



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
17076 293rd Avenue
Zimmerman, MN 55398



November 15, 2010

Fred Bengtson
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
940 Industrial Drive
Little Falls MN 56345

Dear Fred:

The Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge has drafted a new Hunting Plan which outlines plans to expand fall waterfowl and white-tailed deer opportunities for disabled hunters, as well as initiate a spring wild turkey hunt for both youth and disabled hunters.

A 30-day comment period will run through December 15, giving the public an opportunity to review and comment on this Plan. A Listening Station will be conducted at our headquarters by refuge staff on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This open house will enable people to stop by to speak with a manager one-on-one, and offer their comments. Written comments are welcome as well, and may be sent to the mailing address above.

Copies of the Plan are available on the Refuge web site: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/sherburne>. Paper copies are available at our headquarters.

If you wish to speak to a manager, please call our office at 763/389-3323 weekdays during business hours. We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

Anne Sittauer
Refuge Manager

Elizabeth
Berkley/R3/FWS/DOI
01/07/2011 01:01 PM

To Anne Sittauer/R3/FWS/DOI
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: deer density question

Elizabeth Berkley
Refuge Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
17076 293rd Ave.
Zimmerman, MN 55398

Phone: (763) 389-3323 ext. 14
Cell: (763) 244-0207
Fax: (763) 389-3493

----- Forwarded by Elizabeth Berkley/R3/FWS/DOI on 01/07/2011 01:01 PM -----



"Bengtson, Fred (DNR)"
<Fred.Bengtson@state.mn.us>
>

To "Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov" <Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov>
cc

01/03/2011 02:59 PM

Subject RE: deer density question

You are mostly correct about the modeling for PA 224. Our research folks still take a stab at it even without the best data, so usually I see some results with a big disclaimer. The results are usually in the ballpark, but too much variability for our research people to hang their hats on...

In the late 80's 90's we did some routine flying and counting, that as I recall, confirmed (or mostly did) our research's modeling attempts for our permit areas including 224.

Through the years we have been able to stay on top of the herd through past experiences setting deer hunting season strategies and permit levels.

From: Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov [mailto:Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 2:03 PM
To: Bengtson, Fred (DNR)
Subject: RE: deer density question

Fred,

I have a few more questions. I was under the impression that you were not modeling populations for 224 anymore because of inaccuracies in the model for this PA. Is that true or is it being modeled again? If you do, would you mind sharing the estimates with us on an annual basis? Is the model based on SAK?

You also said that your deer pop estimates have some "observation confirmation" associated with them....what

exactly does that mean? aerial flights?

Just wanted to clarify some things and get a better understanding of what is going on.

Thanks again!

Lizzy

Elizabeth Berkley
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
17076 293rd Ave.
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Phone: (763) 389-3323 ext. 14
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"Bengtson, Fred (DNR)" <Fred.Bengtson@state.mn.us>

To: "Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov" <Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov>

cc

Subject: RE: deer density question

01/03/2011 11:54 AM

Lizzy,

My first email, I threw out the 15-20 number because it was a figure I recalled from the top of my head. I looked back into our records of longer standing goal recommendations which really have not changed for PA 224 or 223, for that matter.

There are some big differences in the Cambridge Unit among permit areas. For instance, in your area (PA 224), the spring deer population goal has been around 18-22 deer/sq. mi. for a long time, while in PA 223, the spring goal has been 6 -10 deer/sq. mi. Fall populations have fluctuated moderately within PA 224 the last 30 years. We have seen (model forecast with some observation confirmation) deer populations of 20-50 deer/sq. mi. in the fall in PA 224, with most years around 25-35 fall deer/sq. mi.

It is probably best to use spring numbers, as it sounds you are doing. In most recent years we have been at or slightly over spring goals in PA 224. In the early 90's we were often quite a bit higher. Fairly liberal hunting strategies have worked well at Sherburne NWR.

Hope this helps.

