

Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt 2011-2012 Deer Report



Executive Summary
Post Season Reports
Aerial Survey Results
Bow-Hunt Administrators
Advisory Organizations

Compiled by the
Polk County Deer Task Force

The Polk County Deer Task Force believes that the White-tailed deer is a valuable part of our natural heritage. We support the perpetuation of the deer population in Polk County at ecologically acceptable levels.

-1997 Position Statement of the Polk County Deer Task Force

Executive Summary

Based on the following results, it is recommended that the Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt should be continued for the 2012-2013 season throughout the Polk County Deer Management Zone. It is also recommended to continue expanding efforts in all areas including:

- Urbandale
- Brown's Woods and Walnut Woods
- Clive
- Easter Lake to Cownie Park
- Pleasant Hill
- private property throughout the zone
- Johnston - Beaver Creek corridor



Post Season Reports

Licenses Sold

-The Polk County Deer Management Zone is divided into two zones. 1200 licenses were available for zone 48 which includes all of the cities, Polk County Conservation areas and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers areas. 400 licenses were available in zone 61 which is comprised of mostly rural areas not included in zone 48. Hunters purchased 852 antler-less licenses in zone 48 and 73 antler-less licenses in zone 61 for use in the Polk County Deer Management Zone.



Hunting Season

-This year the IDNR allowed participating entities to use September 10, 2011 through January 29, 2012, for the Polk County Deer Management Zone bow-hunting season. Agencies could choose to use these dates for their season, or tailor their hunt to suit individual needs (as long as the dates were within the allowable season above). The proposed hunt dates for the 2012 -2013 season will be September 15, 2012 through January 27, 2013.

Deer Harvest

-Agencies reported that 506 antler-less deer had been harvested during the '11-'12 bow-hunt, which is an increase from 486 in the 2010-2011 season.

-There was a total of 570 antler-less deer harvested in the Polk County Deer Management Zone (including antler-less deer harvested in Camp Dodge with shotgun/muzzle).

38 incentive bucks were harvested during the '11-'12 bow-hunt

A total of *633 deer were harvested during the '11-'12 season.

* Count includes Camp Dodge (shotgun and muzzle any sex-tags)

Proficiency Testing

- Vendors administered 307 proficiency tests to 304 hunters.

Safety Record

No injuries were reported from neighbors or park visitors



Polk County Aerial Deer Surveys: 2012

by Bill Bunger
Iowa DNR

Helicopter surveys were flown on February 9th using a Bell Jet helicopter. Observers were Brian Hickman and Bill Bunger. Conditions for the survey were marginal with only 2 –4 inches of snow in much of the area. Conditions were poorer on the eastern parts of Polk County. The sky was partly cloudy most of the day. Winds were light from the northwest. Temperatures were in the 30's. Sighting conditions were good but snowfall levels were poor in the eastern ¼ of the area and fair across the rest of the areas. Some deer beds were visible.

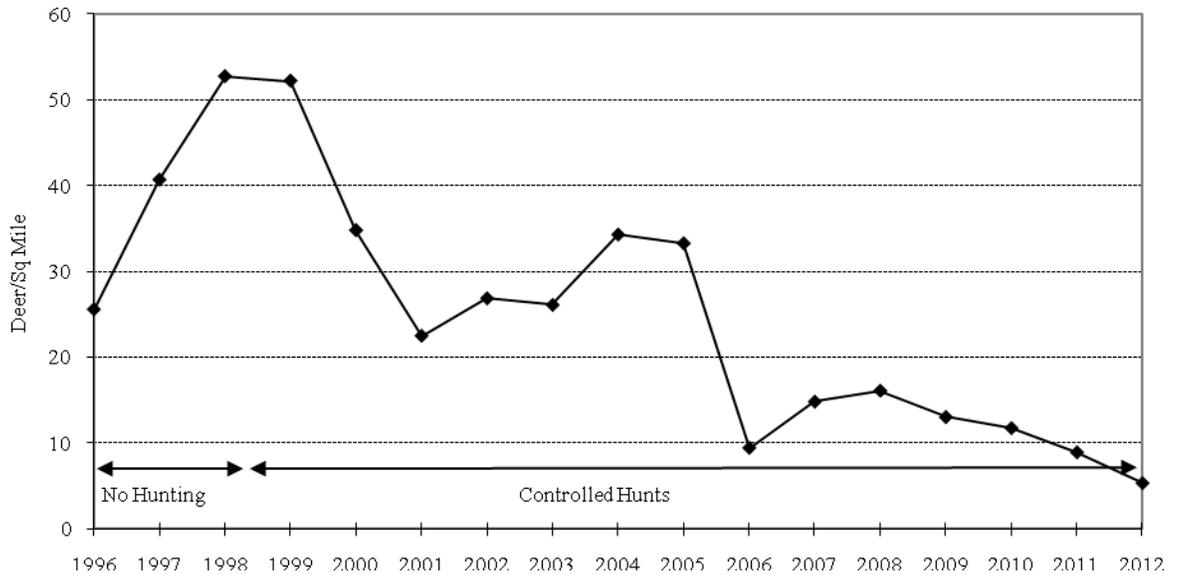
The number of deer sighted for each area is reported in Table 1. The number of deer recorded should be viewed as a minimum count. Each area listed was divided up into discrete units and circled or flown systematically. Where necessary the helicopter was brought around to count areas more thoroughly. In most areas the deer ran as the helicopter passed overhead.

