

**REPORT OF**  
**THE JOINT TASK FORCE ON DEER POPULATION CONTROL AS REQUIRED**  
**BY HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 65**

**Sam Flood, Acting Director**  
**Illinois Department of Natural Resources**  
**Chairman**

**TO THE**  
**ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*December 23, 2008*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Task Force on Deer Population Control was created by House Joint Resolution 65 of the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, with the mission “to examine and make recommendations on ways to manage the Illinois deer population”. The Joint Task Force (JTF) consisted of 15 members, of which 8 were members of the General Assembly (or their appointee). The JTF met 4 times between April and October 2008, and conducted a series of 6 public meetings around the state to seek public comment about changes that were being considered.

The JTF recommends that the rate of deer/vehicle accidents be used as the objective by which to judge the success or failure of deer management programs. The specific target rate (both statewide and at the county level) was set at halfway between the minimum and maximum rates measured during the period 1994 through 2007. The statewide target rate corresponds to a decrease of 14% in accident rate from the statewide peak observed during 2003.

The JTF recommends the following changes in Illinois deer management:

1. That deer permits for the antlerless-only Late-Winter Season be made available to hunters over-the-counter (OTC) at license vendors throughout the state, rather than through the current application and lottery system;
2. That counties included in the Late-Winter Deer Season be categorized into two groups for permitting purposes, based upon their deer population status: (a) counties that are slightly above goal levels, in which only one permit could be purchased; and (b) counties that are significantly above goal levels, in which an unlimited number of permits could be purchased.
3. That the length of the Late-Winter Deer Season be extended from 3 to 9 days.
4. That permits for the regular Firearm Deer Season which remain unallocated after 2 lottery drawings be sold OTC on a first-come, first served basis until the end of that season.
5. That the length of the first segment of the regular Firearm Deer Season be extended from 3 to 4 days, beginning on a Friday and ending on a Monday.
6. Expansion of educational outreach programs relating to deer, including creation of a new web site (“Living with Illinois Deer”); increased support for the Sportsman Against Hunter program (venison donations); support for some type of Hunter Access Program to improve hunter access to private lands; working with the Illinois Department of Transportation to enhance traffic safety programs related to deer-vehicle accidents; and working with the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office to develop materials related to deer for the Drivers’ Safety program.
7. Creation of a new Task Force to study the issue of nuisance deer to recommend whether changes should be made to the current protocols for issuing nuisance deer removal permits.

None of the changes recommended by the JTF require new legislation; all could be accomplished via administrative rule.

## **INTRODUCTION**

On July 26, 2007, House Joint Resolution 65 (HJ0065) was adopted by both Houses of the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The full text of the resolution appears below.

### **House Joint Resolution 65, 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

WHEREAS, Illinois is one of the premiere white tailed deer hunting states in the nation; and

WHEREAS, During the 2006-07 deer seasons, hunters took approximately 197,000 deer; and

WHEREAS, A total of 67 counties were open to the Late-Winter Antlerless-only Deer Season, which is restricted to those counties that the Department of Natural Resources considers overpopulated; and

WHEREAS, Deer overpopulation is rampant in some counties in Illinois, causing accidents on our highways, increasing crop damage for Illinois farmers, and making it easier for disease and starvation to afflict our deer populations; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 1.5 million car-deer crashes occur every year in the United States, causing more than 150 deaths and \$1.1 billion in property damage; and

WHEREAS, Illinois had approximately 23,700 car-deer accidents in 2005; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, Illinois recorded 11 deaths from these accidents, nearly double the previous high of 6; and

WHEREAS, Eight of those killed were on motorcycles; and

WHEREAS, Car-deer accidents can occur almost anywhere, and urban areas are not immune; and

WHEREAS, Cook County topped Illinois with nearly 1,000 crashes in 2005, almost double the 572 recorded in Pike County, highly regarded by hunters for its share of the State's estimated 800,000 deer; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is established a Joint Task Force on Deer Population Control to examine and make recommendations on ways to manage the Illinois deer population; issues that shall be addressed include, but are not limited to, maintaining and increasing deer hunting opportunities in Illinois, reducing car-deer accidents and examining how these accidents affect insurance rates, reducing agricultural crop and other property damage, and maintaining and increasing the health of the Illinois deer herd; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the Joint Task Force shall be under the Department of Natural Resources, which will provide staff support; and be it further**

RESOLVED, That the members of the Joint Task Force shall include: the chairmen and minority spokesmen of the House and Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committees or their designees; one member appointed by the President of the Senate; one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one member appointed by the Speaker of the House; one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House; the Director of Natural Resources or his or her designee; one member representing conservation police officers appointed by the Director of Natural Resources; the Director of State Police or his or her designee; one member appointed by an association representing firearm deer hunters; one member appointed by an association representing Illinois archery deer hunters; one member appointed by an association representing the insurance industry; and one member appointed by an association representing farmers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Director of Natural Resources shall serve as the Chair; the Joint Task Force shall meet with the call of the Chair; and the members shall serve without compensation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joint Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House by January 1, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the Director of Natural Resources.

As resolved by HJ0065, the Joint Task Force (JTF) consisted of 15 members. The membership of the JTF and the entities which they represent are listed below:

1. Director Sam Flood.....Illinois Department of Natural Resources
2. Representative Dan Reitz.....Chairman, House Agricultural and Conservation Committee
3. Representative Jim Sacia .....Minority Spokesman, House Agricultural and Conservation Committee
4. Senator John Sullivan .....Chairman, Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee
5. Senator Gary Dahl.....Minority Spokesman, Senate Agricultural and Conservation Committee
6. Senator Gary Forby.....Appointed by President of the Senate
7. Mr. Jim Riemer, Jr. ....Appointed by Senate Minority Leader
8. Representative Robert Flider .....Appointed by Speaker of the House
9. Representative David Reis.....Appointed by Minority Leader of the House
10. Officer Jason Sherman.....Conservation Police Officer appointed by IDNR Director
11. Director Larry Trent.....Illinois State Police
12. Mr. Jerry Beverlin.....United Bowhunters of Illinois
13. Mr. Jim McFarlane.....Illinois Federation of Outdoor Resources
14. Mr. Kevin Martin.....Illinois Insurance Association
15. Mr. Henry Kallal.....Illinois Farm Bureau

Technical assistance was provided to the JTF by IDNR’s Joint Task Force Technical Support Group, which consisted of the following IDNR staff:

1. Mike Conlin .....Director, Office of Resource Conservation
  2. John Buhnerkempe.....Chief, Division of Wildlife Resources
  3. Paul Shelton .....Forest Wildlife Program Manager
  4. Tom Micetich.....Deer Project Manager
  5. Marty Jones.....Urban Deer Project Manager
  6. Chris Hill.....Systems and Licensing Manager
  7. Brian Clark.....Office of Law Enforcement License and Permit Program Manager
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The JTF held four meetings at the Springfield headquarters of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources during April through October 2008. In addition, a series of public meetings was held at six locations throughout Illinois (Peru, Rockford, Rushville, Olney, Sparta, and Bethany) during September 2008 to discuss and seek public comment on proposals for changes and improvements in deer management in the state.

## JOINT TASK FORCE MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

During the first Task Force meeting (April 14, 2008), members initially discussed their concerns with the deer herd and deer management. The most common concerns were cited as (1) increasing numbers of deer-vehicle accidents and (2) crop damage. Other concerns included a lack of hunter access (to assist in controlling deer populations), a lack of doe harvest, a lack of information available to the public regarding deer management, the existing cap on nonresident archery deer hunters, and a perceived need to change the existing nuisance deer permit protocols. IDNR Chief of Wildlife John Buhnerkempe discussed the multitude of stakeholders with an interest in deer management, and explained that deer management requires the integration of wildlife biology, social science, economics, and political science – it is not as straightforward as it may seem on the surface. Forest Wildlife Program Manager Paul Shelton presented a history of deer management in Illinois and described existing programs and hunting seasons. He also discussed some commonly-suggested changes to the hunting seasons, and described pitfalls associated with those changes. He provided data for deer harvest and deer-vehicle accidents, noting that deer-vehicle accidents had not increased during the last 5 years. Tables presenting the number of deer-vehicle accidents by county and year, and the standardized rate of deer-vehicle accidents (# accidents per billion vehicle miles traveled) are included in Appendices A and B. Task Force members then had a roundtable discussion aimed at developing specific, measurable objectives to serve as a measure of success/failure for the deer management program in the future. No agreement was reached, and JTF members asked IDNR to provide objectives for consideration during the next meeting, as well as some proposed approaches (i.e., changes in hunting seasons/regulations) to help reach objectives.

At the second meeting (July 7, 2008), JTF members were provided with additional information stemming from discussions/requests during the previous meeting. Wildlife staff gave overviews of IDNR's Deer Removal Permit program (for nuisance deer/crop damage); Urban Deer Program; Sportsmen Against Hunter Program (venison donation by hunters); and a new IDNR-sponsored website, "Living with Illinois Wildlife" (<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/wildlife/>). The latter provides information to the public about coexisting with Illinois wildlife, including identification, prevention of conflicts, and methods for resolving human/wildlife conflicts. A review of Illinois' past attempts to implement a Hunter Access Program was also provided. Members were then presented with proposals for setting deer management objectives and for implementing new approaches to achieve objectives (see Appendix C). Since time was short, in-depth discussion of these proposals was tabled until a subsequent meeting.

