Minnesota moose not so dire as believed](#) February 14, 2014 Minneapolis Star Tribune

... This winter's annual survey by the Department of Natural Resources found an estimated 4,350 — considerably more than the 2,760 reported last year, and about the same number that were counted in 2012... "The higher estimate this winter likely is related to ideal survey conditions rather than any actual increase in the population," said Lou Cornicelli ...

[Putting an End to Deer Poaching on Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge](#) May 13, 2014 Minnesota, USFWS Midwest Region News and Highlights

... Thanks to an anonymous tip and solid investigative work, a 17-year serial poacher from Minnesota was sentenced in federal court today after pleading guilty to a Lacey Act violation for transporting wildlife that was unlawfully taken in violation of federal law. In October 2013, William Robert Welsh, age 41 of St. Cloud, Minnesota pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor charge... "This investigation revealed at least a decade of egregious poaching on the refuge and other areas throughout the state," ...

[Reluctant Minnesota DNR plans emergency deer feed](#) February 13, 2014 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... The emergency feed will be distributed in areas that are below the DNR's goal for deer population and that have a "winter severity index" — a measurement of deep snow and bitter cold nights that put deer at risk of starvation — of 100 or above... despite few deer reaching the food in 1997, the northern deer herd rebounded to its previous level within two years and rose to all-time record high populations within five years of the severe winters...

[Reminder for deer opener 2014: Be scrupulous with radio or cell phone use](#) November 7, 2014 Minnesota, Outdoor News

... maybe most, deer hunters carry cell phones these days, but most have no clue that they cannot use electronic devices – including cell phones – to assist in the taking of a deer... (2014 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook, Page 28) ...

[Rice County hunters to see young deer population](#) November 6, 2014 Minnesota, southernminn.com

... In the mid-'90s, the deer population was much higher than where it currently sits, but the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources made efforts to bring those numbers down ... "Then in the 2000s it's been lower, but we're trying to build it back up," ...

[Rules won't drive deer hunters away, DNR official says](#) July 27, 2014 Minnesota, SC Times

... two severe winters is what really packed a punch with deer being below population goal levels now." Merchant added that he suspects this year's harvest will fall between 120,000 and 150,000 deer. It could be the first time since 1997 that the state's deer take falls below 150,000 animals. ...

[Saving Minnesota deer, then and now...](#) February 24, 2014 UpNorthExplorer.com:

... For the second consecutive year our northern Minnesota deer herd is in trouble... The concept of "saving Minnesota deer," and even the name, began right here in Grand Rapids during the incredibly harsh winter of 1968-69, in late January, to be exact, when a group of Grand Rapids hunters/conservationists/civic leaders "banged the drum" loudly on behalf of our dwindling deer herd.... [this year] Commissioner Landwehr reversed DNR's stance against feeding ...

[Severe winters play key role in deer mortality](#) April 6, 2014 Minnesota, Mining Journal

... In recent years, deer abundance here has plummeted (now approaching 1970s levels) ... During a six-year study, I found that fawns and aged does comprised about

60 percent of the overwinter deer loses due to malnutrition and predation. Although about 21 percent of the bucks wintering in my study area were yearlings, I found only one yearling buck among 124 dead deer identified to sex and age...

[Snow, cold causing deer concerns](#) January 5, 2014 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald
... the early onset of winter comes on the heels of two of the lowest deer harvests in several years... “If we get more snow, there’s a real fear that’s going to drive the deer population even lower,” Johnson said. That could have serious implications on deer management ...

[Stricter rules, fewer deer for MN firearms season](#) November 7, 2014 Minnesota, Austin Daily Herald
... In 95 percent of the state, hunters will only be able to take one deer ... will cut this year’s deer harvest to as low as 120,000 — 50,000 fewer than last year and down dramatically from the peak of 290,000 in 2003 ... hunters asked for the conservative harvest. He and his members have seen fewer and fewer deer in the woods over the last few years ...

[The Economics of Social Deer Management](#) October 16, 2014 Minnesota, Minnesota Bowhunters Inc.
... Deer hunters and viewers spend \$1.4 billion annually on whitetail deer in MN. (MN DNR numbers)... Wisconsin does quantify the damage deer cause to agriculture, and their annual number is \$1.25 million dollars... with deer vehicle accidents cut by over 50% in the last 10 years, we have only reduced the odds of a driver having any accident less than 2%. ...

[The tale of deer in Permit Area 178](#) February 2, 2014 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune
... for area 178 in 2007... the pre-harvest population was estimated at 26 deer per square mile. But by last fall, the population had dropped to about 15 deer per square mile ... The goal-setting group for permit area 178 recommended DNR wildlife

managers reduce the deer population about 25 percent ... With harder winters in the area, the DNR last fall returned to issuing antlerless permits more conservatively in order to increase deer numbers...

[The tale of deer in Permit Area 178](#) February 2, 2014 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune ... for area 178 in 2007... the pre-harvest population was estimated at 26 deer per square mile. But by last fall, the population had dropped to about 15 deer per square mile ... The goal-setting group for permit area 178 recommended DNR wildlife managers reduce the deer population about 25 percent ... With harder winters in the area, the DNR last fall returned to issuing antlerless permits more conservatively in order to increase deer numbers...

[The year outdoors: The cold set the tone](#) December 31, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune ... The tough winter, combined with an already reduced deer population because of overharvest, led the DNR to hold one of the most conservative deer hunts in memory in an attempt to restore the whitetail population...The final deer harvest tally hasn't been completed, but the kill likely will be less than 140,000 — the lowest in at least 25 years...

[Time to rebuild](#) July 5, 2014 Minnesota, Virginiamn ... Rusch said he's only seen eight fawns in the field so far this year — down significantly from past years. And, he's seeing single fawns with does, or no fawns with does; which is an indicator to the health of the herd. "In a good year I'd be seeing twins or even triples," ... After the booming number of deer in the area 10 years ago, Rusch said, "I never imagined we'd be back here again." ...

Tower Area, [Final tally: Deer harvest down 30%](#) December 6, 2014 Minnesota, The Ely Echo

... Last year it was 25 percent down, this year 30 percent down for the firearms season. The DNR released numbers for the Tower area on Tuesday...

[Voice Your Support For The Minnesota Deer Audit](#) November 24, 2014 blogspot.com

... There are not many out there that haven't heard about the proposed audit of deer management practices in Minnesota... Very active participants in the deer discussion have found there to be large differences in the computer model vs the aerial survey. In some instances, the computer model estimates the herd in a given area at 25 per square mile, when the aerial survey in the same year revealed there to be only 7...

[Volunteers haul feed to help deer survive tough winter](#) March 12, 2014 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Feeding began last Thursday, when the first feed shipments were dropped at some of the eight distribution points across the region. Feeding will continue until the snow is gone... "At our other clearing, at any given time, there's 150 deer," Krueger said. "We've found four dead in the woods. They weren't killed by wolves. It looked like they had starved." ...

[Warmer temps end Minnesota's emergency deer feeding program](#) April 12, 2014 Minnesota, Star Tribune, startribune.com

... Johnson [Minnesota Deer Hunters] estimated that 20 percent or more of the northern deer may have died... DNR officials didn't support the emergency deer feeding. "Based on previous feeding efforts, there's not a significant portion of the population that is reached," ... Johnson still disagrees. "Our position is, from an emergency standpoint, it's a viable alternative, and a necessary alternative," ...

[What Predicts Support for Antler Point Restrictions?](#) SA Schroeder, L Cornicelli, DC Fulton, MD Grund - Human Dimensions of Wildlife, 2014

... Type of deer pursued and agency trust were the strongest predictors of APR support, followed by satisfaction with deer seen, and years of hunting experience. Hunters who targeted big bucks, had more trust in the agency, and expressed more satisfaction with deer seen in the field, were more supportive of the APR. Hunters who had more deer-hunting experience were less supportive....

[Where did all the whitetails go?](#) January 10, 2014 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

.... hunters in recent years have spent more time in the state's woods and fields to bag a deer than they did when whitetails were more plentiful... the state's deer herd might be even smaller than the DNR believes, because in its population models, harvest size correlates positively to herd size, with hunter effort gaining less consideration...

[Winter deer-feeding program ends this weekend](#) April 12, 2014 Minnesota, TwinCities Pioneer Press

... The thaw couldn't come soon enough for Minnesota's deer. Malnourished and dead deer were reported throughout the northern half of the state, as winter severity indices climbed to the highest levels in nearly a decade... the total amount spent will be just shy of \$200,000. But Johnson said reports from volunteers consistently tracked improvements in the deer they saw...

[Winter Severity Index for deer creeps higher](#) February 2, 2014 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Minnesota's Winter Severity Index through Thursday indicates that, so far, this is shaping up to be a tougher-than-normal winter for deer... several DNR stations in northwestern counties already have surpassed the "severe" category ...

2013

['Tis the season for white-tailed deer](#) November 4, 2013 Minnesota, Park Rapids
Enterprise

... The range of the white-tailed deer is testament to its astonishing adaptability. From southern Canada to the Florida Everglades, and from the eastern hardwoods to the western pines, the white-tailed deer flourishes throughout its extensive North American range. ... with regard to a whitetail cousin, the mule deer, this doesn't seem to be quite the case...

[A hunter's perspective on killing wolf](#) November 26, 2013 Minnesota, The Caledonia
Argus

... I used to be a member of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) ... I have always had great pride in the Minnesota's grey wolf population; wolves make the wilderness alive and healthy... For those of you that feel comfortable because the DNR is managing it, take a look at the moose, it's facing extinction in Minnesota...

[After years of too many deer, the pendulum has swung back toward rebuilding whitetail herds in many parts of Minnesota](#) November 8, 2013 Bemidji Pioneer

... "In many areas, we still don't really have a good handle on the ability of an area and whether it can sustain a managed harvest strategy year after year." John Williams, regional wildlife supervisor ... the extended winter in northern Minnesota likely had a negative impact on production. "From early reports, hunters are not seeing as many fawns with does as they typically would be seeing," ...

[All signs point to a solid opener in SW Minn](#) November 8, 2013 Minnesota, Marshall
Independent

... In a historical context, the DNR said, too many deer were taken during the 1960s, forcing the closure of the deer season in 1971 and a rebuilding of the deer herd from

the 1970s through the 1990s. The highest deer harvest occurred in 2003 ... 290,000 deer ...

