

MICHIGAN DNR UPPER PENINSULA DEER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE REPORT:



(Photo Credit: Jordan Hoover - Keweenaw County 2023)

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SELECTION PROCESS:

DNR LAUNCHES DEER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE TO TACKLE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

January 17, 2024

Interested in participating? Apply by Jan. 31

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, is initiating a comprehensive Deer Management Initiative aimed at evaluating and responding to present-day deer management challenges. The initiative seeks to develop recommendations to address these challenges and ensure the sustainable and healthy management of deer populations and their habitats across the state.

In the Lower Peninsula, the DNR faces significant hurdles in managing deer populations due to declining hunter numbers and how that affects traditional management. Continued changes in land-use patterns – with a high percentage of privately owned land, which can limit access to hunting lands – further exacerbate these challenges. Additionally, bovine tuberculosis and chronic wasting disease are established and affecting deer populations in some areas of the region.

In the Upper Peninsula, habitat concerns, changing weather patterns and a diverse array of predators present different challenges from those in the Lower Peninsula. These combinations of factors have not been experienced in deer management in recent years.

A comprehensive and inclusive approach is critical. The DNR will actively engage with stakeholders from various natural resources organizations as well as tribal partners to develop recommendations that acknowledge these challenges and work toward improved deer management in the state. The DNR is also seeking to involve unaffiliated individuals who share concerns about deer management to encourage a far-reaching, representative discussion.

"The Deer Management Initiative process is poised to guide recommendations and lay a framework for future deer management changes. We are looking forward to working with our traditional stakeholder organizations and partners, while also welcoming creative, new voices. It's important that none of us are tethered to a single idea, that we are all willing to explore novel and diverse solutions to enhance our deer herd and effectively address the challenges ahead," said DNR deer management specialist Chad Stewart.

"We'll be developing two separate groups, one for each peninsula, since the challenges in each area are unique," Stewart said. "Our focus with each group will be to pull together people with different perspectives and experiences but a common passion for improving Michigan's deer herd for future generations."

Those interested in participating in this vital initiative are invited to submit their applications at the link below. The application period will remain open through Jan. 31, and successful applicants will be notified shortly thereafter.

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TEAM MEMBERS:

Brooks, Matt

Buckingham, Tom

Ettenhofer, Al

Featherstone, Dan

Giem, Trenton

Gorniak, Gary

Hammill, Jim

Hoover, Jordan

Hubbard, Bernie

Johnson, Dave

Johnson, Todd

Johnston, Erin

Jones, Bob

Nason, Beth

Peacy, Timothy

Platzke, Evan

Scullon, Bill

Sweeten, Jeremy

Taylor, Mike

Tomei, Justin

Webster, Chris

Whitens, Amanda

Zitnik, Mark

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PROCESS DESCRIPTION:

In the Winter of 2024 the Natural Resources Commission in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources assembled a diverse team of stakeholders representing numerous demographics, interests, and perspectives to aid in addressing the unique deer management challenges in Michigan by providing wide perspective and detailed feedback to the Commission and the Department aiding in the development of effective deer management policies. Two teams would be created. One specifically for the lower peninsula and, one specifically for the upper peninsula. The teams would be tasked initially with absorbing public input via email. Both teams would then participate jointly in an accelerated lecture series from experts across multiple fields within and related to deer management, so as to provide a baseline that everyone could work from.

After a short few months of lectures the teams would meet in person at predetermined locations for two days to work intensively through the catalog of ideas and suggestions, ultimately whittling it all down to a final board most agreeable to the team. Some of the work was done in large group format and some of it in small group format where multiple groups of 4-5 collaborated. Overall there were two categories under which items were designated. Regulatory or Non-Regulatory. Two volunteers were selected on day two to take all of the information and organize it into a report by May 13. Said report would then be shared via email with the team for their review. At that time any revision or correction was to be made by May 18. At that point the report writers would then produce a final copy and submit it to the Commission and the Department by May 24.

Once the formal recommendation had been submitted the Department and the Commission would review it during the course of their scheduled deer regulations work day in June, and ascertain the viability of implementation of the suggested actions effective for the 2024 season. At such a time the DMI would adjourn formally unless called upon by the Commission and the Department for further service.