At the third meeting (August 18, 2008), objectives and proposed management approaches were discussed by JTF members. Members asked that IDNR conduct a series of public meetings around the state prior to the next Task Force meeting, in order to present the proposals to the public and gauge their support for this approach. A discussion was also held regarding the subject of deer management in urban areas, particularly in the Chicago-land area in which no firearm deer hunting seasons are held. The Task Force supported making a statement that highlighted the public information resources available (such as the Living with Illinois Wildlife website) and urging the consideration of bowhunting as a suitable control technique whenever feasible. Appendix D presents the position statement later approved by the JTF. Other types of education and outreach programs were discussed, including ways to educate drivers, and the potential for a Hunter Access

Program. Some ideas discussed regarding the potential access program are summarized in Appendix E.

Six public meetings were held during the first two weeks of September 2008. The meeting format was an “open house” from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., with staff from IDNR and members of the Joint Deer Population Control Task Force available to answer questions, discuss deer management, and hear comments from those attending the meetings. Meeting dates and locations are listed below:

- September 2 – Peru Eagles Lodge, Peru
- September 3 – Rockford Public Library, Rockford
- September 4 – Scripps Park Community Building, Rushville
- September 9 – Olney City Park Community Building, Olney
- September 10 – World Shooting & Recreational Complex, Sparta
- September 11 – Bethany Fire Station, Bethany

Attendees at the public meetings were asked to complete a survey of their opinions regarding the proposed deer management objective and the proposed management approaches being considered. A copy of this survey is included in Appendix F. Persons unable to attend the public meetings could review the materials from the public meetings online at the IDNR web site (<http://dnr.state.il.us>) and also complete an electronic version of the survey and submit it. Total attendance at the meetings was 426 (Peru 24, Rockford 37, Rushville 75, Olney 181, Sparta 55, and Bethany 54), and 1,296 survey forms were completed and returned. A summary of survey results is shown in Appendix G.

At the last meeting (October 6, 2008), Task Force members were presented with the results of the public meetings and surveys, and subsequently discussed and voted on the proposed objective and various management approaches. These Task Force recommendations are presented in the next section.



## JOINT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following list contains a summary of items that were presented at the 6 public information meetings which were acted upon by the Joint Task Force during the October 6, 2008 meeting. None of the recommendations require new legislation; all could be accomplished via administrative rule.

1. The Task Force recommends that the objective for measuring the status of the Illinois deer population should be based on the rate of deer-vehicle collisions (number of collisions per billion vehicular miles traveled). The statewide target rate was set at halfway between the minimum and maximum rates measured during the period 1994 through 2007 (see *Objective, Appendix C*). This objective (207 accidents/billion miles traveled) represents an 11% decline from 2007 levels, and a 14% decline from the peak accident rate observed during 2003. The same procedure would be used for determining the objective rate for individual Illinois counties.
2. The JTF recommends that permits for the special antlerless-only Late-Winter Deer Season be made available Over-the-Counter (OTC) at license vendors throughout the state (*Management Approach #1, Appendix C*). Previously, permits for this season were only available through the mail by applying for a lottery drawing held by IDNR's Permit Office. The recommended change would make permits more easily available to hunters, particularly those who had filled all their existing tags during the regular Firearm Deer Season.
3. The JTF recommends that the number of permits that could be purchased by a hunter for individual counties during the Late-Winter Deer Season be based upon that county's deer population status (*Management Approach #2, Appendix C*). This would result in three categories of counties during the Late-Winter Deer Season: (1) counties with low deer populations (at or below the objective) which are not open to the Late-Winter Season; (2) counties with intermediate deer populations (slightly above objective) in which hunters may purchase 1 permit OTC for the Late-Winter Season; and (3) counties with high deer populations (significantly above objective) in which hunters may purchase unlimited numbers of permits OTC for the Late-Winter Season. In the past, only 1 permit could be purchased for the Late-Winter Season.
4. The JTF recommends that the length of the Late-Winter Deer Season be increased from 3 days to 9 days (*Management Approach #3, Appendix C*), with archery hunters being allowed to participate during that time. Under this new framework, the season would open on the first Saturday after January 5, rather than the first Friday after January 11 as it is in the current framework.
5. The JTF recommends NOT ADOPTING an October antlerless-only firearm deer season (*Management Approaches #4 and #5, Appendix C*). This proposed season was heavily opposed by bowhunters; there were concerns expressed by the Conservation Police Officer representative on the Task Force about law enforcement being spread thin by the overlap with duck hunting seasons, and Director Flood expressed safety concerns because of large numbers of farmers harvesting crops at this time.
6. The JTF recommends expanding educational outreach programs relating to deer, including creation of a new web site ("Living with Illinois Deer"); increased support for the Sportsman Against Hunter program (venison donations); support for some type of Hunter

Access Program to improve hunter access to private lands; working with the Illinois Department of Transportation to enhance traffic safety programs related to deer-vehicle accidents; and working with the Illinois Secretary of State's Office to develop materials related to deer for the Drivers' Safety program.

In addition to the original action items, members of the JTF also proposed and voted on some items which had not been presented at the public meetings:

1. Officer Jason Sherman proposed moving the January Late-Winter Deer Season into December, citing better weather, students out of school for the holidays, and improved hunter participation. The membership of the Task Force was equally split on this proposal, and it was decided to hold the matter for consideration at a later date if analyses of the already-approved changes indicated that future modifications to deer seasons were necessary.
2. Senator John Sullivan proposed that firearm deer permits that remained unsold after two lottery drawings be made available Over-the-Counter at license vendors to hunters on a first-come, first-served basis through the firearm deer seasons. The JTF recommended adopting this change.
3. Senator John Sullivan proposed that one additional day be added to the length of the first firearm deer hunting season, which is currently three days in length (Friday – Sunday). After some questions as to whether this would help increase antlerless harvest and discussion of the potential impacts to school absenteeism, the JTF recommended adopting this change with the proposed four-day season running from Friday – Monday.
4. Mr. Henry Kallal noted that the Illinois Farm Bureau is requesting that IDNR's Nuisance Deer Removal Permit protocol be simplified to make it easier for complainants to kill deer outside of hunting seasons. Due to time constraints, it was recommended that another task force, consisting of representatives of farming interests, hunters, and IDNR, be formed to focus exclusively on nuisance deer issues. This task force will be organized early in 2009 by IDNR.

# APPENDIX A. NUMBER OF ILLINOIS DEER/VEHICLE COLLISIONS BY YEAR AND COUNTY

## Illinois Deer/Vehicle Collision Data: 1994 - 2007 Number of Actual Collisions "All Roads"

*Note: DVC data was not collected for all roads by IDOT during 1996*

COUNTY	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Adams	240	296	244	279	291	324	371	407	419	400	344	392	377	
Alexander	42	52	48	50	39	53	66	56	56	60	55	48	56	
Bond	123	112	96	129	150	134	134	149	145	156	125	152	151	
Boone	153	153	135	173	129	151	139	178	112	109	107	89		
Brown	57	91	100	102	120	146	143	164	160	141	154	168	154	
Bureau	112	243	261	310	302	336	368	412	440	425	408	446	417	
Calhoun	54	87	106	97	132	138	144	184	176	191	164	186	161	
Carroll	131	114	115	115	123	148	148	166	173	185	155	183	177	
Cass	65	69	76	76	106	129	128	160	148	180	142	145	151	
Champaign	151	144	149	171	161	172	181	222	284	292	284	257	232	
Christian	121	116	132	139	156	142	179	184	196	182	186	192	191	
Clark	123	134	131	133	169	184	222	226	262	300	251	238	283	
Clay	77	101	100	105	146	112	163	158	190	161	157	175	181	
Clinton	64	70	75	112	122	114	140	122	135	146	131	150	131	
Coles	145	143	123	143	147	128	188	176	188	197	173	194	232	
Cook	885	878	656	696	737	705	864	835	918	1076	991	976	996	
Crawford	225	206	196	207	280	271	267	308	349	355	330	327	349	
Cumberland	90	89	115	130	123	115	137	162	190	175	174	173	189	
DeKalb	221	212	161	174	182	185	192	177	184	187	168	179	140	
DeWitt	88	93	97	92	108	102	112	157	161	154	108	127	145	
Douglas	48	48	46	33	44	52	69	66	84	83	75	59	60	
DuPage	251	249	214	180	205	180	240	188	226	245	238	224	221	
Edgar	97	85	61	85	91	88	105	112	116	156	125	138	171	
Edwards	62	74	81	66	83	81	77	117	132	116	115	125	102	
Effingham	166	145	164	169	235	196	252	249	304	279	245	282	316	
Fayette	131	114	171	180	209	177	200	243	247	211	213	216	244	
Ford	49	34	34	42	42	45	54	65	72	73	56	50	46	
Franklin	247	212	218	262	298	290	335	351	343	346	340	356	267	
Fulton	140	162	208	264	317	287	335	351	404	364	413	424	455	
Gallatin	33	21	25	34	26	27	33	39	46	52	86	59	53	
Greene	107	103	98	95	138	142	177	177	190	181	132	173	190	
Grundy	202	218	164	160	209	175	223	202	236	236	196	233	245	
Hamilton	18	21	19	51	70	103	128	115	124	138	137	101	120	
Hancock	155	152	123	170	169	157	184	215	239	263	249	261	269	
Hardin	38	18	37	33	50	48	44	54	62	52	55	65	46	
Henderson	62	69	58	70	77	91	120	122	131	109	130	132	120	

