

2012 Deer Population Goal Setting

History

A deer population goal setting process was conducted over a 3 year period (2005 – 2007) throughout Minnesota. One of the primary concerns at this time was forest sustainability, as Minnesota's deer population was at historic highs.

Stakeholder teams representing broad interests were formed using input from local DNR Wildlife staff and the Wildlife Roundtable mailing list. These teams gave direction to DNR on deer population direction (increase, decrease, remain the same). DNR then solicited public input via an online presentation and survey.

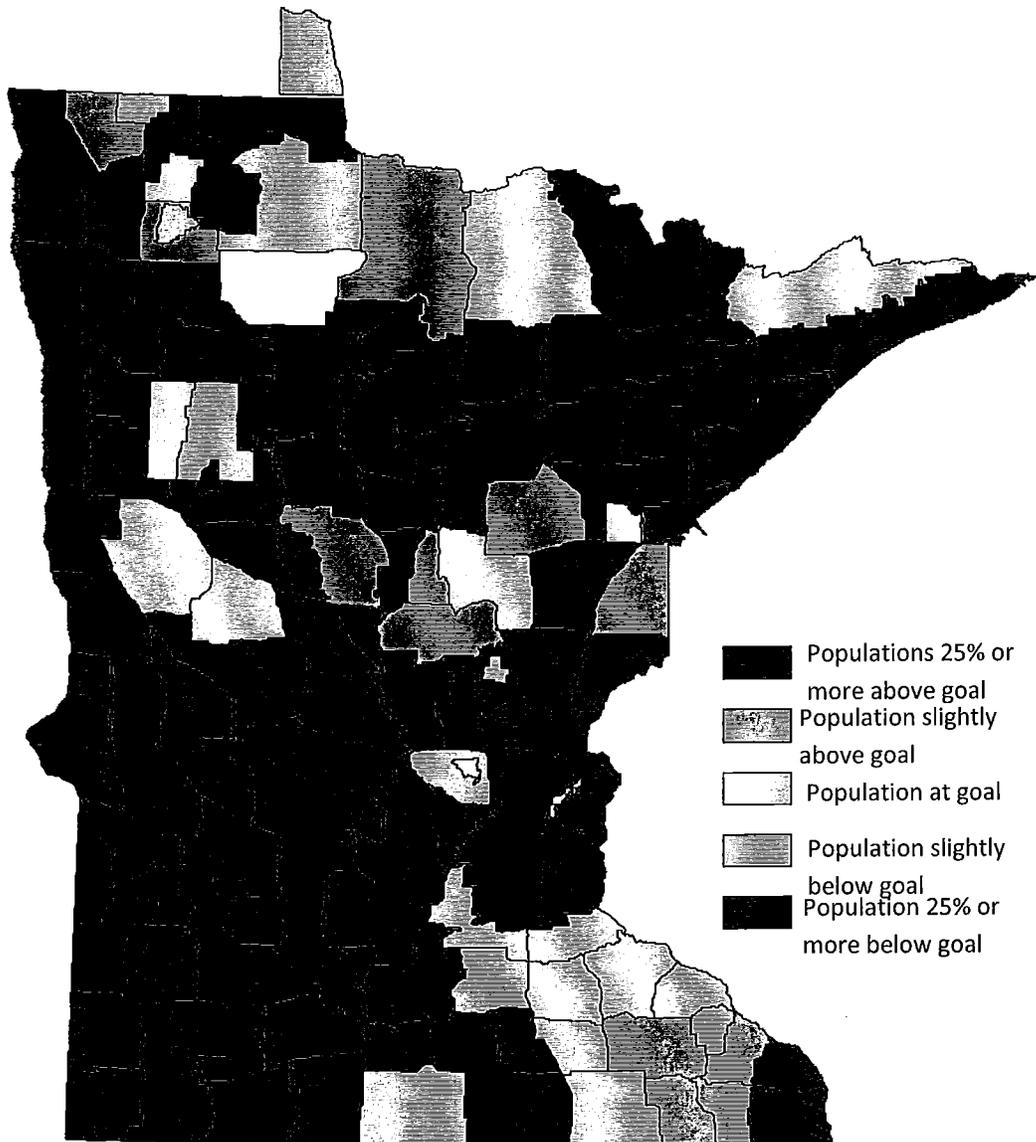
In total, nearly one-half of the permit areas were slated for a population reduction. Conversely, recommendations were made to increase populations in 40% of permit areas, which were mostly associated with the farmland region of western, southern, and southwest Minnesota. As a result, several deer management changes were instituted that provided for increased recreational opportunity and more liberal bag limits. High antlerless harvest rates, along with liberal bag limit while contributing to high harvest numbers, also led to the decline in the statewide deer population.