[Local QDMA branch wins national award](#) August 14, 2013 Minnesota, Petoskey News-Review

... One of the Tip of the Mitt branch's recent coups was taking part in a successful drive to place antler point restrictions on deer harvested in a 12-county area, which includes Charlevoix and Emmet counties. Beginning this hunting season, harvested bucks will be required to have at least three points on one side... nearly 70 percent of surveyed hunters supported the restrictions...

[APRs \[antler point restrictions\] help the next generation of deer hunters](#) March 7, 2013 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

... Preliminary data from the hunter survey following the 2012 season indicates 64 percent of Zone 3 hunters approve of APRs and want the regulations to continue... a buck needed to have at least four points on one side ... During the past three years, we have witnessed an astonishing shift in the number of bucks picked up by the cameras...

[Deep snow and bitter cold already affecting northern Minnesota deer](#) December 15, 2013 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... not encouraged by what he's hearing from county foresters in the region. "They said the deer are pushing snow," Johnson said. "That's a good indication that it's going to be a tough winter for deer." Northeastern Minnesota's deer population had already declined over the past few years, partly due to some harsh winters ...

[Deer are a problem for farmers](#) August 4, 2013 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Robert Olen ... said. Where fences are too expensive or unwanted, a well-trained dog can be effective ... Repellants, if used carefully and consistently, can work, too.

But when it comes to deer, Olen primarily practices the art of compromise. “In my case, we understand that we’re going to sacrifice a little on our perimeters to deer,” ...

[Deer faring well so far this winter](#) February 24, 2013 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald
This winter, so far, has been easy on white-tailed deer in Minnesota and North Dakota. With little snow on the ground and a warmer-than-normal January ... The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources keeps a Winter Severity Index, which helps biologists estimate how many deer will make it through a northern winter. Under the WSI system, one point is accrued each day the temperature drops below zero, and another point is added for each day the snow depth is greater than 15 inches...

[Deer harvest running behind as hunt ends](#) November 16, 2013 Minnesota, Minnesota Public Radio
... Through Thursday, hunters had killed a little more than 92,000 deer -- down about 7 percent from last year... Last year, hunters killed 186,000 deer out of a statewide population of around 1 million. ...

[Deer hunt on pace to meet the area's management goals](#) November 19, 2013 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times
... The year-to-date deer harvest is about 5 percent higher compared with the same time last year for the dominant permit areas of Stearns, Wright and Sherburne counties, according ... approximately 8,600 deer killed ...

[Deer hunting numbers are down](#) November 16, 2013 Minnesota, Albert Lea Tribune
... three days of the firearms season, down 8 percent from 2012, according to the DNR. Leslie McInenly, DNR big game program leader ... not surprising. “Last year, opening weekend weather was almost ideal and the state’s corn harvest was virtually complete, she said. “So given Saturday’s roaring winds of up to 30 mph, which tends to restrict deer movement, and more available deer refuge areas due to pockets of standing corn, the harvest is about what you’d expect.” ...

[DNR predicts good deer harvest](#) November 4, 2013 Minnesota, KARE

... "Minnesota's deer population is largely stable in the southern half of the state because of mild winters and generally conservative deer management," ... too many deer were taken during the 1960s, forcing the closure of the deer season in 1971 and a rebuilding of the deer herd from the 1970s through the 1990s... The highest deer harvest occurred in 2003, when 290,000 deer were taken as part of an effort to reduce the deer herd...

[DNR: Number of Minnesota deer hunters down, but violations up](#) November 11, 2013 KEYC-TV

... The DNR says the numbers marked the most deer-baiting infractions since the agency started tracking them in 1991. Penalties for deer-baiting include the loss of firearm and hunting privileges, and a fine of up to \$1,000...

[Early-season deer harvest down significantly in Northeastern Minnesota](#) November 14, 2013 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Minnesota's firearms deer harvest was down almost 20 percent across the Northeastern part of the state through the first three days of the season. And the 2012 harvest was down about 6 percent compared to 2011 for the same period ... in Northeastern Minnesota's deer ... "We did have a tough winter last year," ... "We would expect the harvest would be going down because we have a conservative harvest strategy. In a lot of areas we're slightly below or approaching (population) goals...

[Eh? Leave fawns alone](#) May 21, 2013 Minnesota, Budgeteer

... Even if you don't see the mother around, a fawn almost certainly has not been abandoned. Unlike human mothers that cling to their newborns, deer mothers often move away from fawns while feeding to avoid drawing any attention to newborns...

The DNR notes that mama doe will come around every four or five hours to check on the fawn, and she is usually within earshot. ..

[Elk a focus for revived MDHA chapter](#) December 22, 2013 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald

A defunct chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association in Kittson County is reorganizing, and members say they'll be focusing on elk ... More than 150 Kittson County residents signed a petition last summer asking the DNR to expand the elk population and reduce the number of hunting permits it issues ...

[Farmers buck deer hunting rules](#) December 18, 2013 Minnesota, Winona Post ... Many hunters and farmers attended the meeting to give their feedback on the DNR's Antler Point Restriction (APR) regulations... APR critics argue that the rule has instead back-fired and that deer populations, and the crop damage they cause, are on the rise...

[Farmers get new options to control problem deer](#) August 15, 2013 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

... southeastern Minnesota has some of the best deer habitat in the state ... The Department of Natural Resources is going to allow landowners with far too many deer to obtain more permits to shoot antlerless deer during the Oct. 17-20 hunt that is usually for youths only... deer's dining habits are changing. Owners of commercial gardens once thought deer would eat only certain vegetables but are finding that if those crops aren't available, deer will change to something new ...

[Field report: Deer harvest down 6 percent from 2012](#) November 19, 2013 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Hunters have killed 129,000 deer so far during Minnesota's firearms deer season — down about 6 percent from this time last year...

[Final tally: Deer harvest down 25%](#) December 13, 2013 Minnesota, Ely Echo

... Deer numbers go up and down with the severity of winters. Winters, and particularly snow depth, is the number one factor affecting deer mortality in Northeastern Minnesota according to long-term deer research done in Northern Minnesota. This was the most exhaustive (15 year) winter deer mortality study ever done in North America*. Timber wolves get the blame, but ... Even with low wolf populations in the late 1960s and 70s our deer population was at historic lows due to a string of severe winters...

[Finding Lost Deer: It's Time For Tracking Dogs To Go National](#) October 10, 2013

Minnesota, Field and Stream (blog)

... Kasey Morgan, a member of the United Blood Trackers (<http://www.unitedbloodtrackers.org>), a national organization whose members own dogs trained to find deer ... If you live in one of the 27 states that allow the use of tracking dogs, this story is probably a familiar one. I, however, do not. Minnesota is one of 13 states that completely forbid the use of dogs to find big game (other prominent whitetail states, like Pennsylvania and Kansas, are included in this number). I'm in lock-step with the United Blood Trackers; it's time for this number to shrink to zero...

[Firearms deer harvest down 6 percent from 2012](#) November 20, 2013 Minnesota, MDNR News

Minnesota hunters harvested 128,814 deer through the second weekend of the 2013 firearms season, according to preliminary numbers announced Nov. 20 by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.... Firearm harvest to date is down 6 percent from last year at this time. Overall, antlered buck harvest is down 7 percent and antlerless harvest is down 5 percent.

“Based on our population estimates, the decrease in buck harvest was not anticipated and may reflect hunting conditions more than population,” said Leslie McInenly, DNR big game program leader. “Based on the preliminary numbers, our opening and second weekend harvests from Saturday to Monday were down 4 and 13 percent, respectively, and we experienced windy conditions the first weekend and both wind and rain the second weekend.”

Much of the change in statewide antlerless harvest can be attributed to decreased harvest in the northeastern portion of the state, where antlerless harvest is currently down 25 percent. Much of northern Minnesota experienced an extended, moderate-to-severe 2012-2013 winter, likely impacting overwinter survival and fawn numbers this summer. In response, the DNR reduced bag limits and the number of either-sex permits available in many northern permit areas. Also, antlerless harvest continues to be reduced around the former bovine tuberculosis management zone in far northwestern Minnesota to allow the deer population in that area to rebuild.

[Firearms deer harvest down 8 percent from 2012](#) November 13, 2013 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... the state's three-day opening weekend firearms deer harvest was down 8 percent from 2012, citing strong winds in parts of the state as a possible explanation. Minnesota hunters harvested 77,008 deer during the period...

[G&F Forecast: Best Places for Minnesota Deer Hunting in 2013](#) October, 2013

... Leslie McInenly is the big game program leader ... for high-density deer areas, our forest transition zone and our bluffland area, which runs from northwestern Minnesota to southeastern Minnesota, has some of the highest deer density in the state.” The forest transition zone is a section of the state where Minnesota’s forest lands transition into what was historically prairie lands. In this region, you can find plenty of open ground, agriculture and forested areas that will provide ideal habitat for whitetails...

[Harvest numbers down as deer gun season comes to a close](#) November 29, 2013

Minnesota, Minnesota Public Radio

... Statewide, the deer harvest is down 7 percent this year ... hunters registered 143,000 deer during the regular firearms season. They expect hunters to take an additional 4,500 deer by the end of the late firearms season ... especially down in northeast Minnesota this year. Twenty-five percent fewer does were killed ...

[Helicopters to count deer in many areas of Minnesota](#) January 14, 2013 Minnesota,

Redwood Falls Gazette

Pending suitable snow cover, low-flying helicopters will be conducting whitetail deer population surveys from January through March in northwestern, central and southeastern Minnesota. "Good wildlife management decisions are based on good science," said Lou Cornicelli, wildlife research manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)...

[Illegal deer baiting on the rise; penalties stressed](#) November 13, 2013 Minnesota,

Hutchinson Daily Leader

... Col. Ken Soring, DNR enforcement director... "In order to show the seriousness of the offense, hunters are also subject to license revocation when convicted of baiting deer." ... Soring reminds hunters it is illegal to take deer with the aid or use of bait and encourages hunters to direct their efforts towards traditional and ethical hunting techniques ...

[Illegal deer baiting on the rise; penalties stressed](#) November 8, 2013 Minnesota,

Brainerd Daily Dispatch

... Deer baiting is placing food near deer stands or clearings with the intent of luring a deer into close shooting range. It has been illegal to bait deer in Minnesota since 1991...

