Citizens Task Force Approach to Deer Management in Montgomery County-1993

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Extension FE A 2010 -2019
Why a Citizens Task Force Approach to Deer Management?

**Advantages**

- Group members learn about roles of other people and agencies in managing deer
- Opportunities to build collaborative relationships with other task force members
- Broad range of opinions and expertise
- Consensus areas of agreement carry lots of weight

**Disadvantages**

- Consensus can be difficult to obtain
- Minority Reports could emerge
Ag Crop Damage
Deer-Vehicle Collisions
Habitat Browse Damage

Deer Browse At Black Hills Regional Park
Concerns about Lyme Disease
Landscape Damage
Task Force Participants Included

- Montgomery Parks Personnel
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources Personnel
- Montgomery Cooperative Extension
- Farmers
- Homeowner Associations
- Hunting Organizations
- Animal Rights Representation
- Montgomery County Police
- Park Police
- Federal Park Service
- Montgomery County Council Staff
Management Alternatives

- MAINTAIN STATUS QUO
- REPELLENTS
- FENCING
- HABITAT ALTERATIONS
- SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING
- MODIFY LEGAL HARVEST
- AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE PERMITS
- DIRECT REDUCTION
- CONTRACEPTION
- TRAPPING/RELOCATION
- RESTORE PREDATORS
Public Meetings were held at two local high schools on October 24th and 25th, 1995

• Over 200 people attended the meetings
• Many viewpoints were represented
• There were some short educational presentations
• Break out into small groups for discussion
Modify Legal Harvest—248 responses

- Acceptable (76)
- Unacceptable (52)
- Effective only where hunting is permitted (23)
- Inhumane (20)
- Concern for public safety (20)
- Use of public park lands (16)
- Increase doe harvest (13)
- Acceptable only after non-lethal measures have been unsuccessful (7)

- Cost effective (5)
- Opposition to archery hunting (5)
- Ineffective in suburban areas (4)
- Encourage the use of Hunters Harvest Share (3)
- Use of archery hunts in urban areas (2)
- Open land which is currently not being hunted (2)
Contraception-208 responses

- Acceptable (47)
- Unacceptable (42)
- Too costly (35)
- Additional research is necessary (23)
- Effective on limited herds (22)
- Unproven (13)
- Ineffective on unrestricted populations (9)
- Concern for safety of humans-consumption (8)
- Concern for trauma placed on animal (4)
- Biologically unsound (3)
- Ineffective delivery system (2)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deer Management Options</th>
<th>Total for All Groups Supporting</th>
<th>% of Participants</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintain Status Quo</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repellents</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
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<td>Habitat Alterations</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental Feeding</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>.5%</td>
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<td>Modify Legal Harvest</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Damage Permits</td>
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<td>Direct Reduction</td>
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<td>Contraception</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trapping/Relocation</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restore Predators</td>
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<td>.7%</td>
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## Deer Vehicle Collisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Deer-Vehicle Collisions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2,033</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>1,925</td>
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Over the same period of time Montgomery County has added about 180,000 people, more vehicles, more roads, more traffic.
Figure 1

Deer Vehicle Collisions
Montgomery County, MD
2017

Map showing the distribution of deer vehicle collisions across Montgomery County, MD in 2017.
25 Year Results

- Comprehensive and Annual Deer Management Plans have been developed
- Improved Data on Deer Impacts
- Increased Bag Limits
- Longer Gun Season
- Increased Sunday hunting
- Easier to get Depredation permits
- Intensive Public Education program, 100 + workshops/presentations
- Deer/Vehicle Collisions are stable or declining
- Ag Damage down in some areas, stable or up in others
- Over 85,000lbs. of venison donated to hungry
- Forest understories are growing back where populations have been reduced
- Some new roads have incorporated wildlife crossings
- Approximately 40 different public lands have ongoing population management either using managed hunts or sharpshooter programs