Current Status

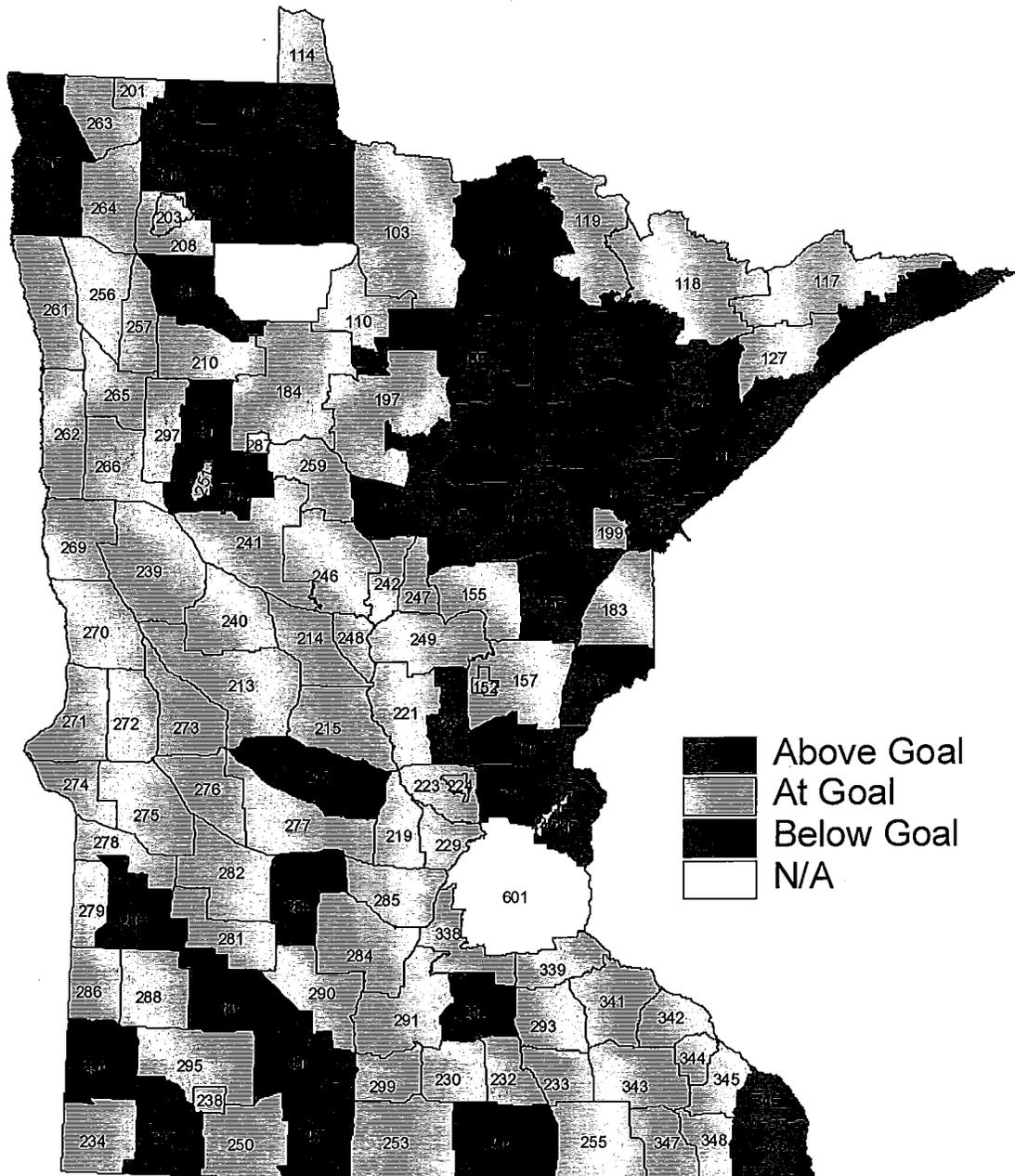
Since 2003, harvest regulations have been used to attempt to move deer populations towards the established goals. With few exceptions they have been successful, especially in those areas that were identified for population reductions. Nearly 70% of permit areas are now within goal and 15 percent are below. Eighteen percent remain over goal levels.

