Oklahoma Deer Management Assistance Program

Help the Wildlife Conservation Department help you manage the deer population on your property.

DMAP AT A GLANCE

- Biologist assists private landowners with deer herd management.
- Minimum management area of 1,000 acres.
- Antlerless permits are bonus and extra days are allowed to fill permits.
- Cooperators collect data on deer harvested on DMAP properties.
- A written report from biologist is furnished to cooperators.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Applications due by May 15.
- Notifications of acceptance delivered by August 15.
- Records and unused tags must be returned by January 31.

Achieving realistic deer management goals on small acreages poses many difficulties for Oklahoma’s landowners. The Wildlife Department’s Deer Management Assistance Program is designed to allow cooperators greater freedom to manage deer herds and the habitat on their land. Working together through DMAP, landowners and the Wildlife Department can help ensure quality deer hunting in the future.

For DMAP to be effective, a minimum of 1,000 acres is required. Applicants may team with adjoining landowners to meet the required minimum land area.

Applicants wishing to enroll lands in DMAP must submit a completed application, a legal description of the property, and a nonrefundable enrollment fee by May 15.

Enroll in DMAP today for better deer herd management in the future!

To receive an application for DMAP or to find out more details, call (405) 521-2739 or write to:

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
P. O. Box 53465
Oklahoma City, OK 73152
CUSTOMIZED

The primary objective of the ODWC’s deer management program is the sound conservation and wise use of the deer resource within our state. Regulated deer hunting is the main tool used to meet those objectives. While the hunting regulations are intended to best obtain those objectives across a very large, statewide scale, ODWC recognizes that individual properties might benefit from a more fine-scale management approach.

Through enrollment in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), individual landowners, groups of landowners, hunt clubs and the like can obtain customized deer management strategies to help obtain individual goals. Want to manage for a maximized harvest every year? DMAP can help you do that. Want to increase the number of mature bucks on the property? DMAP can help you do that, too. Working together with the enrolled property, ODWC biologists can help customize a management plan that will help achieve the deer management desired for that individual property.

COMMITMENT

DMAP is a program to give cooperators help in managing the deer herd on his or her property. If cooperators are committed to intensive management, ODWC is committed to helping them achieve their goals. To help make that possible, ODWC will provide tools and expert information necessary to implement a more intensive form of deer management than is found under the statewide regulations.

For the program to be successful, cooperators are required to collect some basic biological data from each deer harvested, as well as conduct some pre-season surveys. By analyzing the data collected, ODWC biologists will be able evaluate progress toward the cooperator’s management objectives and provide direction on how to make informed management decisions.

When you apply to enter DMAP, a wildlife biologist will visit the property to evaluate current range conditions, visit with you about your management objectives, review any past harvest history, and help establish a survey protocol. Prior to the fall hunting seasons, the landowner will conduct a population survey and forward the information to the assigned biologist. Using the data provided, the biologist will produce a harvest plan detailing the recommended number of antlered and antlerless deer to be taken from the property. If the biologist believes that the property’s objectives cannot be met with current antlerless regulations, permits allowing additional antlerless harvest can be issued.

COOPERATION

There is a reason that enrolled properties are called “cooperators.” It takes a joint effort between the property and ODWC to make progress toward the management objectives. Cooperators are required to keep records of each and every deer taken from the property. Additionally, the removal of the lower jawbone is required from each deer harvested.

Following the close of the season, the cooperating biologist will obtain these records and materials, and use the data they provide to produce a written report on the deer harvested as well as fine-tune the management strategy needed for future seasons. By working together, DMAP and the cooperator can quickly advance a property toward its goals.