APPENDIX A cont'd

Illinois Deer/Vehicle Collision Data: 1994 - 2007 Number of Actual Collisions "All Roads"

Note: DVC data was not collected for all roads by IDOT during 1996

COUNTY	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Henry	153	171	215	161	215	220	224	304	310	276	302	324	256	290
Iroquois	116	149	148	115	148	147	152	186	208	247	166	169	199	210
Jackson	340	299	291	300	291	321	329	354	344	345	377	373	442	360
Jasper	83	99	108	68	108	121	124	128	156	184	153	151	118	126
Jefferson	167	163	275	266	275	355	355	451	407	477	395	428	498	413
Jersey	123	109	102	102	155	124	156	155	148	241	247	218	238	212
JoDavess	154	162	159	159	129	189	155	195	237	212	261	218	242	253
Johnson	141	150	148	126	148	168	153	184	187	185	190	180	196	189
Kane	555	523	483	493	460	481	440	539	544	557	517	504	510	496
Kankakee	142	187	112	93	132	134	153	141	161	133	138	153	181	181
Kendall	93	113	107	112	111	116	115	124	116	136	143	132	157	155
Knox	110	129	132	112	117	159	101	115	113	142	151	140	163	132
Lake	600	613	540	537	667	667	435	664	600	627	583	622	588	528
LaSalle	344	378	349	364	407	407	432	403	437	480	555	457	444	527
Lawrence	100	98	120	135	135	173	225	249	225	224	224	154	206	162
Lee	257	277	204	262	259	263	272	273	273	384	367	307	266	296
Livingston	121	94	81	106	105	127	139	127	149	139	143	121	121	129
Logan	110	134	95	100	128	102	146	158	151	151	179	177	185	161
Macon	226	228	199	199	154	217	205	236	330	344	352	348	342	340
Macoupin	207	203	232	232	256	236	237	282	349	339	373	317	363	339
Madison	337	324	370	377	444	425	510	558	540	607	607	667	547	693
Marion	193	183	216	192	192	293	264	349	315	347	325	284	312	342
Marshall	86	98	71	80	98	96	120	115	146	117	137	126	132	132
Mason	94	123	106	106	109	120	133	134	160	160	172	134	137	117
Massac	122	117	152	153	187	204	199	163	177	193	176	199	199	158
McDonough	105	112	111	170	174	164	190	205	240	240	240	238	263	226
McHenry	608	594	514	585	610	534	535	508	603	511	444	447	426	426
McLean	201	197	204	187	217	225	235	235	239	249	262	220	221	237
Menard	17	38	89	94	97	91	118	118	129	160	120	156	119	119
Mercer	59	49	58	65	63	91	83	92	95	108	89	106	115	115
Monroe	68	52	75	87	111	113	111	142	139	125	133	135	98	98
Montgomery	156	151	155	153	170	157	175	233	203	178	214	233	214	233
Morgan	139	146	180	169	198	212	230	212	217	221	267	263	251	251
Moultrie	37	29	47	45	79	86	107	133	117	138	127	135	134	134
Ogle	361	370	340	395	396	336	299	305	325	317	343	326	289	289
Peoria	281	298	275	300	362	360	442	438	508	559	526	565	624	624

## APPENDIX A cont'd

### Illinois Deer/Vehicle Collision Data: 1994 - 2007 Number of Actual Collisions "All Roads"

*Note: DVC data was not collected for all roads by IDOT during 1999*

COUNTY	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Perry	176	174	180	159	180	249	239	250	258	292	288	282	310	289
Platt	47	29	29	36	29	54	58	88	76	90	75	68	79	64
Pike	361	419	398	406	398	607	526	580	681	669	655	590	670	611
Pope	70	73	77	84	67	61	61	69	85	67	59	62	77	60
Pulaski	89	104	84	108	94	106	84	93	111	81	103	69	86	72
Putnam	27	59	54	54	61	74	89	94	98	114	139	112	109	130
Randolph	243	192	200	200	228	256	263	298	315	295	349	328	351	287
Richland	101	120	109	124	139	127	127	196	187	173	182	166	199	157
Rock Island	178	174	140	250	194	151	123	149	155	169	146	130	271	370
Saline	142	140	175	175	193	214	185	219	213	190	193	223	195	242
Sangamon	330	341	406	406	373	424	400	499	493	597	551	594	598	545
Schuyler	89	103	111	111	115	129	127	158	156	182	206	180	169	224
Scott	54	76	80	80	91	63	84	97	105	116	119	114	128	118
Shelby	141	135	132	150	160	164	155	189	184	244	221	221	241	213
St. Clair	268	252	284	260	328	297	297	371	341	430	384	374	404	390
Stark	33	37	33	33	35	48	46	47	60	66	72	71	67	62
Stephenson	242	281	277	295	295	268	278	321	279	253	303	310	317	326
Tazewell	236	262	242	242	288	349	328	385	336	421	417	433	425	405
Union	163	155	137	137	125	165	178	182	181	165	146	158	192	173
Vermilion	123	95	94	158	130	130	128	144	189	232	285	235	236	245
Wabash	64	57	59	59	55	88	81	92	79	124	101	83	109	94
Warren	70	80	96	96	89	125	113	143	164	167	178	155	169	196
Washington	98	91	122	118	118	139	141	191	174	200	222	165	196	144
Wayne	125	161	144	144	148	204	200	287	257	304	283	289	260	262
White	115	125	137	137	165	148	171	191	214	261	268	266	272	260
Whiteside	181	200	205	205	202	207	192	243	252	270	310	257	304	264
Will	445	527	417	417	405	425	435	525	493	549	561	514	601	571
Williamson	353	309	283	273	339	329	329	392	358	407	382	358	377	389
Winnebago	471	425	408	408	382	419	373	443	480	451	442	380	383	365
Woodford	104	89	75	75	102	109	89	123	122	137	137	161	144	160
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>17118</b>	<b>17573</b>	<b>17077</b>	<b>17787</b>	<b>17787</b>	<b>20468</b>	<b>19731</b>	<b>22933</b>	<b>23645</b>	<b>25660</b>	<b>25847</b>	<b>24201</b>	<b>25491</b>	<b>24978</b>