The number of deer counted was down in 13 of the 19 urban areas surveyed when compared to 2011. Three areas saw increases while two were unchanged. Additionally, 11 of the 19 areas have been at or below original goals the last two years. Counts have shown a decline the last two years and are 52% lower than the highest counts in 2007. However, the lower counts probably reflect, in part, the marginal survey conditions as much as actual deer numbers. It should also be noted that the mild winter would typically see less bunching of deer. It is likely that some areas would not have seen deer move into them where more typical winter weather would.

While the survey area is labeled Browns & Walnut Woods the fact is, most (85%), of the deer normally seen in this area are associated with private property to the south and not on either of these public areas.

The number of deer observed in Water Works Park was much lower than last year and is well below the goal of 30 deer per square mile (Fig 1). None of the deer observed in Water Works Park were observed east of Fleur Drive. The number of deer observed in the area between Water Works and Grand avenue remained the same.

Figure 1. The number of deer/sq. mile observed at Water Works Park on the helicopter survey, 1996 – present.



Overall, the counts were down from 2011 and are considerably lower than we would expect if the controlled hunts had not been initiated in 1998. Nearly 4400 deer have been harvested in the deer management zone. Although it appears the increased efforts to promote the controlled hunts are beginning to pay off, the poorer sighting conditions should be taken into consideration as well, especially when evaluating next year's counts. It may be time to revisit problem areas based on complaints from constituents/vehicle accidents and try to more pointedly address these areas with hunting pressure.

Bow-Hunt Administrators

- City of Des Moines: Mike Gaul 208-0310
- Administers public property bow-hunting; allows private property bow-hunting
- Des Moines Water Works: Scott Atzen 208-8702, Regina Olmstead 283-8769
- City of Johnston: Jim Sanders 727-7760
- Administers public property bow-hunting; allows private property bow-hunting
- Polk County Conservation: Brian Herrstrom 967-4889, c 249-1753
- US Army Corps of Engineers (Saylorville Lake): Tyler Hill 276-4656 ext. 6512
- City of Urbandale: Jeff Casey 331-6812
- Administers public property bow-hunting; allows private property bow-hunting
- Walnut Woods State Park (IDNR): Tim Gedler 285-4502
- City of West Des Moines: Sally Ortegies 222-3447
-Administers public property bow-hunting
- City of Clive: Kelly Canfield 223-5246
-Administers public property bow-hunting
- City of Pleasant Hill: Heath Ellis 208-5212
- Administers public property bow-hunting; allows private property bow-hunting

Advisory Organizations

- The following organizations serve in an advisory capacity to the Polk County Deer Task Force (in addition to the organizations listed above).
- Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources: Bill Bunger (515) 975-8318, Willie Suchy (515) 281-8660
- City of Ankeny, City of Des Moines Animal Control, City of Grimes, City of Polk City, Dallas County Conservation Board
- Archery Field and Sports, Des Moines Audubon, Des Moines Founders' Garden Club, Des Moines Izaak Walton League, Happy Apple Orchard and Sporting, IDNR Law Enforcement, Iowa Bow Hunters Assoc. (IBA), National Field Archery Association, Polk County Conservation Board, Polk County Board of Supervisors, Sierra Club and Westwood Neighborhood Association.