[Lottery coming to NW MN permit areas](#) August 19, 2013 Minnesota, Perham Focus

.....After killing off deer by the thousands, the DNR now has shifted gears and is working to bring them back. "We were trying to decimate deer numbers in that population to halt the spread of TB," said John Williams, regional wildlife supervisor for the DNR in Bemidji. "On the positive side, we have one of the first places in the nation where we can document that the disease has more or less stopped..."

[May be fewer deer out there](#) December 18, 2013 Minnesota, messagemedia.co
... each year the department estimates the deer population at around one million yet the harvest goes down each year ... Many are saying they did not get "their" deer or were not even seeing deer. There are around 500,000 licensed deer hunters ...

[Minn. deer farm puts \\$9,400 price on buck's head](#) September 12, 2013 Minnesota, .Fort Mill Times
... A Minnesota deer farm owner has turned to social media to advertise a chance to shoot a captive trophy buck for \$9,400... "I guess if it is legal, that is one thing, but a true hunter would not want to do something like that," said John Young of the Clay-Wilkin Deer Hunters Association...

[Minn. deer harvest drops 4 percent in 2012](#) January 28, 2013 Minnesota, KARE
Minnesota hunters harvested 184,649 deer during the 2012 season, down 4 percent from the previous year according to numbers released Monday by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

[Minnesota deer facts](#) November 4, 2013 Minnesota DNR
... The biggest white-tailed deer ever recorded was a 500-pound Minnesota buck. A whitetail's home range is about one square mile... 70 percent of Minnesota's firearms deer harvest typically occurs during the first three or four days of the season... Nearly 500,000 deer hunters in Minnesota. Direct retail sales – \$234 million....

[Minnesota deer hunting: Antler restrictions poised to continue](#) March 5, 2012

TwinCities.com

...The antler-point restrictions, known as APR, prohibit anyone older than 17 from killing a buck that doesn't have at least four points on at least one side of its rack...

The rationale behind the restrictions is to allow a more balanced, healthier deer population that includes more mature bucks... a bill was introduced this week at the Legislature that would allow the DNR to make the call on its own, without legislative action...

[Minnesota Deer Season 2013: Hunting Forecast](#) October 4, 2013 Outdoor Life

... In total, 185,000 deer were harvested in the Land of 10,000 Lakes... the number of whitetails appears to be up about two percent over last year (over one million deer)...

[Minnesota DNR counts the state's elusive wolves](#) March 17, 2013 In-Forum

... "The last survey indicated a range of 2,200 to 3,500. They give us a broad range," said Howard Goldman, Minnesota state director of the Humane Society of the United States. "We're saying this is much too imprecise a process." The Humane Society opposes wolf hunting and trapping in Minnesota. Mark Johnson of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association believes the DNR is "still on the learning curve with its population estimates and surveys" of wolves...

[Minnesota firearms season deer harvest down](#) December 9, 2013 BayInsider

... Steve Merchant, the DNR's wildlife population and regulations manager, said a lower deer population is likely the main reason hunters haven't fared so well, though the weather was a factor, too... Mark Johnson, executive director of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, concurred that the lower deer population is the main factor in the lower harvest ... the DNR is likely to respond to that by reducing the antlerless harvest...

[Minnesota moose hunt is history](#) February 7, 2013, Duluth News Tribune

... the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced Wednesday that it will not offer a hunting season this fall or consider future seasons until the population recovers ... According to aerial surveys, the moose population dropped 35 percent — from an estimated 4,230 to 2,760 — between 2012 and 2013.. Biologists don't know exactly what's killing Minnesota's moose. While climate change is considered a factor, moose also die from disease, parasites and predation...

[Minnesota Senate panel passes wolf hunt moratorium 7-7](#) March 14, 2013

Minneapolis Star Tribune

... The bill now goes to a Senate environment budget committee, where its prospects are uncertain... A Department of Natural Resources study in 2007 estimated the state's winter wolf population at about 3,000, and the DNR says monitoring since then shows the population is stable...

[Minnesota's crash in moose population remains mystery](#) March 8, 2013

77Square.com

... Minnesotans might never again hunt moose. The last time the state closed the hunt with no timetable for return was 1923, when moose numbered 3,000 statewide ... the northeastern herd peaked at 8,840 in 2006, but generally suffered gradual, fluctuating declines since 2002...The population estimate this winter was 2,760 ... Biologists speculate it's a deadly combination of chronic health woes and physical stress linked to warmer, shorter winters and hotter, longer summers...

[Minnesota's new deer hunting boss, one year on the job](#) November 12, 2013 Pioneer

Press

... Leslie McInenly ... a 37-year-old Stillwater resident with a background in elk research ... She predicted the total number of deer killed this year would be similar to last year, when 186,000 deer were taken. She said that about a million deer remained

on the landscape last week and that, in most areas of the state, good numbers had survived the winter...

[Minnesota's wolf population down but still healthy](#) July 9, 2013 Duluth News Tribune

.. The 2012-13 winter survey estimated a range of 1,652 to 2,641 wolves, compared to the 2007-08 estimate of 2,200 to 3,500 wolves roaming over about 30,000 square miles across the northern one-third of Minnesota...

[Excerpts from recent Minnesota editorials](#) Jul 15, 2013, Lexington Herald Leader

... the state Department of Natural Resources now estimates the wolf population to be 2,211, down about 710 from the DNR's last count done in 2008... . The survey was conducted after the hunt, in which about 400 wolves were harvested. Plus, during 2012-13, more wolves had to be removed because of livestock depredation...

[No surplus either-sex deer permits available](#) for 2013 October 3, 2013 Minnesota, Brainerd Daily Dispatch

... The DNR offered 38,850 either-sex permits in 58 deer permit areas this year. Every permit area received applications for at least 100 percent of the permits available... In lottery deer areas, firearm and muzzleloader license holders who intend to take an antlerless deer must have an either-sex permit; otherwise, they are restricted to hunting bucks...

[Preliminary 2013 deer harvest numbers released](#) December 9, 2013 Minnesota, MDNR

Minnesota hunters harvested 164,550 deer during 2013, according to preliminary numbers announced by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Through the beginning of December, firearms hunters harvested 144,000 deer, a 6 percent drop from the 153,000 harvested in 2012. Preliminary numbers for the late season in southeastern Minnesota show hunters harvested 4,400 deer, down from the 5,000 harvested in 2012.

[Preliminary numbers indicate fewer deer harvested](#) November 19, 2013, Minnesota,
The Lake Country Echo

... Kanz expects more deer registrations to come in, so the numbers aren't final. He still expects a 10-15 percent drop in the harvest from last year...

[Reading the body language of deer](#) November 8, 2013 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star
Tribune

... When unable to determine whether a sight or sound is friend or foe, a deer will sometimes perform the "head bob." The deer will begin to lower its head toward the ground, as if to feed, and then suddenly jerk its head back up again. The head bob is an attempt to catch predators off guard ...

[Reduced deer population means fewer hunting permits](#) July 28, 2013 Minnesota,
Duluth News Tribune

... The deer population has decreased as much as 25 percent over the past 10 years in some permit areas across Northeastern Minnesota, said Tom Rusch, DNR area wildlife manager at Tower...

[Smaller deer harvest should lead to higher population](#) December 1, 2013 Minnesota,
Duluth News Tribune

... The deer population was down, DNR biologists said, after a series of moderate to severe winters that probably resulted in adult deer dying and fewer fawns born last spring. The DNR reduced antlerless permits this fall in hopes of saving does and increasing the population in coming years...

[Southern Minnesota firearms deer harvest sees slight decline](#) November 18, 2013
Southernminn.com

... , Minnesota hunters harvested 77,008 deer during the first three days of the firearm season Nov. 9-11, down 8 percent from last year. D'Angelo says that's not surprising,

though, considering the weather ... “We had 1 million deer in the state pre-harvest and we expect 185,000 deer harvested by the time the season closes,” ...

[Stressful Time for Deer](#) April 1, 2013 Minnesota, WDIO-TV

... We followed wildlife enthusiast, Dick Bronson, out to one of his trail cameras in Hartley Park ... "Some of the first pictures I've had on it were deer that ran right past here, closely followed by a big black dog," ... "The dogs can run on top of the snow, and the deer with their sharp hoofs break through," ... Balzer says the sheer exhaustion from being chased through deep snow can even cause death...

[Tough winter for deer](#) April 21, 2013 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... Up to 40 percent of last year's fawns are likely to die this winter in northern St. Louis and Koochiching counties, along with about 15 percent of adult deer ... In an average winter, 10 percent of last year's fawns die ... Snow depths remain at 15 inches or more in the north

[What's Killing Minnesota's Moose?](#) July 15, 2013 OnEarth Magazine

... the moose of northeastern Minnesota are dying at an alarming rate. The population has nosedived in recent years, dropping to about a third of what it was in 2009. In the past year alone, their numbers plummeted 35 percent, leaving only about 2,700 moose. That's a mortality rate unseen anywhere else in North America—in fact, in other parts of the continent, moose are thriving....

[Later opener could provide more opportunities](#) October 26, 2013 Minnesota, Bemidji Pioneer

... A few years ago Tom Sturza of the Minnesota DNR Area Wildlife office in Park Rapids examined deer killed during the winter, most of them victims of collisions with vehicles. Among the studies he undertook was one which determined when the does were bred. His research indicated that most of the deer were bred between Nov. 15

and Nov. 17 ... The permit areas around Grand Rapids are among those with low deer densities although the population figures are similar to last year's...

[Where the deer are](#) November 3, 2013 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune
... deer harvest per square mile in 2012, indicates the wide disparity, ranging from more than nine deer per square mile killed in permit area 602 (a chronic wasting disease zone with no bag limits) to 0.06 per square mile in permit area 117 in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (where there are few deer and fewer hunters). The statistics generally reflect where deer densities are high and low, but there are other factors. "It also reflects our management strategies, too,'...

[Whitetail herds on the rebound in many parts of Minnesota](#) November 3, 2013 Grand Forks Herald
... it's a rebuilding season for Minnesota's deer herd in most parts of the state... The DNR after severe winters in the late 1990s implemented conservative regulations that saw deer populations quickly explode to the point where hunters in 2003 registered a record 290,525 deer — more than double the 143,327 registered in 1997 after the last extreme

[Why I use copper and gilding metal ammunition for deer hunting](#) October 21, 2013 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune
... when I was younger, an eagle flying overhead would have caused drivers to pull over to get a longer look... Bald eagles are one of the reasons I use copper ammunition for deer hunting. Bald eagles, along with other birds and mammals, often feed on deer gut piles and can become poisoned from lead fragments in those gut piles... Yes, it costs a little more ...

