

FINAL REPORT
2014 Deer Management Program
Town and Country, Missouri

by
White Buffalo, Inc.

25 January 2014

INTRODUCTION

The City of Town and Country contains a matrix of suburban and commercial development, parks, and other open-spaces. The absence of any deer management combined with fertile soils allowed the local deer population to increase to a level incompatible with some land use and human activities prior to our involvement. Although deer physical condition is not an issue, there is ongoing concern regarding numerous deer/vehicle collisions and damage to garden and landscape plantings. This is the fifth year in which a deer population management program was implemented.

METHODS

Prebaiting was conducted from 2 January – 15 January 2014. Sharpshooting efforts were conducted from 16 - 23 January 2014. Eight days of fieldwork were required to achieve the harvest of 87 deer.

We followed the operations protocol outlined in the contract and changes agreed to verbally prior to the onset of site preparations. Fourteen sites were available throughout the area of operation. Two sites were not used during the removal period; one due to lack of deer activity, the second due to scheduling conflicts during weather conditions conducive to operations.

RESULTS

The entire data set generated from harvested deer is represented in the spreadsheet entitled "City of Town and Country - Deer Harvest: 16-23 January 2014 (Appendix A). The overall harvest demographics are summarized in Table 1. Harvest by day is summarized in Table 2. Harvest breakdown based on Ward is summarized in Table 3. We expended 276 person-hours for the sharpshooting activities (87 deer harvested) resulting in 3.1 person hours per deer harvested. This was a ~10% decrease over the previous year effort (3.4 person hours per deer).

Table 1. Sex and age class of deer harvested in Town and Country, Missouri from 16-23 January 2014.

AGE	# MALE (%)	# FEMALE (%)	# COMBINED
Yearling/Adult	42 (48%)	24 (28%)	66 (76%)
Fawns	16 (18%)	5 (6%)	21 (24%)
Total	58 (66%)	29 (34%)	87 (100%)

Table 2. Number of deer harvested by day during the 8 days of field operations.

DATE	# Harvested	DATE	# Harvested	DATE	# Harvested
1/16/14	14	1/19/14	15	1/22/14	5
1/17/14	19	1/20/14	19	1/23/14	3
1/18/14	7	1/21/14	5		

Table 3. Deer harvest by Ward

Ward	# Harvested
1	17 (20%)
2	47 (54%)
3	18 (20%)
4	5 (6%)

Pregnancy rates

It was too early in pregnancy to identify and count fetuses.

Population estimates

See attached population estimation report.

DISCUSSION

Recreational feeding could be a problem in several areas of the City. This absolutely affects our ability to address deer in these areas. One impact of recreational feeding is the diminished efficiency when trying to remove deer in proximity (bait used for management is ineffective if artificial foods are made available elsewhere). Aside from increased costs because of inefficiency due to recreational feeding, there are compounded safety concerns for the residents of Town and Country by limiting our ability to remove deer in those neighborhoods. Based on visual sightings during the population estimate and the lack of deer predictability near the Brook Mill neighborhood it is suspected that some residences in the vicinity feed deer recreationally. This theory is further substantiated by the large number of deer/vehicle collisions occurring proximate to the neighborhood.

The neighborhoods along and around Thornhill Road continue to pose management challenges. After relative success in the area (10 deer removed), numerous deer were still observed during the population estimate. Specifically, several deer were detected in the Manor Hill/Woodmark area and also along eastern Thornhill near Topping. Securing additional culling sites, proximate to these areas, may prove to be beneficial in the future. Numerous deer also were observed along Mason Road adjacent to Queeny Park and in the Kings Glen and Williamsburg estates area. Currently there are no management efforts in these areas due to lack of access.

Management efforts in Ward 2 benefited from the inclusion of an additional point of access. Two sites, in Ward 2, accounted for 33% of the total harvest, while requiring only 21% of the total effort. Weather related challenges resulted in the diminished harvest in Ward 4. Access remains the key to addressing the concerns of residents who are still experiencing an overabundance of deer in their neighborhoods.

Harvest results from specific sites ranged from a high of 15 deer to a low of 0. Two sites produced no harvest return for the effort expended.

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for assistance provided prior to and during the culling period; Gary Hoelzer, Tom Thousand, Fred Meyland-Smith, Lynn Wright, and John's Butcher Shop (venison processing for charitable donation).

