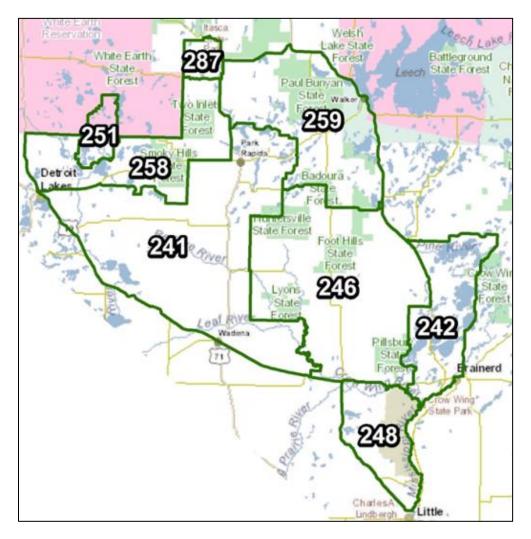
Deer advisory team recommendations - Block 3: Pine Moraines

The following pages represent deer population goals recommended by the 2015 deer advisory team for Block 3: Pine Moraines (permit areas 241, 242, 246, 248, 251, 258, 259, & 287). 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), 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.



Deer Permit Area 241

Team recommendation:

No Change in the population

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 10 "Support", 2 "OK", 2 "Do Not Support", 1 "Abstain"

Factors cited by team members in their recommendation:

- Hunter satisfaction is 50%
- Hunters and landowners think the population is at a good level
- The mild winter will result in higher deer numbers in 2015
- Deer populations are currently at carrying capacity and should not be increased

- May want to revisit the boundaries of this permit area and divide to better reflect habitat and ownerships; some areas have high deer densities/too many deer
- Would like greater access to antlerless permits in this area
- This permit area has considerable agricultural land
- Prefer a decrease in the population
- Input from landowners suggests the deer population is too large

Deer Permit Area 242

Team recommendation:

Increase population by 25%

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 11 "Support", 3 "OK", 1 "Do Not Support"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- The population is currently below previously set (2010) goals; a 25% increase would bring the population into the low end of the previous goal range
- The general public would like to see an increase in the deer population
- Hunters would like to see an increase in the deer population
- Special hunts can be used to address deer population problems in cities/towns
- Landowners can allow hunters access if they are having depredation problems

- Hunters may prefer an even higher increase
- Landowners prefer a population decrease
- There is not sufficient habitat to support a high deer population
- Homeowners and landowners need relief

Deer Permit Area 246

Team recommendation:

No team recommendation – see individual preferences below

Individual preferences:

- 1 team member prefers a population decrease of 50%
- 1 team member prefers a population decrease of 25%
- 3 team members prefer no change in the population
- 7 team members prefer a population increase of 25%
- 2 team member prefers a population increase of 50%
- 1 team member did not specify a recommended population goal

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- This permit area can support an increase of 50% or greater
- Numbers of deer have fallen continuously for years; an increase is needed
- With a 25% increase, the population would fall within the previous goal range
- This permit area is large and too diverse in habitat; DNR should consider splitting the permit
 area in two
- This area includes some of the least-populated areas of the state and some of the highest concentrations of hunting areas
- Survey data indicates that hunters want an increase and landowners think the population is about right
- The harvest has been declining, indicating fewer deer in the area
- Forestry interests suggest pine is not regenerating due to deer browse, but the lack of fire is a bigger problem (fire-dependent system)
- Forestry interests do not want an increase; the forest can't handle higher populations
- Deer populations have declined on the western edge of this permit area
- The deer population has likely declined due to severe winters over the past 2 years. With the mild 2014-2015 winter, the numbers will rebound
- Concerns about healthy habitat, and regeneration of jack pine and oak; need to prioritize good habitat and pine regeneration for a healthy future forest
- This is a hard area to hunt based on landscape features
- Based on local knowledge of the area, hunters, surveys and land managers, there is a very healthy (high) deer population
- Local residents believe forest resources are suffering as a result of too many deer

Deer Permit Area 248

Team recommendation:

Increase population by 25%

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 12 "Support", 1 "OK", 2 "Do Not Support"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- People in the area would like more deer; the population is not too high to achieve an increase
- A 25% increase is better than No Change
- A 25% increase is an acceptable increase
- A 25% increase is a compromise
- A 25% increase will bring the population into the previously set goal range
- There were many public comments requesting an increase in the population

- Landowners would prefer a smaller (slight) increase
- There is some agricultural area as well as forestland in the DPA that will need to be considered
- Prefer no change in the population
- An increase in the deer population will result in habitat loss; the resulting future forest will be ironwood and maple, and that will not support wildlife

Deer Permit Area 251 (Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge)

Team recommendation:

Increase population by 25%

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 10 "Support", 5 "OK"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- Low harvest numbers
- Survey data suggest dissatisfaction with current deer populations
- A 25% increase will improve hunter satisfaction and maintain biological diversity
- This permit area is a wildlife refuge; manage for deer but still take the forest ecosystem into account
- The habitat should be able to support an increase

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

• Prefer a 50% increase

Deer Permit Area 258

Team recommendation:

Increase population by 25%

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 14 "Support", 1 "Abstain"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- Survey data indicate both hunters and landowners think the deer population is too low
- Public comments support an increase, and 50% may be too high
- Deer population estimate in this permit area is somewhat low
- The deer population has declined 25%
- A 25% increase will be consistent with previously set goals
- If the population returns to 2007 levels, the general public will be at ease (hunters and non-hunters)

- Prefer a 50% increase
- Prefer an increase of >50%
- Hunters want a population increase, but 75% of the antlerless deer permits were filled
- Concerned that the natural resources can't sustain an increase in deer densities without a reduction in habitat quality

Deer Permit Area 259

Team recommendation:

Increase population by 50%

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 10 "Support", 3 "OK", 1 "Do Not Support", 1 "Abstain"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

- A 50% increase will restore the deer population to high end of the previously set goal range
- Hunters want an increase in the deer population
- People want to see more deer
- Deer populations are very low in most of this permit area; there are some pockets of higher populations on private land
- The deer population in this area was decreased too drastically

- Hunter satisfaction in this deer permit area is highest among the areas in this goal block
- A 50% increase will result in too many deer

Deer Permit Area 287 (Itasca State Park)

Team recommendation:

No change in the population

Support for recommendation:

Consensus by 80% supermajority: 7 "Support", 6 "OK", 2 "Do Not Support"

Factors cited by team members in their individual preferences:

• Manage for pine ecosystem in the park, not deer

- Hunters want more deer
- It is such a small permit area that any change will not be that significant
- Prefer a decrease in the population
- Park reforestation is a major concern
- DNR's Park mandate is to manage the vegetation over the deer