

Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt 2012-2013 Deer Report



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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 2013-2014 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 827 antler-less licenses in zone 48 and 42 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 15, 2012 through January 27, 2013, 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 2013 -2014 season will be September 14, 2013 through January 19, 2014.

Deer Harvest

-Agencies reported that 497 antler-less deer had been harvested during the '12-'13 bow-hunt, which is a decrease from 506 in the 2011-2012 season.

-There was a total of 536 antler-less deer harvested in the Polk County Deer Management Zone (including antler-less deer harvested in Camp Dodge with shotgun/muzzle).

34 incentive bucks were harvested during the '12-'13 bow-hunt

A total of *580 deer were harvested during the '12-'13 season.

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

Proficiency Testing

- Archery Field and Sports administered 291 proficiency tests to 283 hunters.

Safety Record

No injuries were reported from neighbors or park visitors



Polk County Aerial Deer Surveys: 2013

by Bill Bunger
Iowa DNR

Helicopter surveys were flown on February 23rd & 24th using a Bell Jet helicopter. All of the metro areas were flown on the 23rd and Saylorville Lake on the 24th. Observers were Brian Hickman and Bill Bunger. Conditions for the survey were good with >5" of snow. The sky was mostly clear on the 23rd and partly cloudy on the 24th. Winds were light. Temperatures started in the upper teens each day and were in the low to mid twenties by end of the day. Sighting conditions were good. 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 up in 10 of the 20 urban areas surveyed when compared to 2012. A 21st area was added in West Des Moines this year. Snowfall and better sighting conditions across most of the survey areas compared to last year, would account for some of the increases from this year to last. (Comparisons to counts in 2011, however, would show increases in only five of the survey areas.) Three areas saw decreases while seven were mostly unchanged. Ten of the 20 survey areas have been at or below original goals the last three years.

Figure 1. The number of deer observed across all urban areas on the helicopter survey, 1998 – present.



Overall counts are considerably lower than we would expect if the controlled hunts had not been initiated in 1998. Nearly 5000 deer have been harvested in the deer management zone. This hunting pressure has helped bring numbers down from the highest counts observed in 2007. Some areas appear to be stabilizing but doing so at levels originally deemed acceptable by the task force. Areas with little or no hunting pressure appear to be keeping overall numbers slightly above acceptable density levels.

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, Rick Courcier 208-8214
- 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, 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 Surveyed	Area (Square Miles)	Deer Sighted																	
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Water Works Park Area	3.91	100	159	206	204	136	88	105	102	134	130	37	58	63	51	46	35	21	35
D.M, South of Grand	1.37			56	45	39	50	49	36	63	56	18	53	66	49	55	28	28	29
DSM airport west-63rd*	1.78												150	164	188	103	76	76	74
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	43	132	149	106	128	86	91	155	226	167	137	301	216	232	151	189	182	238
Easter Lake & DSM River East	6.74	26	43	58	135	145	110	163	132	146	239	84	418	233	209	254	195	142	174
Yellow Banks & DSM River	1.75	24	52	62	77	67	122	81	98	77	78	29	110	92	77	61	33	19	51
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	114
Pleasant Hill west*	0.93											48	71	59	86	63	53	43	70
Pleasant Hill east	2.27											25	31	150	162	128	90	71	138
North of I-80	4.45	58	128	128	158	117	103	86	80	104	127	16	124	202	136	177	125	71	98
Margo Frankel Woods	0.78	15	14	35	4	23	12	6	0	28	15	8	15	15	17	25	18	21	14
Rock Creek	2.91	26	74	38	51	49	79	24	39	44	27	52	66	92	58	47	41	46	34
Des Moines River:																			
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	4.66	83	115	83	150	124	122	162	209	296	184	153	278	238	143	155	150	123	193
North of I-80*	2.81													175	122	124	111	82	118
South of I-80*	1.85													63	21	31	39	41	75
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.22									63	56	38	10	25	35	30	33	15	17
Quail Park- W. DSM**	0.90																		101
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	13
Clive Area; west of I-35*	0.30													23	15	10	5	8	6
Living History Farms	0.41				20	20	10	42	16	34	26	30	25	43	23	17	24	18	22
West of I-80	1.38	59	229	285	261	270	225	146	203	336	177	227	340	172	147	186	170	127	154
Beaver Creek (Johnston)	0.59													100	74	80	61	27	74
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	3.11	41	92	117	133	125	89	113	135	230	135	89	198	150	166	268	142	118	99
Total	53.40	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	1,678
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	91
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92		61	62	24	38	34	61	50	109	46	67	98	114	86	136	84	115	94
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	67
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18		35	33	53	77	80	-	-		142	123	124	208	134	178	179	201	225
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	132
Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)	16	143	366	421	371	401	400	347	276	630	529	503	655	818	585	684	676	713	609
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

