

# **Forest Preserve District of Will County**

## **Deer Management Program 2013-2014 Report**

**Summary Report for IDNR Deer Population Control Permit Numbers:  
JMJO20-13; JMJO21-13, JMJO22-13, JMJO23-13, JMJO24-13, JMJO25-13,  
JMJO26-13; and JMJO23-13B**

The Forest Preserve District of Will County (District) removed a total of 226 white-tailed deer from seven (7) preserve areas permitted for deer management between December 01, 2013 and March 03, 2014. The seven preserve areas included Hickory Creek Preserve, Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve, the Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve Area, McKinley Woods Preserve, Goodenow Grove Preserve, the Kankakee Sands Geologic Area, and Raccoon Grove Preserve.

The original District plan called for 206 deer to be removed, but after testing revealed a positive sample for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the Kankakee Sands Geologic Area, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) requested the harvest of an additional 20 animals. The request was granted by the District, and those additional samples all proved to be negative for CWD.

A brief analysis of the data indicates that of the deer removed, 64% were female and 36% were male; 34% of all deer removed this season were fawns, and 19% of all females were visibly gravid (the gravid status of 19 females was not determined). This percentage is down from 33% in 2012-2013. This difference is likely due to allowing the removal of non-antlered animals as well as an earlier culling season that produced a large percentage of deer before conception in some cases, and before evidence of pregnancy was easily determined in others.

<b>Age Class by Preserve</b>				
<b>Preserve</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Fawn</b>	<b>Yearling</b>	<b>Total</b>
HCP	22	25	13	60
LPN	3	2	0	5
RPN	5	1	4	10
MWP	34	18	11	63
GGN	15	10	5	30
KGA	13	16	12	41
RGN	11	4	2	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>226</b>

In 2013-14, the 145 total females taken from the combined preserves averaged 111 lbs., and the 81 males averaged 109 lbs. In 2011-2012, the 67 total females taken from the combined preserves averaged 124 lbs. and the 32 total males taken from the combined preserves averaged 108 lbs. In 2010-2011, the 102 total females taken from the preserves averaged 111 lbs. and the 32 total males taken from the preserves averaged 104 lbs. Again, as the management efforts were undertaken during different parts of the life and reproductive cycles, and different age/sex classes were targeted, so comparisons are not valid between these biometrics from last year to this year.

Hickory Creek Preserve (HCP) had 60 deer removed; 38 (63%) females with an average weight of 119 lbs., and 22 (37%) males with an average weight of 98 lbs.

<b>Hickory Creek Preserve (HCP)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	21	2919	139
Yearling	7	800	114
Fawn	10	813	81
<b>total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4532</b>	<b>119</b>
Male	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	1	226	226
Yearling	6	737	123
Fawn	15	1202	80
<b>total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2165</b>	<b>98</b>

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve (LPN) had 5 deer removed; 4 females (80%) with an average weight of 115 lbs. and 1 male (20%) with a weight of 145 lbs.

<b>Lockport Prairie (LPN)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	2	293	147
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	2	166	83
<b>total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>115</b>
Male	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	1	145	145
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	0	0	0
<b>total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>

Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve Area, including the Isle a La Cache property (RPN) had 10 deer removed; 5 females (50%) with an average weight of 118 lbs., and 5 males (50%) with an average weights of 112 lbs.

<b>Romeoville Prairie Area (RPN)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	4	485	121
Yearling	1	105	105
Fawn	0	0	0
<b>total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>118</b>
Male	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	1	145	145
Yearling	3	344	115
Fawn	1	71	71
<b>total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>112</b>

McKinley Woods Preserve (MWP) had 63 deer removed; 44 females (70%) with an average weight of 107 lbs., and 19 males (30%) with an average weight of 119 lbs.

<b>McKinley Woods Complex (MWP)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	23	2830	123
Yearling	9	989	110
Fawn	12	888	74
<b>total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4707</b>	<b>107</b>
Male	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	11	1600	145
Yearling	2	225	113
Fawn	6	444	74
<b>total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2269</b>	<b>119</b>

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve (GGN) had 30 deer removed; 19 (63%) females and 11 (37%) males. The average weight of the female deer at GGN was 112 lbs. while the male weight averaged 113 lbs.

<b>Goodenow Grove (GGN)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	11	1454	132
Yearling	3	316	105
Fawn	5	360	76
<b>total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2130</b>	<b>112</b>
Male	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	4	645	161
Yearling	2	230	115
Fawn	5	363	73
<b>total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1238</b>	<b>113</b>

The Kankakee Sands Geologic Area (KGA) had 41 deer removed; 28 females (68%) with an average weight of 98 lbs. and 13 males (32%) with an average weight of 91 lbs.

