

Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt 2017-2018 Deer Report



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

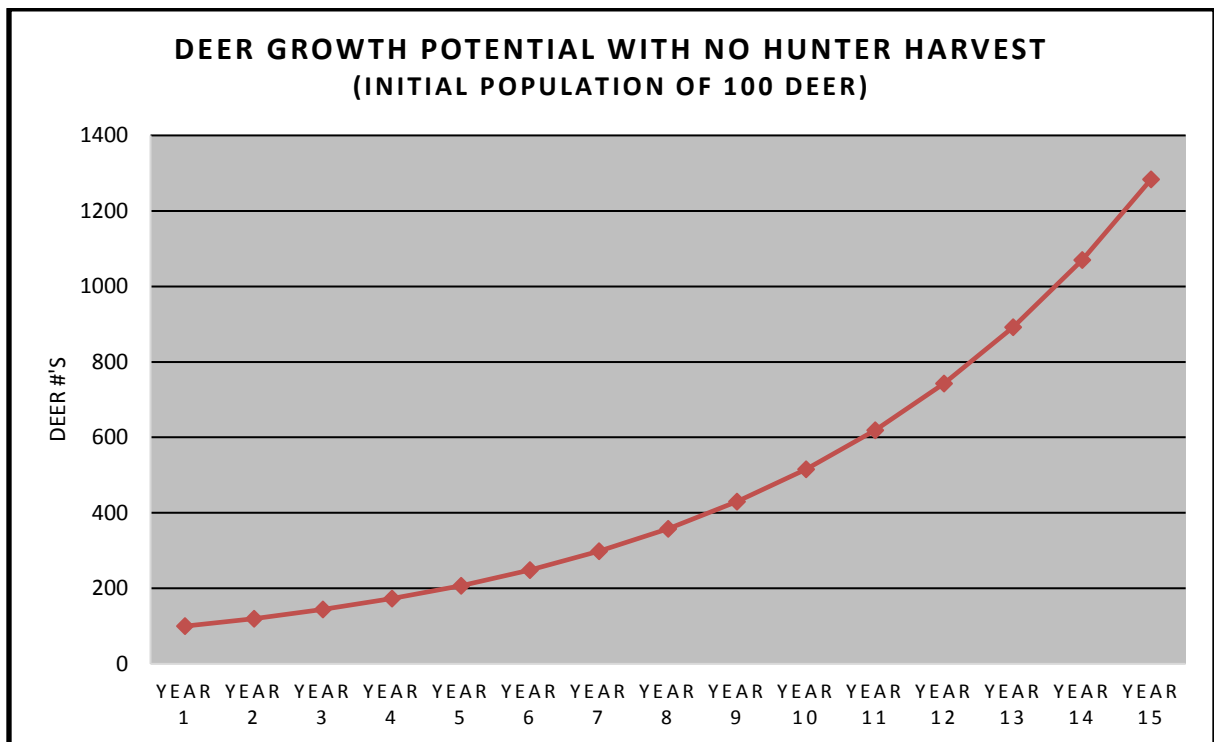
Compiled by the
Polk County Deer Task Force

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 harvest records and agency observations, it is recommended that the Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt should be continued for the 2018-2019 season throughout the Polk County Deer Management Zone. Agencies are encouraged to continue or expand hunting opportunities in their areas of control. Deer population numbers may have been reduced to target goals in some areas but still remain higher in neighborhood habitats where hunting may not be a control option. Agencies may need to remember that an uncontrolled deer population can double every three to four years. Continued hunting pressure within the Deer Management Zone has produced remarkable results in managing deer populations across the area.



The graph above depicts potential population growth of a deer herd where no hunting is allowed. The growth takes into account average population structure based on probable gender and age distribution. Considerations are also given to related fecundity rates. Distribution of these animals over time and as densities increase can vary. A relatively confined population will probably contribute to an increase in deer numbers over an increasingly larger geographical area over time.

Post Season Reports

Hunting Season

-This year the IDNR allowed participating entities to use September 16, 2017 through January 28 2018, 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). Pending approval from the Natural Resource Commission, the proposed hunt dates for the 2018 - 2019 season will be September 15, 2018 through January 27, 2019.