Next Steps

1. Deer population goals will be reevaluated for a select number of permit areas in 2012. This process will begin in late winter 2012.
2. Stakeholder groups will be convened.
 - a. The southwestern part of the state will be given top priority. We will also initiate the process in the southeast, and in portions of the northern forest.
 - b. The original stakeholder groups will again be used if the individuals are still interested in participating.
 - c. Participating stakeholder group members will be asked to respond to a written questionnaire.
3. The outcomes from these groups will be made available to the public for their input via a web-based instrument, likely in April or early May, 2012
4. Decisions from this process will inform the harvest strategies for the 2012 deer season in these select areas.

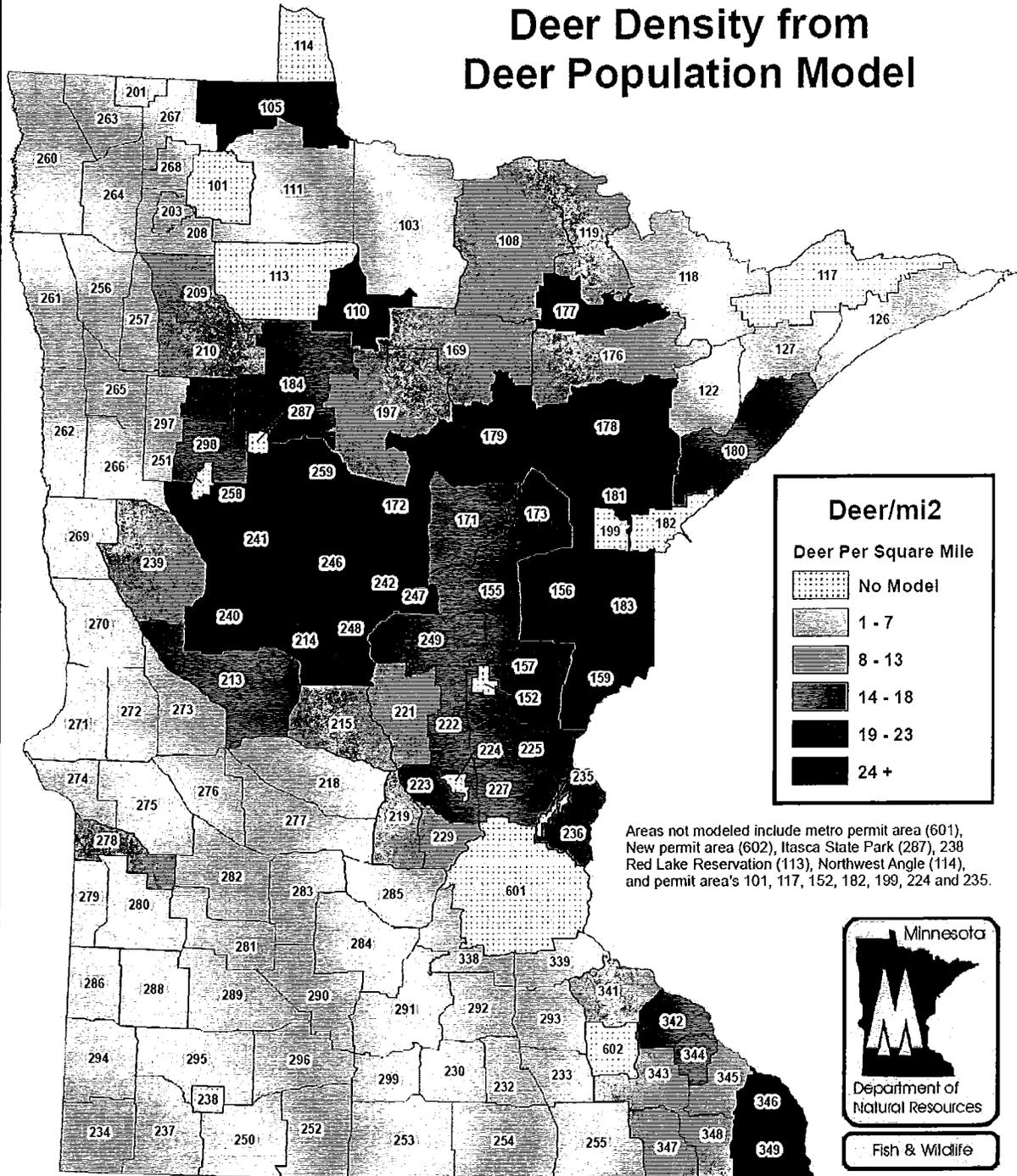


Direction from the 2005 to 2007 Goal Setting Process. Red permit areas are where the goal was to lower deer populations, while the green PAs was to increase the population.



