

**From
Plymouth DNR Service Center
“The Woodchucks”**



**To
Sheboygan County Conservation Association
December 20, 2107**

From the Front Line:

From Fish Management: Travis, Tanya, Danyelle

The new Plymouth Fisheries Biologist has been hired and will start with DNR on 1/8/18. A brief bio is below: Addie Dutton was born and raised in Fife Lake, Michigan, a small northern town nestled on the Manistee River. She grew up fishing and hunting with her family which led her to pursue a career in fisheries. She completed her B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan in May 2015 and her M.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University-Bozeman in December 2017. Addie has had the opportunity to work in many amazing places including the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Colorado, and Alaska. She enjoys working on native fish conservation, habitat restoration projects, and food web ecology of aquatic systems. In her free time, Addie can be found fishing, boating, and hunting with her Brittany Spaniel Hex.

From Law Enforcement: Juan, and Tyler
2017 Wisconsin Nine-day Gun Deer Hunt – Postseason
Report

In 2017, 588,387 hunters from all 50 US states, two US territories and 45 foreign countries purchased a license to participate in Wisconsin's nine-day gun deer season, compared to 598,807 in 2016. In total, 821,876 gun, archery and crossbow licenses (not including upgrades) have been sold through the end of the nine-day gun deer season, compared to 834,092 (not including upgrades) in 2016.

This year, the department saw hunting traditions passed along to 21,356 new hunters who bought a gun deer license for the first time, or the first time in 10 years. New female hunters represented 28.8 percent of gun first time buyers and 21.5 percent of first-time archery and crossbow buyers. In all, female hunters made up 11.1 percent of all deer license sales.

Preliminary registration totals for the nine-day season indicate 195,738 deer were registered (98,364 antlered and 97,374 antlerless), compared to 196,785 deer were registered during the nine-day season in 2016. In 2017, there was a 0.5 percent increase in statewide buck harvest during the nine-day hunt, while total harvest decreased by 0.5 percent.

For the nine-day gun deer hunt, the 2017 regional harvest breakdown by region (with percent change from 2016) included:

- Northern Forest Zone: 26,437 (12.7 percent increase) antlered and 15,220 (70 percent increase) antlerless;
- Central Forest Zone: 4,914 (3.2 percent decrease) antlered and 2,738 (7.5 percent decrease) antlerless;
- Central Farmland Zone: 48,324 (1.2 percent decrease) antlered and 58,126 (7.4 percent decrease) antlerless;
- Southern Farmland Zone: 18,689 (9.3 percent decrease) antlered and 21,290 (13.4 percent decrease) antlerless; and
- Total: 98,364 (0.5 percent increase) antlered and 97,374 (1.5 percent decrease) antlerless.

Law Enforcement

During the nine-day deer gun season, conservation wardens made 11,737 patrol contacts with 45 percent occurring during the opening weekend. In addition, staff handled 3,536 service contacts (number of contacts or calls for service you receive that are not violation/complaint related) and investigated 965 violation complaints (626 DNR hotline calls and 339 complaints).

DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement's conservation wardens investigated seven non-fatal hunting incidents in seven counties during the gun-deer season (Brown, Shawano, Forest, Ozaukee, Clark, Washburn and Waukesha). None of the seven incidents involved a mentored hunter.

From Wildlife Management: Dan, Ed, Andrew

9 day gun hunt wrap up. Here are the 2017 numbers for Sheboygan County compared with 2016.

Management Unit	2016			2017		Overall Harvest Change
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total (ALL)	Antlered	Antlerless	
SHEBOYGAN	790	1,078	1,868	804	855	1,659 -11.2%

Total CWD samples for thus far. We are still encouraging those who would like, to still have their deer tested. All we need is the head of the deer with about 2-3” of neck intact. They may also take their deer head with them afterwards. No positive deer have been found yet in the county. We will also have weighted sampling again next year.

- Sheboygan County – 48
- Fond du Lac – 1
- Ozaukee – 8
- Washington – 3
- Other Counties – 31

Grand Total: 91 total samples collected

- Preparing for another attempt at a drawdown for Sheboygan Marsh next year to help alleviate cattails showing up at the dam/boat landing.