Deer Harvest

-Agencies reported that 279 antlerless deer were harvested during the 2017-2018 bow-hunt, which is a decrease from 307 in the 2016-2017 season.
- A total of 319 antlerless deer harvested in the Polk County Deer Management Zone (including antlerless deer harvested in Camp Dodge with shotgun/muzzle).
19 incentive bucks were harvested during the 2017-2018 bow-hunt
A total of *356 deer were harvested during the 2017-2018 season.
* Count includes Camp Dodge (shotgun and muzzle any sex-tags)

Proficiency Testing

- Archery Field and Sports administered proficiency testing to hunt participants. 131 proficiency tests were taken by 125 hunters.

Safety Record

No injuries were reported from hunters, neighbors or park visitors

Licenses Sold

-The Polk County Deer Management Zone is divided into two zones.
1000 licenses were available for zone 48 which includes all of the cities, Polk County Conservation areas and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers areas.
75 licenses were available in zone 61 which is comprised of mostly rural areas not included in zone 48. Hunters purchased 580 antlerless licenses in zone 48 and 20 antlerless licenses in zone 61 for use in the Polk County Deer Management Zone.



Polk County Aerial Deer Surveys: 2018

By Andy Kellner

Iowa DNR

Helicopter surveys were flown on February 12th using a Robinson 44 helicopter. Observers were Robert Stober and Andy Kellner. Conditions for the survey were good with >6" of snow. The sky was partly to mostly cloudy and winds were light out of the north switching to east. Temperatures started in the single digits and were in the upper teens 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. Deer activity largely varied with the passing of the helicopter with some deer remaining still and others vacating the area.

Overall, the numbers are similar to the last aerial surveys flown in 2014 although a closer look reveals significant change in localized survey areas. The number of deer counted was up in 12 of the 20 urban areas surveyed when compared to 2014. Quail Park and the area immediately adjacent to the airport were not flown this year. The Water Works Park count includes the area east of Fleur. Seven areas saw decreases while one was mostly unchanged.

There was a change in personnel conducting the surveys this year and that may account for some of the variability in the count. The last time the survey was conducted was four years ago due to lack of good flying conditions and deer patterns could have shifted in that time due to construction, lake restoration projects, and hunting pressure. Numbers in the Water Works area have gone up in a manner consistent with what was expected with the suspension of hunting activities and can be expected to continue growing in a similar manner.

Overall counts are considerably lower than we would expect if the controlled hunts had not been initiated in 1998. This hunting pressure has helped bring numbers down from the highest counts observed in 2007 in certain areas. 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.



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	2014	2018	
Water Works Park Area	3.91	100	159	206	204	136	88	105	102	134	130	37	58	63	51	46	35	21	35	46	91	
D.M. South of Grand	1.37			56	45	39	50	49	36	63	56	18	53	66	49	55	28	28	29	18	41	
DSM airport west-63rd*	1.78												150	164	188	103	76	76	74	49		
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	43	132	149	106	128	86	91	155	226	167	137	301	216	232	151	189	182	238	165	153	
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	112	127	
Yellow Banks & DSM River	1.75	24	52	62	77	67	122	81	98	77	78	29	110	92	77	61	33	19	51	44	40	
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	91	50	
Pleasant Hill west*	0.93												48	71	59	86	63	53	43	70	71	63
Pleasant Hill east	2.27												25	31	150	162	128	90	71	138	123	126
North of I-80	4.45	58	128	128	158	117	103	86	80	104	127	16	124	202	136	177	125	71	98	167	176	
Margo Frankel Woods	0.78	15	14	35	4	23	12	6	0	28	15	8	15	15	17	25	18	21	14	12	2	
Rock Creek	2.91	26	74	38	51	49	79	24	39	44	27	52	66	92	58	47	41	46	34	33	38	
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	148	200	
North of I-80*	2.81													175	122	124	111	82	118	97	138	
South of I-80*	1.85													63	21	31	39	41	75	51	62	
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.26									63	56	38	10	25	35	30	33	15	17	14	18	
Quail Park- W. DSM	0.90																		101	92		
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	11	33	
Clive Area; west of I-35*	0.30														23	15	10	5	8	6	3	
Living History Farms	0.41				20	20	10	42	16	34	26	30	25	43	23	17	24	18	22	29	14	
West of I-80	1.38	59	229	285	261	270	225	146	203	336	177	227	340	172	147	186	170	127	154	111	152	
Beaver Creek (Johnston)	0.59													100	74	80	61	27	74	68	68	
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	81	114	
Total	53.44	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	1,418	1,446	

