

# Interim Ecosystem Management Guidelines WUP Management Unit Including Escanaba, Ishpeming, Baraga and Crystal Falls Forest Areas

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## High Deer Numbers/Regeneration Impacts:

### Assumption:

Deer herbivory can, and in places, does effect recruitment of trees in some stands and types. Deer numbers have generally been increasing in the WUP since the mid-70s. Deer numbers are directly related to the level of timber produced annually and the severity of winter weather. In most cases, deer impacts on forest types do not threaten the type. These impacts retard recruitment and can cause a decline in quality in future stands. Other than direct losses to malnutrition, hunting harvest of antlerless deer has the most significant impact on deer numbers. Deer impacts need to be judged over a long period of time in terms of silviculture. Maintaining a healthy deer population in concert with other ecological and social values, should be our goal.

### Interim guidelines:

1. We will work to encourage funding of the natural regeneration monitoring program that has been developed by Bob Heyd.
2. A more formal approach to communications between FMFMD and Wildlife regarding regeneration issues, will be developed at the Management Unit level.
3. Communications regarding deer population goals and annual harvest regulations will be improved. **Wildlife and FMFM Divisions staff will meet to discuss population goals and annual harvest regulations as part of the goal and regulation setting process.**
4. Guideline #2 of Light Seeded Species applies to this issue and will be adopted.
5. Communications with the public regarding the "deer issue" will continue. Talking points will be developed for anyone from FMFMD or Wildlife Division to use in public presentation regarding the need to control deer numbers.