Table 1. Results from the helicopter deer surveys in Polk county, 1996 to present.

Urban Areas	Area (Square Miles)	Deer Sighted																	
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Water Works Park Area	3.91	100	159	206	204	136	88	105	102	134	130	37	58	63	51	46	35	21	
D.M, South of Grand	1.37			56	45	39	50	49	36	63	56	18	53	66	49	55	28	28	
DSM airport west-63rd*	1.78												150	164	188	103	76	76	
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	43	132	149	106	128	86	91	155	226	167	137	301	216	232	151	189	182	
Easter Lake & Moines River East	6.74	26	43	58	135	145	110	163	132	146	239	84	418	233	209	254	195	142	
Yellow Banks Park & Des Moines River	1.75	24	52	62	77	67	122	81	98	77	78	29	110	92	77	61	33	19	
Four Mile Creek:																			
I80 -Des Moines River	5.29	7	41	51	99	79	39	83	87	100	107	118	174	165	179	164	87	113	
Pleasant Hill west*	0.93												48	71	59	86	63	53	43
Pleasant Hill east	2.27												25	31	150	162	128	90	71
North of I-80	4.45	58	128	128	158	117	103	86	80	104	127	16	124	202	136	177	125	71	
Margo Frankel Woods	0.78	15	14	35	4	23	12	6	0	28	15	8	15	15	17	25	18	21	
Rock Creek	2.91	26	74	38	51	49	79	24	39	44	27	52	66	92	58	47	41	46	
Des Moines River:																			
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	2.61	83	115	83	150	124	122	162	209	296	184	153	278	238	143	155	150	123	
North of I-80*															175	122	124	111	82
South of I-80*															63	21	31	39	41
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.22									63	56	38	10	25	35	30	33	15	
Walnut Creek:																			
Raccoon River to I-80	0.79	0	1	7	5	23	14	14	25	42	19	30	50	19	40	40	27	22	
Clive Area; west of I-35*	0.30														23	15	10	5	8
Living History Farms	0.41				20	20	10	42	16	34	26	30	25	43	23	17	24	18	
West of I-80	1.38	59	229	285	261	270	225	146	203	336	177	227	340	172	147	186	170	127	
Beaver Creek (Johnston)	0.59														100	74	80	61	27
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	3.11	41	92	117	133	125	89	113	135	230	135	89	198	150	166	268	142	118	
Total	45.79	482	1,080	1,275	1,448	1,345	1,149	1,165	1,317	1,923	1,543	1,091	2,401	2,205	1,986	1,987	1,524	1,240	
Rural Areas																			
Saylorville Reservoir																			
Camp Dodge	2.23	55	71	93	105	108	69	73	68	195	165	148	234	148	109	93	107	49	
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92		61	62	24	38	34	61	50	109	46	67	98	114	86	136	84	115	
Dam to MLB (east side) <i>a</i>	2.55		41	72	94	83	85	86	50	137	94	55	66	127	91	90	105	110	
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18		35	33	53	77	80	-	-		142	123	124	208	134	178	179	201	
Jester Park, MLB to Bridge to Hwy 17	4.82	88	158	161	95	95	132	127	108	189	82	110	133	221	165	187	201	238	
Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)	16	143	366	421	371	401	400	347	276	630	529	503	655	818	585	684	676	713	
Chichaqua & Skunk River		96	85		197	109	-	-	187	133	106	181	210	-	154	-	103	-	

*New survey area, 2007.

