

Development of Antlerless Harvest Goals for the APR Experimental Area (Mecosta, Montcalm, and Ionia)

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Overview: Antlerless Goals

- Task set forward for the DNR
- Developed to stimulate and sustain increased antlerless harvest
 - Aligns with desire to manage deer at lower densities in CWD affected areas
 - Impact on CWD management unknown
 - Increased antlerless harvest likely has little risk
 - “Offset” between reduced yearling buck harvest associated with APRs unknown
 - Disease transmission equality between bucks and does?
 - Behavioral and biological differences



**Can a combination of APRs
and antlerless harvest goals
lead to increased antlerless
harvest that is sustained?**



Development of Goals

- Unknown deer population size/composition
 - Estimate on impact to population
 - Increased harvest \neq decreased population
- Unknown impact on CWD
 - Unknown what is needed to remove additional positive deer from the landscape
 - Both deer and disease unevenly distributed
- No current method for in-season updates
- Desire to account for impactful events
 - EHD, standing corn, etc



Antlerless Harvest Goals

- Preference to avoid harvest goal
- Recommend a ratio of 1.1 antlerless deer harvested per antlered deer for duration of study
 - Translates to 11 antlerless deer : 10 antlered deer
 - Current ratio 0.8 antlerless : 1.0 antlered
 - NW12 increased from 0.7 (2012) to 1.18 (2013)
 - Not sustained in year 2 and subsequent years
 - OH (1.3), WI (1.1), IN (1.5) comparable or exceed proposed rates



Current 3 County Estimates

	2018
Antlerless Harvest	~10,000
Antlered Harvest	~12,700



2019 Estimates-to reach 1.1 ratio

	2018	2019
Antlerless Harvest	~10,000	~8,700 (needed to reach 1.1 ratio with likely reduction in antlered harvest)
Antlered Harvest	~12,700	~7,900 (reduced antlered harvest likely)



2019 Estimates-to equal 2018 harvest

	2018	2019	
Antlerless Harvest	~10,000	~8,700 (needed to reach 1.1 ratio with likely reduction in antlered harvest)	~14,800 (needed to equal total harvest from 2018)
Antlered Harvest	~12,700	~7,900 (reduced antlered harvest likely)	~7,900



2020 Estimates

	2018	2019		2020
Antlerless Harvest	~10,000	~8,700 (needed to reach 1.1 ratio with likely reduction in antlered harvest)	~14,800 (needed to equal total harvest from 2018)	~14,000 (necessary to achieve a 1.1 ratio)
Antlered Harvest	~12,700	~7,900 (reduced antlered harvest likely)	~7,900	~12,700 (return to pre-APR antlered harvest)



2020 Estimates Translated

- How much additional effort is needed to reach 14,000 antlerless deer harvested in 2 years?
 - Est. 31,500-32,000 hunters by 2020
 - ~44% success rate for antlerless deer
 - ~1,850 land miles in 3 county APR area
 - 2.2 antlerless deer per square mile harvest increase
 - Unknown if these figures will lead to reduced deer numbers



Thank You

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