



Quality Deer Management Plan **Template**

Property / Camp Name

Prepared by _____

Date _____

(We recommend this plan be used for 3-5 years)



1. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property name: _____

Property owner(s): _____

County/Parish/Township and State/Province: _____

Number of acres: _____

Name of land manager: _____

Name of biologist: _____

Name of forester: _____

Equipment available for land use: _____

Property history (length of ownership, historical land use, past agricultural use, etc.): _____

2. PROPERTY OBJECTIVES

Primary wildlife species of interest: _____ deer

Other wildlife species of interest: _____

Other property interests (providing pasture, cropland, income from timber, etc.): _____

Overall Property Objective: _____

Deer Management Objectives: _____



3. PROPERTY MAPS

I have acquired:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Topographical map | <input type="checkbox"/> Soils map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial photo | <input type="checkbox"/> Plat/Tax maps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Map features included (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> North arrow | <input type="checkbox"/> Scale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roads/trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Gates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanctuaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Food plots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting stands | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail cameras |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral sites | <input type="checkbox"/> Feed stations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check station(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

INSERT
MAPS HERE



4. HERD MANAGEMENT

INVENTORY

Trend (circle one)

Current deer per square mile estimate: _____ ↑ ↓ Stable

Current estimated **sex ratio**: (# does per buck): _____ ↑ ↓ Stable

Current estimated **fawn recruitment rate**: (# fawns per doe): _____ ↑ ↓ Stable

Describe the current estimated buck age structure and trend: _____

Describe the current buck harvest guidelines for youth and adult hunters: _____

How calculated (choose all that apply):

Trail camera surveys

Observation surveys

Browse surveys

Pellet count surveys

Spotlight surveys

Other _____

GOALS

Desired deer population change (increase, decrease, maintain): _____

Desired sex ratio change: _____

Desired buck age structure change: _____

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Doe harvest target (range): _____ to _____ does

Doe harvest guidelines (**when** and where, if applicable): _____

Buck fawn harvest prevention measures: _____

Guest/youth harvest policies: _____

Buck harvest restrictions (**age**, **spread**, **points**, **etc.**): _____



5. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

INVENTORY

Acres of mature pine/conifer (trees with diameters larger than 10" at breast height): _____

Acres of mature hardwoods (trees with diameters larger than 10" at breast height): _____

Acres of young pine/conifer (trees with diameters smaller than 10" at breast height): _____

Acres of young hardwoods (trees with diameters smaller than 10" at breast height): _____

Acres of mixed forests: _____

Acres of **soft mast orchards** (**apples**, **pears**, peaches, etc): _____

Acres of **early successional**/NWSG/**old field habitat**: _____

Acres in food plots (should equal sum of food plot acreages below): _____

-Acres in **cool-season** perennial food plots (clover, alfalfa, etc): _____

-Acres in cool-season annual food plots (wheat, brassicas, etc): _____

-Acres in **warm-season annual food plots** (corn, soybeans, etc): _____

Acres of cropland: _____

Acres of pasture: _____

Non-huntable acres: _____

Total _____

Other important vegetation/cover types or habitat components (swamp, ponds, creeks, etc): _____

Invasive species on the property: _____

Current limiting factors on the property (be specific- when and what? Is it quality late summer forage? Or, available cover after corn is harvested? Something else?): _____

GOALS

Desired changes in forest stands (lower basal area, more forbs in understory, etc): _____

Desired changes in **early successional plant communities** (set back succession, **more forbs**, etc): _____

Food plot goals (year round food, **hunting season attraction**, etc): _____



HABITAT MANAGEMENT *continued*

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Forest stand recommendations (Timber harvest, timber stand improvement, prescribed fire, etc. Indicate on the map the location of each practice): _____

Early successional plant community recommendations (burning, disking, herbicide application, etc): _____

Food plot recommendations (indicate all locations on the map):

	<u>Desired trend (circle one)</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Acres of warm-season food plots:	<input type="radio"/> ↑ <input type="radio"/> ↓ <input type="radio"/> Stable	_____
Acres of cool-season food plots:	<input type="radio"/> ↑ <input type="radio"/> ↓ <input type="radio"/> Stable	_____
Total acreage of food plots:	<input type="radio"/> ↑ <input type="radio"/> ↓ <input type="radio"/> Stable	_____

Will additional plots need to be created? If so, how and where? _____

	<u>Desired trend (circle one)</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Number of small (less than 1 acre) <u>hunting plots</u> :	<input type="radio"/> ↑ <input type="radio"/> ↓ <input type="radio"/> Stable	_____

Invasive species control strategy (how and when for each plant): _____



6. HUNTER MANAGEMENT

INVENTORY

Estimated number of hunters annually: _____

Number of acres per hunter: _____

Number of **Sanctuaries** on property and acreages of each (denote locations on the map): _____

Hunter education currently in place (field judging techniques for buck age, antlerless deer, etc): _____

Is a supplemental feeding program implemented? (circle one) Yes No

Are mineral stations used on the property? (circle one) Yes No

Is the property a member of a Deer Cooperative? (circle one) Yes No

GOALS

How does **hunting pressure** need to be changed on the property, to reduce negative impacts on deer movement?