From: Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov [mailto:Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 11:01 AM
To: Bengtson, Fred (DNR)
Subject: Fw: deer density question

Hi Fred,

Hope you had a wonderful holiday season! Just was wondering if you had time to give this Cambridge Unit deer density situation a thought (see my last comment below if you need to be refreshed ;) Again, this is for our Hunt Plan and if you think I should stick with the 15-20 deer/ sq. mi, just let me know and I will re-word.

Thanks,

Lizzy

Elizabeth Berkley
Refuge Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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----- Forwarded by Elizabeth Berkley/R3/FWS/DOI on 01/03/2011 10:51 AM -----

Elizabeth Berkley/R3/FWS/DOI

12/21/2010 02:38 PM

To: "Bengtson, Fred (DNR)" <Fred.Bengtson@state.mn.us>
cc
Subject: RE: deer density question [Link](#)

The "Cambridge Unit" is a Farmland Zone unit and it was mentioned in that report that the deer populations in all permit areas in this unit were well above 2009 goal. just wondering what that goal was.... if I go with your goal of 15-20 deer/squ. mile then the estimated (pre-fawning) deer densities would be lower than the goal. Here is the link below.

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/wildlife/populationstatus2009/1_farmland_wildlife.pdf

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"Bengtson, Fred (DNR)" <Fred.Bengtson@state.mn.us>

12/21/2010 02:10 PM

To: "Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov" <Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov>

cc

Subject: RE: deer density question

What do you mean by "Cambridge unit"? We mostly operate by the permit area.

Most goal populations levels in your area and east are around 15-20 deer/sq. mile. Usually the population is slightly to moderately higher than that. Dave Pauly (Mgr. at Cambridge) has been aggressive east of you, but populations probably remain moderately above goal.

From: Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov [mailto:Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 11:31 AM

To: Bengtson, Fred (DNR)

Subject: deer density question

Hi Fred,

I was wondering what the deer population density goal was for the Cambridge Unit for 2010?

Happy Holidays!

Lizzy

Elizabeth Berkley
Refuge Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
17076 293rd Ave.
Zimmerman, MN 55398

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Fax: (763) 389-3493



"Bengtson, Fred (DNR)"
<Fred.Bengtson@state.mn.us>
>

11/08/2010 01:36 PM

To "Anne_Sittauer@fws.gov" <Anne_Sittauer@fws.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE: SHB Hunt Plan FINAL-DRAFT

History:  This message has been replied to.

Anne,

Your narrative on deer hunting and population status looks good. I really can't add too much. On average, about 300 – 400 people apply for antlerless permits when we are in the lottery type of season. Also on average, about 5-7 deer/mile are harvested on SNWR total. Without some form of deer hunting, broad-leaved plants would be heavily consumed as populations would reach unreasonable and unmanageable levels. Other factors such as vehicle collisions would be a significant issue with the public without some form of hunting.

SNWR has been able to maintain acceptable moderate to high populations levels of deer with aggressive archery and firearms hunting and I certainly recommend that it continue. Consideration for muzzleloader hunting would also be good.

From a DNR perspective I am at an "Area" level (Stearns, Wright and Sherburne Co.) and not regional. We have about 7 area offices in our region (3).

From: Anne_Sittauer@fws.gov [mailto:Anne_Sittauer@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 05, 2010 1:14 PM
To: Bengtson, Fred (DNR)
Cc: Greg_Dehtmer@fws.gov; Elizabeth_Berkley@fws.gov
Subject: RE: SHB Hunt Plan FINAL-DRAFT

Fred,

Just checking on your review of the hunt EA. We are tentatively planning to send it out to the public on Nov. 15 . Sorry for the short turn around time on this one.

Thanks,

Anne
Anne Marocchini Sittauer
Refuge Manager
Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge Complex
17076 293rd Ave.
Zimmerman, MN 55398
763-389-3323 ext. 11
763-389-3493 (fax)
"Bengtson, Fred (DNR)" <Fred.Bengtson@state.mn.us>

"Bengtson, Fred (DNR)"
<Fred.Bengtson@state.mn.us
>

To "Anne_Sittauer@fws.gov"
<Anne_Sittauer@fws.gov>

10/29/2010 08:02 AM

cc

Subject RE: SHB Hunt Plan FINAL-DRAFT

OK. Will get comments back next week.