[Wildlife hurt -- and helped -- by cold, snowy winter](#) April 6, 2013 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Though wildlife biologists have yet to assess the impact to the deer population, the severe winter might have harmed whitetails in a large swath of northern Minnesota that was hammered with snow and cold, said Jeff Lightfoot, DNR regional wildlife manager in Grand Rapids. "We will see some fawn mortality," ...

[With Minnesota deer numbers down, hunters still optimistic](#) November 3, 2013

Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... "With the population down and our conservative antlerless permits, I suspect the harvest will be down," ... The DNR is taking a conservative approach to this fall's deer season, allowing hunters to take fewer deer in most deer permit areas ... Guys with trail cameras are seeing mostly does. The bucks seem to be really down ...

[Wolf Hunting Licenses to Go Down This Fall](#) July 30, 2013 Minnesota,

frenchtribune.com ·

...The actual harvest last year was at 413 in the first regulated wolf season of the state ... some 2,211 wolves were roaming northern forest of Minnesota ...

[What DNR learned from last year's wolf hunt](#) July 30, 2013 Minnesota, Duluth News

Tribune ·

... About 85 percent of the wolves taken in last year's early-season wolf hunt were taken opportunistically by deer hunters, Stark said... Fifty-percent ... were less than 2 years old ...

2012

[Deer management system leads to big bluffland bucks](#) November 10, 2012 Minnesota,

Minneapolis Star Tribune

... Now in its third year, Antler Point Restrictions (APR), an experimental deer management system in the southeast, is beginning to show the results its proponents had hoped for. Meaning a greater number of mature -- at least 2 1/2 years of age --

bucks are appearing in the region's very healthy whitetail herd, the result of a prohibition against killing bucks with fewer than 4 points on at least one antler ...

[APR \(antler point restrictions\) has been good for state](#) December 8, 2012 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times

It's been three deer seasons since antler point restrictions (APR) ... APR means that before a buck can be shot, it must have at least four points on one side of its rack... I was in the camp that opposed APR three to four years ago, but my mindset has changed as well. ... a few guys in Central Minnesota that have started implementing APR voluntarily. They too have seen what a difference can be made when bucks get a chance to walk into their second or third year of life...

[Archery finds growing target audience](#) September 15, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

Minnesota's archery deer license sales climbed from 1,700 in 1951, to 17,000 in 1971, to 71,000 20 years later. Sales topped 100,000 for the first time in 2010 and 2011 ... Also helping was a high deer population that spurred the DNR to liberalize bag limits... But with the deer population now down and bag limits more conservative, many hunters will be able to shoot just one deer this year...

[Bill makes aggressive run at illegal baiting of deer](#) March 4, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

,,, Last fall, more hunters -- 144 -- were cited for baiting than ever before. a bill at the Legislature may force scofflaws to think twice. If it becomes law, a person convicted of baiting deer would lose hunting privileges for a year. No exceptions. The DNR proposed the measure ...

[Bill raising hunting, fishing fees passed](#) April 28, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

A small game license would increase from \$19 to \$22, and a deer license would increase from \$26 to \$30. It also directs 50 cents from deer licenses for wolf management. The increases will go into effect March 1, 2013, if Dayton signs the bill into law... The restitution for a wolf taken illegally, now \$2,000, would drop to \$500.

[Changes brewing in woods won't help grouse \(or deer\)](#) September 9, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

The closing of six timber-consuming mills in Minnesota over the past five years has greatly reduced logging and ... will result in an older forest less productive for ruffed grouse and whitetail deer... if the forest products industry doesn't cut timber, there are no other management options. "It's the only tool we have to manage forest cover out there," said Schmid. It would be cost-prohibitive for the DNR to cut timber to manipulate wildlife habitat...

[Deer goals](#) March 11, 2012 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald

The deer kill peaked at 290,000 in 2003 as the agency began to reduce deer numbers. Last year, hunters shot 192,300 deer, down 7 percent from the previous year and 15,000 fewer than the 2010 season.

[Deer harvest down both statewide and locally](#) November 25, 2012 Minnesota, Herald Review

... from Nov. 3 -18 ... 151,400 deer have been harvested statewide... the state reported firearm harvest was off 7 percent – an expected development, as the DNR increased the number of areas where taking antlerless deer required a permit... "What drives total harvest is how we manage antlerless deer." ... Lou Cornicelli, DNR wildlife research manager.

[Deer hunters concerned about coyotes killing deer](#) January 18, 2012 Minnesota, Fergus Falls
Daily Journal

... Many hunters blame the coyote population as a major reason for a drop in the deer population. "That's one factor, but not the only factor," said Don Schultz, wildlife manager at the Fergus Falls Department of Natural Resources (DNR) office. "It's true that coyotes kill deer, particularly fawns ...Coyotes are unprotected, so people don't need licenses to shoot coyotes, said Schultz. Further north, the problem is wolves ...

[Deer hunts will limit access to some state parks this fall](#) September 27, 2012

Minnesota, Morris Sun Tribune

... Some parks will remain open to all visitors, some will have limited public access and some will be open only to hunters with special permits... "The DNR allows these annual resource management hunts as a way to help control the deer population at state parks," said Ed Quinn, resource management consultant for the DNR's Parks and Trails Division. "When there are too many deer in one area it can negatively impact the native plants and animals, and our goal is to ensure healthy natural communities."

[Density up, deer harvest may drop](#) October 31, 2012 Minnesota, Aitkin Independent
Age

... Minnesota has a healthy population of whitetails at the moment, thanks in part to a winter that wasn't in 2011. "We basically had zero winter last year," Cornicelli said. "There's going to be more deer out there to kill." Fawns had a rough winter in 2009-2010. Deep snow and cold temperatures took their toll. Last winter was one of the mildest on record. According to the DNR's Winter Severity Index for white-tailed deer (WSI) ...

[Despite population decline, Minnesota moose will still be hunted this fall](#) March 28, 2012

Pioneer Press

The moose population remains in steady decline, but scientists and wildlife managers agree that a limited hunt of males would not significantly change the number of animals because there are plenty of bulls to impregnate cows... The current population in the northeastern part of the state is estimated, based on aerial surveys, at 4,230 animals, down from 4,900 last year and 8,840 in 2006. Scientists aren't sure what's causing the iconic mammals of the North Woods to die off,...

[DNR clamping down on antlerless permits](#) September 1, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune ...

... Steve Merchant, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife programs manager, says his agency is distributing significantly fewer antlerless permits this fall in order to grow the state's whitetail herd in coming years... " Our deer modeling efforts on harvest rates indicated our deer numbers are down, and to rebuild the herd, we need to closely regulate antlerless harvest." ...

[DNR finds replacement for key deer manager](#) October 31, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

For nearly 10 years, Lou Cornicelli was ... Department of Natural Resources big game coordinator, Cornicelli steered deer management decisions affecting 500,000 deer hunters, many with divergent opinions. The job -- among the most visible at the DNR -- is a lightning rod for controversy... the new big game coordinator will continue the agency's science-based approach to deer herd management... the pay, which ranges from about \$51,000 to \$76,000, depending on qualifications and experience, contributed to the long hiring delay...

[DNR hire deals with farmers' complaints about deer](#) August 10, 2012 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

... The first thing Clint Luedtke, the DNR's new deer depredation specialist, did was bring over the temporary fence. He is also arranging for up to \$5000 in permanent fencing ... The blufflands are well suited for whitetails. It has wooded valleys near

cropland and mild winters, so deer are well fed and produce a lot of fawns, he said. Because of that, deer numbers rose so high, especially in Winona and Houston counties, that the DNR was allowing hunters to register up to five deer each year... [Deer Wreak Havoc On Southeastern Farms](#) August 13, 2012 Minnesota, CBS Local ... “We’re trying to grow vegetables in their dining room, really,” [Lonnie Dietz of Whitewater Gardens Farm] said. On his farm alone, Dietz will lose between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Now, the Minnesota DNR is helping out farmers like Dietz. The state is lending Dietz a solar powered electric fence to protect his most valuable crops. And within a year, he’ll install a permanent 10-foot-high fence to keep the deer from dining on his profits ...

[DNR names Telander chief of Wildlife Section](#) November 4, 2012 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald

... A 28-year DNR wildlife management veteran, Paul Telander spent 21 years as manager of Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area near Middle River, Minn., and has been the DNR's regional wildlife manager in Bemidji since 2005. “Paul is an experienced wildlife ...

[DNR officials laud natural resources bill](#) May 5, 2012 Minnesota, Marshall Independent ... a broad natural resources bill that, among other things, will raise hunting and fishing license fees... The DNR estimates the new fees will generate about \$5 million in fiscal 2013 and about \$10 million per year in following years to bolster the state's wildlife resource management ... raises the cost of an annual ... resident deer hunting license from \$26 to \$30....

[DNR officials shed light on deer season](#) November 11, 2012 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald

... hunters in northwest Minnesota generally shot more bucks and fewer does during the first three days of the state's firearms deer season ... John Williams, assistant

regional wildlife supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Bemidji, said ... "We've changed a lot of the harvest strategy in the region compared to the past few years," Williams said. "We were in 'how to get rid of deer' mode. The pendulum now has swung to building populations back toward goals." ...

[DNR promotes bullet swap to prevent eagle poisoning](#) October 20, 2012 Minnesota, Minnesota Public Radio, by Dan Gunderson

... DNR nongame wildlife supervisor Carrol Henderson said bald eagles eat the remains of deer left when hunters field dress the animals, adding that lead bullet fragments poison the eagles ... The state Department of Natural Resources is working with outdoor retailer Cabelas in an effort to persuade deer hunters to use copper ammunition instead of lead...

[DNR studies wolf behavior as hunting season approaches](#) October 19, 2012 Minnesota, Minnesota Public Radio

"I believe that we have a higher density of wolves, at least in northern Minnesota where they are now, than we maybe ever had historically," DNR wolf research biologist John Erb said. "And the reason is because of the higher abundance of deer, which wasn't here, or didn't exist 100 years ago. The forests were different. While there were moose and in some places caribou... the amount of meat per square mile was probably lower." ... the summer population in Minnesota can be as high as 5,000 wolves. But not all of those wolves will survive...