Spring 2011 modeled deer populations relative to established goals.

2011 Pre - Fawn Deer Density from Deer Population Model



Data Source: Deer Modeling 2011, Mark Lenarz, Forest Wildlife Populations and Research Group. Marrett Grund, Farmland Wildlife Research Group

Date: 6/7/2011



DATE: August 21, 2012
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Mike Aschenbrener, Police Chief
SUBJECT: Deer Population Management Plan

BACKGROUND

The City of Mendota Heights adopted its first deer management plan in 1995 with assistance from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and began working with the Metro Bow Hunters Resource Base (MBHRB) at that time to provide the hunters. Since that time the hunt has changed along with the density of the populations in the City of Mendota Heights. In 2008, the council adopted a resolution to continue with the same deer management plan under the same rules as we had used since the 2004 hunt. The MBHRB has received high marks from the property owners on whose land they have hunted.

See attached copy of code governing hunting and discharge of bow and arrow and/guns.

The City Code 5-1-1 prohibits discharges of firearms or bow and arrow with four exemptions, one of which is for deer population control hunts under city direction. Code 5-4-1 prohibits all other hunting in the city with exemptions for government employees and persons who meet an exemption in 5-4-1 B.

We regularly receive requests to hunt private property within the City of Mendota Heights. Generally the call is from a hunter who knows or has permission from a land owner to hunt property in the city. In the past ten years, the city has not granted a hunting exemption to a private party and has only issued a single archery permit. It has been approximately 15 years since the city maintained a public archery practice area.

A group of residents requested the city consider deer population control in their neighborhoods. At the goal setting workshop, an outline was discussed for potential options to expand the current status of the deer population management plan.

Since the City Council goal setting workshop several things have occurred:

- A review of the rules for hunting in neighboring communities has been completed.

- There have been several meetings with the MBHRB to discuss and review the options they offer the city.
- A staff discussion has occurred around what public properties (parks, open space, or outlots) could be included in an expanded management hunt.
- Initial contacts have been put out to additional large private and public property owners in the city to determine if there is interest for participation in the deer population management hunts.

At this time no smaller parcel property owners have been approached for inclusion in a hunt. Once a plan is in place, additional discussions could take place with individual property owners to discuss hunting on private property at the owner's request.

The current hunt land owners have also requested the hunters shoot coyotes while hunting deer. A review of Minnesota State Statutes shows this would be legal. During MBHRB meetings it was learned that the coyotes have become so accustomed to humans that they were unafraid of them while hunting. Each hunter stated they saw multiple coyotes during the deer hunts. They will not do exclusive coyote hunting. They will shoot and properly dispose of nuisance coyotes if the city authorizes them to do so. This would only be incidental to the deer population management hunts.

The MBHRB advised that they would prefer a contract with the City should we continue to work with them to manage the deer herd. They provided a copy of the contract they use with other cities. They work with numerous other cities and counties to keep the deer population under control in the metro. In the past few years they have stopped working with communities and one county when the elected officials chose to open the hunt areas to public hunting.

It would be my recommendation that city contract with the MBHRB to hunt on public and private lands in the city. I would further recommend that the city continues to only approve the MBHRB hunts, sign a contract with the MBHRB, authorize them to shoot coyotes as part of the hunt, and allow private property owners to request deer hunting on their property by the MBHRB (subject to city approval). I also request that city staff develop a policy governing the deer population management process and reports the results of the hunt annually to the Council.

See attached contract proposal, resolution and map of potential public properties to be hunted.

BUDGET IMPACT

The police department spends approximately 20 hours of staff time annually maintaining this project and by extending the permissions out to 5 years we would reduce city resources spent on this project. The City would agree to pay \$50 per year to be named as an insured on the MBRB liability policy.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the attached resolution and authorize staff to sign a contract with the MBRB.