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	101	64
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92		61	62	24	38	34	61	50	109	46	67	98	114	86	136	84	115	94	36	20
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	67	97
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18		35	33	53	77	80	-	-		142	123	124	208	134	178	179	201	225	184	126
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	133	118
Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)	16	143	366	421	371	401	400	347	276	630	529	503	655	818	585	684	676	713	609	521	425
Chichaqua & Skunk River		96	85		197	109	-	-	187	133	106	181	210	-	154	-	103	-	-	-	168

*New survey area, 2007.

a - does not include Barrier Dam Refuge area

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 (2014 to 2018)		
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		2018	
Water Works Park Area	3.91	25.6	40.7	52.7	52.2	34.8	22.5	26.9	26.1	34.3	33.2	9.46	14.8	16.1	13	11.8	8.95	5.37	8.95	11.8	23.3	92%	
D.M., South of Grand	1.37	0	0	40.9	32.8	28.5	36.5	35.8	26.3	46	40.9	13.1	38.7	48.2	35.8	40.1	20.4	20.4	21.2	13.1	29.9	131%	
DSM airport west-63rd*	1.78												84.3	92.1	106	57.9	42.7	42.7	41.6	27.5	N/A	N/A	
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	10.2	31.4	35.5	25.2	30.5	20.5	21.7	36.9	53.8	39.8	32.6	71.7	51.4	55.2	36	45	43.3	56.7	39.3	36.4	-8%	
Easter Lake & DSM River East	6.74	3.86	6.38	8.61	20	21.5	16.3	24.2	19.6	21.7	35.5	12.5	62	34.6	31	37.7	28.9	21.1	25.8	16.6	18.8	12%	
Yellow Banks & DSM River	1.75	13.7	29.7	35.4	44	38.3	69.7	46.3	56	44	44.6	16.6	62.9	52.6	44	34.9	18.9	10.9	29.1	25.1	22.9	-8%	
Four Mile Creek:																							
I80 -Des Moines River	5.29	1.32	7.75	9.64	18.7	14.9	7.37	15.7	16.4	18.9	20.2	22.3	32.9	31.2	33.8	31	16.4	21.4	21.6	17.2	9.5	-47%	
Pleasant Hill west*	0.93												48	71	63.4	92.5	67.7	57	46.2	75.3	76.3	67.7	-11%
Pleasant Hill east	2.27												26	31	66.1	71.4	56.4	39.6	31.3	60.8	54.2	55.5	4%
North of I-80	4.45	13	28.8	28.8	35.5	26.3	23.1	19.3	18	23.4	28.5	3.6	27.9	45.4	30.6	39.8	28.1	16	22	37.5	39.6	5%	
Margo Frankel Woods	0.78	19.2	17.9	44.9	5.13	29.5	15.4	7.69	0	35.9	19.2	10.3	19.2	19.2	21.8	32.1	23.1	26.9	17.9	15.4	2.6	-80%	
Rock Creek	2.91	8.93	25.4	13.1	17.5	16.8	27.1	8.25	13.4	15.1	9.28	17.9	22.7	31.6	19.9	16.2	14.1	15.8	11.7	11.3	13.1	18%	
Des Moines River:																							
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	4.66	17.8	24.7	17.8	32.2	26.6	26.2	34.8	44.8	63.5	39.5	32.8	59.7	51.1	30.7	33.3	32.2	26.4	41.4	31.8	42.9	34%	
North of I-80*	2.81													62.3	43.4	44.1	39.5	29.2	42	34.5	49.1	40%	
South of I-80*	1.85													34.1	11.4	16.8	21.1	22.2	40.5	27.6	33.5	21%	
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.26	0							242	215	146	38.5	96.2	135	115	127	57.7	65.4	53.8	69.2		28%	
Quail Park- W. DSM	0.90																		112	102.2	N/A	N/A	
Walnut Creek:																							
Raccoon River to I-80	0.79	0	1.27	8.86	6.33	29.1	17.7	17.7	31.6	53.2	24.1	38	63.3	24.1	50.6	50.6	34.2	27.8	16.5	13.9	41.8	200%	
Clive Area; west of I-35*	0.30													76.7	50	33.3	16.7	26.7	20	13.3	10.0	-23%	
Living History Farms	0.41				48.8	48.8	24.4	102	39	82.9	63.4	73.2	61	105	56.1	41.5	58.5	43.9	53.7	70.7	34.1	-52%	
West of I-80	1.38	42.8	166	207	189	196	163	106	147	243	128	164	246	125	107	135	123	92	112	80.4	110.1	38%	
Beaver Creek (Johnston)	0.59													169	125	136	103	45.8	125	115.3	115.3	0%	
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	3.11	13.2	29.6	37.6	42.8	40.2	28.6	36.3	43.4	74	43.4	28.6	63.7	48.2	53.4	86.2	45.7	37.9	31.8	26.0	36.7	42%	
Total	53.44	9.02	20.2	23.9	27.1	25.2	21.5	21.8	24.6	36	28.9	20.4	44.9	41.3	37.2	37.2	28.5	23.2	31.4	26.5	27.1	0%	
Rural Areas																							
Saylorville Reservoir																							
Camp Dodge	2.23	24.7	31.8	41.7	47.1	48.4	30.9	32.7	30.5	87.4	74	66.4	105	66.4	48.9	41.7	48	22	40.8	45.3	28.7	-36%	
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92	-	31.8	32.3	12.5	19.8	17.7	31.8	26	56.8	24	34.9	51	59.4	44.8	70.8	43.8	59.9	49	18.8	10.4	-47%	
Dam to MLB (east side) <i>a</i>	2.55	-	16.1	28.2	36.9	32.5	33.3	33.7	19.6	53.7	36.9	21.6	25.9	49.8	35.7	35.3	41.2	43.1	26.3	26.3	38.0	46%	
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18	-	8.37	7.89	12.7	18.4	19.1	-	-	-	34	29.4	29.7	49.8	32.1	42.6	42.8	48.1	53.8	44.0	30.1	-32%	
Jester Park, MLB to Bridge to Hwy 17	4.82	18.3	32.8	33.4	19.7	19.7	27.4	26.3	22.4	39.2	17	22.8	27.6	45.9	34.2	38.8	41.7	49.4	27.4	27.6	24.5	-14%	
Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)	16	-	23.3	26.8	23.6	25.5	25.5	22.1	17.6	40.1	33.7	32	41.7	52.1	37.3	43.6	43.1	45.4	38.8	33.2	27.1	-18%	
Chichaqua & Skunk River																							