## APPENDIX B. RATE OF ILLINOIS DEER/VEHICLE COLLISIONS BY YEAR AND COUNTY

### DEER/VEHICLE COLLISIONS PER BILLION MILES: 1994-2007

Note: DVC data was not collected for all roads by IDOT during 1996

County	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Adams	531.6	638.8		486.6	547.6	561.4	618.1	730.2	785.0	809.2	762.2	667.9	760.0	735.1
Alexander	372.2	454.4		410.3	423.0	309.8	419.4	536.3	451.8	483.9	494.0	459.5	402.0	462.0
Bond	493.8	425.0		344.8	451.9	522.5	457.5	482.4	502.2	484.0	434.4	434.4	527.0	515.2
Boone	380.3	363.0		290.9	351.5	260.3	296.2	277.9	256.0	318.7	201.8	187.4	186.0	151.6
Brown	1061.4	1659.8		1596.2	1599.7	1946.0	2353.4	2534.1	2790.0	2637.5	2320.7	2905.5	3183.7	2620.8
Bureau	231.6	491.4		517.3	600.8	563.3	624.2	680.9	756.0	828.1	788.6	761.7	831.6	717.3
Calhoun	1394.2	2226.1		2798.4	2433.1	3414.4	3549.2	3883.8	4583.8	4373.4	4738.5	4173.1	4766.2	3949.5
Carroll	836.9	697.0		707.4	692.4	748.6	895.0	953.8	1062.3	1102.2	1180.5	962.9	1216.4	1215.4
Cass	597.4	629.7		616.6	611.5	837.7	1019.5	1074.6	1331.3	1284.2	1552.3	1206.8	1311.4	1383.3
Champaign	99.1	91.4		95.0	106.8	97.9	103.0	105.8	127.1	146.0	157.5	139.8	134.8	127.0
Christian	384.1	360.5		394.2	408.5	471.2	426.5	554.0	564.2	603.6	555.5	554.8	570.1	566.8
Clark	398.1	426.9		390.1	386.7	474.9	514.8	612.8	589.7	700.2	790.7	654.5	643.9	803.9
Clay	535.1	687.0		657.1	677.2	941.4	696.0	1022.7	962.9	1178.1	987.9	1037.1	1158.2	1154.6
Clinton	187.2	203.0		195.7	288.7	319.2	289.1	365.6	315.4	347.4	374.0	345.2	397.3	326.8
Coles	287.7	276.3		224.8	256.6	253.9	247.9	349.8	320.0	333.7	351.9	317.0	359.4	424.2
Cook	28.4	27.8		19.8	20.6	22.2	21.4	26.1	24.4	27.1	31.0	28.8	29.5	30.3
Crawford	1323.9	1263.1		1086.8	1136.7	1533.2	1592.2	1472.0	1707.2	1991.7	2013.7	1892.0	1879.5	2005.8
Cumberland	329.8	323.0		389.2	427.2	391.9	369.5	455.0	524.9	601.8	545.4	535.3	537.4	603.9
DeKalb	354.4	335.5		237.6	239.3	250.9	247.7	280.4	237.7	223.8	221.7	194.6	209.5	160.5
DeWitt	444.2	445.1		502.1	442.3	505.0	478.0	551.3	775.1	788.3	746.2	557.1	658.3	708.5
Douglas	173.1	177.1		159.9	111.5	144.7	171.3	246.5	227.7	286.4	282.8	246.3	194.0	206.1
DuPage	34.8	34.3		27.6	22.7	25.7	22.2	29.3	22.1	26.7	28.3	27.4	25.7	25.6
Edgar	568.1	485.4		350.4	469.1	482.6	464.4	577.8	609.6	633.4	846.2	710.9	790.7	988.4
Edwards	841.4	1024.9		1059.0	852.5	1068.4	1036.9	1016.3	1556.5	1738.8	1527.2	1583.3	1729.3	1377.7
Effingham	292.3	247.3		261.3	257.4	351.5	289.3	377.2	371.0	435.1	392.8	358.5	413.6	460.9
Fayette	330.3	285.4		413.0	422.2	476.2	396.5	472.6	572.5	570.0	471.4	486.9	494.5	547.5
Ford	325.8	214.6		212.5	252.8	246.2	261.8	322.4	383.5	427.1	426.9	329.8	295.5	269.4
Franklin	559.5	465.5		456.9	562.4	612.6	585.9	670.6	660.5	662.9	663.5	646.6	680.6	517.5
Fulton	458.1	503.5		655.5	815.1	973.8	873.3	1027.2	1064.8	1233.1	1105.3	1275.8	1316.5	1392.9
Gallatin	456.1	288.9		338.6	454.3	334.2	325.4	385.3	452.3	588.6	677.7	1104.3	762.8	694.9
Greene	874.4	859.9		825.1	763.7	1056.6	1080.1	1416.0	1422.6	1598.6	1520.5	1129.2	1490.4	1666.4
Grundy	402.3	421.5		287.9	276.1	348.9	291.5	354.5	313.8	359.6	366.6	294.9	347.0	352.4
Hamilton	219.4	250.5		223.4	578.9	791.3	1187.3	1482.0	1303.1	1411.0	1558.3	1563.7	1129.7	1451.7
Hancock	747.3	714.1		559.8	741.8	741.8	678.1	878.8	1020.4	1140.2	1253.6	1148.4	1233.9	1304.2
Hardin	913.1	430.0		869.0	747.6	1040.8	1052.2	956.3	1163.8	1480.0	1241.4	1356.3	1618.9	1137.2
Henderson	567.1	597.2		486.0	585.3	648.6	761.4	998.0	1008.5	1086.1	903.3	1076.4	1135.1	1039.7
Henry	244.4	266.1		238.7	311.9	309.7	308.6	443.7	444.0	400.3	424.8	459.9	369.4	410.9
Iroquois	244.4	299.7		222.1	280.1	275.5	282.5	383.9	410.9	453.7	301.3	317.5	374.0	395.2

APPENDIX B cont'd

DEER/VEHICLE COLLISIONS PER BILLION MILES: 1994-2007

Note: DVC data was not collected for all roads by IDOT during 1996

County	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Jackson	819.6	701.5		693.8	663.0	706.2	711.4	727.2	697.4	717.0	773.4	774.0	902.1	722.7
Jasper	660.6	783.1		531.6	816.4	902.0	918.0	958.4	1164.5	1402.9	1151.8	1150.6	902.9	946.2
Jefferson	284.1	266.8		408.7	411.2	525.8	518.8	688.2	688.2	575.8	525.5	605.2	695.5	556.2
Jersey	654.7	605.2		524.9	760.0	599.5	750.0	821.8	718.5	1148.1	1173.6	1084.3	1185.2	1076.1
JoDavless	681.6	686.4		692.7	549.9	794.0	642.7	877.9	1058.0	930.4	1140.5	951.9	1063.5	1047.2
Johnson	698.9	716.6		561.2	641.1	699.7	629.3	785.5	761.6	771.9	757.9	728.2	772.6	749.1
Kane	237.2	212.1		174.0	159.4	168.5	149.7	183.5	160.4	162.2	147.8	143.2	141.9	135.9
Kankakee	182.0	232.4		135.6	101.3	139.8	142.7	189.4	151.8	170.9	138.7	147.7	163.8	187.9
Kendall	237.7	272.8		233.9	232.5	223.9	219.7	225.5	197.2	220.1	228.4	192.8	203.9	197.5
Knox	211.1	242.9		242.0	210.7	282.8	179.0	208.0	200.6	255.6	269.0	253.7	294.3	243.1
Lake	120.7	124.3		102.4	100.3	120.9	76.3	117.8	103.3	106.5	97.1	89.6	101.5	91.9
LaSalle	300.3	321.5		283.4	285.4	307.5	323.9	300.6	318.8	346.6	394.4	324.8	314.0	372.6
Lawrence	684.4	604.1		733.2	790.0	786.8	1049.4	1323.8	1457.2	1319.2	1310.5	924.4	1210.8	973.4
Lee	525.8	545.2		391.0	490.6	462.3	452.2	470.9	463.3	643.5	603.4	493.7	443.5	439.3
Livingston	227.9	169.6		141.3	180.4	177.3	209.4	228.7	204.9	241.0	239.7	250.1	211.5	226.9
Logan	232.5	262.0		177.6	188.8	236.0	190.0	283.8	300.0	290.1	338.2	342.3	362.7	304.7
Macon	238.0	236.8		210.4	160.2	225.1	212.7	240.7	327.9	356.1	358.9	358.2	352.7	345.3
Macoupin	559.5	489.5		511.9	554.6	509.3	509.5	626.6	740.3	711.7	776.4	726.2	836.7	793.4
Madison	136.4	126.6		143.3	142.2	164.5	156.3	188.0	201.1	190.2	209.6	242.5	196.0	239.0
Marion	418.6	392.5		451.1	390.7	598.4	520.5	709.7	648.6	704.0	654.1	545.2	636.8	694.9
Marshall	493.4	536.0		359.3	406.1	487.9	459.4	584.2	552.1	696.7	553.3	638.0	591.9	624.5
Mason	811.9	1032.0		891.4	899.3	959.1	1056.5	971.1	1168.1	1173.1	1260.8	976.1	1004.4	879.4
Massac	665.3	619.7		774.6	760.0	855.8	979.9	734.9	707.1	813.0	848.3	817.0	890.7	699.9
McDonough	416.8	443.0		442.4	665.6	663.0	621.6	721.4	769.0	924.8	917.3	897.2	990.0	861.0
McHenry	360.2	356.0		289.8	322.9	316.3	276.6	287.0	247.8	289.8	241.6	206.9	206.4	192.2
McLean	135.0	129.8		127.1	114.2	124.8	127.2	128.2	127.1	131.0	137.9	122.1	122.0	129.7
Menard	199.9	404.7		914.8	946.9	1015.9	947.2	1201.1	718.7	1303.6	1558.5	1164.5	1524.2	1170.4
Mercer	435.5	352.8		420.8	463.8	440.0	627.5	591.5	652.1	652.8	778.7	629.9	754.3	826.6
Monroe	261.8	190.5		252.1	287.0	351.6	355.0	333.4	420.6	403.1	347.5	374.3	380.2	265.7
Montgomery	362.6	331.0		319.5	307.2	334.6	306.7	341.3	372.8	360.7	352.1	422.5	455.2	
Morgan	441.0	420.7		522.2	481.3	545.1	579.5	627.3	579.4	590.9	594.1	729.3	723.0	636.3
Moultrie	253.0	199.3		288.8	279.0	513.9	565.4	717.7	819.4	731.7	862.7	805.9	858.7	851.9
Ogle	638.4	640.3		553.7	607.5	595.6	501.9	449.3	452.4	466.3	448.1	485.6	466.1	417.7
Peoria	185.0	191.2		175.5	188.3	215.0	218.2	254.8	258.0	308.0	333.8	312.7	330.7	360.3
Perry	982.2	938.4		846.0	925.4	1225.5	1182.2	1196.1	1232.3	1417.7	1442.3	1392.5	1496.6	1320.5
Piatt	220.8	131.1		157.5	126.6	232.1	243.0	358.5	303.4	363.3	298.2	281.1	327.5	273.6
Pike	1493.0	1710.4		1514.7	1444.2	2187.5	1889.7	2176.7	2516.5	2527.1	2451.2	2221.5	2596.5	2333.2
Pope	1671.1	1669.8		1734.1	1771.1	1337.6	1208.9	1372.4	1680.8	1382.9	1217.0	1317.6	1600.1	1243.7