SPEAKERS & TOPICS:

Deer Population Dynamics

- Dwayne Etter -

Harvest Estimation & Reporting

- Brian Frawley -

Northern Hardwoods

- Gary Roloff & Mike Walters -

Wisconsin Deer Management

- Jeff Pritzl & Dan Storm -

Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation

- Todd Grischke -

Privately Owned Cervidae

- Ryan Soulard -

Self Organized Meetings (March 25th & 26th)

- DMI Teams -

Climate & Weather

- Chris Hoving -

Sportsmen Against Hunger

- Joe Pesgrove -

Impacts On Natural Communities

- Jesse Lincoln -

Impacts On Agriculture

- Jim DeDecker -

Deer Winter Complex

- Kristie Sitar & Tom Seablom -

UP Predator/Prey Project & Deer Migration

- Tyler Petroelje -

Wolf Management

- Brian Roell -

CWD & TB

- Melinda Cosgrove & Mitch Marcus -

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PUBLIC QUESTIONNAIRE PROCESS:

DNR PUBLIC SURVEY, OPEN THROUGH APRIL 16, SEEKS BROAD INPUT ON DEER MANAGEMENT

April 02, 2024

As part of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Initiative process, several members of the group have collaborated with a social scientist from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University to craft a questionnaire for the public, aimed at assessing people's opinions and perceptions about deer.

The initiative, established earlier this year, is working to address current and future deer-related challenges facing the DNR and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission. It brings together members of the public and representatives from various stakeholder groups to offer diverse perspectives on deer management topics.

As part of the 2024 Deer Management Initiative process, a subgroup of participants volunteered to work with a social scientist to formulate the questionnaire, which seeks input on current deer management practices and the overall significance of deer in residents' daily lives. The data gathered will provide additional insights for future discussions and subsequent recommendations.

"We extended this opportunity to work on the questionnaire when the group initially convened, and many readily jumped in to help develop it," said Chad Stewart, DNR deer, elk and moose management specialist.

"We recognized our proficiency in surveying hunters but acknowledged a gap in gauging general public attitudes and views toward deer more broadly," he said. "We want to learn more about how important deer are to our residents, what trends they see in their local areas, and what concerns they may have about deer in our state.

"That's why we've opted to make these questions available through an online survey that is accessible to everyone, albeit with certain limitations on interpretation. This data will remain valuable, offering insights into how residents across the state perceive deer."

Take The Survey

All residents, regardless of their interest in or knowledge of deer, are encouraged to participate. Completing the survey should take no more than five minutes.

Survey findings initially will inform members of the Deer Management Initiative team about Michigan residents' attitudes toward deer and deer management, and eventually be made available to the public.

A link to the [survey](#), open now through April 16, is available at Michigan.gov/Deer.

NOTE: Additional feedback was furnished to the DMI at the onset of the teams being established via email sent to the DNR by members of the public per previous solicitation for input to the DMI.

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CHALLENGES:

Predation:

Predation Of All Types

Trust:

Lack Of Communication & Trust Between The DNR & The Public

- Lack Of Long Term Established Advisory Team
- Has Been A Challenge For Years; More Emphasis On Localized Conversations
- Opposition To Change From All Groups (Hunters, Foresters, DNR, & NRC)
- Lack Of Education / Collaboration
- How To Fund / Prioritize These Efforts

Declining Habitat:

Declining Habitat Quality & Quantity

- Winter & Summer Habitat, Lack Of Regeneration & Quality Habitat, Thermal Cover, Nutrition.

- Establish Consistent Funding / Support
- Need For Changed Silvicultural Practices

Deer Regulations:

Regulations Tied To Herd Goals

- Define Deer Population Estimates / Carrying Capacity; What Is A Healthy Herd?
- Buck To Doe Ratios Skewed (Does >>> Bucks)
- Appropriate Deer Numbers By DMU (Too Low In The North, Too High In The South)

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PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

Reduce Predator Numbers:

- Mitigate Predator Impacts
- Communicate Predator Influence On Deer Herd

Maintain Updated Wolf Data For Rapid Response Upon Return Of Management:

- Itemized List Of 14 Items In Brian Roell's Talk - What Can We Keep Updated?

Maximize & Diversify Funding For Summer & Winter Habitat Improvement:

- Improve Habitat (Winter & Summer) With Deer Being A Keystone Species (Associated Wildlife SP.)
- Increasing Spring & Summer Hardwoods Regeneration
- Increase Nutritional Quality Of Summer Range
- Improve Co-Management Of Resources Within & Between Agencies
- Link Habitat & Species Management
- Rights In Land (EX. Easements, Timber, Mineral Rights)

Develop Harvest Metrics & Response Actions:

- EX Buck Hunter Success rates

Improved Trust:

- Increased Transparency With The Public
- More Biological Science Based Research
- More DNR Staff Participation In Meetings
- Validate & Correlate Public Observation With Biological Assessment; Citizen Science

Population Growth & Stability In The Deer Herd / Improved Quality Of The Herd:

- Develop Estimates
- Reassess DMU Lines
- Flexible Deer License Distribution & Allocation

Increase Acreage / Percentage Of DWC Ownership By The DNR From 20% To 50%:

- Embrace & Expand New Methods Of Silvicultural Techniques (Forest Practices Act)
- improve Public Education

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NON-REGULATORY SOLUTIONS:

1 - Financial Plan For Funding Habitat Protection:

- Voluntary Habitat Stamp Prompt When Buying A License To Fund DWC Restoration
- Purchase Of A Habitat Stamp Gets A Chance To Win A Pure Michigan Hunt
- Request General Fund Money From The State Of Michigan
- Fee For Non-Consumptive Users (EX. A Fat Tire Bike Tax That Supports Habitat Or Excise Tax On Gear)
- MO/MN Sales Tax *Reg/Leg
- Grants Through USDA / Federal Programs
- Modernize DRIP allocation-Base License Up To \$20, Pure Michigan App Increase, Earmark
- Seek Corporate Partners
- Non-Conventional Soft Money (EX. John Deere, Catipillar, Ponsse, Etc.
- Dedicated Restricted Funds
- Stop Cutting Conifers Where Appropriate On State Land
- Permanent Funding Mechanism Via License Restructure Tied To CPI

- General Fund Investment For DNR Administration & LED.
- MNRTF Prioritization Of DWC Acquisitions

#1 Vote - Support: 19, Opposed: 2, Abstain: 0

Dissenting Parties - Tom, Dave

Notes -

Tom - Industry represented conflict regarding lowland conifer piece.

Dave - Opposes non-consumptive user fee and sales tax pieces.

Justin - Voiced some measure of concern about the non-consumptive user fees but voted in support.

Recognition about the statement that the statement about not cutting lowland conifers was just.

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NON-REGULATORY SOLUTIONS PT II:

2 - Wolf Management Plan & Other Predators:

- Annual Population Updates
- Increased Transparency Between The Public & The DNR About Predator Populations
- Public Availability Of Camera Survey Pictures & Associated Data
- Improved Communication About Winter & Summer Population Trends
- Include Framework / Regulatory Structure For DNR & NRC To Work With
- Identify The Most Critical Steps That Are Viable & Stay Away From Legal Conflict
- Work With WI & MN To Press For Delisting Of The Wolf & Return Of State Management Control
- Reiterate To USFW Our Desire To See The Wolf Delisted & Managed
- Maintain An Up To Date Wolf Management Plan
- Improve Public Perception Of Wolf Management
- Maintain Up To Date Data To Support The Management Plan
- Ensure Up To Date Wolf Data Is Supplied To The East & West CACs

- Wolf CAC Members
- Replace Statutory WMAC With A CAC For When Wolves Are Delisted
- Identify A Trusted Messenger For Disseminating Wolf Information

#2 Vote - Support: 21, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

Dissenting Parties - None

Notes -

Jim H. does not support CAC subgroup development.

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NON-REGULATORY SOLUTIONS PT III:

3 - DNR Goes From Owning / Influencing 20% Of DWCs To 50%

- Lift Land Cap For DWCs
- Encourage Land Swap To Attain DWCs
- Education Campaign To Build Public Support Of DNR Ownership Of DWCs
- Rights In Land
- Partner With Non-Industrial & Individual Land Owners
- Partner With Land Trusts / Conservancies
- Partner Money To Pay Above Appraised Value
- Different Strategies For Different Ownership Priorities
- Coordinate Wildlife Program With MDARD On QFP - Sharing Information & Training
- Enlist Grant Writers NGO
- Attempt To Purchase Timber Rights

- MNRTF Prioritize DWC Acquisitions
- Partner With USFS To Manage DWCs On Federal Land
- Good Neighboring DWC Authorization
- Capping State Park Endowment Fund
- Modify How The DNR Approves / Manages Commercial Forest Act To Retain Lowland Conifer (Long Lived Species, IE - Hemlock & Cedar)

#3 Vote - Support: 20, Opposed: 1, Abstain: 0

Dissenting Parties - Matt B.

Notes -

Matt B. - Does not support the lowland conifer portion due to employment conflict.

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NON-REGULATORY SOLUTIONS PT IV:

4 - Revisit DMU Lines

- Desired Future DMU Boundaries

Empower The DNR To Evaluate The DMUs Based Upon The Below Factors & Share Out Rationale

- Expected Snowfall Conditions
- Desired Direction Of Deer Population
- Utilize Knowledge Of Migration Patterns
- Utilize Physical Boundaries (IE Rivers Or Roads)

#4 Vote - Support: 20, Opposed: 1, Abstain: 0

Dissenting Parties - Jordan H.

