

# Present Day Challenges in Deer Management



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# Urban Deer Management







# Why Engage in Deer Management?





# Characteristics of Urban Deer

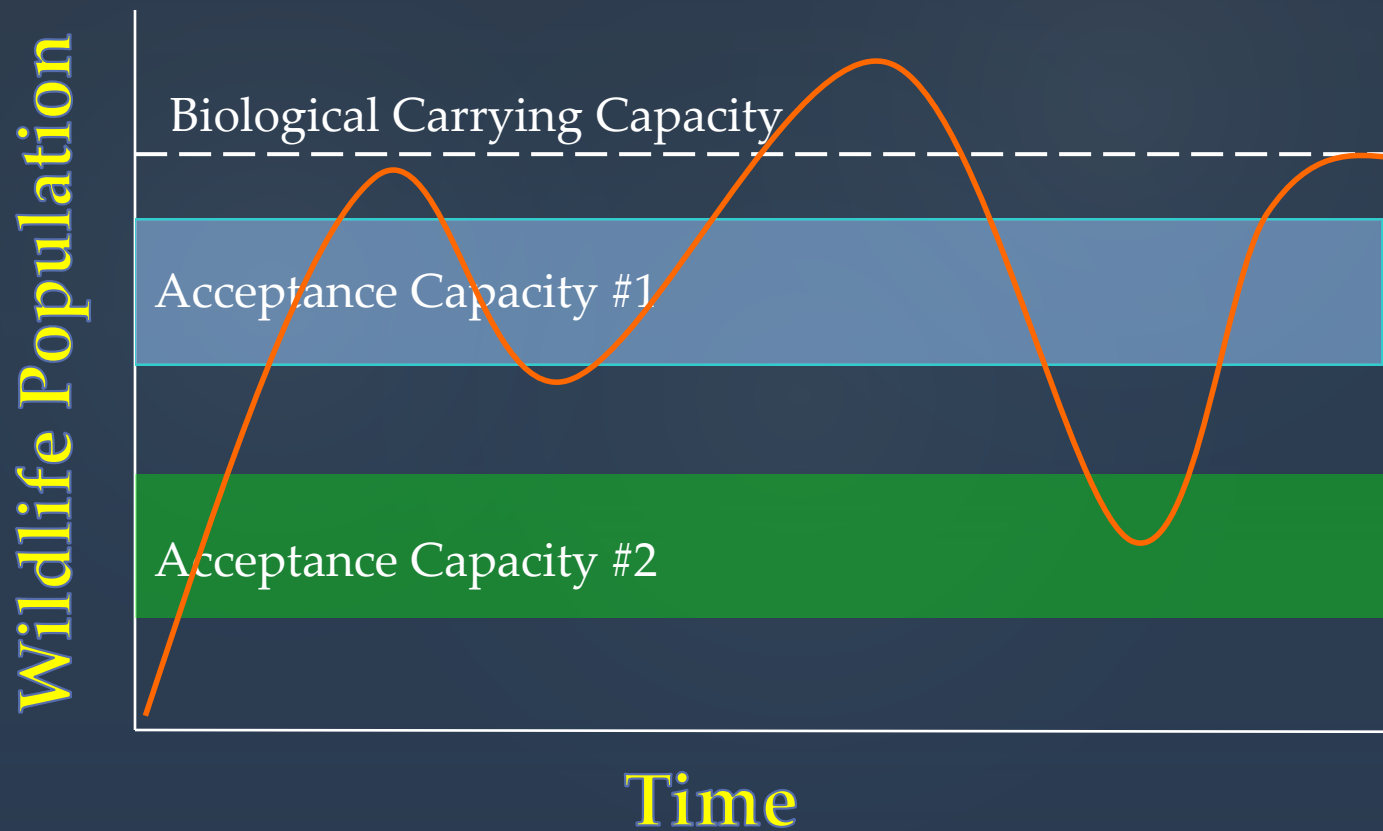
- Reproduction
  - Increased in Urban Areas
    - Reported as high as 1.8 fawns/adult doe
- Survival
  - Higher rates
    - Reported as high as 87%
- Home Range Size
  - Typically smaller