**APPENDIX B cont'd**

**DEER/VEHICLE COLLISIONS PER BILLION MILES: 1994-2007**

Note: DVC data was not collected for all roads by IDOT during 1996

County	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Pulaski	821.5	892.4	887.9	739.3	822.5	822.5	623.3	706.1	857.9	679.1	818.6	577.3	663.1	572.7
Putnam	438.2	915.6	844.2	931.3	1109.5	1324.3	1536.7	1557.2	1702.7	2052.4	1648.6	1582.9	1922.3	1922.3
Randolph	915.9	726.7	765.0	854.9	914.9	932.4	1018.3	1143.3	1121.2	1329.5	1226.7	1320.4	1078.3	1078.3
Richland	662.3	762.6	694.1	784.1	876.6	777.5	976.5	1168.5	1055.0	1103.1	1038.1	1265.9	1022.1	1022.1
Rock Island	149.5	142.7	199.5	152.5	118.0	95.8	114.6	116.7	129.5	110.6	104.0	226.2	302.6	302.6
Saline	618.9	596.3	733.0	691.6	867.6	739.9	879.1	847.5	762.3	769.3	882.7	773.6	960.3	960.3
Sangamon	186.7	185.4	211.9	192.0	215.4	201.2	248.4	239.6	288.7	260.2	283.6	285.4	285.0	285.0
Schuyler	966.4	1064.6	1122.9	1136.7	1262.6	1233.2	1582.1	1528.8	1828.4	2065.8	1915.5	1811.2	2296.6	2296.6
Scott	648.1	840.9	804.8	895.3	656.8	871.0	1042.5	1096.4	1191.7	1211.6	1197.2	1336.3	1173.2	1173.2
Shelby	610.3	593.8	539.1	600.4	647.7	608.7	764.7	738.0	971.9	803.9	788.4	869.9	773.0	773.0
St. Clair	114.1	103.6	113.2	101.6	127.9	114.8	143.2	128.8	158.3	139.4	143.9	154.9	142.3	142.3
Stark	527.9	575.5	478.2	500.2	687.5	655.5	692.4	858.5	905.4	986.4	1021.2	964.6	884.4	884.4
Stephenson	619.8	715.5	696.0	722.7	626.6	654.0	763.8	656.6	595.9	723.9	730.3	740.3	743.0	743.0
Tazewell	212.6	230.9	210.8	244.9	285.6	266.3	311.2	266.1	332.0	326.2	344.8	331.5	312.9	312.9
Union	821.6	774.3	646.1	575.5	771.9	794.7	786.4	766.0	708.7	606.9	656.9	769.1	689.2	689.2
Vermillion	160.6	123.1	120.5	199.4	159.4	154.5	181.4	234.2	281.2	341.7	291.4	293.5	308.1	308.1
Wabash	656.0	593.6	608.7	581.0	921.5	842.9	981.3	815.3	1258.3	1016.5	856.7	1133.0	987.0	987.0
Warren	333.2	380.5	462.7	421.7	567.8	513.2	675.0	766.0	774.8	819.5	725.8	797.9	630.2	630.2
Washington	306.3	274.7	368.3	346.0	365.0	368.2	538.7	480.1	545.2	599.9	454.5	539.7	362.6	362.6
Wayne	546.7	696.9	594.7	578.3	790.3	777.4	1084.8	1013.7	1184.2	1063.2	1103.7	971.9	985.9	985.9
White	537.8	587.0	618.6	724.7	656.4	736.4	858.1	959.8	1140.9	1139.2	1188.1	1222.1	1176.8	1176.8
Whiteside	356.9	386.0	370.8	358.3	365.7	338.0	431.3	437.5	465.9	530.0	462.2	548.6	501.5	501.5
Will	132.9	149.1	115.3	110.6	101.8	102.1	121.9	111.8	121.2	116.4	97.0	112.8	100.4	100.4
Williamson	550.9	471.5	410.2	388.3	474.3	447.7	519.3	464.8	524.6	486.0	447.6	458.3	467.6	467.6
Winnebago	220.2	195.1	182.0	167.8	175.1	154.3	182.8	192.9	181.7	175.5	150.3	150.3	141.7	141.7
Woodford	265.8	218.0	171.0	227.8	243.0	188.0	281.6	254.3	285.2	283.0	327.1	296.4	326.2	326.2
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>185.2</b>	<b>186.3</b>	<b>173.0</b>	<b>176.2</b>	<b>200.3</b>	<b>191.7</b>	<b>222.6</b>	<b>222.7</b>	<b>241.0</b>	<b>237.3</b>	<b>224.4</b>	<b>238.7</b>	<b>232.6</b>	<b>232.6</b>



## **APPENDIX C. DEER POPULATION OBJECTIVES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES**

### **Setting Deer Objectives**

#### **Background**

In setting an objective for the deer population, the goal is to strike a balance between a properly-managed, sustainable deer resource and a publicly-tolerable level of negative deer/human interactions, such as the level of car accidents.

Deer/vehicle accident (DVA) levels in Illinois have been identified as a primary concern resulting from an abundant deer herd, and the number of accidents is frequently pointed to as evidence of deer overpopulation. Since 2001, the number of accidents occurring each year throughout the state has ranged from a low of 22,933 to a high of 25,847. Although the trend in number of accidents during the past five years has not been increasing, recent accident numbers are considerably higher than during the 1990s when accident levels averaged about 17,000.

Since accidents are viewed as one of the major conflicts caused by abundant deer, it's logical to use accident levels as the measurable objective by which we judge whether management is maintaining herds at acceptable levels, rather than using specific deer numbers or densities. This approach addresses the problem directly, with the added benefits that (1) accident and traffic volume data are routinely collected by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and (2) deer/vehicle accident data are straight-forward and easily understandable to everyone, so we don't have to debate whether deer population estimates derived from scientific population models are valid or not.

#### **Relationship between DVAs and Deer Numbers**

Many variables relate to the number of automobile collisions with deer in a particular area: the size of the deer population; the amount of vehicular traffic using the roads; the speed limit; road and weather conditions; the amount and type of vegetation/cover along the roadways; the time of year; the time of day; etc. However, for purposes of monitoring trends over time (year to year), most of these factors can be assumed to remain constant, and the number of accidents will be primarily determined by (1) the number of deer, and (2) the amount of vehicular traffic. In order to monitor a DVA value that accurately relates to the size of the deer herd, the amount of vehicular traffic must be accounted for, else an increase in traffic resulting in higher DVAs would be mistakenly interpreted as increasing numbers of deer. Therefore, the number of deer vehicle accidents occurring within each county must be standardized to an accident RATE by dividing the accidents by the number of miles traveled. This results in an index to deer population size that is independent of the amount of traffic.