[DNR takes aim at southeastern Minnesota deer issues](#) March 22, 2012 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

... Just as all politics are local, so too are deer issues. Recognizing this, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has created a new position to better manage deer and deer hunter-landowner relations in southeastern Minnesota... a number of social and landscape issues – private farms, public forests, absentee landownership, crop depredation, a growing interest in big buck hunting and citizen differences on deer population goals ...

[Does a calm winter indicate we'll be seeing more sets of triplet fawns?](#) March 12, 2012

Minnesota, Brainerd Daily Dispatch

Nutritional status of pregnant females can influence the number of fawns they have in the spring. Indeed, triplets are more common in the southern Midwest because deer do not have to contend with severe winters

[Dwindling Moose Population May Jeopardize Tribal Traditions](#) May 4, 2012 Minnesota, Northland's NewsCenter

A dramatic and troubling decrease ... A 2012 aerial survey last winter ... to estimate that there are about 4,200 living moose in the state. The population declined 14 percent from last year... Andrew Edwards, Resource Management Division Director of the 1854 Treaty Authority said. "The problem is we don't have a real good feel for what percentage of the calves are being taken by bears or wolves or predators like that as opposed to potentially dying from other causes."

[Farmer Taking Deer Eating Crops Issue to Capitol](#) February 13, 2012 Minnesota, KAALtv.com

... Bob [Marg]decided to ask the DNR for a few free licenses to solve the problem. "They laughed at me and said that they need the income from the license sales so they can't give licenses away." ... Right now farmers can apply for only one free landowner license from the DNR...

[Fees may rise as legislators face outdoor issues](#) February 10, 2012 Minnesota, Worthington Daily Globe

"Hunting and fishing licenses have gone 11 years with no real increase," said Rep. Denny McNamara, who chairs the House environment committee. Minnesota's Game and Fish Fund is expected to be in debt by 2013 if nothing changes. Increasing fees could help balance the fund ...

[Few deer hunters switching to copper bullets](#) October 28, 2012 Minnesota, Budgeteer

Most deer hunters have not switched to non-toxic copper bullets despite studies indicating that potentially toxic lead fragments disperse up to 18 inches from the wound channel in firearms-killed deer... stories highlighted the plight of eagles, which can acquire lead poisoning after feeding on the entrails of hunter-killed deer...

[GPS study confirms easy winter for deer in northwest Minnesota](#) March 25, 2012 Grand Forks Herald

Last winter, almost all of the deer in the study made extensive movements, mostly to wintering areas with thicker cover. This year, the collared deer didn't move much at all, and no mortality has been recorded.... "Last winter, half of them died ... wolves killed six of the 16 collared animals. According to Dr. Michelle Carstensen, Wildlife Health Program coordinator for the DNR ...

[Harvest Down By 15000 Deer In 2011 Season](#) January 19, 2012 Minnesota, CBS Minnesota ... hunters gathered 192,300 deer during the 2011 season, dropping 7 percent from 2010 when 207,000 deer were harvested. The DNR blames lower deer populations and a windy first weekend for the drop... harsh winter in 2010 and hunting regulations designed to bring populations to goal levels.

[Hunters take to woods for first wolf season](#) November 4, 2012 Minnessota, Minnesota Public Radio

... Minnesota hunters have killed 50 wolves in the opening weekend of the state's first managed wolf season. The wolf hunt is running at the same time as the Minnesota firearms deer season... hunter, Mike Bradburn of Duluth, said ... He's frustrated with people who oppose the wolf hunt, saying they don't understand that wolves are killing too many deer.... Wolves kill about 10 percent of the deer population each year, according to the DNR -- far less than deer hunters kill...

[Hunters, anglers should have a say on taxes](#) April 27, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

... adding 50 cents to every deer hunting license for wolf "management" and adding another half-buck to all hunting and fishing licenses sold by the Department of Natural Resources as payment for access ... Neither issue was raised in committee, giving those most affected a chance to comment... it passed with bipartisan support, even though wolf-hunting licenses and fees likely to be approved this session by the Legislature would raise sufficient funds to pay for the state's share of wolf management.

[In Minnesota, it's the time of year for deer, herd population goals increased](#) October 28, 2012 Grand Forks Herald

... According to Paul Telander, regional wildlife supervisor, most permit areas in the northwest are at or near deer population goals. As a result, the DNR has tightened bag limits in most areas from last year... most permit areas have dropped one management level from last year... Some 500,000 hunters — give or take a few thousand — traditionally take the field for the firearms deer opener.

[King's Island, New policy allows deer hunting on King's Island](#) June 11, 2012, Coon Rapids Herald, By Mandy Moran Froemming

...The deer population on the 60-acre island is estimated at 13, well above the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recommended 10 to 20 deer for every square mile, said Public Services Director Greg Lee. Those deer are moving into the community, being seen on city streets and in residential neighborhoods. And they are colliding with vehicles on Highway 10. "There have been 10 deer/car collisions in the last year," ...

[Landowners weigh CRP, commodities prices](#) February 17, 2012 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times

.. The CRP enrollments of an estimated 292,000 of the 1.6 million acres of Minnesota land in the program are set to expire on Sept. 30. Conservation groups ... are worried that sky-high prices for commodities such as corn and soybeans mean farmers will put their land back into agricultural production...

[Longtime DNR wildlife manager at Cloquet retires](#), logging gives habitat for deer July 8, 2012 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... In the late '60s and '70s, the deer herd really took a hit. We didn't think we'd ever have another either-sex hunt. Now we have seasons with limits of five deer. Part of the story is how economics can change what's happening on the landscape. When markets developed for balsam and aspen, there was a huge amount of harvesting through the 1980s and 1990s. That really changed the habitat for deer... So, we had excellent habitat on top of a series of relatively mild winters ... Rich Staffon ... will retire on Friday after 36 years as a biologist with the state of Minnesota ...

[Minnesota buck harvest up, antlerless harvest down](#) November 6, 2012 Duluth News Tribune

"It went about as we predicted it," said Lou Cornicelli, DNR wildlife research manager in St. Paul. The DNR had issued fewer permits to take antlerless deer this fall in order to save does and increase the deer population in future years ... DNR enforcement officials have issued many citations for baiting ... hunters apparently are not checking the ingredients in commercially sold deer-attractant blocks ... Few of them would be considered legal because they contain ground-up grain, corn, acorns. ...

[Minnesota compared to Iowa](#) April 8, 2012 QDMA Forums

I would really like to be part of a movement that will engage MN hunters/outdoorsman/DNR officials/groups to really come to grips that are the deer hunting in particular for antlered bucks is so poor in MN that something has to change. I have top notch property to hunt, the deer "winter" in my area, yet there are few bucks that survive the hunting season. 100% not the case in Iowa, it is a "shocking" difference.

[Minnesota Deer Harvest Declines In 2011](#) February 3, 2012 GrandViewOutdoors.com

The state Department of Natural Resources says Minnesota's deerharvest declined 7 percent in 2011... The DNR cites lower deer populations ... Minnesota hunters harvested 192,300 deer during the 2011 season. That's a drop of 15,000 from the 207,000 deer harvested in 2010.

[Minnesota Deer harvest numbers drop](#) November 28, 2012 Alexandria Echo Press
... 151,400 deer have already been harvested during the firearm season... The overall antlered buck harvest increased 9 percent, while the antlerless harvest decreased by 21 percent compared to 2011. That led to a total firearm harvest that dropped about 7 percent compared to a year ago. ... lower number of antlerless deer permits issued as compared to a year ago...

[Minnesota Deer Season 2012: Hunting Forecast](#) October 8, 2021, Outdoor Life
... About 1 million deer are found in Minnesota, which represents a stabilization of the population as numbers had been trending down just a few years ago... from 2005-2007 ... "Aggressive harvest strategies were implemented and the population trended down towards ...

[Minnesota deer season prediction: More deer, fewer shots](#) October 28, 2012 Duluth News Tribune
... After meeting with stakeholder groups, the DNR has agreed to nudge population goals upward a bit, and that means fewer antlerless deer tags, conserving the number of does in the population so they can breed and contribute more offspring to the population. "We're going to see more deer and kill less deer," said Mark Johnson, executive director of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association based in Grand Rapids. "The DNR is starting to manage for more deer in most parts of the state."

[Minnesota father, son allegedly had live, untagged deer in pickup](#) December 3, 2012, Park Rapids Enterprise

A traffic stop last month in Steele County has resulted in charges ... When Rankin [game warden] arrived on the scene about 45 minutes later, he said he noticed the deer, a whitetail doe, still was alive... dispatched the deer ...

[Minnesota House approves game and fish bill](#)[banning donated venison] April 4, 2012, Star News

... Another provision drawing lengthy debate dealt with the proposed elimination of the state's venison donation program... concerns about lead bullet fragments in venison and the potential health risk they pose resulted in state officials X-raying donated venison at the cost of \$3.87 a pound, Hackbarth explained.

[Minnesota laying groundwork for gray wolf hunt](#) January 28, 2012, Mother Nature Network
There are about 4000 gray wolves in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and adjacent states losing protections ...Minnesota is home to the largest population of gray wolves in the lower 48 states, about 2,900, and could become the first upper Midwest state to set a hunting season for the animals as they are stripped of federal protections.

[Minnesota panels recommend moderate increases in deer herd](#)April 8, 2012 Duluth News Tribune

Panels meeting in Tower and Floodwood this past week suggested mostly moderate increases in deer population goals for most deer permit areas in those regions, said Jeff Lightfoot, regional wildlife manager with the Minnesota Department of Natural ... Joe Cannella, who represented the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association ...said he had surveyed more than 100 hunters before the meeting, asking them how much they'd like to see the population goals raised. The average was about 25 percent ...

[Minnesota's wolves are a conservation success story](#)November 25, 2012 Duluth News Tribune

... Minnesota's wolf population was estimated in 2008 at between 2,200 and 3,500. Research indicates wolves eat 15 to 19 adult-sized deer yearly, and with about 3,000 wolves, that would be 45,000 to 57,000 deer. An estimated 450,000 deer populate the

state's forested wolf range, meaning wolves are killing 10 percent to 13 percent. Hunters kill about 100,000 deer in that same region. Despite high wolf numbers, hunters have harvested record numbers of deer since 2003, five times exceeding 250,000...

[Minnesota Deer Herd Up This Year](#) October 29, 2012 Park Rapids Enterprise ... "Minnesota's deer population is up from last year, in part, because of the mild winter," said Lou Cornicelli, the DNR's wildlife research manager. "Mild winters result in more survival of adults, more fawns being born, and more deer in the state's fields and forests the following hunting season." He estimated the deer population at about 1 million... one difference ... is there are fewer areas where hunters can harvest more than one deer. This change ... reflects the agency's interest in rebuilding or maintaining the deer herd in certain portions of the state ...

