

# Deer Progress Report

April 4, 2011

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and the Wildlife Management Section

## Accomplishments for Week of March 27 – April 2

**Monitoring Winter Severity** – Staff monitored winter conditions [temperature, snow depths, deer sinking depths, and snow profile characteristics] at 26 individual monitoring stations throughout the state to estimate the impact of winter conditions on deer mortality.

**Aerial DWA Surveys** – Most regions have terminated aerial DWA surveys for the winter because deer are no longer restricted to winter yards.

**Ground DWA Surveys** – Region E conducted DWA ground surveys in 3 unorganized townships [Days Academy Grant, Lily Bay, and Sandbar Tract Townships].

**DWA Harvest Plans** – Region E reviewed 1 harvest plan, and Region F began working on DWA flight data associated with Robbins Lumber ownership. The Bureau of Parks and Lands Biologist worked on a harvest management agreement for T1R11WELS and checked the status of a plan agreement for a harvest in T7R8 WELS at Scraggly Lake.

**Cooperative DWA Management** – Region C met with Downeast Lakes Land Trust and Grand Lake Stream town officials reference developing a management plan to perpetuate primary cover areas and develop forage / regeneration cuts in nearby peripheral non-cover stands to support a town herd of 30-40 deer..

**Deer Research, Surveys, and Data Collections** - As received, staff continues to examine and collect road-killed does and the number of fetuses per female to derive an index to female productivity and to provide information on breeding chronology. Regions C and E each processed one doe.

**Deer Feeding Complaints / Discussions** – All regions continued to respond to issues / questions as they arise.

**Areas of High Road Mortality** – All regions continue to work with the Maine Department of Transportation to install signage in areas of high deer road mortality. Region C spoke with a reporter reference locations and effectiveness of highway signs to reduce winter roadkills in support of articles for a press release and Department magazine.



**Predation Issues / Incidences** – All regions monitor and direct response as predation incidences are reported. Region C in particular provided consultations and communications in developing protocol and guidelines for targeted coyote hunting; contacted hunters and houndsmen for participation; and developed contracts, vendor forms, and maps of assigned areas for distribution and mail.

- Region C investigated a report of predation in the Ellsworth area.
- Region F monitored predator control efforts in the Burlington area.
- Region G investigated 2 reports of predation.

**Information and Outreach** – All regions respond to numerous deer-related inquiries and requests for information. Region G worked the Presque Isle Sportsman's Show on Saturday and Sunday.

#### **Other Successes, Partnerships, Issues, and Events**

- Region C consulted with the Warden Sergeant for coastal Hancock County on the scope and depth of abuses / law violations of expanded archery zones and possible impacts and effects on declining deer harvest levels in Wildlife Management District 26, as well as possible solutions.

#### **Planned Activities for Week of April 4**

**Monitoring Winter Severity** – Staff will continue monitoring winter conditions [temperature, snow depths, deer sinking depths, and snow profile characteristics] at 26 individual monitoring stations throughout the state to estimate the impact of winter conditions on deer mortality.

**DWA Ground Surveys** – If conditions are favorable, Region E will continue ground surveys in a large DWA complex [9,000 acres] north of Moosehead Lake and will finalize boundaries to be used during spring population and dead deer surveys.

**DWA Harvest Plans** – As opportunities arise, regional staff will review plans for timber harvesting in DWAs.

**Cooperative DWA Management** – Staff continue to work with landowners on cooperative DWA management. This work will intensify once aerial surveys are completed this winter and DWAs digitized.

**Deer Research, Surveys, and Data Collections** - As received, staff will continue examining and collecting road-killed does and the number of fetuses per female to derive an index to female productivity and to provide information on breeding chronology.

**Information and Outreach** – Region E will investigate concerns over a land sale in Sebec that includes a DWA.

**Deer Feeding Complaints / Discussions** – All regions will continue to respond to issues as they arise.

**Predation Issues / Incidences** – All regions will continue monitoring and directing response as predation incidences are reported.