#### **Selecting an objective**

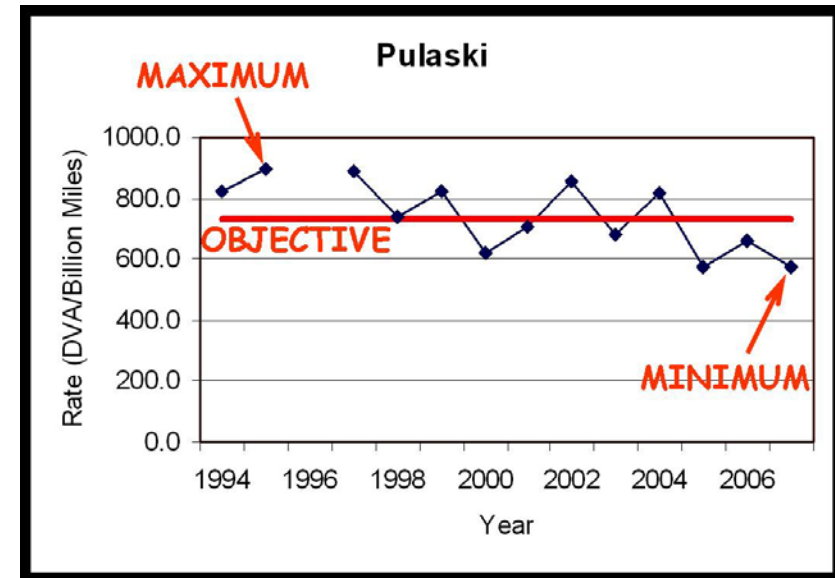
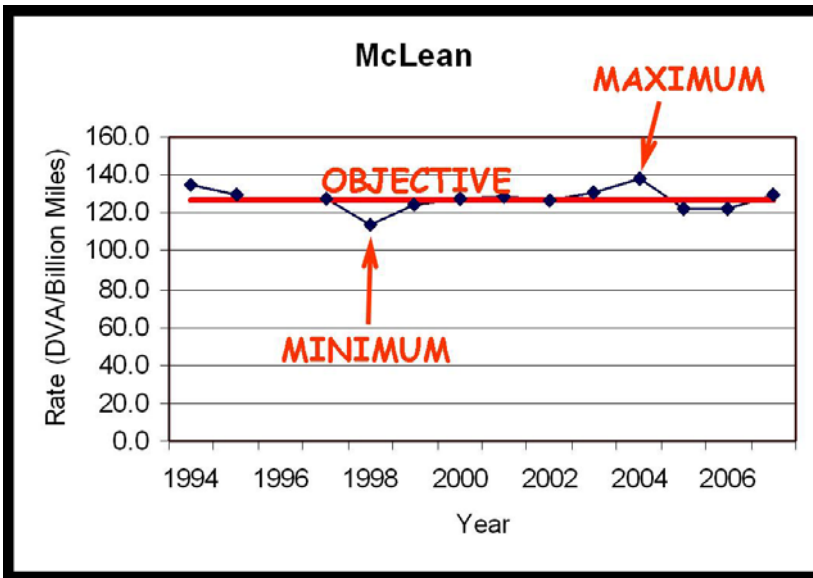
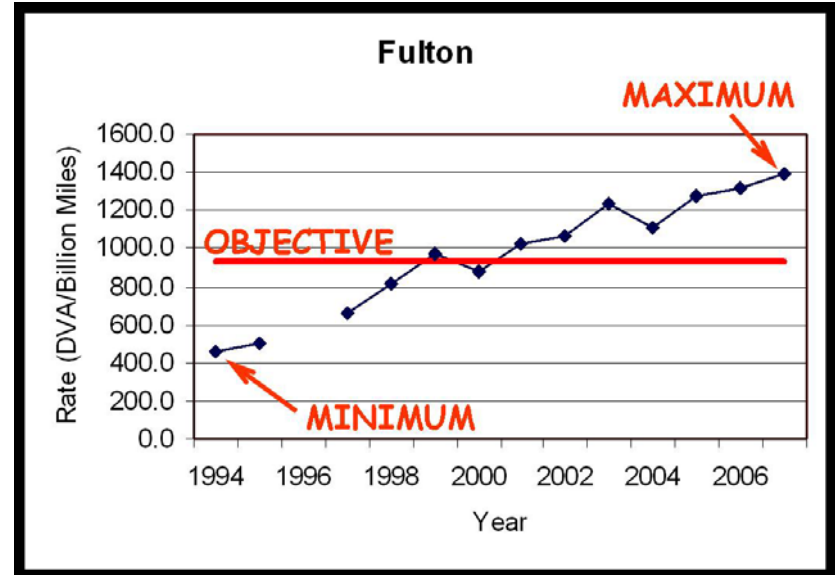
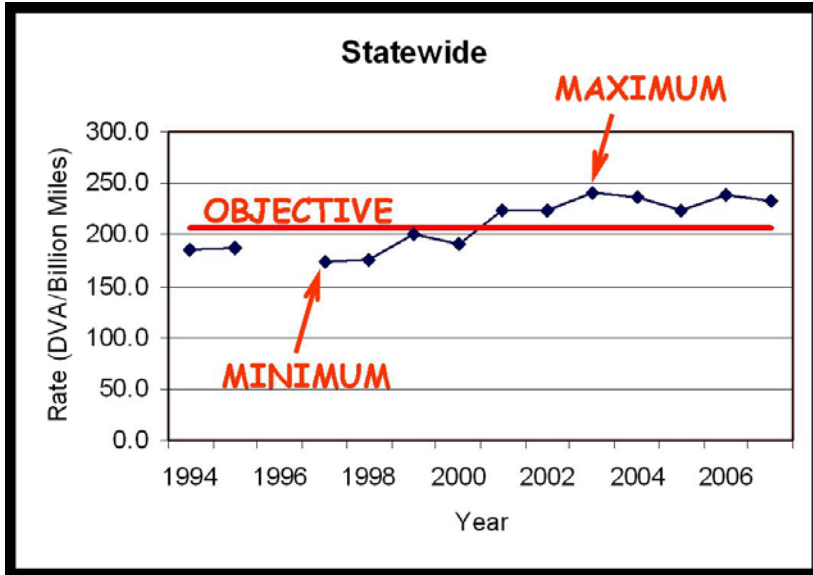
After considering a number of options, IDNR Forest Wildlife Program staff offered a potential objective for consideration by the Task Force. This objective was derived by identifying the highest and lowest rates of DVAs that occurred during the period 1994-2007, and setting the objective at the average of those two extreme levels (i.e.,  $[\text{MIN} + \text{MAX}]/2$ ). This approach was chosen because it worked well not only at the statewide level, but also for individual county data. At the county

level, it has the advantage over some of the other approaches in that it distributes necessary deer reductions more effectively into counties with rapid deer herd growth, rather than arbitrarily requiring reductions in every county across the board. Some charts are shown to illustrate the setting of this objective at the statewide level and for a variety of differing county situations (Figure 1).

**Resulting impacts of this objective**

Using this approach for setting deer objectives would result in a statewide DVA goal rate of 207 accidents/billion miles traveled, compared to the 2007 rate of 233 accidents/billion miles traveled (the peak of 241 accidents/billion miles traveled occurred in 2003). This is a decline of more than 11% from 2007, and 14% from 2003. In practical terms, if the number of miles traveled remain at 2007 levels, the above rate translates into about 22,000 accidents, compared to 24,201 – 25,847 during the past 5 years.

Figure 1. Examples of the proposed methodology for setting deer objectives based on rates of deer/vehicle accidents.



## Potential Management Approaches

IDNR Forest Wildlife Program staff offered the following potential management approaches to the JTF for consideration as means to reach an adopted objective. These approaches could be adopted singly, or in any combination (including all of them). They are ordered in sequence of increasing projected effectiveness:

- 1) Permits for the special antlerless-only season would be made available over-the-counter (OTC) at license vendors throughout the state. These permits would be county-specific, and would be available only for counties open to the special antlerless-only season. Currently, these permits are available only via a lottery drawing held in November.

### *BENEFITS:*

- *Permits would be more easily available to hunters.*
- *Would allow hunters to purchase permits after the conclusion of the firearm deer season, so they could replenish their supply of permits if they had used them all.*

### *DRAWBACKS:*

- *None known*

- 2) Two categories of counties open to the special antlerless-only firearm season would be designated: [a] those for which hunters may purchase only one (1) OTC permit; and [b] those for which hunters may purchase multiple OTC permits (unlimited). These categories would be based on the need for additional harvest (i.e., a county's status in relation to the set objective). Currently, only one special antlerless-only permit is allowed per hunter.

### *BENEFITS:*

- *Would allow for distribution of additional harvest into those counties that clearly need it.*

### *DRAWBACKS:*

- *None known*

- 3) Increase the length of the existing Late-Winter Antlerless-only Season from 3 days to 7 or 9 days. The season would open on an earlier date, rather than extending the season later in the year. Currently, the season begins on the first Friday after January 11, and lasts 3 days. Under the new scenario, the season would begin either on the first Monday after January 7 or the first Saturday after January 5.

### *BENEFITS:*

- *Would increase the number of days that firearm hunters have afield, while limiting the increased harvest to antlerless-deer only.*

### *DRAWBACKS:*

- *Hunter participation during the existing late-winter season has been disappointing. This is probably due primarily to poor weather, and perhaps because many hunters have already had their fill of hunting and/or have taken as many deer as they need in their freezer.*
- *Hunter success rates are significantly lower this time of year than in fall.*

- *It appears that much of the antlerless harvest during late seasons like this may be “compensatory” rather than “additive”. What this means is that having a special antlerless season after all the other seasons allows hunters during the regular firearm season to be more selective and “buck hunt”, and put off harvesting antlerless deer until the later season. As a result, the antlerless component of the regular firearm season decreases, and since hunter success is lower during the late-winter season we may not realize a net gain (or at least a significant one).*

4) Implement a special firearm antlerless-only season about the 3rd weekend in October.

**BENEFITS:**

- *Would increase the number of days that firearm hunters have afield, while limiting the increased harvest to antlerless-deer only.*
- *Weather conditions in October would be better than in January, which may help improve hunter participation and success rates.*
- *The season would occur before a large number of deer have been harvested, so success rates would be higher.*
- *The harvest would occur before the peak of deer/vehicle accidents (peak occurs in November), helping to reduce the risk of accidents in the fall.*
- *There is typically a decrease in archery harvest at this time; it picks back up as we move into the rut.*
- *Since the season would occur before regular gun seasons, the harvest is more likely to be ‘additive’ to the antlerless harvest in other seasons rather than simply compensating for increased hunter selectivity during the gun seasons.*

**DRAWBACKS:**

- *Archery season would have to be closed in participating counties, otherwise most outfitting businesses and archery hunters would ignore the season.*

5) Options 3 and 4 can be combined into a single option in which the two alternatives work together: i.e., the longer January season could be adopted with the caveat that if a county did not make measurable progress toward the target goal within a specified period of time (for example, 2-3 years), then the October antlerless-only season would be implemented to move that county toward the goal.

