

# **Forest Preserve District of Will County**

## **Deer Management Program 2014-2015 Report**

**Summary Report for IDNR Deer Population Control Permit Numbers:  
JMJ017-14; JMJ018-14, JMJ019-14, JMJ020-14, JMJ021-14,  
and JMJ022-14**

The Forest Preserve District of Will County removed a total of 201 white-tailed deer from six preserve areas permitted for deer management (Hickory Creek Preserve, Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve, McKinley Woods Preserve, Goodenow Grove Preserve, the Kankakee Sands Geologic Area, and Raccoon Grove Preserve) between December 01, 2014 and February 04, 2015.

A brief analysis of the data indicates that of the deer removed, 59% were female and 41% were male; 26% of all deer removed this season were fawns, and 45% of all females were visibly gravid (the gravid status of 1 female was not determined). This percentage is up from 19% in 2013-2014. This difference is likely due to the inclusion 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>
Lockport Prairie		5	3	2	<b>10</b>
McKinley Woods		17	14	9	<b>40</b>
Kankakee Sands		25	8	8	<b>41</b>
Goodenow Grove		17	6	7	<b>30</b>
Hickory Creek		32	13	15	<b>60</b>
Raccoon Grove		6	9	5	<b>20</b>
Total		102	53	46	<b>201</b>

In 2014-15, the 118 total females taken from the combined preserves averaged 120 lbs., and the 83 males averaged 130 lbs. In 2013-2014, the 145 total females taken from the combined preserves averaged 111 lbs., and the 81 males averaged 109 lbs. The lower average weights in 2013-2014 are likely due to the greater number of fawns taken that season.

Hickory Creek Preserve (HCP) produced a take consisting of 60 animals, 29 females (48%) with an average weight of 127 lbs., and 31 males (52%) with an average weight of 127 lbs.

<b>Hickory Creek Preserve (HCP)</b>			
<b>Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex</b>			
<b>Female</b>	<b># of Deer</b>	<b>total weight</b>	<b>average weight</b>
Adult	17	2596	153
Yearling	6	629	105
Fawn	6	461	77
Total	29	3686	127
<b>Male</b>	<b># of Deer</b>	<b>total weight</b>	<b>average weight</b>
Adult	15	2404	160
Yearling	9	955	106
Fawn	7	585	84
Total	31	3944	127

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve (LPN) produced a take of 5 females (50%) with an average weight of 100 lbs., and 5 males (50%) with a weight of 155 lbs.

<b>Lockport Prairie (LPN)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	1	128	128
Yearling	1	130	130
Fawn	3	244	81
Total	5	502	100
Male	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	4	652	163
Yearling	1	125	125
Fawn	0	0	0
Total	5	777	155

McKinley Woods Preserve (MWP) produced a take of 26 females (65%) with an average weight of 113 lbs., and 14 males (35%) with an average weight of 118 lbs.

<b>McKinley Woods Preserve (MWP)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	11	1615	147
Yearling	6	671	112
Fawn	9	661	73
Total	26	2947	113
Male	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	6	894	149
Yearling	3	376	125
Fawn	5	376	75
Total	14	1646	118

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve (GGN) produced 20 females (67%) with an average weight of 117 lbs., and 10 males (33%) with an average weight of 160 lbs.

<b>Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve (GGN)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	11	1589	144
Yearling	4	366	92
Fawn	5	394	79
Total	20	2349	117
Male	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	6	1057	176
Yearling	3	455	151
Fawn	1	89	89
Total	10	1601	160

The Kankakee Sands Geologic Area (KGA) produced a take of 25 females (61%) with an average weight of 128 lbs., and 16 males (39%) with an average weight of 126 lbs.

<b>Kankakee Sands Geologic Area (KGA)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	16	2272	142
Yearling	6	728	121
Fawn	3	207	69
Total	25	3207	128
Male	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	9	1381	153
Yearling	2	228	114
Fawn	5	401	80
Total	16	2010	126

The Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve (RGN) produced a take of 13 females (65%) with an average weight of 111 lbs., and 7 males (35%) with an average weight of 120 lbs.