# Carrying Capacity



# Measures of Capacity for Wildlife Populations





# Items to Begin Monitoring

- Deer-Vehicle Collisions
- Botanical Surveys
- Landscape Damage
- Complaints
- Residents Opinions
- Deer Numbers





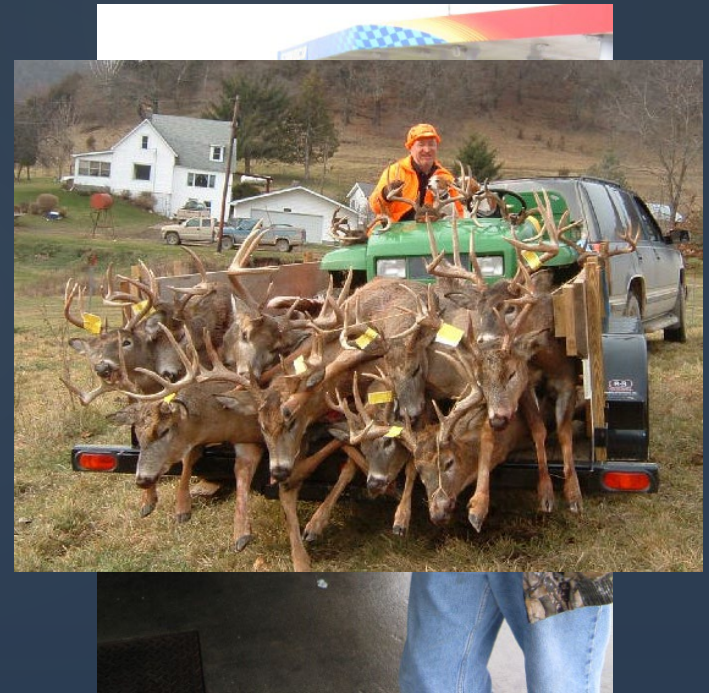
# Management Options

- Let Nature Take it's Course
  - Pros
    - Seem like a compromise
    - Inexpensive
  - Cons
    - Doesn't solve any problems that are occurring
    - Continued degradation of habitat and conflicts



# Management Options

- Hunting
  - Pros
    - Inexpensive to communities
    - Provides minor economic stimulus
    - Largely favored by many people
  - Cons
    - Some types of hunting (i.e. trophy) not appealing to many
    - Lethal, which is a negative to some





# Management Options

- Sharpshooting
  - Pros
    - Reduces deer population quickly
  - Cons
    - Often expensive
    - Controversial
    - Lethal, which is negative to some



# Management Options

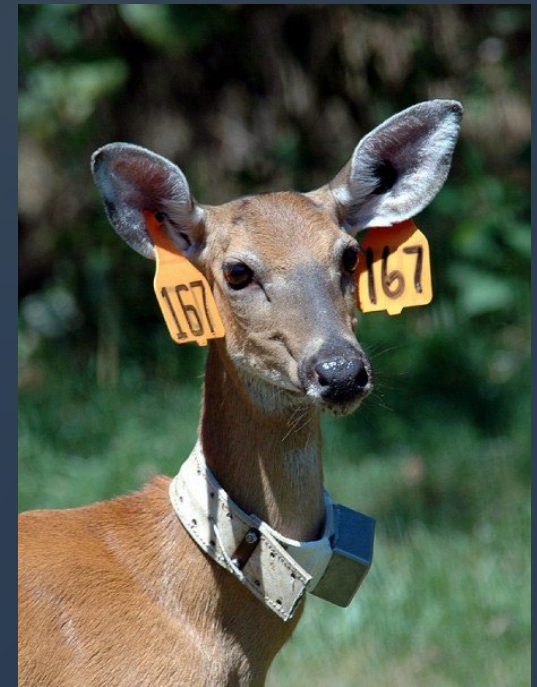
- Trap and Remove
  - Pros
    - No projectile
    - Removes deer from difficult areas
  - Cons
    - High stress to deer
    - Expensive
    - Transfer not typically allowed by state agencies