**new survey area 2013

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

Urban Areas Surveyed	Area (Square Miles)	Deer per Square Mile																		Change (2012 to 2013)	
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013		
Water Works Park Area	3.91	26	41	53	52	35	23	27	26	34	33	9	15	16	13	12	9	5	9	80%	
D.M, South of Grand	1.37	0	0	41	33	28	36	36	26	46	41	13	39	48	36	40	20	20	21	5%	
DSM airport west-63rd*	1.78												84	92	106	58	43	43	42	-2%	
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	10	31	35	25	30	20	22	37	54	40	33	72	51	55	36	45	43	57	23%	
Easter Lake & DSM River East	6.74	4	6	9	20	22	16	24	20	22	35	12	62	35	31	38	29	21	26	33%	
Yellow Banks & DSM River	1.75	14	30	35	44	38	70	46	56	44	45	17	63	53	44	35	19	11	29	164%	
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	22	5%	
Pleasant Hill west*	0.93												48	71	63	92	68	57	46	75	63%
Pleasant Hill east	2.27												26	31	66	71	56	40	31	61	97%
North of I-80	4.45	13	29	29	36	26	23	19	18	23	29	4	28	45	31	40	28	16	22	38%	
Margo Frankel Woods	0.78	19	18	45	5	29	15	8	0	36	19	10	19	19	22	32	23	27	18	-33%	
Rock Creek	2.91	9	25	13	18	17	27	8	13	15	9	18	23	32	20	16	14	16	12	-25%	
Des Moines River:																					
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	4.66	18	25	18	32	27	26	35	45	64	39	33	60	51	31	33	32	26	41	57%	
North of I-80*	2.81													62	43	44	40	29	42	45%	
South of I-80*	1.85													34	11	17	21	22	41	86%	
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.22									286	255	173	45	114	159	136	150	68	77	13%	
Quail Park- W. DSM**	0.90																			112	
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	16	-46%	
Clive Area; west of I-35*	0.30													77	50	33	17	27	20	-26%	
Living History Farms	0.41				49	49	24	102	39	83	63	73	61	105	56	41	59	44	54	23%	
West of I-80	1.38	43	166	207	189	196	163	106	147	243	128	164	246	125	107	135	123	92	112	22%	
Beaver Creek (Johnston)	0.59													169	125	136	103	46	125	172%	
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	3.11	13	30	38	43	40	29	36	43	74	43	29	64	48	53	86	46	38	32	-16%	
Total	53.40	9	20	24	27	25	22	22	25	36	29	20	45	41	37	37	29	23	31	33%	
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	41	86%	
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92	-	32	32	13	20	18	32	26	57	24	35	51	59	45	71	44	60	49	-18%	
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	26	-40%	
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18	-	8	8	13	18	19	-	-	-	34	29	30	50	32	43	43	48	54	13%	
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	27	-45%	
Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)	16	-	23	27	24	26	25	22	18	40	34	32	42	52	37	44	43	45	39	-13%	
Chichaqua & Skunk River																					

*New survey area, 2007.

a - does not include Barrier Dam Refuge area

**new survey area 2013

2012 - 2013 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 (4 allotted)	2	0	2	10
Sycamore Trail (includes Area C in Johnston)				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	2	12
Easter Lake				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	1	0	2	11
Brown's Woods				
Incentive Buck (4 allotted)	1	0	1	30
Thomas Mitchell Park				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	1	0	1	1
Mally's Weh-Weh-Neh-Kee Park				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	4	1
Four Mile Greenbelt				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	0	8
Yellow Banks Park				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	0	0	0	9
Gay Lea Wilson East Trail				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	1	0	2	5
Polk County Conservation (PCC)				
Harvest Total	6	0	14	87