From: Anne_Sittauer@fws.gov [mailto:Anne_Sittauer@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 7:58 AM
To: Bengtson, Fred (DNR)
Subject: Fw: SHB Hunt Plan FINAL-DRAFT

Fred,

Here is a draft of the hunting EA that is almost complete. I was hoping you could add something to the Regional Deer section on page 45 and, of course anything else that you think needs to be added. We are hoping to get this out for public comment in the next week or two. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Anne

Anne Marocchini Sittauer
Refuge Manager
Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge Complex
17076 293rd Ave.
Zimmerman, MN 55398
763-389-3323 ext. 11
763-389-3493 (fax)

----- Forwarded by Anne Sittauer/R3/FWS/DOI on 10/28/2010 07:51 AM -----

E To
l Anne Sittauer/R3/FWS/DOI
i cc
z Greg Dehmer/R3/FWS/DOI
a Subject
b SHB Hunt Plan FINAL-DRAFT



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
17076 293rd Avenue
Zimmerman, MN 55398



IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 15, 2010

Beau Liddell
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
16543 Haven Road
Sauk Rapids MN 56345

Dear Beau:

The Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge has drafted a new Hunting Plan which outlines plans to expand fall waterfowl and white-tailed deer opportunities for disabled hunters, as well as initiate a spring wild turkey hunt for both youth and disabled hunters.

A 30-day comment period will run through December 15, giving the public an opportunity to review and comment on this Plan. A Listening Station will be conducted at our headquarters by refuge staff on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This open house will enable people to stop by to speak with a manager one-on-one, and offer their comments. Written comments are welcome as well, and may be sent to the mailing address above.

Copies of the Plan are available on the Refuge web site: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/sherburne>. Paper copies are available at our headquarters.

If you wish to speak to a manager, please call our office at 763/389-3323 weekdays during business hours. We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

Anne Sittauer
Refuge Manager



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
17076 293rd Avenue
Zimmerman, MN 55398



IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 15, 2010

Mark Holsten
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul MN 55155

Dear Mark:

The Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge has drafted a new Hunting Plan which outlines plans to expand fall waterfowl and white-tailed deer opportunities for disabled hunters, as well as initiate a spring wild turkey hunt for both youth and disabled hunters.

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Sincerely,

Anne Sittauer
Refuge Manager



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17076 293rd Avenue
Zimmerman, MN 55398



IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 15, 2010

Kelly Applegate
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribe
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

Dear Kelly:

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge has drafted a Hunting Plan which will open a portion of the Refuge to special deer firearms and archery hunts, as well as a special spring turkey hunt, for youth and persons with disabilities.

A 30-day comment period will run through December 15, giving the public an opportunity to review and comment on this Plan. A Listening Station will be conducted at our headquarters by refuge staff on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This open house will enable people to stop by to speak with a manager one-on-one, and offer their comments. Written comments are welcome as well, and may be sent to the mailing address above.

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Sincerely,

Anne Sittauer
Refuge Manager



News Release

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
17076 293rd Ave.
Zimmerman MN 55398
763/389-3323 Fax: 763/389-3493
<http://midwest.fws.gov/sherburne>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DRAFT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Anne Sittauer 763/389-3323
Greg Dehmer 763/389-3323

Hunting Opportunities Expand at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge

Sherburne Refuge will expand fall waterfowl and white-tailed deer hunting opportunities for disabled hunters, as well as initiate a spring wild turkey hunt for both youth and disabled hunters. These hunting activities will be allowed in designated portions of the Refuge during state seasons. State regulations will apply. Hunters should also be aware of any Refuge-specific regulations that may apply.

More detailed information can be found on the web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/sherburne>, by calling the Refuge office at 763.389-3323, or by picking up hunting brochures located at Refuge entrance kiosks. TTY users may reach the Refuge through the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

Sherburne Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and is located near the cities of Princeton and Zimmerman in central Minnesota.

The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.