

Forest Preserve District of Will County

Deer Management Program 2015-2016 Report

Summary Report for IDNR Deer Population Control Permit Numbers:

JMJ013-15, JMJ014-15, JMJ015-15, JMJ016-15, JMJO 17-15, JMJO 18-15, JMJ019-15

The Forest Preserve District of Will County removed a total of 200 white-tailed deer from seven preserve areas permitted for deer management (Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve, Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve, McKinley Woods Preserve, Kankakee Sands Geologic Area, Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, Hickory Creek Preserve and Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve) between December 01, 2015 and February 03, 2016.

A brief analysis of the data indicates that of the deer removed, 59% were female and 41% were male, 30% of all deer removed this season were fawns, and 44% of all females were visibly pregnant (1 female was not identified as gravid or not gravid). This percentage is slightly down from 45% in 2014-2015

Age Class by Preserve				
Preserve	Adult	Fawn	Yearling	Total
Lockport Prairie	8	6	1	15
Romeoville Prairie	12	6	2	20
McKinley Woods	11	13	6	30
Kankakee Sands	22	9	14	45
Goodenow Grove	14	3	3	20
Hickory Creek	35	19	6	60
Raccoon Grove	6	4	0	10
Total	108	60	32	200

In 2015-16, the 117 females taken averaged 119lbs, and the 83 males taken averaged 122lbs. In 2014-15, the 118 total females taken from the combined preserves averaged 120 lbs., and the 83 males averaged 130 lbs. The lower average weights of males in 2015-2016 are likely due to the greater number of fawns taken that season.

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve (LPN) take consisted of 12 females (80%) with an average weight of 107.8 lbs., and 3 males (20%) with a weight of 136.1 lbs.

Lockport Prairie (LPN)			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Female			
Adult	6	801.4	133.6
Yearling	1	134.8	134.8
Fawn	5	357.7	71.5
total	12	1293.9	107.8
Male	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	2	339.6	169.8
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	1	68.8	68.8
total	3	408.4	136.1

Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve (RPN) take consisted of 9 females (45%) with an average weight of 122.1 lbs., and 11 males (55%) with a weight of 127.6 lbs.

Romeoville Prairie (RPN)			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	6	836.2	139.4
Yearling	1	119.2	119.2
Fawn	2	143.2	71.6
total	9	1098.6	122.1
Male	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	6	967.2	161.2
Yearling	1	120.2	120.2
Fawn	4	315.8	79.0
total	11	1403.2	127.6

McKinley Woods Preserve (MWP) produced a take of 18 females (60%) with an average weight of 107.8 lbs., and 12 males (40%) with an average weight of 105.5 lbs.

McKinley Woods Preserve (MWP)			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	6	837.5	139.6
Yearling	5	593.4	118.7
Fawn	7	509.8	72.8
total	18	1940.7	107.8
Male	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	5	721.8	144.4
Yearling	1	99.0	99.0
Fawn	6	445.2	74.2
total	12	1266.0	105.5

The Kankakee Sands Geologic Area (KGA) produced 32 females (71%) with an average weight of 123.7 lbs., and 13 males (29%) with an average weight of 113.9 lbs.

Kankakee Sands Geologic Area (KGA)			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Female			
Adult	17	2334.6	137.3
Yearling	11	1310.2	119.1
Fawn	4	313.8	78.5
total	32	3958.6	123.7
Male			
Adult	5	700.6	140.1
Yearling	3	348.4	116.1
Fawn	5	432.0	86.4
total	13	1481.0	113.9

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve (GGN) produced 11 females (55%) with an average weight of 122.2 lbs., and 9 males (45%) with an average weight of 155.8 lbs.

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve (GDN)			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Female			
Adult	6	881.4	146.9
Yearling	2	233.6	116.8
Fawn	3	229.2	76.4
total	11	1344.2	122.2
Male			
Adult	8	1293.9	161.7
Yearling	1	108.2	108.2
Fawn	0	0	0
total	9	1402.1	155.8

Hickory Creek Preserve (HCP) produced a take 33 females (55%) with an average weight of 120.9 lbs., and 27 males (45%) with an average weight of 118.2 lbs.

Hickory Creek Preserve (HCP)			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	20	2825.1	141.3
Yearling	5	602.8	120.6
Fawn	8	560.9	70.1
total	33	3988.8	120.9
Male	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	15	2262.4	150.8
Yearling	1	96.8	96.8
Fawn	11	831.0	75.5
total	27	3190.2	118.2

The Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve (RGN) produced 2 females (20%) with an average weight of 137.0 lbs., and 8 males (80%) with an average weight of 121.1 lbs.

Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve (RGN)			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	2	274.0	137.0
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	0	0	0
total	2	274.0	137.0
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Male	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	4	669.8	167.5
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	4	298.7	74.7
total	8	968.5	121.1

Freedom Sausage, of Earlville, Illinois, processed 200 deer producing 9,000 pounds of ground venison. Meat from any animals with a destroyed and/or unusable Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sample was disposed of. One (1) CWD sample was destroyed during take and the meat corresponding to that CWD sample was disposed of by the processor. Northern Illinois Food Bank, in St. Charles, Illinois received the remainder of the ground venison (8,955 lbs.) for distribution to needy families in northeastern Illinois. Internal organs and waste materials were collected for rendering by Kuluzny Brothers of Joliet, Illinois.