*New survey area, 2007.

a - does not include Barrier Dam Refuge area

Bow-Hunt Administrators

- City of Des Moines: Mike Gaul (515)-248-6329
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- City of Johnston: Jim Sanders (515) 727-7760
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- Polk County Conservation: Brian Herrstrom (515) 967-4889, c (515) 249-1753
- US Army Corps of Engineers (Saylorville Lake): Justin Edwards (515) 276-4656 x 6508
- City of Urbandale: Andrew Dobbins (515) 331-6805
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- Walnut Woods State Park (IDNR): Tim Gedler (515) 285-4502
- City of West Des Moines: Sally Ortegies (515) 222-3447 Dave Sadler (515) 222-3444
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- City of Clive: Jeff Theilen (515) 238-0648, Joel Pasco (515) 210-7581
-Administers public property bow-hunting
- City of Pleasant Hill: Heath Ellis (515) 208-5212, Rick Courcier (515) 208-8214
-Administers public and 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: Andy Kellner (515) 975-8318
- City of Ankeny, City of Des Moines Animal Control, City of Grimes, City of Polk City, Dallas County Conservation Board, Des Moines Water Works
- 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.

2017 - 2018 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)	3	0	3	13
Sycamore Trail (includes Area C in Johnston)				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	1	0	0	6
Easter Lake				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	1	8
Brown's Woods				
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	2	0	0	14
Thomas Mitchell Park				
Incentive Buck (None allotted this season)	0	0	0	2
Mally's Weh-Weh-Neh-Kee Park				
Incentive Buck (None allotted this season)	0	0	0	0
Four Mile Greenbelt				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	0	7
Yellow Banks Park				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	0	3
Gay Lea Wilson East Trail				
Incentive Buck (None allotted this season)	0	0	0	0
Polk County Conservation (PCC)	Harvest Total	6	0	4
			4	53

B. **City of Clive Public Areas:** Jeff Theilen 238-0648 / Joel Pasco 210-7581

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
West of I-80	0	0	1	6
Greenbelt Park: East of NW 114th	0	0	0	0
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)				
Sub-total	0	0	1	6
City of Clive Private Property				
None at present date				0
Sub-total	0	0	0	0
City of Clive	Harvest Total	0	0	1
			1	6