a - does not include Barrier Dam Refuge area

Urban Areas	Area (Square Miles)	Deer per Square Mile																	(2011 to 2012)
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Water Works Park Area	3.91	26	41	53	52	35	23	27	26	34	33	9	15	16	13	12	9	5	-44%
D.M, South of Grand	1.37	0	0	41	33	28	36	36	26	46	41	13	39	48	36	40	20	20	0%
DSM airport west-63rd*	1.78											84	92	106	58	43	43		0%
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	10	31	35	25	30	20	22	37	54	40	33	72	51	55	36	45	43	-4%
Easter Lake & Moines River East	6.74	4	6	9	20	22	16	24	20	22	35	12	62	35	31	38	29	21	-28%
Yellow Banks Park & Des Moines River	1.75	14	30	35	44	38	70	46	56	44	45	17	63	53	44	35	19	11	-42%
Four Mile Creek:																			
I80 -Des Moines River	5.29	1	8	10	19	15	7	16	16	19	20	22	33	31	34	31	16	21	31%
Pleasant Hill west*	0.93											48	71	63	92	68	57	46	-19%
Pleasant Hill east	2.27											26	31	66	71	56	40	31	-23%
North of I-80	4.45	13	29	29	36	26	23	19	18	23	29	4	28	45	31	40	28	16	-43%
Margo Frankel Woods	0.78	19	18	45	5	29	15	8	0	36	19	10	19	19	22	32	23	27	17%
Rock Creek	2.91	9	25	13	18	17	27	8	13	15	9	18	23	32	20	16	14	16	14%
Des Moines River:																			
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	2.61	32	44	32	57	48	47	62	80	113	70	59	107	91	55	59	57	47	-18%
North of I-80*																			
South of I-80*																			
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.22	0							286	255	173	45	114	159	136	150	68		-55%
Walnut Creek:																			
Raccoon River to I-80	0.79	0	1	9	6	29	18	18	32	53	24	38	63	24	51	51	34	28	-18%
Clive Area; west of I-35*	0.30													77	50	33	17	27	
Living History Farms	0.41				49	49	24	102	39	83	63	73	61	105	56	41	59	44	-25%
West of I-80	1.38	43	166	207	189	196	163	106	147	243	128	164	246	125	107	135	123	92	-25%
Beaver Creek (Johnston)	0.59													169	125	136	103	46	-55%
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	3.11	13	30	38	43	40	29	36	43	74	43	29	64	48	53	86	46	38	-17%
Total	45.79	11	24	28	32	29	25	25	29	42	34	24	52	48	43	43	33	27	-18%
Rural Areas																			
Saylorville Reservoir																			
Camp Dodge	2.23	25	32	42	47	48	31	33	30	87	74	66	105	66	49	42	48	22	-54%
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92	-	32	32	13	20	18	32	26	57	24	35	51	59	45	71	44	60	36%
Dam to MLB (east side) <i>a</i>	2.55	-	16	28	37	33	33	34	20	54	37	22	26	50	36	35	41	43	5%
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18	-	8	8	13	18	19		0	34	29	30	50	32	43	43	48		12%
Jester Park, MLB to Bridge to Hwy 17	4.82	18	33	33	20	20	27	26	22	39	17	23	28	46	34	39	42	49	17%
Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)	16	-	23	27	24	26	25	22	18	40	34	32	42	52	37	44	43	45	5%
Chichaqua & Skunk River																			

*New survey area, 2007.

a - does not include Barrier Dam Refuge area

2011 - 2012 Deer Harvest

POLK-DALLAS URBAN ZONE 48

A. **Polk County Conservation (PCC) Public Areas:** Brian Herrstrom 967-4889

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Jester Park				
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	2		4	20
Sycamore Trail (includes Area C in Johnston)				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)				7
Easter Lake				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)			3	8
Brown's Woods				
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	2		3	37
Thomas Mitchell Park				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)			1	6
Mally's Weh-Weh-Neh-Kee Park				
Incentive Buck (included with Thomas Mitchell)				3
Four Mile Greenbelt				
Incentive Buck (included with Thomas Mitchell)	1		1	4
Yellow Banks Park				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	1			8
Gay Lea Wilson East Trail				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	1			4
Polk County Conservation (PCC)				
Harvest Total	7	0	12	97

B. **City of Clive Public Areas:** Kelly Canfield 223-5246

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
West of I-80	0	0	1	2
Greenbelt Park: East of NW 114th	0	0	0	0
Incentive Buck (None allotted at this time)				
Sub-total	0	0	1	2
City of Clive Private Property				
None at present date				0
Sub-total	0	0	0	0
City of Clive				
Harvest Total	0	0	1	2

C. **City of Des Moines Public Areas:** Michael Gaul 208-0310

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Cases Lake: Hartford Ave	1	1	2	18
Crocker Woods: Prospect Rd. & Hickman Rd.	0	0	1	8
Ewing Park	3	0	0	8
Laurel Hill Woods	0	0	0	5
MacRae Park	1	0	0	0
Pioneer Park	0	1	0	4
Ashworth Park	1	0	4	10
Incentive Buck (9 allotted)				
Sub-total	6	2	7	53