<b>Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve (RGN)</b>			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	5	761	152
Yearling	2	210	105
Fawn	6	470	78
Total	13	1441	111
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Male	# of Deer	total weight	average weight
Adult	1	225	225
Yearling	3	359	120
Fawn	3	253	84
Total	7	837	120

Freedom Sausage, of Earlville, Illinois, processed 201 deer producing 9,045 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 (9,000lbs) for distribution to needy families in northeastern Illinois. Internal organs and waste materials were collected for rendering by Kaluzny Brothers of Joliet, Illinois.

CWD is neurological disease that affects certain ungulates including deer, elk and moose. It is caused by an abnormal protein (known as a prion) that causes degeneration within the nervous system. There is no cure for CWD and it is always fatal. The IDNR has implemented a deer population reduction and CWD monitoring program to limit its spread and impact on state deer populations. As directed by the 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 91 samples for CWD testing. None of these samples tested positive.

As part of the IDNR's CWD monitoring program, they required 20 additional deer (beyond the 181 permitted for removal under the population control permits), be culled from Kankakee Sands Geologic Area (Kankakee Sands, Sand Ridge Savanna, and Braidwood Dunes and Savanna). The IDNR required this additional CWD monitoring due to a positive result in that area during the 2013 / 2014 season. This increased the total number of deer culled to 201. The processing for those 20 deer was paid for by the IDNR.

**Cost Analysis:**

The deer management program was permitted for December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Three FPDWC Police Officers, one FPDWC Police seasonal employee, and five rotating volunteers participated on the Deer Management (DM) sharpshooting team (DMST). The following shifts were worked during the deer management season:

- Officer 1 – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 – March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015
- Officer 2 – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 – December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014
- Officer 3 – December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 – February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (Wednesday and Thursday only)
- Seasonal 1 – November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

From December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 to February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 officers worked sharpshooter shifts from approximately 4:00pm – 12:00am, Monday through Thursday. During this time period, officers also worked on the deer management program on Fridays during normal business hours. Officer 1 worked the sharpshooter shift the duration of the program, and worked DM duties before and after the culling season. Officer 2 worked DM duties prior to the culling season, and participated in 1 week of culling. Officer 3 worked a sharpshooter shift 2 out of 5 days per week for the duration of the program. When working on the deer management program, 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, in Earlville, Illinois on several occasions. Below is a chart detailing an approximate cost of police staff utilized during the deer management program this past season. 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. A Natural Resource Management employee assisted in the program with removing brain stem samples, however they were not replaced during normal business hours and therefore do not account for any staffing costs below.

**Police Staffing Costs:**

	Hours		Hourly Wage		OT Hours		OT Pay		Totals
Officer 1	680	* x	\$19.59	+		x		=	\$13,321.20
Officer 2	200	** x	\$19.59	+		x		=	\$3,918.00
Officer 3	88	*** x	\$19.59	+		x		=	\$1,723.92
Seasonal	416	x	\$19.59	+	26	x	\$29.39	=	\$8,913.58
									\$27,876.70

\* 17 weeks, 5 days per week, 8 hours per day = 680 hours  
\*\* 5 weeks, 5 days per week, 8 hours per day = 200 hours  
\*\*\* 11 deer management shifts, 8 hours per day = 88 hours

Operational Costs:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Freedom Sausage	processing	\$6,516.00
Walter Konow	bait	\$1,600.00
Ray O'Herron's	ammunition	\$1,400.00
Cabella's	tree stands, etc	\$962.68
Rick's Yamaha	snowmobile	\$841.47
Misc	supplies	\$833.02
Kaluzny Bros Inc	rendering	\$550.00
Berkots, etc.	food	\$407.48
NU Look Carwash	vehicle cleanup	\$309.90
Bass Pro	supplies	\$149.94
		<u>\$13,570.49</u>

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

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Staffing} \\ \text{Costs} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \text{Operational} \\ \text{Costs} \end{array} = \$41,447.19 / \begin{array}{r} \text{Total Deer} \\ 181 \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} \text{Cost per deer} \\ \$228.99 \end{array}$$

**\$229/deer**

The cost per deer during the 2013-2014 deer management program was \$226.00 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 29,475 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; 9,900 lbs. in 2013-2014; and 9,000 lbs. in 2014-2015).