As directed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), multiple samples were taken for CWD from the deer before they were processed. The samples obtained were shipped to Centralia IDOA lab in Centralia, Illinois. Staff shipped a total of 104 samples for CWD testing. No samples tested positive for CWD.

Cost Analysis:

Four FPDWC Police Officers, one FPDWC Police seasonal employee, and four rotating volunteers participated on the Deer Management (DM) sharpshooting team. A Natural Resource Management (NRM) employee assisted in the program with removing retropharyngeal lymph nodes and brain stem samples.

Here are the shifts that the officers and employees worked during the deer management season:

- Officer 1 – October 4th, 2015 – February 12th, 2016, approx 2:00pm-12:00am, Monday through Thursday
- Officer 2 – December 7th, 2015 – February 3rd, 2016, approx 2:00pm-10:00pm, 7 shifts total, plus Friday cleanup
- Officer 3 – December 7th, 2015 – February 3rd, 2016, approx 2:00pm-10:00pm, 7 shifts total, plus Sunday feed
- Officer 4 – December 7th, 2015 – February 3rd, 2016, approx 2:00pm-10:00pm, 9 shifts total, plus Friday cleanup
- Seasonal – November 1st, 2015 – February 3rd, 2016, approx 2:00pm-12:00am, Monday through Thursday
- NRM – December 7th, 2015 – February 3rd, 2016, approx 4 hours per DM day

These officers also worked deer management duties on Sundays and Fridays. These officers had to be replaced on their regular shifts by part time patrol officers. A separate full time officer was used to deliver the deer to Freedom Sausage, Earlville, IL on Fridays. This officer was not replaced on shift and therefore does not account for any staffing costs below. The NRM employee was not replaced and therefore does not account for any staffing costs below. Below is a chart detailing an approximate cost of police staff utilized during this program. This chart reflects the cost of part time officers used to replace full time officers on patrol, as well as the cost of the seasonal employee. The program was permitted for December 7th, 2015 through February 29th, 2016. An additional 30 deer were permitted by IDNR to be culled from Kankakee Sands, Sand Ridge Savanna, and Braidwood Dunes and Savanna, due to a positive result for CWD in that area two seasons prior. Only 25 out of the 30 were culled, bringing the total deer culled to 200 out of 205 permitted. The processing for those 25 deer was paid for by the IDNR.

Police Staffing Costs:

	Hours			Hourly Wage		Totals
Officer 1	760	*	x	\$19.59	=	\$14,888.40
Officer 2	56	**	x	\$19.59	=	\$1,097.04
Officer 3	56	***	x	\$19.59	=	\$1,097.04
Officer 4	72	****	x	\$19.59	=	\$1,410.48
Seasonal	560	*****	x	\$19.59	=	\$10,970.40
						\$29,463.36

- * 19 weeks, 4 days per week, 10 hours per day = 760 hours (PT replacement)
- ** 7 shifts, 8 hours per shift = 56 hours (PT replacement)
- *** 7 shifts, 8 hours per shift = 56 hours (PT replacement)
- **** 9 shifts, 8 hours per shift = 72 hours (PT replacement)
- ***** 14 weeks, 4 days per week, 10 hours per day = 560 hours

Operational Costs:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Freedom Sausage	processing	\$6,300.00
Will County Sheriff	ammunition	\$3,172.00
Walter Konow	bait	\$1,840.00
Fox Optics	rifle scopes	\$1,233.51
Cabella's	tree stands, etc	\$938.78
Richs Yamaha	snowmobile winterization	\$914.05
Misc	supplies	\$723.49
Kaluzny Bros Inc	rendering	\$800.00
Ray O'Herron's	supplies	\$795.15
Menards	batteries, tools, gloves, etc.	\$689.09
Berkots, DD/BR, etc	food	\$379.03
Bass Pro	supplies	\$279.96
Midway	targets, pants, jacket, etc	\$220.99
		<u>\$18,286.05</u>

Miscellaneous supplies and necessities purchased during the program included various tools, miscellaneous nuts and bolts, gloves, gutting tools, rifle equipment, flashlights, batteries, etc.

Summary

Staffing	Operational			Total Deer	Cost per deer			
Costs	Costs							
\$29,463.36	+	\$18,286.05	=	\$47,749.41	/	200	=	\$238.75

\$239/deer

An additional cost this season was for the improvement of the concrete floor and drainage system in the Donahue Barn where the deer processing occurs. This processing includes the removal of the retropharyngeal lymph nodes and brain stem samples, as well as field dressing the deer. This additional cost was \$16,000.00, and will improve the productivity of the deer management process and does not add an additional cost per deer for this individual season.

The cost per deer during the 2015-2016 deer management program was \$238.75 indicating that the efficiency of the Deer Management sharpshooting team remained consistent. Since the inception of the District's Deer Management Program in 2010, a total of 38,385 pounds of ground venison has been donated to the Northern Illinois Food Bank for distribution to needy families in northeastern Illinois: (6,030 lbs. in 2010-2011; 4,455 lbs. in 2011-2012; 9,900 lbs. in 2013-2014; 9,000 lbs. in 2014-2015; and 9,000 lbs. in 2015-2016).