**City of Mendota Heights
Dakota County, Minnesota**

RESOLUTION NO. 12-74

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DEER POPULATION CONTROL BOW HUNT ON
PRIVATE PROPERTY AND PUBLIC PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the City of Mendota Heights has received requests from various affected property owners to reduce the number of deer within the City of Mendota Heights; and

WHEREAS, these property owners have expressed concerns regarding this growing deer population and its associated negative impacts including excessive deer browsing and damage to vegetation and traffic safety concerns due to accidental deer-vehicle collisions; and

WHEREAS, the City has conducted numerous similar hunts in previous years which were deemed successful; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to maintain a reasonable deer population with the City boundaries; and

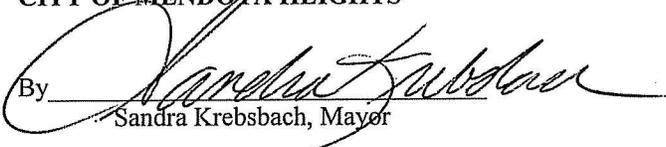
WHEREAS, such a balance can only be achieved through regular on-going deer population control efforts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes a limited deer hunt within Mendota Heights during the authorized Minnesota Bow Hunting Season as set by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, subject to the following conditions:

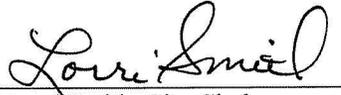
- 1) The Metro Bow Hunters Resource Base (MBHRB) receives written reauthorization from each private property owner wishing to participate in the program once every five years.
- 2) MBHRB notifies the City in writing of the property they are authorized to hunt on before they begin hunting.
- 3) The hunt is conducted by the Metro Bow Hunters Resource Base (MBRB) who will certify and select qualified bow hunters to participate in the hunt.
- 4) All deer shall be taken by bow and arrow in a safe and humane manner.
- 5) The number of deer taken shall not exceed that recommended by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. MBRB will notify the City of Mendota Heights of the number of deer taken during the previous season.
- 6) Deer of any age or sex maybe taken, however, bow hunters shall not pass up shots at antler less deer.
- 7) Hunters are authorized to shoot nuisance coyotes.
- 8) All hunters must be appropriately licensed and hold valid tags as issued by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Mendota Heights this 4th day of September 2012.

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS**

By 
Sandra Krebsbach, Mayor

ATTEST:

By 
Lorri Smith, City Clerk

CONTRACT FOR GOODS/SERVICES

City of Mendota Heights (City), a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, is in need of services and/or goods (hereinafter "services") and Metro Bowhunters Resource Base, Inc., PO Box 161 Circle Pines, MN 55014 (Contractor) desires to provide such services.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and agreements contained herein the parties enter into this Contract and agree as follows:

1. TERM. The term of this Contract is from the date of execution by all parties through December 31, 2017, or until all work under this Contract is completed and payments made, which ever occurs first, unless earlier terminated by law or according to the provisions of this Contract.
2. SCOPE OF SERVICES. The City requests and the Contractor agrees to provide the services that are attached and incorporated as Exhibit A. If there is a conflict between this Contract and Exhibit A, this Contract shall govern. Services provided under this Agreement will be conducted in a manner consistent with that level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of the Contractor's occupation performing services under similar conditions.
3. PAYMENT. The City agrees to pay for the services, including expenses in an amount not to exceed \$50.00, (check if applicable) and in accordance with payment rates or schedule set forth in the Exhibit(s). The City will reimburse MBRB for the cost to list the City as an additional insured party on its insurance policy for these services.
4. CITY LIAISON. Contractor shall work closely with the City's liaison, Glen Blair, 763-291-7380.
5. GENERAL CONDITIONS. The General Conditions of this Contract are attached and incorporated as Exhibit B.
6. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Contract is the final expression of the agreement of the parties and the complete and exclusive statement of the terms agreed upon.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Contract on the date(s) indicated below.

FOR CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS

By: Justin Miller
Justin Miller
City Administrator

Date of signature: 9/6/12

FOR THE CONTRACTOR

(I represent and warrant that I am authorized by law to execute this contract and legally bind the Contractor).

By: Robert J. Whiting

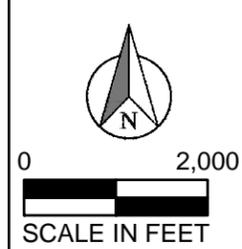
Print Name: Robert J. Whiting

Title: President, MBRB

Telephone No. 651-983-6806

Date of signature: Sept 21, 2012

City Approved MBRB Deer Hunt Areas



Legend

-  City Boundary
-  Private Hunt Property
-  City Owned Properties
- 1-6 City Properties Hunted by MBRB

