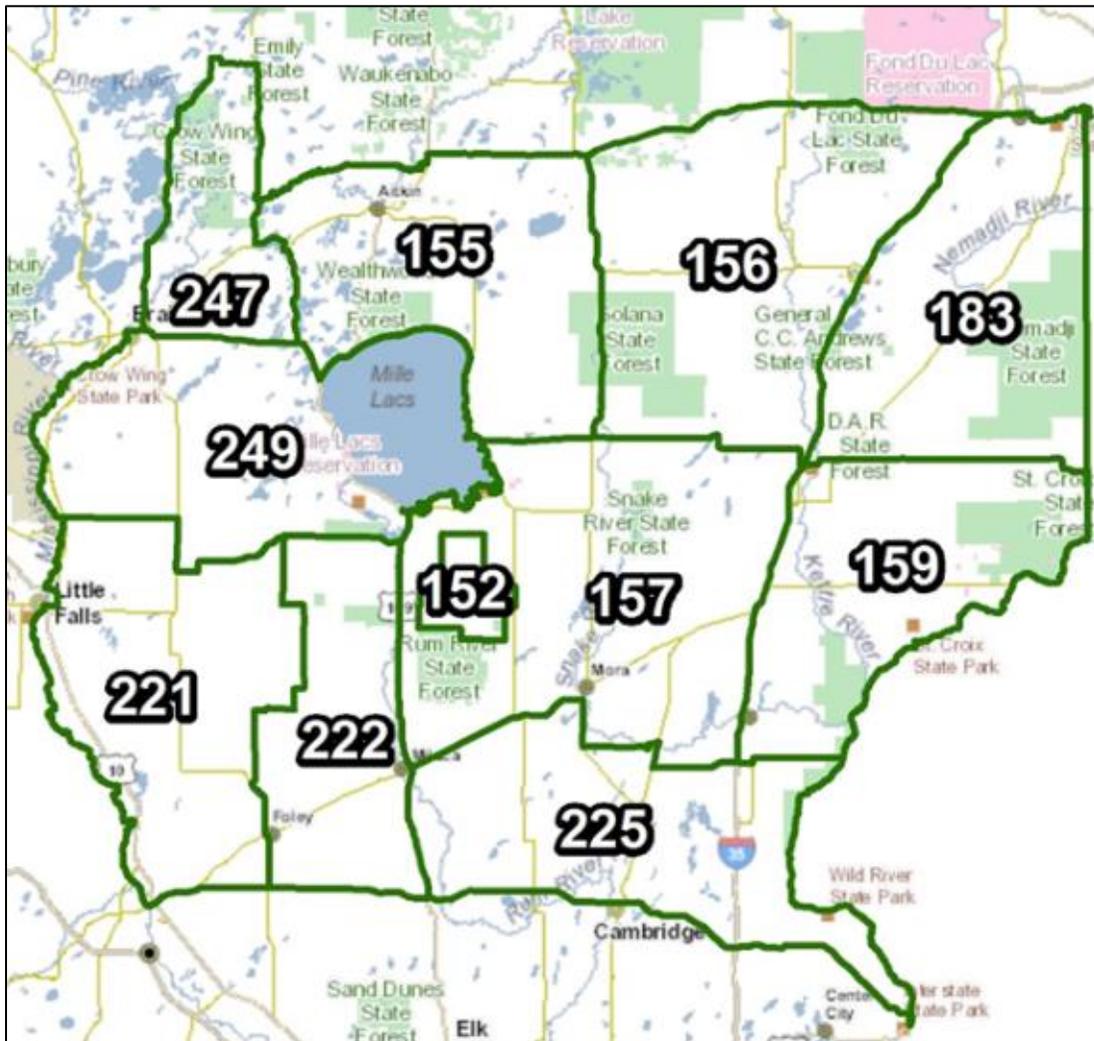


## 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

### Deer advisory team recommendations – Block 4: East Central Uplands

The following pages represent deer population goals recommended by the 2015 deer advisory team for Block 4: East Central Uplands (permit areas 152, 155, 156, 157, 159, 183, 221, 222, 225, 247 & 249). Public comment regarding these recommendations will be accepted April 2-15, 2015. Prior to commenting on the advisory team recommendations, you may wish to review the background materials provided on the DNR Deer Management webpage ([www.mndnr.gov/deer](http://www.mndnr.gov/deer)), including a description of the advisory team process.

Following each of the advisory team recommendations is a summary of factors cited by team members when making their recommendation. This information reflects the perspectives of individual team members; DNR has attempted to preserve the spirit and meaning of team members' comments and has not confirmed the accuracy of data cited.



# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 152

### Team recommendation:

**Increase population by 50%**

### Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 11 "Support", 2 "OK", 3 "No", 1 "Abstain"

### Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- Previous (2006) goal was to stabilize the population here, but instead it has decreased
- Deer population is very low and rapidly declining
- Harvest numbers are low
- Hunter success rates are low
- Low antlerless-to-buck ratio
- Survey data supports a 50% increase
- Low hunter satisfaction
- This area has been overharvested in the past
- Can support a 50% increase but would prefer a larger increase

### Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- A 50% increase will be a drop in the bucket
- This area actually needs a population increase of 100-250%
- Would like to know the population estimate for this area
- A 50% increase is acceptable, but a 25% increase would be preferred
- Need to better understand the impact previous regulations have had on the herd in this area
- This is an area that should have no deer harvest until herd rebounds
- Difficult to make a recommendation for a permit area this small, surrounded by another permit area

# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 155

### Team recommendation:

**Increase population by 50%**

### Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 13 "Support", 3 "OK", 1 "No"

### Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- Deer population was hit hard by 2013-2014 winter
- Previous (2006) goal was to stabilize the population here, but instead it has decreased; a 50% increase from current levels will restore the population to 2012 levels
- Low hunter success rates
- Deer population in this area is rapidly declining
- Data supports a 50% increase
- Buck harvest has declined 40%
- This area has high hunter populations
- Little evidence of herbivory or deer browse problems in this area
- Great deer habitat in this area, can support higher populations
- Prefer a population increase of >50%, but 50% is acceptable

### Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- A 50% increase is too strong for this area
- Deer population here is currently at a Reasonable Carrying Capacity
- The deer population will recover quickly in this area

# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 156

### Team recommendation:

**Increase population by 50%**

### Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 17 "Support"

### Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- Low harvest rates
- Low hunter satisfaction
- Low hunter success rates
- Landowner and hunter survey data supports a 50% increase
- A 50% increase is acceptable; anything less would be a mistake
- Current population is below the level set by previous (2006) goals
- A 50% increase would still keep the population at a reasonable level
- Only a small portion of this permit area is agriculture
- 2014 had lowest buck harvest in 10 years
- Population is rapidly declining in this area
- This area can support a higher population
- Deer population was hit hard by 2013-2014 winter (heavy snow, winter severity index)
- This area has a high number of complaints about wolves

### Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- Prefer a population increase of >50% (75-100%)

# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 157

### Team recommendation:

**Increase population by 50%**

### Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 14 "Support", 2 "OK", 1 "No"

### Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- Deer population is too low and declining
- Hunter and landowner survey data support a 50% increase
- Deer population was hit hard by 2013-2014 winter
- Hunting pressure is increasing in this area
- Have spoken to many farmers in this area who would like to see the deer population increase
- Low hunter success rates
- Low harvest numbers
- Great deer habitat in this area, some agricultural land; can support higher populations
- Predator populations are increasing in this area

### Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- A 50% increase is a minimum
- A 50% increase is too high, but some increase may be warranted
- Need more public education on the benefits of healthy ecosystems
- Prefer a 25% increase

# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 159

### Team recommendation:

**Increase population by 50%**

### Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 11 "Support", 5 "OK", 1 "No"

### Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- Deer threatened by wolves and coyotes in this area
- Deer population has decreased significantly over the last 10 years
- An increase of at least 50% is needed to reestablish the deer herd
- Low harvest numbers , including buck harvest
- Low hunter and landowner satisfaction
- Current deer populations are too low to sustain hunting and predator populations
- Deer population was hit hard by 2013-2014 winter
- A 50% increase in the population would still be below the level set by the previous goal-setting process
- Sufficient habitat is available to support an increased population

### Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- Increases in predator populations
- Prefer a population increase of >50%
- Prefer a population increase of 25%
- Low 2014 harvest means the population in this area is probably already increasing
- Current population is consistent with previously set goals
- Increasing the population would put it above a Reasonable Carrying Capacity

# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 183

### Team recommendation:

**No team recommendation – see individual preferences below**

### Individual preferences:

- 1 team member prefers no change in the population
- 3 team members prefer a population increase of 25%
- 8 team members prefer a population increase of 50%
- 5 team members prefer a population increase of >50% (50-250%)

### Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- The current deer density is close to the 2006 goal level
- Prefer a 25% increase because extreme swings in wildlife management aren't good for wildlife or hunters
- Would like to see a gradual increase in the deer herd for this area; revisit in 3 years
- Statistics show a high deer density in this area, but hunter success rates and harvest numbers are low
- The predator population in this area is too high
- Low hunter satisfaction
- Buck harvest declining
- Deer population declining
- Hunter and landowner surveys support at 50% increase
- Prefer at least a 100% increase

# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 221

### Team recommendation:

**Increase population by 50%**

### Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 8 "Support", 7 "OK", 2 "No"

### Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- Current deer population is so low that a 50% increase would only bring the population back to the levels set by the previous goal-setting process
- There is strong evidence that the current deer population is too low
- Local deer populations vary within the permit area, but pockets of low populations outweigh pockets of high populations
- Hunters in this area have been very vocal about a lack of deer
- A 50% increase is probably ok in the short term, but should be stabilized

### Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- A 50% increase may be slightly too much, but a considerable increase is needed
- Concerned about variation in the deer population between the eastern and western ends of this permit area
- Harvest levels are still good
- This permit area has good potential habitat
- Prefer a 25% increase, but 50% is ok
- Prefer a 25% increase, 50% is too much
- Data support an increase of <50%
- Have heard a lot about deer damage to trees in this area

# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 222

### Team recommendation:

**Increase population by 50%**

### Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 10 "Support", 5 "OK", 2 "No"

### Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- People familiar with this area believe the deer population is lower than what DNR estimates
- Local residents suggest a significant population increase is needed
- Deer population has declined dramatically (at least 50%) over last 10 years
- A 50% increase would restore the population to levels set by the previous (2006) goal-setting process
- This area has been over-harvested for years
- Increasing hunting pressure
- Low hunter success rates
- Low hunter satisfaction
- Local landowners report a significant decrease in the deer population throughout the year, not just during hunting season
- Young people are losing interest in hunting because the population is so low

### Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- A 50% increase may be slightly high for this area – need to revisit goals more often if 50% is approved
- Current population is above previously set goals
- Hunter success in this area is reasonable
- A 50% increase would put the deer population above a Reasonable Carrying Capacity
- Concerned about tree regeneration
- Prefer a 25% increase in this area

# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 225

### Team recommendation:

**Increase population by 25%**

### Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 5 "Support", 10 "OK", 2 "No"

### Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- Deer population is so low that youth are becoming uninterested in hunting
- No deer depredation at family apply orchard
- Deer population has declined in this area
- A 25% increase is appropriate because it represents a gradual increase in the herd, which can be tracked better if revisited more often (every 3 years)
- A 25% increase will support healthy ecosystems with more hunter opportunities
- Local residents report population has decreased, but not to a level that would warrant more than a 25% increase
- Hunter and landowner survey data supports at most a 25% increase
- High hunter success rates
- High population estimate
- Local landowners asking for an increase in the population

### Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- Many hunters and landowners believe the deer population here is much lower than what the DNR estimates
- Prefer a 50% increase, but 25% is a start
- A 25% increase is still too high - hunter and landowner survey data supports "No change" or a 10% increase
- Prefer "No Change", but 25% is acceptable
- Prefer an increase of >50%
- Buck harvest has not declined

# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 247

### Team recommendation:

**No team recommendation – see individual preferences below**

### Individual preferences:

- 2 team members prefer a population decrease of 25%
- 4 team members prefer no change in the population
- 9 team members prefer a population increase of 25%
- 1 team member prefers a population increase of 50%
- 1 team member prefers a population increase, but did not specify magnitude

### Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- Concerns about long term damage to native vegetation and forests, especially Jack and White Pine
- Landowners in this area do not seem concerned about deer browse
- Concerns about loss of timber productivity
- Landowner surveys indicate support to reduce deer populations
- Hunter and landowner surveys indicate support to increase deer populations by 10-25%
- Local deer populations vary widely throughout this permit area - need better tools to decrease populations in problem areas only
- Consider rezoning for the urban/lake region
- Large amount of permit area is forest or wetland
- Low hunter satisfaction
- Deer population has decreased due to severe winters
- Population is currently below the previously set goal
- Population is currently too high

# 2015 Deer Population Goal Setting

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## Deer Permit Area 249

### Team recommendation:

**Increase population by 50%**

### Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 11 "Support", 4 "OK", 2 "No"

### Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- Hunters' experience (based on public comment) does not match with DNR's population estimates
- A 50% increase would restore the population to levels set by the previous (2006) goal-setting process
- This area has been overharvested for many years
- Hunters and landowners support a population increase
- Youth are losing interest in hunting in this area
- Current population is extremely low
- Current population does not support subsistence harvests

### Factors cited by team members as concerns related to this recommendation:

- There are varying opinions within this permit area
- Consider splitting 249 into two zones
- Support a 25-50% increase
- In 2014, hunter success rates were 42%
- Deer population estimates still at 15 deer per square mile
- Buck harvest has declined only slightly
- Increasing deer in this area will only feed more wolves
- The deer population is already above the level set by the 2006 goal
- A 50% increase would lead to greater browse damage to forests
- Would prefer an increase of less than 50%
- Hunter and landowner survey data support "No Change" in the population