City of Des Moines Private Property

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
SW / Airport Area (South of Waterworks Park, West of Fleur to limits)	3	0	0	33
SE / Easter Lake and Ewing Parks Area (SE 14th east, South of DM River to Limits)	2	0	3	29
South of Grand Area (West of Terrace Hill to 63rd, South of University to Waterworks)	3	0	2	18
MacRae Park Area	0	0	0	0
Prospect / Beaverdale Park Area	0	0	1	11
East Area (East and Northeast area of city) Incentive Buck (15 allotted)	2	0	4	13
Sub-total	10	0	10	104
City of Des Moines	Harvest Total	16	2	17

D. **Des Moines Water Works:** Scott Atzen 208-8702, Regina Olmstead 283-8769

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
2201 George Flagg Parkway, 50321 Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	2			27
Des Moines Water Works	Harvest Total	2	0	0

E. City of Johnston Public Areas: Jim Sanders 727-7760							
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe			
Area A: Army Corps of Engineers (See USACE totals)							
Area C: Sycamore Trail (See PCC totals)							
Area E: City of Johnston - 156 Acres Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	1				9		
Sub-total	1	0	0		9		
City of Johnston Private Property							
Private Property Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	1				24		
Sub-total	1	0	0		24		
City of Johnston	Harvest Total			2	0	0	33

F. City of Pleasant Hill: Heath Ellis 208-5212							
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe			
City Property					1		
Private Property Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	1				5		
City of Pleasant Hill	Harvest Total			1	0	0	6

G. City of Urbandale Public Areas: Jeff Casey 331-6800							
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe			
City Parks Incentive Buck (None allotted at this time)				2	10		
Sub-total	0	0	2		10		
City of Urbandale Private Property							
Living History Farms (LHF) (West of I-35) Incentive Buck (5 allotted)	1		3		8		
Other Private Property Incentive Buck (7 allotted)	7	1	4		55		
Sub-total	8	1	7		63		
City of Urbandale	Harvest Total			8	1	9	73

H. City of West Des Moines Public Areas: Sally Ortgies 222-3447					
		Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
South Woods		1			16
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)					
	Sub-total	1	0	0	16
City of West Des Moines Private Property					
		1			7
	Sub-total	1	0	0	7
City of West Des Moines	Harvest Total	2	0	0	23

I. USACE: (Corps of Engineers): 276-4656 Scott Rolfes ext. 6508; Tyler Hill ext. 6512					
		Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Saylorville					23
(No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)					
Polk City Refuge					7
(No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)					
USACE	Harvest Total	0	0	0	30

J. Walnut Woods State Park: Tim Gedler 285-4502					
		Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Walnut Woods State Park				2	14
(No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)					
Walnut Woods State Park	Harvest Total	0	0	2	14

Total Doe Harvested Zone 48 462

Total Incentive Bucks Harvested Zone 48 38

Total Shed Antlered Bucks Harvested Zone 48 3

Total Button Bucks Harvested Zone 48 41

Antler-less tags available zone 48:	1200	Sold:	852
Incentive Buck Tags available Zone 48	65	Sold:	59

K. IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI)	Zone 48			
	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
	43	3	56	458
ELSI	43	3	56	458

ELSI harvest totals for zone 48 are displayed to show reporting discrepancies by hunters to both administrating agencies and IDNR.

POLK-DALLAS RURAL ZONE 61

L. Camp Dodge: Mary Jones 252-4648				
	Buck**	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Archery	13	3	3	26
Shotgun / Muzzle loader	12	1	0	26
**Buck (Normal seasons and any-sex tags allowed)				
Camp Dodge	25	4	3	52

M. IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI)	Zone 61			
	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
	0	0	4	8
ELSI	0	0	4	8

Total Antlerless Deer Harvested Zone 61 71

Total Bucks Harvested Zone 61 25

Antler-less tags available zone 61: 400 Sold: 73

Antler-less Deer Harvested (Bow) Total 532

* Count including Camp Dodge (shotgun/muzzle) and ELSI zone 61 570

Incentive Bucks Total 38

Bucks: Camp Dodge** and ELSI zone 61 Total 25

**Normal seasons (shotgun/bow) and any-sex tags allowed

Total Deer Harvested 633