Appendix A

City of Town and Country – Deer Harvest: 16-23 January 2014

DATE	TAG #	SEX	AGE	Street Address
1/16/14	001	M	0.5	Des Peres
1/16/14	002	M	0.5	Des Peres
1/16/14	003	F	0.5	Des Peres
1/16/14	004	M	1.5	Des Peres
1/16/14	005	F	2.5	Des Peres
1/16/14	006	F	4.5	Des Peres
1/16/14	007	F	6.5+	Mason Knoll
1/16/14	008	F	3.5	Mason Knoll
1/16/14	009	M	2.5	Mason Knoll
1/16/14	010	M	1.5	Barrett Station
1/16/14	011	M	1.5	Barrett Station
1/16/14	012	M	1.5	Barrett Station
1/16/14	013	M	1.5	Barrett Station
1/16/14	014	F	2.5	Barrett Station
1/17/14	015	M	1.5	Thornfield
1/17/14	016	M	1.5	Thornfield
1/17/14	017	M	2.5	Thornfield
1/17/14	018	M	1.5	Thornfield
1/17/14	019	M	0.5	Dry Ridge

1/17/14	020	M	1.5	Dry Ridge
1/17/14	021	M	1.5	Dry Ridge
1/17/14	022	M	1.5	Dry Ridge
1/17/14	023	M	0.5	Dry Ridge
1/17/14	024	F	5.5	Dry Ridge
1/17/14	025	M	3.5	Dry Ridge
1/17/14	026	F	6.5+	Old Colony
1/17/14	027	F	1.5	Old Colony
1/17/14	028	F	0.5	Old Colony
1/17/14	029	F	0.5	Old Colony
1/17/14	030	M	1.5	Old Colony
1/17/14	031	M	0.5	Old Colony
1/17/14	032	M	0.5	Old Colony
1/17/14	033	M	0.5	Old Colony
1/18/14	034	M	1.5	Tecumseh
1/18/14	035	M	2.5	Tecumseh
1/18/14	036	F	2.5	Mason Wood
1/18/14	037	M	3.5	Mason Wood
1/18/14	038	M	2.5	Mason Wood
1/18/14	039	M	1.5	Mason Wood
1/18/14	040	M	1.5	Mason Wood
1/19/14	041	F	6.5+	Dry Ridge

1/19/14	042	F	1.5	Dry Ridge
1/19/14	043	F	6.5	Dry Ridge
1/19/14	044	M	0.5	Dry Ridge
1/19/14	045	F	6.5+	Dry Ridge
1/19/14	046	M	0.5	Dry Ridge
1/19/14	047	M	0.5	Dry Ridge
1/19/14	048	F	3.5	Weidman
1/19/14	049	M	5.5	Weidman
1/19/14	050	M	4.5	Weidman
1/19/14	051	M	4.5	Weidman
1/19/14	052	M	1.5	Weidman
1/19/14	053	M	1.5	Weidman
1/19/14	054	M	3.5	Weidman
1/19/14	055	M	2.5	Weidman
1/20/14	056	F	0.5	Old Colony
1/20/14	057	F	1.5	Old Colony
1/20/14	058	M	0.5	Old Colony
1/20/14	059	M	0.5	Old Colony
1/20/14	060	M	1.5	Old Colony
1/20/14	061	M	1.5	Old Colony
1/20/14	062	M	3.5	Old Colony
1/20/14	063	M	0.5	Sellenrick

1/20/14	064	M	0.5	Sellenrick
1/20/14	065	M	0.5	Sellenrick
1/20/14	066	M	1.5	Sellenrick
1/20/14	067	F	4.5	Sellenrick
1/20/14	068	M	1.5	Sellenrick
1/20/14	069	M	1.5	Sellenrick
1/20/14	070	M	2.5	Sellenrick
1/20/14	071	M	1.5	Sellenrick
1/20/14	072	M	1.5	Tecumseh
1/20/14	073	F	3.5	Tecumseh
1/20/14	074	F	1.5	Tecumseh
1/21/14	075	M	1.5	Mason Wood
1/21/14	076	F	4.5	Weidman
1/21/14	077	F	1.5	Weidman
1/21/14	078	F	1.5	Weidman
1/21/14	079	M	1.5	Weidman
1/22/14	080	M	2.5	Mason Knoll
1/22/14	081	F	5.5	Barrett Station
1/22/14	082	F	1.5	Barrett Station
1/22/14	083	M	3.5	Sellenrick
1/22/14	084	M	1.5	Sellenrick
1/23/14	085	F	3.5	Barrett Station

1/23/14	086	F	0.5	Barrett Station
1/23/14	087	M	0.5	Barrett Station