[MN DNR seeks higher fishing, hunting license fees](#) January 15, 2012 Minnesota, Washington Examiner

Ed Boggess, the DNR's fish and wildlife division director, said revenue will be down \$7.6 million from what was forecast a year ago ... ongoing revenue from hunting and fishing license sales is projected at \$1.1 million less than before ... Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources and sportsmen's groups are planning a new push to get the Legislature to raise hunting and fishing license fees ...

[Moose population continues free fall](#) February 24, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune ... Minnesota's moose population has dropped by half in the past five years, and officials say the iconic animal could be gone from the state in 20 years... ' Of the 119 collared moose that died, just 11 were confirmed to be from wolf predation. "We found most carcasses intact; they hadn't been touched by wolves," he said. But what about moose calves, which haven't been radio-collared? "No one disagrees wolves are killing calves," Lenarz said. "That's exacerbating the problem, but it's not the whole problem." The cow-calf ratio is considerably lower today than it was in the mid-1990s,

[New penalties in effect for deer baiting](#) October 16, 2012 Minnesota, Morris Sun Tribune

The Minnesota Legislature recognized the negative impact of baiting deer and recently passed legislation to increase the penalties for those convicted of baiting deer... “In order to show the seriousness of the offense hunters will be subject to license revocation when convicted of baiting deer.” said Lt. Col. Rodmen Smith, Minnesota DNR Enforcement Division assistant director .. Deer baiting is placing food near deer stands or clearings with the intent of luring a deer into close shooting range. It has been illegal to bait deer in Minnesota since 1991...

[Northland projects included in latest round of Legacy funds](#) April 27, 2012 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

... the latest Legacy Amendment appropriations, which were approved Thursday by the Minnesota Legislature [includes] ... \$960000 for an agreement with the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association to restore and enhance public forest lands in Northeastern Minnesota for moose habitat.

[Northwest Minnesota deer kill declines](#) December 8, 2012 Grand Forks Herald

... a reduction in antlerless permits led to fewer deer being shot during this fall's firearms deer season ... According to John Williams, assistant regional wildlife supervisor for the DNR in Bemidji, the total deer kill for the Northwest Region was down 8.4 percent from last year. Hunters shot 21 percent fewer antlerless deer, Williams said, but the buck harvest increased about 15 percent. ... Adjusting the number of antlerless permits ... can help keep deer numbers near goals that were set more than a decade ago.

[Officials address farmers' frustrations with deer damaging crops](#) January 28, 2012 Minnesota, Winona Daily News

... The DNR offers cost-share programs for fencing around forage or problem areas, and recently increased the money offered to \$3,000, up from \$750, said Nick Reindl, a DNR

wildlife depredation coordinator. The DNR can also provide a special shooting permit for farmers.

[Officials fear venison exemption](#) March 25, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

Venison donated to food shelves would be exempt from food safety statutes under bills in both the Minnesota House and Senate ... But state officials say lead bullet fragments found in processed venison are a major concern. Both the state agriculture and health departments oppose the move... North Dakota found lead bullet fragments in venison donated to its state program. Minnesota then checked and found lead in its venison as well ...

[Officials say stiffer penalties haven't deterred deer baiting](#) December 15, 2012

Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

A law change requiring Minnesota hunters convicted of baiting deer to lose their hunting privileges hasn't discouraged that illegal activity, say Don Bozovsky and other law enforcement officials. "I've had more cases this year than last year," ... Deer baiting is placing food near deer stands or clearings with the intent of luring a deer into shooting range. The practice has been illegal in Minnesota since 1991.

[Online Deer Registration Alters Hunting Culture](#) November 10, 2012 CBS Local

... In 2010, 50 percent of hunters started registering their deer by internet or phone. In 2011, that number grew to 55 percent, and this year it's already at 65 percent...Cody Clem, owner of St. Francis Bait and Tackle ... estimates post-opener sales have dipped 10 percent since the phone and internet tagging began...

[Online tool helps hunters, wildlife watchers](#) November 26, 2012 Minnesota, Alexandria

Echo Press

... A new feature of the online WMA information tool provides a habitat management report, which allows users to see the primary species at which WMA management activities are directed, what types of habitat wildlife managers are working to create

and the management strategies and activities being pursued.... on the Minnesota Department Natural Resources (DNR) website at www.mndnr.gov/wmas.

[Ontario guide fined for using dogs, boats to drive deer to hunters](#) June 14, 2012

Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

.... Between 2007 and 2009, the MNR and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department conducted a covert investigation ... Gustafson [a hunting guide] used dogs to drive deer from islands into open water, where he and his employees used motorboats to push the swimming deer toward clients waiting with rifles onshore... "It's a reflection of the lengths some individuals will go to shoot a trophy deer."... said Scott McAughey, an MNR conservation officer

[Park managers use fire to rejuvenate prairie](#) April 3, 2012 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

Frontenac State Park ... the scorched earth will soon generate more green for the deer, ground-nesting birds and other wildlife. Fire is a natural way to rejuvenate prairie. Fire releases nutrients, darkens the soil so it will absorb more sunlight and wards off invading trees such as buckthorn [a favorite food of deer]. ... The plan is to burn once every three to five years ...

[Penalties increase for deer baiting](#) October 25, 2012 Minnesota, Park Rapids

Enterprise

... A person may not obtain any deer license or take deer under a lifetime license for one year after the person is convicted of hunting deer with the aid or use of bait... Deer baiting is placing food near deer stands or clearings with the intent of luring a deer into close shooting range. It has been illegal to bait deer in Minnesota since 1991...

[Plant now, hunt for deer later](#) July 21, 2012 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times

Even though I am not a deer hunter ... one of the more popular food plot options for fall is brassicas. These turnip family plants are well known as deer attractants. The foliage on brassicas does not get fibrous with age and stays very digestible. In addition to the high protein found in brassicas, once cold weather comes, the starches in the leaves are converted to sugars which make a tasty treat for whitetails...

[Predicting Peak Rut Activity & Days to Hunt Deer](#) October 14, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune, T.R. Michels

... My studies in Minnesota show that roughly 10-20 percent of the does come into estrus during the early breeding phase (approximately October 15 - September 7 in the upper Midwest), 50-60 percent during the primary breeding phase (approximately September 8 - 28 in the upper Midwest), and 20-30 percent during the late breeding phase (approximately December 1-21 in the upper Midwest)... The breeding phase for deer in each area is predominantly triggered by the number of hours of sunlight each day (photoperiod).

[Preliminary 2012 firearm deer harvest numbers released](#) November 26, 2012 Minnesota, Dairyland Peach

Minnesota hunters harvested 151,400 deer so far during the 2012 early firearm season ... antlered buck harvest increased 9 percent and antlerless deer harvest decreased 21 percent compared to 2011. In total, firearm harvest was off 7 percent, which was expected given the conservative allocation of antlerless deer permits. "The increase in buck harvest and decrease in antlerless deer harvest is a reflection of slightly higher deer populations statewide, yet a more conservative harvest philosophy this year," said Lou Cornicelli, DNR wildlife research manager...

[St. Louis County irked by overbuilt deer stands](#) July 8, 2012 Minnesota, Minnesota Public Radio

... Foresters in St. Louis County are annoyed by increasingly elaborate deer stands, including many on public property that the county's land commissioner likens to

"mansions" in the trees.... county officials are seeing stands with stairways, decks, shingled roofs, commercial windows, insulation, propane heaters, carpeting, lounge chairs, tables ...

[The hunt is here, deer population history](#) November 1, 2012 Minnesota, Brainerd Daily Dispatch

... too many deer were taken during the 1960s, forcing the closure of the deer season in 1971 and a rebuilding of the deer herd through the 1970s ... The highest deer harvest occurred in 2003 when 270,000 deer were taken ... Today, the DNR manages the deer population based on goals established with public input...

[Tribal Council declares White Earth Reservation a wolf sanctuary](#) October 27, 2012 Minnesota, DL-Online

A permit to hunt wolves that is issued by the State of Minnesota does not allow a hunter to hunt or trap wolves on White Earth tribal lands ... Council recently issued a Proclamation providing for all lands within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation to be set-aside as a wolf sanctuary.

[Two wolf hunts and trapping season likely](#) May 5, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

One will begin with the opening of deer season, and wolves taken during that period will be incidental to the nearly 200,000 whitetails hunters are expected to bag. A second wolf season likely will run in December ... DNR Fish and Wildlife Division Director Ed Boggess has said it's possible there will be separate quotas for each hunting season, as well as the trapping season.

[Was Minnesota's deer herd thinned too much?](#) January 11, 2012 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Doug Smith

... The agency [DNR] agrees it's time to reexamine deer density goals. But officials say they are walking a tightrope trying to appease not only hunters who want more deer, but farmers, livestock owners and

even those in the forestry industry, many of whom want fewer deer. "Some want high deer densities, some want low deer densities. We're trying to find that balance," said Ed Boggess, DNR fish and wildlife division director.

[What's going to happen with antler-point restrictions \(APRs\)?](#) November 1, 2012

Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

... deer hunters in Zone 3 ... participating in the final act of a three-year experiment with antler-point restrictions... Lou Cornicelli, the state's longtime big-game coordinator... "We'll be aging the deer, measuring antlers and identifying the location of the kill. We've been collecting data at these stations since 2003, and what we're looking for a shift in the age-class harvest over time..., we'll be sending out 4,000 surveys to hunters in Zone 3."

[Wild Bytes](#) [Deer and Wolves] March 24, 2012 Minnesota, By Jess Edberg, Information Services Director, International Wolf Center

... research tells us that wolves have a physical advantage over deer in deep snow conditions. Large paws distribute the wolf's body weight and act like built-in snowshoes whereas the deer's narrow, pointy hooves poke through the snow to the ground. A chase in deep snow would give the wolf the upper-hand. ... Little snow also means that deer may have had an easier time foraging for food. Less energy used for traveling through deep snow ...

[Wolves threaten deer and moose](#) February 5, 2012 Minnesota, Bemidji Pioneer

... the Department of Natural Resources says we have 3,000 wolves here in Minnesota now ... Let's take the 3,000 wolves and say there are 10 wolves per pack, so that is 300 packs. The DNR says wolves kill about two deer per week so one pack will kill eight deer per month, or 96 deer per year. Now take 96 deer times 300 packs – the wolves are killing 28,800 deer per year.