Hunter education improvements/opportunities: _____

Cooperative goals: _____

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Pressure reduction strategy (if necessary): _____

Vehicle, ATVs, UTVs, etc. traffic restrictions (when and where): _____

Property guest policies: _____

Should additional sanctuaries be created? (denote on map): _____

Neighborhood Deer Cooperative formation or growth **strategy** and results: _____



7. HERD MONITORING

INVENTORY

From harvested deer, hunters currently collect:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Date of harvest | <input type="checkbox"/> Location of harvest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Method of take (rifle, bow, etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Live weight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antler score | <input type="checkbox"/> Dressed weight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jawbone (whole) | <input type="checkbox"/> Incisor for cementum annuli |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lactation (if applicable) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fetus for aging (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney fat index | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

While hunting, what observational data do hunters collect?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Date | <input type="checkbox"/> Time of day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Length of hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Name of hunter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Does |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality bucks | <input type="checkbox"/> Other bucks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fawns | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown deer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Which population monitoring techniques are currently conducted?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Trail camera surveys</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotlight surveys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pellet counts | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Based on survey data, we have calculated:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deer density | <input type="checkbox"/> Buck:Doe ratio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fawn recruitment rate (fawns/doe) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hit list bucks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer sightings/hour (while hunting) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herd health | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

GOALS

In what way do you want to change your herd monitoring data collection? _____



HERD MONITORING *continued*

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

From harvested deer, hunters will collect (going forward):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Date of harvest | <input type="checkbox"/> Location of harvest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Method of take (rifle, bow, etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Live weight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antler score | <input type="checkbox"/> Dressed weight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jawbone (whole) | <input type="checkbox"/> Incisor for cementum annuli |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lactation (if applicable) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fetus for aging (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney fat index | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

While hunting, hunters will collect (observational data):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Date | <input type="checkbox"/> Time of day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Length of hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Name of hunter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Does |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality bucks | <input type="checkbox"/> Other bucks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fawns | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown deer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Will a pellet count survey be conducted? (circle one) Yes No

Will a spotlight survey be conducted? (circle one) Yes No

Will trail camera surveys be conducted? (circle one) Yes No

When will the trail camera survey be conducted (pre or post hunting season)? _____

How many trails camera stations? (recommended 1 per 100 acres) _____

Will this be a baited or non-baited survey? (circle one): baited un-baited

Will other survey techniques be conducted? (if yes, list here) _____

Based on survey data, we will calculate:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deer density | <input type="checkbox"/> Buck:Doe ratio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fawn recruitment rate (fawns/doe) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hit list bucks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer sightings/hour (while hunting) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herd health | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |



8. PLAN AMENDMENTS

Plans should only be written for practices occurring over approximately the next 3-5 years. However, it is often necessary to update the plan more regularly than that. This section allows a place for those changes to be documented. For each change, explain the new prescription and the reason for a different approach.

Herd management recommendation changes: _____

Habitat management recommendation changes: _____

Hunter management recommendation changes: _____

Herd monitoring recommendation changes: _____

9. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Management Planning

[Creating a Management Plan for your Hunting Property](#)

Deer Cooperatives

[Kip's Korner Start a Deer Cooperative](#)

Herd Management

[Have We Killed Too Many Does?](#)

[At What Age Can a Fawn Survive Without Its Doe?](#)

[Which Doe Should You Take?](#)

[Why We Can't Manage Deer Genetics](#)

[Mature Bucks Who Needs 'Em?](#)

Habitat Management

[Survey Acorns Now to Improve Production](#)

[The Importance of Good Fawning Cover](#)

[8 Winter Projects for Better Fall Deer Hunting](#)

[How to Safely Drop Large Trees with a Chainsaw](#)

[Get Cash Assistance for Habitat Projects](#)

Food Plots

[What Should I Plant in My Food Plot?](#)

[Kip's Korner Annuals, Perennials & Row Crops](#)

[5 Herbicides Every Deer Steward Should Know](#)

[Try These Warm-Season Food Plot Mixes](#)

[5 Reasons Food Plots Fail](#)

Hunter Management

[White-tailed Deer Shot Placement \(Video\)](#)

Herd Monitoring

[VIDEO 5 Tips for Better Deer Camera Surveys](#)

[7 Ways to Check a Deer Herd's Health](#)

[Taking Does Can Actually Increase Fawn Production](#)

[VIDEO Jawbone Aging Part 1 – Tooth Replacement](#)

[Estimating Deer Age with Cementum Annuli](#)

[Digest This Scouting Deer Food from the Inside Out](#)



At NDA we are continually producing new educational videos, articles, and more to help with your deer management efforts. Be sure to visit DeerAssociation.com for the most recent information. Good luck with your deer management plan.