<b>Kankakee Sands Geologic Area (KGA)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	11	1352	123
Yearling	8	712	89
Fawn	9	686	76
<b>total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2750</b>	<b>98</b>
Male	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	2	280	140
Yearling	4	395	99
Fawn	7	510	73
<b>total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>91</b>

The Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve (RGN) had 17 deer removed; 7 females (41%) with an average weight of 128 lbs., and 10 males (59%) with an average weight of 131 lbs.

<b>Raccoon Grove (RGN)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	6	804	134
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	1	90	90
<b>total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>128</b>
Male	# of Deer	total weight	avg weight
Adult	5	782	156
Yearling	2	238	119
Fawn	3	286	95
<b>total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1306</b>	<b>131</b>

Freedom Sausage, of Earlville, Illinois, processed 226 deer producing 10,170 pounds of ground venison. Meat from any animals with a positive test for CWD, or samples destroyed and unusable from the supplemental 20 deer removed from the Sands Area was destroyed. The Northern Illinois Food Bank in St. Charles, Illinois received the remainder of the ground venison, totaling 9,990 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 IDNR, multiple samples were taken for Chronic Wasting Disease from the deer before they were processed. The samples obtained were shipped to Centralia IDOA lab in Centralia, Illinois. Staff shipped a total of 96 samples for CWD testing. One sample from KGA was positive for CWD, and nine samples were not measurable (sample was damaged during take or salivary glands were mistakenly removed).

### **Cost Analysis**

Three District Police Officers and six rotating volunteers participated on the sharpshooting team. Two officers worked a deer management shift from October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. Their shift from December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 to March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 was a sharpshooter shift, from 4:00pm – 12:00am, Monday through Thursday. These officers also worked deer management duties on Fridays. The other officer worked a deer management shift 3 out of 5 days per week. These officers had to be replaced on their regular shifts by part time patrol officers. Patrol officers were also used to deliver the deer to Freedom Sausage, Earlville, IL on Fridays.

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. The program was permitted for December 2, 2013 through March 3,

2014 guaranteeing a less than 90 day culling season, which gave 68 weekdays to cull (Monday through Thursday), of which the sharpshooters culled 44 days. The cost per deer is low because the number of deer culled was high. An additional 20 deer were required by IDNR to be culled from Kankakee Sand Ridge, Braidwood Dunes and Savannah Ridge, due to a positive result for CWD in that area, bringing the total deer culled to 226. The processing for those 20 deer was paid for by IDNR.

Police Staffing Costs:

	No of Officers		Hours		Hourly Wage		Totals
Officer 1	1	x	760	* x	\$19.59	=	\$14,888.40
Officer 2	1	x	760	* x	\$19.59	=	\$14,888.40
Officer 3	1	x	312	** x	\$19.59	=	\$6,112.08
							\$35,888.88

\*19 weeks, 5 days per week, 8 hours per day = 760 hours

\*\*13 weeks, 3 days per week, 8 hours per day = 312 hours

Operational Costs:

Company	Purpose	Cost
Freedom Sausage	processing	\$7,416.00
Walter Konow	bait	\$1,600.00
Kaluzny Bros Inc	rendering	\$500.00
Pomps Tires	DM tires	\$399.76
Ray O'Herron's	ammunition	\$348.26
Misc	Supplies	\$296.43
		\$10,560.45

Freedom Sausage details

206 deer @ \$36 per deer = \$7,416.00

Walter Konow details

4.5 pallets @ \$350 per pallet = \$1,600.00

Kaluzny Bros details

10 pickups at \$50 each = \$500.00

Pomps Tires

1 set of off road tires for DM only = \$399.76

Ray O'Herron's details

2 boxes of .223 ballistic silver tips @ \$167 each = \$334.00 (plus freight) = \$348.26

Misc Supplies = \$296.43

Additional necessities purchased during the program included various tools, miscellaneous nuts and bolts, gloves, gutting tools, rifle equipment, etc.

Police Staffing		Operational Costs			Total Deer	Cost per deer
\$35,888.88	+	\$10,560.45	=	\$46,449.33	/	206 = \$225.48

The total 2013-2014 deer management program cost of \$46,450 and expressed as cost per deer of \$226, compares favorably with deer removal costs in previous years:

- 2010-2011: 134 deer removed from 5 preserves at a total cost of \$28,989 and cost per deer of \$216.
- 2011-2012: 99 deer removed from 8 preserves at a total cost of \$30,619 and a cost per deer of \$309.

Since the inception of the District's Deer Management Program in 2010, a total of 20,475 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; 9,990 lbs. in 2013-2014).