C. **City of Des Moines Public Areas: Michael Gaul 248-6329**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
Cases Lake: Hartford Ave	0	0	2	10	
Crocker Woods: Prospect Rd. & Hickman Rd.	0	0	0	3	
Ewing Park	0	0	1	3	
Laurel Hill Woods	0	0	0	0	
MacRae Park	0	0	0	1	
Pioneer Park	0	0	0	1	
Ashworth Park	1	0	1	4	
Incentive Buck (7 allotted)					
Sub-total	1	0	4	22	
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)	1	0	4	15	
SE / Easter Lake and Ewing Parks Area (SE 14th east, South of DM River to Limits)	2	1	2	18	
South of Grand Area (West of Terrace Hill to 63rd, South of University to Waterworks)	3	0	5	18	
MacRae Park Area	0	0	0	2	
Prospect / Beaverdale Park Area	0	0	0	5	
East Area (East and Northeast area of city)	1	0	1	6	
Incentive Buck (14 allotted)					
Sub-total	7	1	12	64	
City of Des Moines	Harvest Total	8	1	16	86

D. **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	0	0	0	10	
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)					
Sub-total	0	0	0	10	
City of Johnston Private Property					
Private Property	1	0	0	8	
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)					
Sub-total	1	0	0	8	
City of Johnston	Harvest Total	1	0	0	18

E. **City of Pleasant Hill: Heath Ellis 208-5212 / Rick Courcier 208-8214**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
Polk County Property (See PCC Totals)					
City Property	0	0	1	1	
Private Property	0	0	0	9	
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)					
City of Pleasant Hill	Harvest Total	0	0	1	10

F. **City of Urbandale Public Areas: Andrew Dobbins 331-6805**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
City Parks	0	0	1	3	
Incentive Buck (3 allotted city wide)					
Sub-total	0	0	1	3	
City of Urbandale Private Property					
Living History Farms (LHF) (West of I-35)	0	0	0	4	
Other Private Property	3	0	1	24	
Sub-total	3	0	1	28	
City of Urbandale	Harvest Total	3	0	2	31

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

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
South Woods	1	0	0	9	
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)					
Raccoon River Park	0	0	0	2	
Sub-total	1	0	0	11	
City of West Des Moines Private Property					
	0	0	0	12	
Sub-total	0	0	0	12	
City of West Des Moines	Harvest Total	1	0	0	23

H. USACE: (Corps of Engineers): 276-4656 Justin Edwards ext. 6508; Jonathan Wuebker ext. 6512				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Saylorville (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)	0	0	4	16
Polk City Refuge (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)				
USACE	Harvest Total	0	0	4
			16	

I. Walnut Woods State Park: Tim Gedler 285-4502				
	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Walnut Woods State Park (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)	0	0	1	6
Walnut Woods State Park	Harvest Total	0	0	1
			6	

Total Doe Harvested Zone 48 249

Total Incentive Bucks Harvested Zone 48 19

Total Shed Antlered Bucks Harvested Zone 48 1

Total Button Bucks Harvested Zone 48 29

Antler-less tags available zone 48: 1000 Sold: 580
 Incentive Buck Tags available Zone 48: 38 Sold: 38

J. IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI) Zone 48				
	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
ELSI	Harvest Total	21	1	38
				240
			Total Deer Harvested	300

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

K. **Camp Dodge: Shannan Garretson 252-4648**

	Buck**	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
Archery	11	0	0	23	
Shotgun / Muzzle loader	7	0	0	13	
**Buck (Normal seasons and any-sex tags allowed)					
Camp Dodge	Total Harvest	18	0	0	36

L. **IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI) Zone 61**

	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
	0	0	1	3	
ELSI	Total Harvest	0	0	1	3

Total Antlerless Deer Harvested Zone 61 **40**

Total Bucks Harvested Zone 61 **18**

Antler-less tags available zone 61: **75** **Sold:** **20**

Antler-less Deer Harvested (Bow)	Total	302
* Count including Camp Dodge (shotgun/muzzle) and ELSI zone 61		319

Incentive Bucks **Total** **19**

Bucks: Camp Dodge and ELSI zone 61** **Total** **18**

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

Total Deer Harvested **356**