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	5
Greenbelt Park: East of NW 114th	0	0	0	0
Incentive Buck (None allotted at this time)				
Sub-total	0	0	1	5
City of Clive Private Property				
None at present date				0
Sub-total	0	0	0	0
City of Clive				
Harvest Total	0	0	1	5

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	6	
Crocker Woods: Prospect Rd. & Hickman Rd.	1	0	0	4	
Ewing Park	1	0	1	13	
Laurel Hill Woods	0	0	0	3	
MacRae Park	0	0	1	4	
Pioneer Park	0	1	1	4	
Ashworth Park	1	0	0	7	
Incentive Buck (9 allotted)					
Sub-total	4	2	5	41	

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	5	31	
SE / Easter Lake and Ewing Parks Area (SE 14th east, South of DM River to Limits)	4	0	4	27	
South of Grand Area (West of Terrace Hill to 63rd, South of University to Waterworks)	2	0	1	18	
MacRae Park Area	0	0	0	0	
Prospect / Beaverdale Park Area	1	0	2	8	
East Area (East and Northeast area of city) Incentive Buck (15 allotted)	1	0	2	23	
Sub-total	11	0	14	107	
City of Des Moines	Harvest Total	15	2	19	148

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	0	1	20	
Des Moines Water Works	Harvest Total	2	0	1	20

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 (2 allotted)	0	0	0	7	
Sub-total	0	0	0	7	

City of Johnston Private Property					
Private Property		1	3	2	19
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)					
	Sub-total	1	3	2	19
City of Johnston	Harvest Total	1	3	2	26

F. **City of Pleasant Hill: Rick Courcier 208-8214**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
City Property	0	0	0	2	
Private Property	0	0	0	13	
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)					
Gay Lea Wilson East Trail (See PCC totals)					
City of Pleasant Hill	Harvest Total	0	0	0	15

G. **City of Urbandale Public Areas: Jeff Casey 331-6800**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
City Parks	1	0	1	7	
Incentive Buck (13 allotted city wide)					
	Sub-total	1	0	1	7
City of Urbandale Private Property					
Living History Farms (LHF) (West of I-35)	1	1	4	8	
Other Private Property	6	2	11	51	
	Sub-total	7	3	15	59
City of Urbandale	Harvest Total	8	3	16	66

H. **City of West Des Moines Public Areas: Sally Ortgies 222-3447**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
South Woods	1	0	0	8	
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)					
	Sub-total	1	0	0	8
City of West Des Moines Private Property					
	1	0	0	9	
	Sub-total	1	0	0	9
City of West Des Moines	Harvest Total	2	0	0	17

I. USACE: (Corps of Engineers): 276-4656 Scott Rolfes ext. 6508; Tyler Hill ext. 6512					
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
Saylorville (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)	0	0	9	27	
Polk City Refuge (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)	0	0	1	1	
USACE	Harvest Total		0	0	10
				28	

J. Walnut Woods State Park: Tim Gedler 285-4502					
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
Walnut Woods State Park (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)		0	3	11	
Walnut Woods State Park	Harvest Total		0	0	3
				11	

Total Doe Harvested Zone 48 **423**

Total Incentive Bucks Harvested Zone 48 **34**

Total Shed Antlered Bucks Harvested Zone 48 **8**

Total Button Bucks Harvested Zone 48 **66**

Antler-less tags available zone 48:	1200	Sold:	827
Incentive Buck Tags available Zone 48	75	Sold:	71

K. IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI) Zone 48						
	<u>Incentive Bucks</u>	<u>Licenses Does</u>	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
	31	3	31	7	80	408
ELSI	Harvest Total		31	7	80	408

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	2	0	2	15
Shotgun / Muzzle loader	8	0	0	11
**Buck (Normal seasons and any-sex tags allowed)				
Camp Dodge	Total Harvest	10	0	2
			2	26

M. IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI) Zone 61				
	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
	0	0	1	10
ELSI	Total Harvest	0	0	1
			1	10

Total Antlerless Deer Harvested Zone 61 39

Total Bucks Harvested Zone 61 10

Antler-less tags available zone 61: 400 Sold: 42

Antler-less Deer Harvested (Bow) Total 514

*** Count including Camp Dodge (shotgun/muzzle) and ELSI zone 61 536**

Incentive Bucks Total 34

Bucks: Camp Dodge and ELSI zone 61 Total 10**

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

Total Deer Harvested 580