[Wolves, deer could overshadow proposed license fee hike in Minnesota](#) January 22, 2012

Grand Forks Herald

... The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources again will ask state lawmakers to approve an increase in hunting and fishing license fees ... hunting license fees haven't risen since 2000.... pays for ... projects to improve wildlife habitat ... The DNR's effort to raise license fees fell short last year ...

2011

[12 Minnesota state parks to close temporarily this fall for deer hunts](#) October 5, 2011

rvdailyreport.com

Numerous special deer hunts are scheduled to take place at Minnesota state parks this fall. Access to the parks will vary around the... "The DNR allows these annual hunts as a way to help control the deer population at state parks," said Ed Quinn, resource management coordinator for the DNR's Division of Parks and Trails. "When there are too many deer in one area, the native plants and animals can be negatively affected."

[2011: The year that was in the outdoors \[deer numbers\]](#) December 31, 2011 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald

In northern Minnesota, many hunters complained of too many wolves and not enough deer, while their counterparts in North Dakota blamed the dearth of deer on too many coyotes.... The Minnesota DNR and North Dakota Game and Fish Department said deer numbers were down in both states.

[A year of fewer deer](#) October 29, 2011 Minnesota, Grand Forks Herald

... The DNR estimates the state's deer population at about 1 million ... Minnesota's deer harvest peaked at 290,000 in 2003, the result of liberal hunting regulations enacted to control high deer populations that occurred after a series of mild winters that began in the late 1990s...

[Area deer harvest drops 4 percent](#) February 4, 2011 Minnesota Bemidji Pioneer **Deer**
abundance throughout much of the Bemidji area has declined and this year's total
harvest numbers reflect that drop, according to Bemidji Area assistant ...

[Assessing Deer Hunter Attitudes Toward Regulatory Change Using ...](#) June 9, 2011
Minnesota Human Dimensions of Wildlife: An International Journal
... Beginning in 2005, research focused on the biological and social implications of
changing deer regulations. We used data collected via random surveys, public input
meetings, and an Internet survey to assist with the decision-making process. We
observed demographic differences among respondents for the three data collection
methods; however, the attitudinal differences were “minimal” (i.e., Cramér's $V \approx .1$). We
believe that a structured public input process, even if self-selected, can help inform
decision-makers. Agencies that use public input meetings should reevaluate their public
input process to include an Internet component if there are adequate baseline data
available to make comparisons ...

[At the north woods in October](#) October 15, 2011 Minnesota, Albert Lea Tribune
... Numerous special deer hunts are scheduled to take place at Minnesota state parks this fall. Access to
the parks will vary around the state during the hunts, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural
Resources.... “The DNR allows these annual hunts as a way to help control the deer population at state
parks,” said Ed Quinn, resource management coordinator for the DNR's Division of Parks and Trails.
“When there are too many deer in one area, the native plants and animals can be negatively affected. Our
goal is to ensure healthy natural communities.”

[Better deer management needed](#) December 3, 2011 Minnesota, International Falls Daily Journal
The Department of Natural Resources have ruined the deer herd ... They gave out 100 doe permits the
last two years, so now every buck with bone on its head is fair game. They don't stand a chance of
reaching maturity. All you see is spikes and fork horns. ... - Darren Wallen

[Borderland deer harvest down more than expected](#) December 4, 2011 Minnesota, International
Falls Daily Journal

... The DNR decreased the number of doe permits in Borderland based on data that showed a lower deer population, likely a result of last winter's conditions ... The 2011 season harvest won't by itself spur the DNR to consider reducing permits next season, he said. This year's winter will play a role in the season outlook for next year ... about 4 percent less people hunted in Borderland this season than last season.

[Camp Ripley Deer Management Factsheet](#) August 7, 2011 Minnesota

Deer populations at Camp Ripley are not managed with a priority of producing trophy-status bucks, nor are they managed with goals of maximizing hunting opportunity or harvest. Instead, a less intensive approach is used with relatively light hunting pressure compared to most deer management areas in Minnesota. This is primarily due to the 53,000-acre installation's status as a military training site and statutory game refuge. Several factors have helped to create a deer population that is slightly older (approximately 0.5 years older) and more naturally regulated that requires little harvest compared to areas outside the refuge. These include the presence of 1) an established wolf population, 2) large amounts of high quality, intact, and diverse habitats, and 3) relatively low levels of human activity or encroachment.

Deer density – There has been no consistent formal monitoring and deer population estimation within Camp Ripley. However, available information for the surrounding permit area and recent aerial surveys in Camp suggest that as of 2011 the population is at 22 and 36 deer/mi² for prefawning and post-fawning densities, respectively.

Pre-harvest densities in Camp during the last 12-year period of mild winters have ranged from 32-41 deer/mi²

[Chippewa County coyote bounty raises concerns](#) November 24, 2011 Minnesota, Monte News

... hunters had expressed concern that a coyote overpopulation was causing a decrease in deer population, because the coyotes were preying on fawns.... Chippewa County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to enact a \$10 bounty on coyotes from Dec. 1 through April 1 of each year.... "Bounties are not effective. It was something that was rightly done away with at the turn of the century." - David Trauba, Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Area supervisor

[Coyote bounties return to YM County after 46 year respite](#) December 2, 2011 Minnesota, Granite Falls Advocate Tribune

DNR data on coyotes and their effect on other species, including deer, is limited and the department sees little correlation between the increase of coyotes to the decrease of deer... Legal bounties on coyotes were last offered in the state 46 years ago ...

[Customer service is focus for new DNR](#) December 27, 2011 Minnesota, Milwaukee Small Business Times

... In August, DNR was designated as Wisconsin state government's first and only enterprise agency ... In deer management we suspended earn-a-buck, implemented research projects to assess the impact of predators on the deer herd, and began work with the state's new deer trustee ... We took an aggressive stand in pushing for federal delisting of the gray wolf...

[Deer feeding ban starts next week in four counties](#) February 9, 2011 Minnesota Minneapolis Star Tribune A deer feeding ban will begin in four southeast Minnesota counties Feb. 14, the Department of Natural Resources said Wednesday. The ban prohibits wild deer feeding in Dodge, Goodhue, Olmsted and Wabasha counties, and follows the recent finding that a whitetail doe killed by an archer Nov. 28 near Pine Island was infected with chronic wasting disease (CWD).

[Deer hunting: a lesson in overkill](#) November 2, 2011 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune ... The season was closed in 1971 after two consecutive severe winters -- and an overharvest of antlerless deer by hunters -- decimated the state's deer herd. ... "Trying to adjust the harvest by limiting the number of days hunting was a very poor method of restricting harvest," Lenarz said, "because most harvest takes place in the first few days of the season."

[Deer Hunts Scheduled at Area Three Rivers Parks](#) October 24, 2011 Minnesota, Patch.com The [hunts](#) are scheduled, according to Three River Parks, to "keep deer herds in balance with available habitat." As a result, several area parks will be closed or partially closed during the hunts.... Hunters have already been chosen for this year's hunts....The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources selects a limited number of shotgun and muzzleloader hunters.

[Deer numbers level out across SE region](#) November 3, 2011 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

... there are many "unofficial deer refuges" in the region where deer are safe from hunters... In some places in Houston County, owners of large tracts of woods don't allow hunting, or they only shoot mature bucks, ...Hunters are getting older. As the 65- and 70-year-olds stop hunting, fewer young hunters are taking their place ... The harvest this year should be just above 200,000, which would be about the same as last year and what the herd can sustain ...

[Delisting, or crying wolf again?](#) December 25, 2011 Minnesota, Duluth News Tribune

Minnesota's wolf population is estimated at 3000 ... the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to return wolf management to the states ... nobody in the Minnesota DNR has spent more time on the wolf issue than [Bill] Berg ... I asked Berg if a hunting and trapping season on wolves is merited.... "Not biologically," ... "It's fairly easy to trap wolves," ... The state had a series of severe winters in the late 1960s, decimating the deer herd. Deer season was closed in 1971. The wolf was listed as an endangered species in 1974

[DNR Expects Good Season for Minnesota Deer Hunters](#) October 25, 2011 FOX 21 Online

... During the late 1990s, deer populations were at high levels in many areas due to a succession of mild winters. DNR enacted liberal hunting regulations to reduce the population, resulting in Minnesota's deer harvest peaking in 2003 at 290,000. ... "Throughout most of Minnesota, deer populations are now at goal levels," ...Steve Merchant, wildlife programs manager.

[DNR night flights combat illegal shining and poaching](#) November 9, 2011 Minnesota, Jordan Independent

... The poachers "freeze" the deer in the bright light and shoot them [deer eyes are optimized for low light and are blinded by bright light]. ... Using GPS and night vision, DNR pilots provide concise information to conservation officers in trucks. ... "During the course of a few hours, we can effectively observe several hundred square miles," [Thomas] Buker said {DNR pilot}. ... Penalties for poaching and shining can include fines of several thousand dollars, loss of vehicles, and/or equipment involved in the crime and the loss of hunting privileges...

[DNR plans to ban deer feeding to help moose](#) August 17, 2011 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

It's unclear whether the DNR could impose the deer-feeding ban or if it needs legislative approval.... But no one knows what factors led to the decline. Climate and habitat changes, parasites, impacts from deer and predation all could be causes...About 5,000 moose roamed northeast Minnesota last winter. In the northwest, the population has dropped from 4,000 to fewer than 100...."People like to feed deer.... said Lou Cornicelli, DNR big game program leader.

[DNR says cougars are in Minnesota](#) December 17, 2011 Minnesota, Post-Bulletin

... The DNR has been getting reports of cougar sightings for years. Now the state officially admits that cougars have, indeed, returned to the state after being wiped out here decades ago ... Since 2007, the DNR has confirmed 14 cougar sightings ... Prior to European settlement, cougars lived throughout what is now the lower 48 states...

[Harsh winter hits northern Minn. deer hard](#) 3/16/2011 Minnesota Crookston Daily Times
By AP This year's particularly harsh winter has hit northern Minnesota's **deer** population hard, and the survivors could even be in trouble if spring weather doesn't kick in soon. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources says it is finding more and ...