# Management Options

- Contraception
  - Pros
    - Doesn't fire lethal projectile
    - Prevents future fawns from being born
  - Cons
    - Expensive
    - Doesn't remove deer which may be the problem
    - Difficult to achieve results



# Management Options

- Sterilization
  - Pros
    - Doesn't fire a lethal projectile
    - Prevents fawns from being born permanently
  - Cons
    - Expensive
    - Doesn't remove deer which may be problem
    - Difficult to achieve results





# Management Options

- Reintroduce Predators
  - Pros
    - Opportunity to return historical species
  - Cons
    - Socially unacceptable
    - Expensive
    - Complicated interactions requires study



# Management Options

- Fencing and Repellants
  - Pros
    - Can exclude deer from problem areas
    - Relatively inexpensive
  - Cons
    - Requires maintenance
    - Does not solve community wide problem





# First Steps to Consider

- Consult local DNR biologists
- Recommend fencing/repellents/hunting
- Review local ordinances
  - Feeding deer
  - Projectile ordinances
- Public meetings



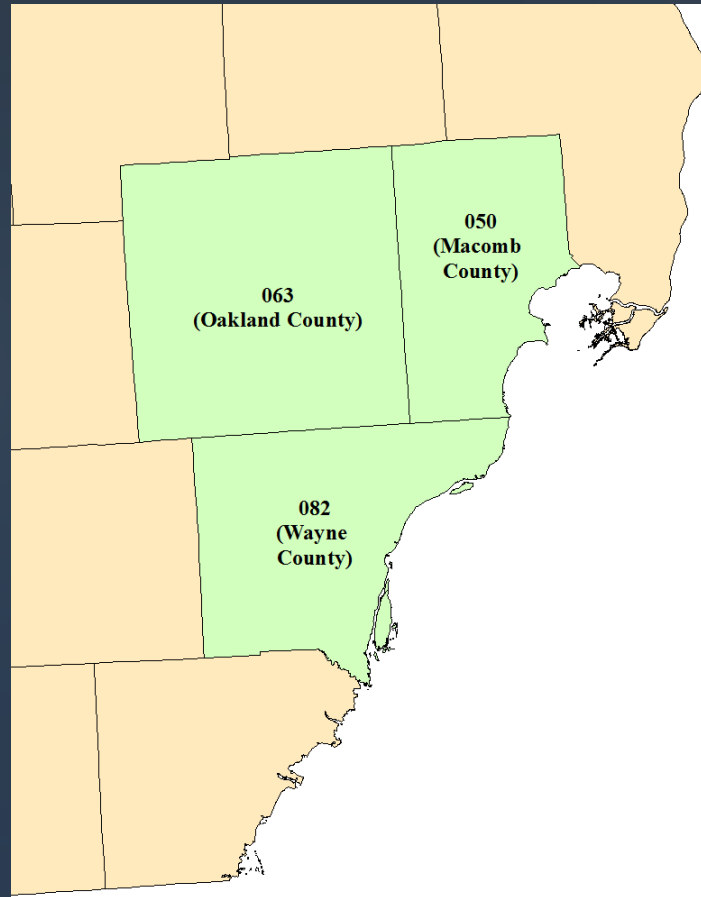
# Considerations for Starting a Deer Management Program



- Authority
- Background
- Objectives
- Recommendations
- Alternatives
- Logistics
- Evaluate
- Communicate



# Urban Deer Management Pilot





# Urban Deer Management Conclusions

- Consensus on deer management is impossible
- Incorporate both biological and social input
- Appropriate management strategies should align with the objectives of the deer program
- All management actions need to be maintained over time



A group of approximately ten deer are standing in a field of dry, yellowish grass. In the background, there is a dense forest of tall, thin trees with bare branches, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is visible through the trees, showing a warm, orange glow from the sun.

# [www.mi.gov/CWD](http://www.mi.gov/CWD)

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