Developing QDM Cooperatives

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Quality Deer Management Association
...QDMA...
Educational Items
Quality Deer Management is...

The approach under which young bucks are protected from harvest, combined with an adequate harvest of female deer to produce healthy deer herds in balance with existing habitat conditions.
Quality Deer Management...

- Balance deer herd with habitat
- Balance adult sex ratio
- Balance age structure
In Rural Forested Areas

Deer Herd  Deer Herd

Habitat    Habitat

Habitat    Deer Herd

Deer Herd

Habitat
In Suburban Forested Areas

- Deer Herd
  - Habitat

- Deer Herd
  - Habitat

- Deer Herd

  - Low mortality
  - Alternative food sources

Habitat
QDM Cooperatives
QDM Cooperative is...

A group of landowners and hunters working together to improve the quality of the deer herd, habitat and hunting experiences on their collective acreage.
QDM Cooperatives...

• Spreading across the whitetail’s range
• Michigan is among the leaders
  (at least 75 established QDM co-ops)
• QDMA involved in numerous co-ops
Cooperative benefits include...

• Reduced management costs
• Reduced trespassing
• Ability to share data for better ‘picture’
• Membership discounts, etc.
• Increased acreage to manage.
Biological need for a co-op...

Several buck dispersal studies in the past two decades:
Dispersal

• ~50-70% of bucks leave their birth area when 12 to 18 months old
• Most disperse 1-5 miles (some >30 miles)
• ~25% disperse in spring & 75% in fall
Biological need for a co-op...

Recent adult buck home range and movement studies:
Buck home range...

2½ to 7½ years olds (no yearlings)

- South Texas - averaged 2,271 acres (661 to 7,332 acres)
- Maryland - averaged 740 acres (346 to 1,448 acres)

Hewitt et. al. and Conner & Tomberlin
Biological need for a co-op...

What about excursions?
Technological improvements...
Of 15 collared bucks:
Pre Rut 40%
Rut 58%
Post Rut 20%

Conner & Tomberlin
What about doe excursions?
Doe excursions...

- Home range ~640 acres
- November 18-21
- Moved nearly 4 miles
- Similar movements in 5 of 8 GPS-collared does.

Pennsylvania
Doe excursions...

Chesapeake Farms (MD)
Recent work by Burroughs and Campa in southwest Michigan:

- 92% of doe home ranges were 123 to 494 acres
- Does on 1 study site used 7 different land owners’ properties (ownership ranged 50 to 600 acres)
- Does on another site used 16 different land owners’ properties (ownership ranged ≤10 to 637 acres).
That’s why QDM Cooperatives are so important.
Does this mean you can’t be effective without a QDM Cooperative?
No, it simply means you’ll be more successful if you’re involved in one.
Develop a co-op...
Develop a co-op...

Talk to your neighbors
Develop a co-op...
Develop a co-op...

Establish/get involved in a QDM co-op that includes as many properties as possible
Develop a co-op...
Develop a co-op...

Take your QDM program to the next level
Develop a co-op…

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‘The Future of Deer Hunting’

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