[Lawmaker has deer hunting policies in his sights](#) December 31, 2011 Minnesota, Pioneer Press

... a deer hunter, Denny McNamara ... a Republican state lawmaker who chairs the House Environment, Energy ... re-examining deer quotas is one of the top issues he said he plans to explore during the 2012 ... more permits - at least about 512,000 - were sold than ever before, the number of deer killed - likely to be a little more than 192,000 - is well below last year's harvest of about 207,000. ... "A lot of deer hunters, including myself, think that we're giving out too many doe permits,

[Minnesota deer harvest up 7 percent in 2010](#) January 21, 2011 NECN (AP) —

Minnesota's **deer** harvest rose 7 percent during the 2010 season, compared with the previous year. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources says ...

[Minnesota Deer Hunter Association requests wolf sightings](#) June 29, 2012 Alexandria Echo Press

... A "Report Zone B Wolf sightings" web survey page was created to

encourage MDHA members and nonmembers to report their documented wolf sightings ... MDHA recommends that a digital trail camera ...

[Minnesota deer hunting means "big business" for the meat processing industry](#) November 12, 2011 Minnesota, WDAY

... The DNR says the deer hunt generates 260-million dollars in retail sales and pumps 458-million dollars into the state's economy. Compare that to the 12-day state fair, which is good for about 185-million dollars to the twin cities economy.... Dave Halper bagged a nice buck and told us he spends about 600-dollars every deer season, and says it's well worth it.... The state takes in about 33 million dollars in taxes from the hunt.

[Minnesota deer tag sales set record](#) December 17, 2011 TwinCities.com

... According to figures from after the firearms season, 511,660 tags had been sold. The next closest year to that was 2008, when 500,959 tags were sold, according to figures released last week by the Department of Natural Resources.

[Minnesota issues draft moose management plan](#) August 23, 2011 Post Bulletin

The proposal includes measures to restrict deer population densities in northeastern Minnesota because they carry brain worm parasites fatal to moose, ...he Department of Natural Resources estimates about 4,900 moose live in northeastern Minnesota, down 11 percent from last year and down from more than 8,000 a decade ago. Northwestern Minnesota's moose population has crashed to fewer than 100 today....Experts still aren't fully sure why. Some combination of higher temperatures, parasites, deer, disease and other factors is suspected.

[Minnesota: Deer harvest down by a third](#) November 16, 2011 DL-Online

After the first four days of Minnesota's firearms deer season, the harvest was down by more than one-third over much of Northeastern Minnesota ...Statewide, the harvest was down 20 percent after the first three days of the season,... deer numbers were down in the northern tier of the region because of recent harsh winters...

[More about the Camp Ripley hunts](#) October 23, 2011 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times

Deer populations within the 53,000-acre military training area are not managed with a priority of producing trophy-caliber bucks and they aren't managed with goals of maximizing hunting opportunity or harvest... by implementing relatively light hunting pressure compared to most deer management areas in the state.... information from the surrounding permit areas and aerial surveys suggest the deer population to be between 22 and 36 deer per square mile for pre-fawning and post-fawning densities, respectively.... the deer herd at Camp Ripley could likely be sustained without harvesting animals,

[Muzzleloader deer numbers decline](#) December 10, 2011 Minnesota, St. Cloud Times

... According to Dr. Marrett Grund of the Department of Natural Resources Farmland Research Group, harvest totals were down nearly 50-percent from last year's opening weekend and an additional 40-percent during the second weekend.... Even though the state sold about the same number of muzzleloader licenses this year as last, 57,000, there didn't appear to be nearly as many hunters in the field.... hunters weren't seeing as many deer as expected.

[Numbers looking good for Minnesota deer](#) November 3, 2011 Duluth News Tribune

... After deer populations skyrocketed across much of the state a decade ago, the DNR used public and hunter input, social tolerance and outside factors — such as forestry concerns, danger to motorists and the effect of deer on moose populations — to justify a broad reduction in deer numbers, up to 25 percent in some areas... Deer numbers had soared to more than 1.3 million statewide, so doe permits were doled out freely, and hunters killed up to 290,000 deer in 2003 and 2004... deer numbers have dropped to about 1 million statewide...

[Service Expands Hunting and Fishing](#) September 17, 2011 Minnesota, DNR News

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced the opening of [Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge](#) in Minnesota to big game hunting of deer and upland game hunting of turkey for the first time, while expanding hunting and fishing activities at nine other refuges. Notice of the final 2011-2012 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations published in the Federal Register on September 9, 2011....More than 250 comments were received during the 30-day public comment period on the proposed expansion. Only 18 comments opposed the amended regulations.

[Shooting for quality deer](#) August 5, 2011 Minnesota, MarshallIndependent.com

A local chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association... is trying to change the way hunters go about harvesting deer in the area. ..., the organization is promoting adequate harvest of does and restraint in harvesting bucks to insure a healthy gender balance and percentage of mature bucks.... "We're in a situation where we can't depreciate the male herd anymore," Knochenmus said. "You've got a few young bucks who spend all the time chasing many old does...an ideal deer population should have about a third of all bucks at least 3 years old, and a ratio of bucks to does of 1-to-1 or 1-to-3....

[So far, reports suggest Minnesota deer harvest is down from last year](#) November 8, 2011, Duluth News Tribune

... Typically, 65 percent of the total kill occurs during the first three days of the season... The peak of the rut is Nov. 11-12, according to DNR biologists.... Hunter numbers are up a bit from last year, according to DNR licensing officials. Through Monday, more than 435,000 firearms deer licenses had been sold. That's about 3,000 more than last year at the same time and more than any other year going back to 2000. ..

[The Deer Licensing Bill](#) November 21, 2011 Minnesota, Winona Daily News

... Farmers with 80 acres or more shall, by request, be able to receive all the deer license to the legal kill of the area..... The DNR has stated the maximum number of deer per square mile in Southeast Minnesota is to be 12-15, except for in area 344 where the DNR wants the count to be at 18-20 deer per square mile... the DNR should have to pay 50 percent of deer crop damage if the deer number is over 20 deer per square mile. If the deer count is over 30 deer per square mile the DNR shall have to pay 90 percent of deer damage.

[Greg Breining: The wolf survives -- in numbers strong enough to be hunted](#) January 2, 2011

Minnesota Minneapolis Star Tribune We began talking about the prospects of getting a **deer** later in the season. "I've seen a lot more wolf sign than **deer** sign," he sighed. ...

Minnesota's **Sen. Amy Klobuchar**, elected by an urban, liberal base, announced earlier this month that she is asking the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to expedite the delisting of the Great Lakes gray wolf from the protection of the Endangered Species Act.

[Top Minnesota DNR forestry leaders transferred](#) November 8, 2011, Duluth News Tribune

... The state's forestry division turned 100 years old this year and now oversees 58 state forests that cover 3.9 million acre ... State land has become popular for deer, grouse and bear hunters; birdwatchers; and ATV riders. But the land is primarily managed for cutting trees for the state's wood-products industry... In recent years, however, many mills have closed and the industry has downsized. The latest challenge for the state's forestry experts hasn't been too much demand, but too little. Cutting across all of the state dropped from a peak of 4.6 million cords in 2006 to just 2.7 million cords last year.

[Toxic lead from hunters' rifles kills bald eagles](#) November 5, 2011 Minnesota, Minneapolis Star Tribune

With deer-hunting season upon us, I'd bet there's not one Minnesota hunter who's thinking: "Along with my eight-point buck, I want to kill a bald eagle." And yet, that is what happens every fall. The reason? Lead poisoning in eagles that ingest spent ammunition. ... Bald eagles, which are scavengers, are enticed by an easily available meal of gut piles from field-dressed deer shot with lead ammunition....

[WILDLIFE RESEARCH: Wolves take toll on deer in GPS study](#) May 15, 2011 Minnesota Management Grand Forks Herald

The DNR and the University of Minnesota are partnering on the pilot study in an effort to learn more about the movements of deer in an area with a mix of farmland and forested habitat. The 140-square-mile area near Fourtown and Grygla, Minn., ...According to Dr. Michelle Carstensen, wildlife health program coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, wolves killed six of 16 deer fitted in

mid-January with GPS satellite collars; the collar of another deer malfunctioned within days of the capture.

[You say 'deer bait'; I say 'green manure'](#) November 21, 2011 Minnesota, Pioneer Press, Dave Orrick

...The court reversed the deer baiting conviction of a Hibbing farmer whose family had been cited at least twice by the state Department of Natural Resources for baiting deer with piles of pumpkins... The pumpkins, left on a field within shooting range of deer stands, were "green manure" ... part of an ecologically responsible crop rotation, the farmer-hunter and his attorney successfully argued.... The court decision declares a portion of Minnesota law that deals with illegal baiting "ambiguous" ...

2010

[Deer hunters group wants to catch cougars on trail cameras](#) December 28, 2010 Minnesota

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association is asking people with trail cameras to leave them up this winter so that they might catch a picture of a predator -- especially a cougar...Starting Jan. 3, Hanson will have two maps on the association's web site: one for cougar sightings -- both confirmed and unconfirmed -- and one for other predators.

[Deer population goal-setting public meetings begin Feb. 2](#) January 12, 2015 Minnesota, News Releases - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Opportunities for the public to participate in deer population goal setting for large portions of northeastern, north-central and east-central Minnesota begin Monday, Feb. 2, in Monticello. [\[locations and times\]](#) ... Deer population goals will be set for 40 of Minnesota's 128 deer permit areas in 2015. People can view a map of the goal-setting areas [online](#)... For those unable to attend a meeting for the area in which they are interested, details on how to submit written or [online comments](#) will be available soon...

[Increased Wolf Population Won't Affect Deer Season](#) October 21, 2010 WDIO-TV

October 21, 2010 WDIO-TV

Following the 2009 Minnesota **deer** season, Northland hunters claimed **deer** populations have been dwindling because of an increase in the wolf population. ... According to the research, an estimated 3,000 wolves roam Northland woods. It's believed each wolf requires 15 to 19 adult deer annually. That's approximately 45,000 to 57,000 deer annually per 3,000 wolves. Estimates have deer populations near half a million roaming in wolf ranges. This equates to approximately 150 deer per wolf...

[States Initiating Research on Moose Declines; Minnesota Halts Hunt](#) February 15, 2013, Wildlife Management Institute

... in recent years managers have seen declines in moose across most of their range in the lower 48 states causing concern and spurring new research efforts, and hunting restrictions. This increased focus should help managers better understand what factors are contributing to the population declines ...

