



NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION

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Public Input Coordinator
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23 December, 2021

RE: Proposal to simplify and align provincial white-tailed deer hunting seasons

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the National Deer Association (NDA), I am writing to state our support amendments to regulations under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997* to increase consistency in white-tailed deer hunting season duration and type to simplify and align deer hunting seasons in some parts of the province. We are an American non-profit conservation organization with the mission to ensure the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting. We represent 30,000 members in the United States and Canada, including hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

The NDA supports the proposals to simplify and align deer seasons across the province in order to deliver a modern, efficient and sustainable provincial deer harvest management system. After careful review, the NDA is confident that the intent of the proposed rules will be realized via a number of provisions. Specifically, the NDA supports, among others, provisions that:

- Increase weekend opportunities for hunters;
- Increase weapon choice opportunities, where biologically appropriate and safe;
- Shift seasons to increase hunter opportunity; and
- Align seasons dates, weapon choice and other regulations among neighboring wildlife management units.

The NDA is dedicated to ensuring the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting. The NDA outlines hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) as a critical focus area. As such, we support regulations by state, provincial and federal agencies that bolster these efforts. Certainly, the Ministry's proposal to increase consistency in white-tailed deer hunting season duration and type to simplify and align deer hunting seasons in some parts of the province does just that. Confusing or contradicting regulations can serve as a barrier to entry for new hunters or restrict opportunities for current hunters. Simplifying and aligning regulations throughout the province, especially without significant environmental implications that would impact deer harvest levels, hunter safety, or deer population stability, will benefit Ontario's hunters now and in the future.

The NDA appreciates the Ministry's proposals to increase opportunities for hunters and make regulations simpler and easier to understand. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or for more information.

Sincerely,

Torin Miller
Director of Policy