**BENEFITS:**

- *This provides a clear framework for a two-pronged approach to try to get counties to their population goal. All interested parties would know that if the January season was not successful in controlling the deer population adequately, then the October season would be implemented after a specified period of time.*
- *This approach should encourage hunter participation under alternative 3 (extended January antlerless season) if those hunters wished to avoid implementation of alternative 4 (October antlerless season).*

**DRAWBACKS:**

- *See individual options 3 and 4 (above).*

## **APPENDIX D. JTF POSITION ON URBAN DEER POPULATION ISSUES**

White-tailed deer are highly adaptable animals that thrive in urban, suburban and exurban areas (collectively termed “urban” areas) in the State. The Joint Deer Task Force (JDTF) recognizes that significant deer numbers combined with continuing urban development may result in public concern about deer-vehicle collisions and other negative deer-human interactions. Uncontrolled deer populations may also cause damage to natural areas situated in these urban locales.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) currently serves in an extension capacity to help resolve urban deer conflicts by providing information and technical assistance to the general public and to land-managing agencies/municipalities. IDNR also regulates the use of nontraditional (i.e., non-hunting) techniques to manage urban deer through oversight of the Deer Population Control Permit program. In cooperation with the University of Illinois Extension Service, IDNR recently expanded these efforts by launching a new “Living with Wildlife” website ([www.livingwithwildlife.uiuc.edu](http://www.livingwithwildlife.uiuc.edu)) to provide information about identifying and reducing problems caused by several species of wildlife, including deer. Per recommendations of the JDTF, the white-tailed deer section of this website will be bolstered to provide additional information on deer population control alternatives and damage abatement techniques, or a new website specific to deer will be created.

Deer management in urban areas poses unique problems as a result of potentially high numbers of both humans and deer occupying the same space, and because deer control methods traditionally used in rural situations may seem foreign and impractical to some in urban settings. However, controlled hunting programs implemented throughout the country in urban situations have demonstrated that hunting can be used as a safe, effective, and economical approach to urban deer control. JDTF acknowledges that conflicts between humans and deer are likely to affect more urban areas statewide in the future, and recommends that controlled hunting be considered and implemented wherever possible to address deer damage and deer overpopulation concerns in these urban situations.

## **APPENDIX E. POTENTIAL HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM**

One of the issues that has been brought to the attention of the Task Force is the importance of land access for hunters if deer population control is to be achieved, and the increasing difficulty in accessing property in many parts of the state.

There are parts of Illinois in which the number of deer exceeds levels acceptable to the public. Many such counties can be identified by their rates of deer/vehicle accidents. These deer population issues cannot be resolved unless there is a commitment by commercial hunting interests and by landowners to allow hunters access to assist with adequate deer harvest. Without access to these areas to achieve a proper level of doe harvest, concerted efforts at responsible deer management in those localities will be effectively neutralized. The most recent federal Farm Bill has funds available for support of States' access programs, but rules have yet to be promulgated that identify what States must do in order to qualify for funding.

It has been recommended that IDNR should initiate a new program focusing on hunter access, according to the following guidelines. The program would have a staff person whose sole responsibility is to deal with access possibilities within the state. The program would have a standing committee (similar to the Habitat Stamp Committee, Duck Stamp Committee, etc.). This committee would be comprised of various leaders from conservation organizations, Legislative Sportsmen's caucus leaders, and others deemed appropriate.

The DNR staff person would concentrate on those areas that are known to have deer population issues, but would not be limited to only those areas. All areas of the state would have consideration. The staff person would work with different entities to develop areas and programs with access potential. The lack of information about specific requirements for States' access programs in order to comply for Federal funding under the Farm Bill precludes us from making more specific programmatic recommendations at this time.

Lastly, DNR staff will collect and review information on developing an overall hunter recruitment and retention program. The focus of this program will be to maintain or increase hunter numbers needed to help control wildlife populations.

**APPENDIX F. SURVEY INSTRUMENT USED AT JTF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**JOINT DEER POPULATION MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
PUBLIC QUESTIONNAIRE AND COMMENT FORM  
September 2008**

Instructions: Please review the poster station associated with the Sections of this form. Staff are available to answer questions and help you get the information you need to complete this form. Return the questionnaire to the welcome desk prior to leaving. The questions and comments will be compiled and presented to the Deer Task Force and made available to the public.

**INFORMATION ABOUT YOU**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Which group do you most closely associate with? Please check only one.

- Farmer       Bowhunter       Wildlife Viewer       Orchardist
- Landowner       Firearm Deer Hunter       Environmentalist       Nursery Business
- Homeowner       Motorist       Meat Processor
- Commercial Hunting Business       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you hunt deer? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Have you hit a deer with a vehicle? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Have you experienced crop or landscape plant damage caused by deer? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Are you concerned about environmental damage caused by deer? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

**DEER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES** (Please review the poster station on objectives prior to completing)

How would you rate the number of deer in the county you hunt or live?

\_\_\_ Too many deer    \_\_\_ About the right number of deer    \_\_\_ Too few deer    \_\_\_ I am not sure

How would you like to see the number of deer change in the next 5 years in the county you hunt or live?

\_\_\_ Increase greatly    \_\_\_ Increase somewhat    \_\_\_ Stay the same  
\_\_\_ Decrease greatly    \_\_\_ Decrease somewhat    \_\_\_ I am not sure

Do you feel that the rate of deer vehicle collisions (number of accidents per vehicle miles traveled) is a good indicator of population trends of the deer herd?

\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    \_\_\_ No opinion

If no, what do you feel would be a good indicator of population trends of the deer herd?

\_\_\_\_\_



**APPENDIX F cont'd**

Do you feel that the rate of deer vehicle collisions (number of accidents per vehicle miles traveled) is a good measure upon which to evaluate deer management decisions?

Yes     No     No opinion

If no, what do you feel would be a good measure upon which to base deer management decisions?

\_\_\_\_\_

**DEER MANAGEMENT APPROACHES** (Please review the poster station on approaches prior to completing)

**Approach 1.** Over-the-counter permits during the Late-Winter, Antlerless Deer Hunting Season

Do you support the implementation of Approach 1?

Yes     No     No Position

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Approach 2.** Two categories of counties would be opened during the Late-Winter Antlerless Deer Hunting Season based upon the status of the deer population in that county: 1) counties in which a hunter can purchase a single permit and 2) counties where hunters can obtain an unlimited number of permits.

Do you support the implementation of Approach 2?

Yes     No     No Position

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Approach 3.** Increase the length of the Late-Winter Antlerless-only Season from the current 3 days to 7 or 9 days.

Do you support the implementation of Approach 3?

Yes     No     No Position

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX F cont'd**

**Approach 4.** Implement a special antlerless-only firearm deer hunting season about the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in October.

Do you support the implementation of Approach 4?

Yes     No     No Position

Comments:

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**Approach 5.** Implement Approach 3 and only implement Approach 4 if no measurable progress is made using Approach 3 towards the county's objective within a reasonable time frame.

Do you support the implementation of Approach 5?

Yes     No     No Position

Comments:

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**CREATE YOUR OWN OBJECTIVE AND APPROACH** (Based on your objective, what other deer management approach would you like for the Deer Task Force to consider?)

OBJECTIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

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APPROACH: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPENDIX F cont'd**

**PRIVATE LAND ACCESS FOR DEER HUNTING**

Do you feel that lack of access to private land is a significant problem for managing deer?

\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    \_\_\_ Do not know

If you are a landowner, do you lease your land for deer hunting?

\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    \_\_\_ Not a landowner; or my land is too small or unsuitable for leasing

If you hunt deer, who owns the land on which you hunt?

- I hunt on public land
- I hunt on private land I own
- I hunt on private land owned by a friend or family member
- I hunt on private land owned by a person I did not previously know
- I hunt on private land I lease
- I hunt on private land I hired an outfitter to access
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you hunt deer, have you lost free access to deer hunting lands due to another hunter leasing the land?

\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No

Do you support the development of a private land access program by DNR?