Notes -

Jordan H. - Voiced concern for greater specificity in construction of DMUs to include such things as terrain features, nutritional & thermal cover assessments, etc. Additionally a provision for a specialized DMU for Hancock & North. (Copper Island DMU)

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NON-REGULATORY SOLUTIONS PT V:

5 - Biological Science Based Initiatives (Not Social Science)

- Use Biological Research To Make Decisions & Explain Rationale To The Public Particularly In Relation To Hunter Restrictions
- Establish DMU / Region Population Goals & Harvest Goals Not Quotas
- Make All Data & Research Public
- Use Data To Educate The Public (IE - New Camera Survey Program)
- Gather Data On Adult Deer Predation
- Reinforce Proposal G & Biological Science
- Enhance Scientific Collaboration & Communication Between States
- Clearly Articulate Biological VS Social Science, How They Are Linked & Effective Communication Of The Rationale Used In The Decision Making Process

- Establish Deer Population Estimates By DMU

#5 Vote - Support: 18, Opposed: 3, Abstain: 0

Dissenting Parties - Bernie, Chris, Bill

Notes -

Bernie / Chris / Bill - Recognize The Importance Of Social Science.

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NON-REGULATORY SOLUTIONS PT VI:

6 - Form A Group To Strategize Metrics For DWCs

(IE - Acreage, Location, Ownership & Cost)

- Team To Be Comprised Of DNR As Well As External Personnel

- Re-Invigorate Efforts

- U.P. Habitat Work Group (Connection)

#6 Vote - Support: 21, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

Dissenting Parties - None

Notes - None

NON-REGULATORY SOLUTIONS PT VII:

7 - Increase Opportunities For U.P. Resident To Participate In NRC Meetings

- Provide Option For Virtual Participation

Note - Cost For CC Is Approximately \$1.50 A Minute

- Increase The Number Of Meetings Hosted In the U.P. To At Least Two Per Year

#7 Vote - Support: 21, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

Dissenting Parties - None

Notes - None

REGULATORY SCENARIO A:

- Year Round Coyote Hunting -
- Doe With A Bow For ONLY Early Archery U.P. Wide -
 - Eliminate Doe Permits For 351 / 352 -
 - Private Land Tags Available In Southern DMU Only -
- Single Tag Becomes 3pts On A Side & Combo Remains The Same -
 - Doe Tags On Private Land Expire November 14th -
 - Bear 1 - Sep.1, 2 Sep. 7th, 3 -? -
 - Hunter Safety In Schools -
 - Revisit Regs Every 3 Years -
 - Wolf Hunting & Trapping U.P. Wide -

REGULATORY SCENARIO B:

- Zone 1 - 1 Buck Only (Hunter's Choice) 3"+. No Does. DMAP + Ag Permits Available -
- Zone 2 - 2 Bucks With Antler Restrictions 3+ 4+, No Does, DMAP + Ag Permits -
(Antlerless Only)
- Zone 3 - 2 Bucks 3+ 4+, Liberal Antlerless, DMAP + Ag Permits -
(Antlerless Only)
- All "Special" Hunts Antlerless Only Excluding Veterans -
 - Season For Management Of Wolves -
 - CWD Testing Along WI Border -
 - Work To Increase Deer Registration -
(Hunter Education On Why This Is Important)
 - Year Round Coyote Season -
 - Increase Bear Harvest -

REGULATORY SCENARIO C:

- Reinstate Archery Doe Tag U.P. Wide -
- Reduce Special Access Permits This Reg. Cycle -
- Moderately Reduce Black Bear Numbers -
(Multiple Mechanisms)
 - Restore Old Combo Tag -
(1 Buck Any Size, 2nd Buck 4pts On A Side)
 - Support Hunter Education In Schools -
 - Restore Year Round Coyote Hunting -
- Support Sportsmen Against Hunger Expansion To West / Northern U.P. -
 - Revise The CWD Management Plan -

SCENARIO VOTE & LINE-ITEM VOTE TABLES:

		SCENARIO VOTES			
Objectives		A	B	C	Key
	1	Reduce predator numbers	1.15	1.45	1.10
2	Maintain updated data for rapid response when state management of wolves is returned	1.05	1.10	0.60	0.75-1
3	Maximize/diversify funding for summer and winter habitat improvement	0.75	0.65	0.55	0.5-0.74
4	Develop harvest metrics and response actions	0.95	0.65	0.70	0.25-0.49
5	Improved trust	0.80	0.65	1.15	0-0.24
6	Population growth and stability / improved quality of deer herd	1.25	0.75	1.10	
7	Increase acreage / percentage of DWC ownership by DNR	0.35	0.22	0.47	Average score (-2 to +2)
8	Improve public education	0.80	0.44	1.05	N=20 people
	SUM	7.10	5.92	6.73	
		#1	#3	#2	

