

URBAN DEER POPULATION CONTROL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

February 2, 2007

POLICY

1. Wildlife is owned by the State (MS 97A.025), however the State is not liable for damages caused by wildlife (MS 3.736).
2. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages deer populations primarily through regulated hunting seasons. When a local governmental unit (LGU) precludes hunting through weapons discharge or other ordinances, responsibility for deer population management reverts substantially to the LGU.
3. DNR provides technical assistance and coordination to LGU 's for controlling deer populations.

PROCEDURES

1. DNR Area Wildlife Managers maintain a Wildlife Complaint Inquiry Log, detailing locations and nature of deer damage, which is provided to local governments on request.
2. When citizens request deer population control, they are referred to the LGU.
3. When the LGU decides to address deer population control the Area Wildlife Manager provides the following assistance:
 - A. Assist with the development of deer population surveys.
 - B. Provide estimates of probable population growth and deer removal needs to meet desired population density goals.
 - C. Meet with the LGU, citizens and committees/task forces to discuss possible control options and make recommendations.
4. If the LGU decides to pursue deer population control, DNR requires the following:
 - A. Deer population estimate.
 - B. Deer population goal.
 - C. Public involvement: an open process to allow citizen discussion/input, such as public

- D. A written plan to achieve and maintain the population goal, including information on non-lethal damage abatement techniques.
 - E. Keep and maintain accurate records of deer-vehicle collisions.
 - F. Institute and maintain a standardized system to record citizen complaints.
5. DNR strongly recommends that the LGU also do the following, so that results of deer control can be measured.
- A. Survey public opinion and experiences in the area/community, preferably with a statistically valid mail and/or interview instrument.
 - B. Survey deer damage to vegetation in natural areas.
6. Upon completion of a deer management plan, if deer removal outside of normal hunting is proposed, the LGU must apply in writing for a DNR deer removal permit annually to remove a specific number of deer. Population control methods which may be approved are shooting with firearms or archery equipment, including trapping deer and dispatching them in the trap, and experimental immunocontraception (see Minnesota Rule 6212.1750 PERMITS FOR USE OF CONTRACEPTIVE CHEMICALS). Trap and transfer of deer will not be allowed.
7. The LGU must provide DNR with data on sex, age and location of deer taken, as well as number and sex of fetus' present in females.
8. All deer taken must be field dressed and donated to charitable organizations, conservation organizations or otherwise need individuals.