\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    \_\_\_ No opinion

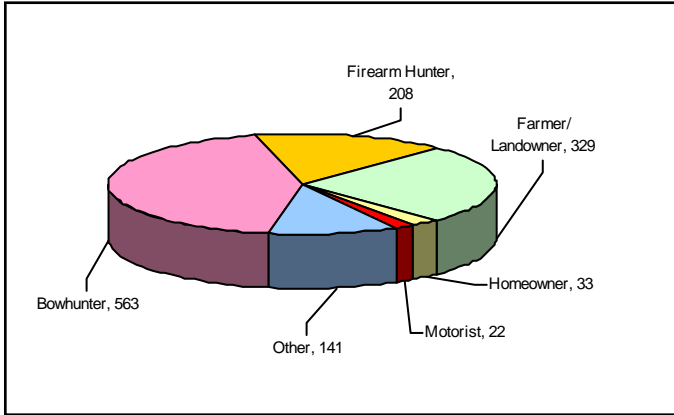
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

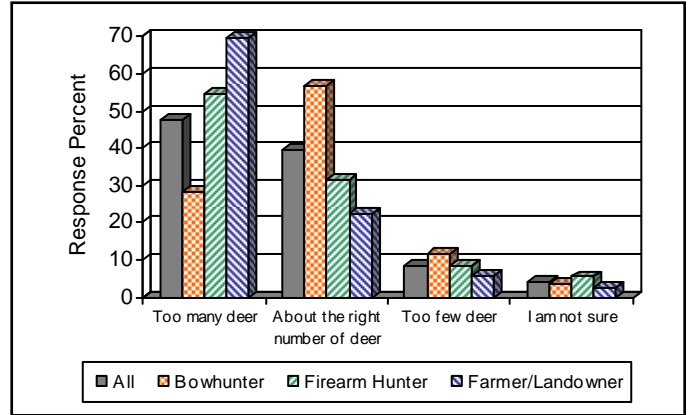
**Thank You for Taking the Time to Complete this Form  
Please Return Your Completed Form to the Reception Table**

**This comment form will also be made available on DNR's website  
[www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us)**

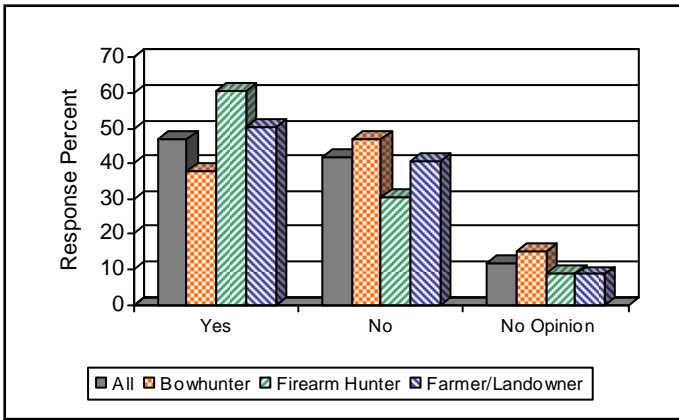
## APPENDIX G. SUMMARIZED RESULTS OF PUBLIC SURVEYS



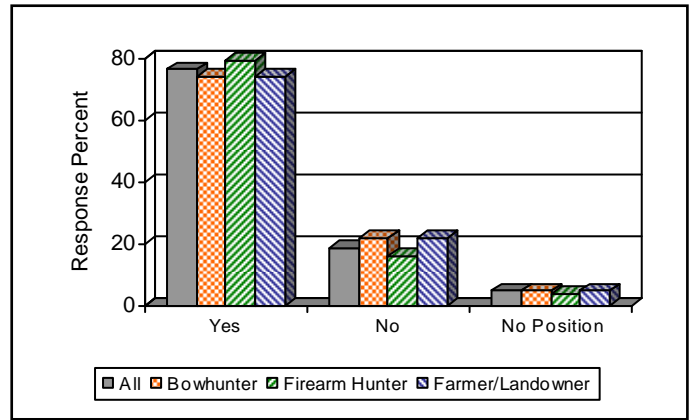
Number of respondents in various groups who completed a JTF survey (1,296 total).



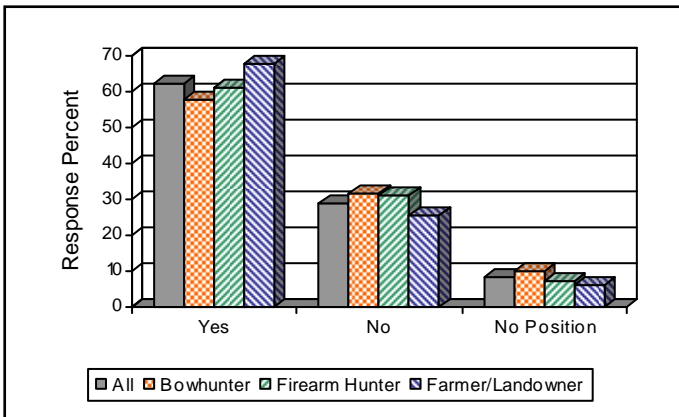
Responses to: How would you rate the number of deer in the county you hunt or live?



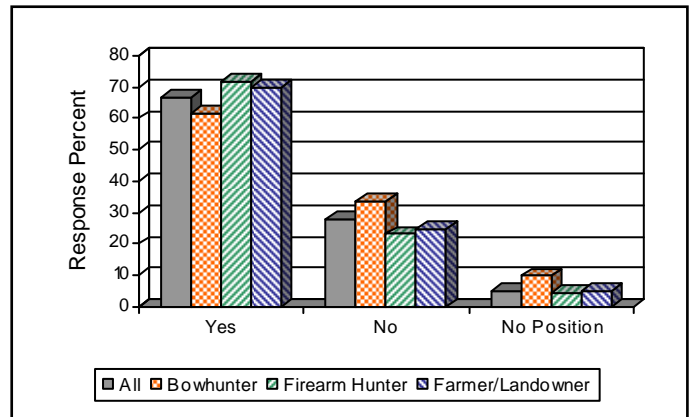
Responses to: Do you feel that the rate of deer vehicle collisions is a good indicator of population trends of the deer herd?



Responses to: Do you support implementation of Approach 1 - selling permits for the Late-Winter Antlerless Deer Season over-the-counter?

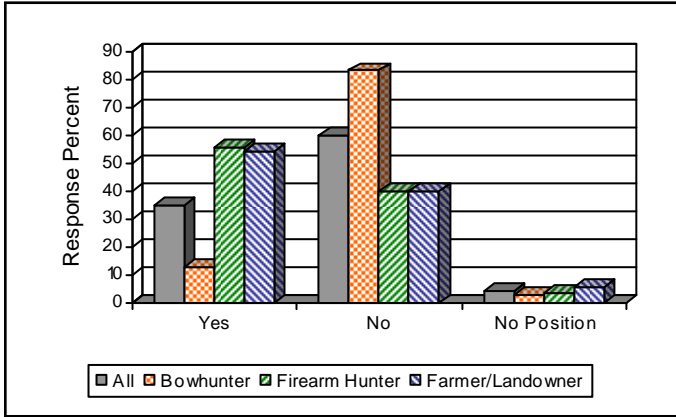


Responses to: Do you support implementation of Approach 2 - designating two categories of counties open to the Late-Winter Season based upon deer population status?

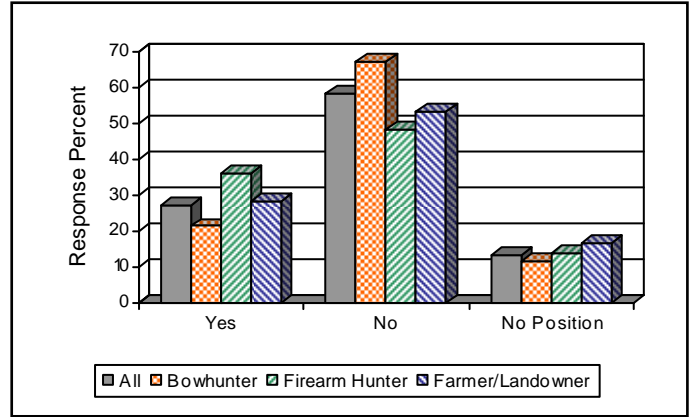


Responses to: Do you support implementation of Approach 3 - increasing the length of the Late-Winter Deer Season from 3 days to 7 or 9 days?

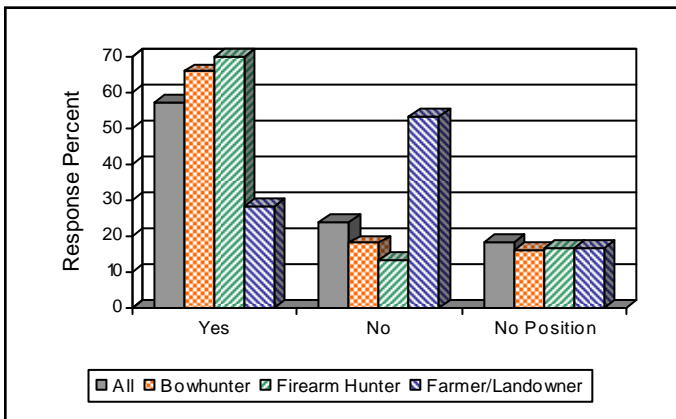
APPENDIX G cont'd



Responses to: Do you support implementation of Approach 4 - creating a special antlerless-only firearm deer season about the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in October?



Responses to: Do you support lengthening the January antlerless season, with the understanding that an October antlerless season would be added later in counties where reasonable progress was not made toward the objective?



Responses to: Do you support the development of a private land access program by DNR?