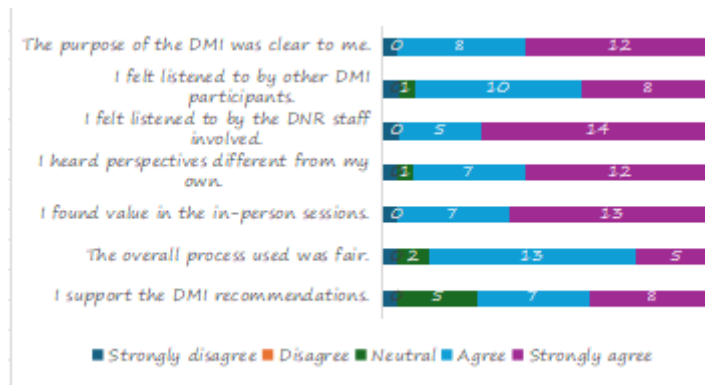
LINE ITEM VOTES (bold = Scenario A reqs; red = highest %)								
	Question	% Support	#	% Do not support	#	% Abstain	#	Total #
1	Year round coyote - A, B, C	90.00%	18	0.00%	0	10.00%	2	20
2	Doe w/ bow for only early bow UP wide - A	55.00%	11	35.00%	7	10.00%	2	20
3	Doe w/ bow - C	55.00%	11	40.00%	8	5.00%	1	20
4	Eliminate doe permit for 351 & 352 - A	50.00%	10	40.00%	8	10.00%	2	20
5	Reduce SAP this reg cycle - C	80.00%	16	5.00%	1	15.00%	3	20
6	Private land tags available in Southern DMU only - A	80.00%	16	20.00%	4	0.00%	0	20
7	Single tag 3 on side/Combo remains same - A	45.00%	9	50.00%	10	5.00%	1	20
8	1st tag any buck, restricted tag 4 on a side, single deer license any buck - C	40.00%	8	55.00%	11	5.00%	1	20
9	Single buck tag youth (17 and younger) and senior and veteran, combo license 1st tag same as single buck, restricted tag 4 on a side - <i>not on a scenario</i>	66.67%	12	22.22%	4	11.11%	2	18
10	Doe tags on private land expire Nov. 14 - A	60.00%	12	35.00%	7	5.00%	1	20
11	Bear - first season starts Sept 1; second season starts Sept 7; third season ? - A	70.00%	14	25.00%	5	5.00%	1	20
12	Hunter safety in school - A	100.00%	20	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	20
13	Wolf hunt - UP wide hunt and trap - A	90.00%	18	0.00%	0	10.00%	2	20
14	Moderately reduce bear numbers - C	90.00%	18	10.00%	2	0.00%	0	20

SCENARIO VOTE & LINE-ITEM VOTE TABLES PT II:

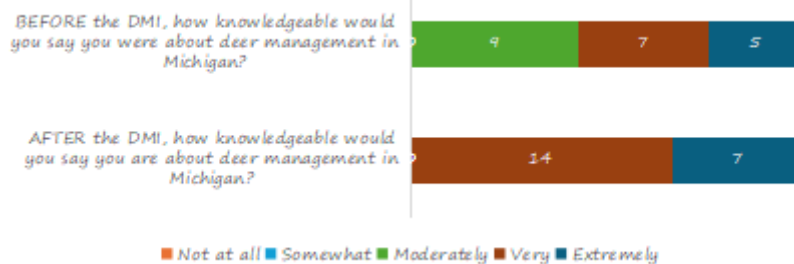
Names			
Support	Do not	Abstain	no response selected
David, Gary, Trenton, Bernie, Dan, Evan, Tom, Amanada, Todd, Mark, Matt, Tim, Mike, Jordan, Justin, Bob, Beth, Unknown*	none	Bill, Chris	
Amanda, Beth, Bob, Chris, Dan, Evan, Gary, Mark, Tim, Todd, Trenton	Bernie, Bill, David, Jordan, Matt, Mike, Tom	Justin, Unknown	
Amanda, Beth, Bill, Bob, Chris, Dan, Evan, Gary, Jordan, Matt, Trenton	Bernie, David, Mark, Mike, Tim, Todd, Tom, Unknown	Justin	
Amanda, Bernie, Beth, Bob, Mark, Matt, Tim, Tom, Trenton, Unknown	Bill, Chris, Dan, David, Evan, Jordan, Mike, Todd	Gary, Justin	
Amanda, Bernie, Beth, Bill, Bob, Chris, Dan, David, Evan, Jordan, Mark, Matt, Mike, Tim, Tom, Trenton	Todd	Gary, Justin, Unknown	
Amanda, Bernie, Beth, Bob, Dan, David, Evan, Gary, Mark, Matt, Mike, Tim, Todd, Tom, Trenton, Unknown	Bill, Chris, Jordan, Justin	none	
Amanda, Bernie, Beth, Dan, Evan, Mark, Mike, Todd, Trenton	Bill, Bob, Chris, David, Gary, Jordan, Justin, Matt, Tom, Unknown	Tim	
Amanda, Beth, Bob, Chris, Gary, Jordan, Matt, Unknown	Bernie, Bill, Dan, David, Evan, Mark, Mike, Tim, Todd, Tom, Trenton	Justin	
Amanda, Beth, Bill, Dan, Evan, Jordan, Mark, Matt, Tim, Todd, Trenton, Unknown	Bernie, Bob, Mike, Tom	Chris, Justin	David, Gary
Amanda, Bernie, Beth, Dan, Evan, Gary, Jordan, Mark, Mike, Tim, Todd, Trenton	Bill, Bob, Chris, David, Matt, Tom, Unknown	Justin	
Amanda, Bernie, Beth, Bob, Dan, Evan, Gary, Mark, Matt, Mike, Tim, Todd, Tom, Trenton	Bill, David, Jordan, Justin, Unknown	Chris	
All	none	none	
Amanda, Bernie, Beth, Bob, Dan, David, Evan, Gary, Jordan, Justin, Mark, Matt, Mike, Tim, Todd, Tom, Trenton, Unknown	none	Bill, Chris	
Amanda, Bernie, Beth, Bill, Bob, Chris, Dan, David, Evan, Jordan, Mark, Matt, Mike, Tim, Todd, Tom, Trenton, Unknown	none	Gary, Justin	
*Unknown = someone who did not list their name (either Jim or AI)			
One person (either Jim or AI) did not submit a vote			

EVALUATION TABLES:

		SD	D	N	A	SA	Sum	Average	SD	% agreement	% disagreement
1a	The purpose of the DMI was clear to me.	1	0	0	8	12	21	4.43	0.93	95.2%	4.8%
1b	I felt listened to by other DMI participants.	1	0	1	10	8	20	4.20	0.95	90.0%	5.0%
1c	I felt listened to by the DNR staff involved.	1	0	0	5	14	20	4.55	0.94	95.0%	5.0%
1d	I heard perspectives different from my own.	1	0	1	7	12	21	4.38	0.97	90.5%	4.8%
1e	I found value in the in-person sessions.	1	0	0	7	13	21	4.48	0.93	95.2%	4.8%
1f	The overall process used was fair.	1	0	2	13	5	21	4.00	0.89	85.7%	4.8%
1g	I support the DMI recommendations.	1	0	5	7	8	21	4.00	1.05	71.4%	4.8%
1h-open	If you selected "Strongly Disagree" or "Disagree" to any statement above, please use this space to briefly explain your response. in person time was too quick **one person listed all as Strongly Disagree but did not write anything in the open-ended question										

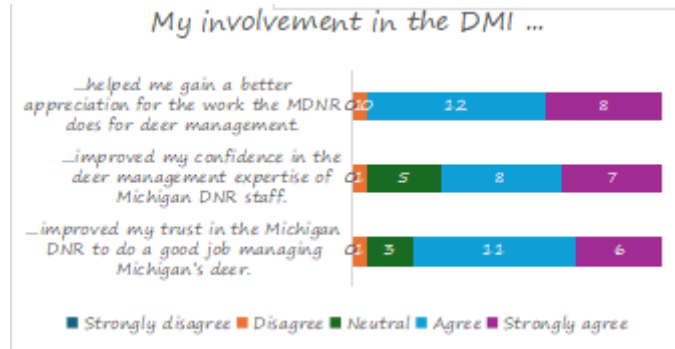


		1	2	3	4	5	Sum	Average	SD	% extremely
		Not at all	Somewhat	Moderately	Very	Extremely				
2a	BEFORE the DMI, how knowledgeable would you say you were about deer management in Michigan?	0	0	9	7	5	21	3.81	0.81	23.81%
2b	AFTER the DMI, how knowledgeable would you say you are about deer management in Michigan?	0	0	0	14	7	21	4.33	0.48	0.52 avg chan, 33.33%

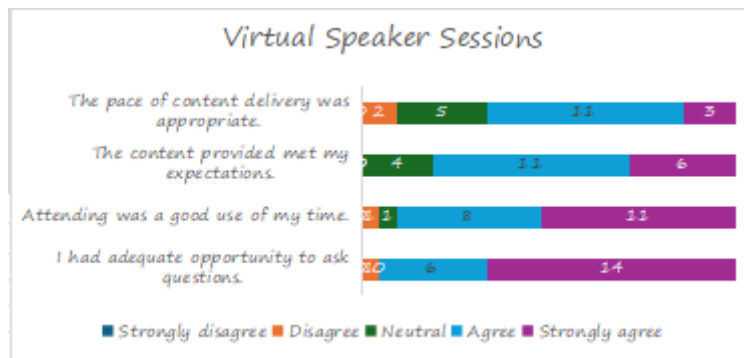


EVALUATION TABLES PT II:

		1	2	3	4	5						
	<i>My involvement in the DMI ...</i>	SD	D	N	A	SA	Sum	Average	SD	% agree	% disagreement	
3a	...helped me gain a better appreciation for the work the MDNR does for deer management.	0	1	0	12	8	21	4.29	0.72	95.2%	4.8%	
3b	...improved my confidence in the deer management expertise of Michigan DNR staff.	0	1	5	8	7	21	4.00	0.89	71.4%	4.8%	
3c	...improved my trust in the Michigan DNR to do a good job managing Michigan's deer.	0	1	3	11	6	21	4.05	0.80	81.0%	4.8%	

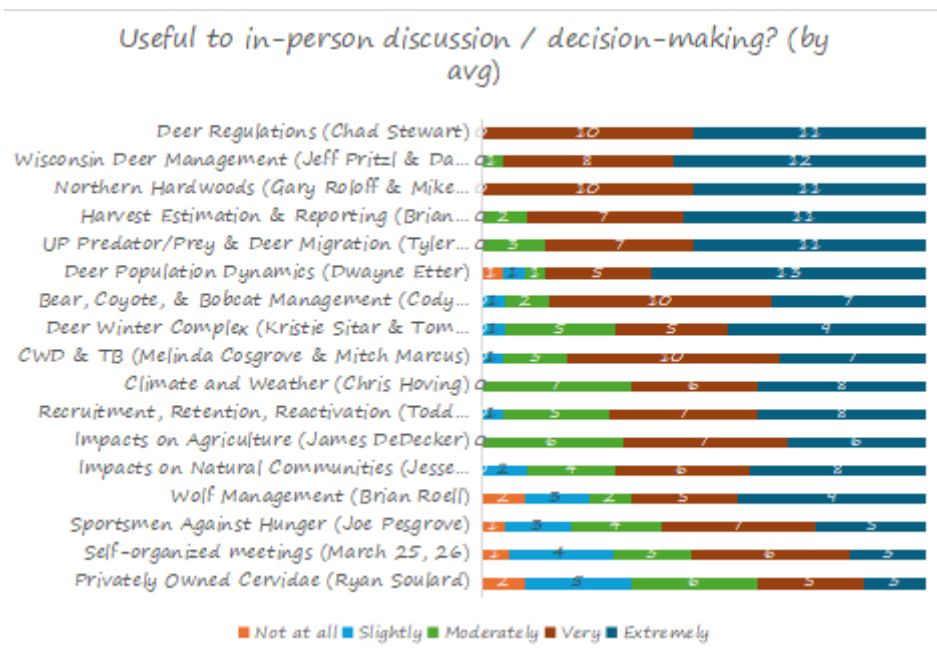


		1	2	3	4	5						
	<i>Considering all the virtual speaker sessions</i>	SD	D	N	A	SA	Sum	Average	SD	% agree	% disagreement	
4a	The pace of content delivery was appropriate.	0	2	5	11	3	21	3.71	0.85	66.7%	9.5%	
4b	The content provided met my expectations.	0	0	4	11	6	21	4.10	0.70	81.0%	0.0%	
4c	Attending was a good use of my time.	0	1	1	8	11	21	4.38	0.80	90.5%	4.8%	
4d	I had adequate opportunity to ask questions.	0	1	0	6	14	21	4.57	0.75	95.2%	4.8%	



EVALUATION TABLES PT III:

	1	2	3	4	5	na							
Indicate how useful each virtual session was for the in-person discussion / decision-making? (by avg)	Not at all	Slightly	Moderately	Very	Extremely	NA	Sum	Average	SD	% not at all	Sorted by average		
5a Deer Population Dynamics (Dwayne Etter)	1	1	1	5	13	0	21	4.33	1.11	4.8%	1	4.52	Northern Hardwoods (Gary Roloff & Mike Walters)
5b Harvest Estimation & Reporting (Brian Frawley)	0	0	2	7	11	0	20	4.45	0.69	0.0%	2	4.52	Wisconsin Deer Management (Jeff Pritzl & Dan Storm)
5c Northern Hardwoods (Gary Roloff & Mike Walters)	0	0	0	10	11	0	21	4.52	0.51	0.0%	3	4.52	Deer Regulations (Chad Stewart)
5d Wisconsin Deer Management (Jeff Pritzl & Dan Storm)	0	0	1	8	12	0	21	4.52	0.60	0.0%	4	4.45	Harvest Estimation & Reporting (Brian Frawley)
5e Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (Todd Grischke)	0	1	5	7	6	0	21	4.05	0.92	0.0%	5	4.35	UP Predator/Prey & Deer Migration (Tyler Petroble)
5f Privately Owned Cervidae (Ryan Soulard)	2	5	6	5	3	0	21	3.10	1.22	9.5%	6	4.33	Deer Population Dynamics (Dwayne Etter)
5g Self-organized meetings (March 25, 26)	1	4	3	6	3	3	20	3.35	1.22	5.0%	7	4.15	Bear, Coyote, & Bobcat Management (Cody Norton)
5h Climate and Weather (Chris Hoving)	0	0	7	6	8	0	21	4.05	0.86	0.0%	8	4.10	Deer Winter Complex (Kristie Sitar & Tom Saabom)
5i Sportsmen Against Hunger (Joe Pesgrove)	1	3	4	7	5	1	21	3.60	1.19	4.8%	9	4.10	CWD & TB (Melinda Cosgrove & Mitch Marcus)
5j Impacts on Natural Communities (Jesse Lincoln)	0	0	4	6	8	0	20	4.00	1.03	0.0%	10	4.05	Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (Todd Grischke)
5k Impacts on Agriculture (James DeDecker)	0	0	6	7	6	0	19	4.00	0.82	0.0%	11	4.05	Climate and Weather (Chris Hoving)
5l Deer Winter Complex (Kristie Sitar & Tom Saabom)	0	1	3	3	9	1	21	4.10	0.97	0.0%	12	4.00	Impacts on Natural Communities (Jesse Lincoln)
5m UP Predator/Prey & Deer Migration (Tyler Petroble)	0	0	2	7	11	0	21	4.33	0.74	0.0%	13	4.00	Impacts on Agriculture (James DeDecker)
5n Wolf Management (Brian Roell)	2	3	2	5	9	0	21	3.76	1.41	9.5%	14	3.76	Wolf Management (Brian Roell)
5o CWD & TB (Melinda Cosgrove & Mitch Marcus)	0	1	3	10	7	0	21	4.10	0.83	0.0%	15	3.60	Sportsmen Against Hunger (Joe Pesgrove)
5p Bear, Coyote, & Bobcat Management (Cody Norton)	0	1	2	10	7	0	20	4.15	0.81	0.0%	16	3.35	Self-organized meetings (March 25, 26)
5q Deer Regulations (Chad Stewart)	0	0	0	10	11	0	21	4.52	0.51	0.0%	17	3.10	Privately Owned Cervidae (Ryan Soulard)



Comments:

1 - “The pace to meet NRC timeline was too fast. Could have been more productive at a slower pace.”

2 - “Process was too rushed. Detail was lost in some areas. Needed more Q&A time during virtual sessions. Needed more group discussion and debate at the final step. Another half day of in person would have been good. Undermining of the process by a handful of U.P. stakeholders pedaling an agenda was a concern.”

3 - “(Under Q3) Biologist yes, other is questionable.”

CONCLUSION:

Though this has been referred to as a “Final Report”, I would caution against treating this as a finished product as it is not. At best it is “In the ballpark”. Unfortunately there was not ample time allotted for us to complete our work and thus provide a definitive and polished product to you. Without question had there been more time on the final day of the in person session a more unified consensus would certainly have been reached. Discussion between tables was ongoing right up to the buzzer and compromises were being proposed that never got to cross the finish line. The process as a whole went well, perhaps better than some may have anticipated. Given the aggressive timeline we had to work with this is certainly the best you could have hoped for and, I for one am proud of the work this team put in.

I would also like to convey that many among us feel that there is yet work for this team to do and, that we would like to see this group continue on into the future. Prior to the DMI there was RDAT (Regional Deer Advisory Team). Based on past precedent and present circumstances there is ample reason to conclude that there will be need of such a team in the future.

The Upper Peninsula DMI team would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the DNR staff and special guests who took the time to put together presentations for the virtual portion of our meetings. We would also like to thank Chad Stewart for enduring a work week that effectively lasted 3 months without end. A special thank you to Bob Jones is also in order for stepping up to serve not once but twice in this process. (LP & UP)

We now entrust our work to your hands.

Regards, Jordan Hoover

Across the mighty Mac there's a place like no other. A place of beauty, splendor, and wonder. Where the wolf will howl and the eagle will cry, where mysterious green lights dance in the night sky. No matter how far we may travel or how far we may roam, God's country will forever be our home!

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