

Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt 2009-2010 Deer Report



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Compiled by the
Polk County Deer Task Force

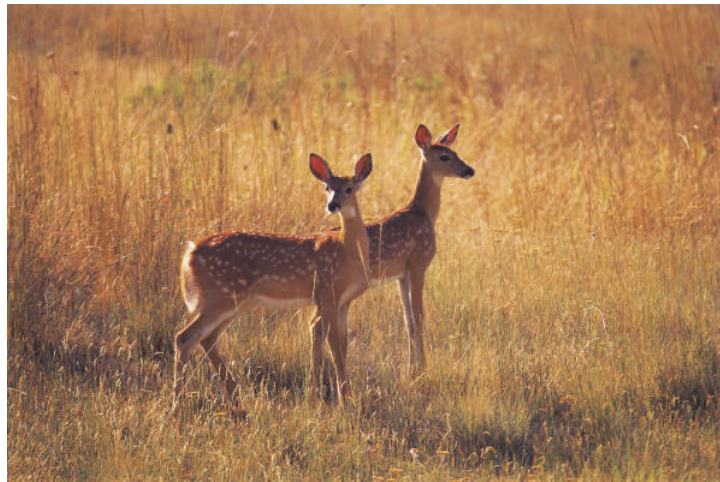
The Polk County Deer Task Force believes that the White-tailed deer is a valuable part of our natural heritage. We support the perpetuation of the deer population in Polk County at ecologically acceptable levels.

-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 2010-2011 season throughout the Polk County Deer Management Zone. It is also recommended to continue expanding efforts in all areas including:

- West of I-80 in 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 942 antler-less licenses in zone 48 and 65 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 12, 2009 through January 31, 2010, 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 hunt dates for the 2010 -2011 season will be September 11, 2010 through January 30, 2011.

Deer Harvest

-Agencies reported that 547 antler-less deer had been harvested during the '09-'10 bow-hunt, which is a decrease from 558 in the 2008-2009 season.

-There was a total of 605 antler-less deer harvested in the Polk County Deer Management Zone (including antler-less deer harvested in Camp Dodge with shotgun/muzzle).

32 incentive bucks were harvested during the '09-'10 bow-hunt

A total of *667 deer were harvested during the '09-'10 season.

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

Proficiency Testing

-Polk County Information Technology Department developed a web based program to allow testing vendors to check the status of and update hunter proficiency testing results. Vendors administered 345 proficiency tests to 341 hunters.

Safety Record

No injuries were reported from neighbors or park visitors. One hunter reported minor injuries as the result of a fall.



Polk County Aerial Deer Surveys: 2010

by Bill Bunger
Iowa DNR

Helicopter surveys were flown on January 12th, 13th and 14th using a Robinson R44 helicopter. Observers were Tom Litchfield & Bill Bunger. Bill Bunger was the navigator and recorded data. John McLaughlin was the pilot. Due to weather conditions, the survey was conducted over a span of 3 days. On January 12th, a low ceiling restricted flight to the afternoon. However, conditions were good with 15 inches of snow over the area. The sky was mostly clear, producing some shadows late in the day. Winds were light from the north. Temperatures were just above freezing. Areas around Saylorville Lake and the northern portion of Four-Mile Creek were flown.

Fog the morning of January 13th delayed departure until 9:30 a.m. The sky was mostly clear with high cirrus clouds. Temperatures climbed into the upper thirties. Sighting conditions were favorable as snow depth, while settling was still almost 14" by days end. Some beds were seen by the end of the day.

Browns Woods, Walnut Woods & South Woods Park could not be flown until late morning of the 14th. Snow cover was still around 13". Sighting conditions were good and winds were light from the southwest.

The number of deer sighted for each area is reported in Table 1. 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. Some of the deer ran as the helicopter passed overhead but most animals preferred to remain bedded. Consequently, more time was spent in heavy cover to get animals to move and be seen.

In the urban areas, which excludes the Saylorville Lake areas, the number of deer counted over all areas combined, were the same as the previous year, (2009). Five of these seventeen survey areas fall near or below the 30 deer/sq. mile goal.

The deer numbers in Water Works Park remain relatively stable as have harvest numbers over the last few years. This stability was probably established by high harvests seen in 2006/07. This continues to reflect the value of steady hunting pressure.

Figure 1. The number of deer observed at Water Works Park (y-axis), from the helicopter survey, 1996 – present.



Trends seen in Survey Areas the last 5 years:

- Waterworks Park: Stable, no sharp yearly changes, below 30 deer/sq. mile objective.
- South of Grand: Relatively stable, slightly above 30 deer goal.
- Browns & Walnut Woods: Slight downward trend but high numbers.
- Easter Lake & DSM River east: Stable but above goal objectives.
- Yellow Banks Park: Slight downward trend but still above goal objectives.
- 4 Mile, I-80 to DSM River: Numbers are stable and near goal objectives.
- Pleasant Hill: Potentially rising and high numbers.
- 4 Mile, North of I-80: Relatively stable but numbers are high
- Margo Frankel: Stable numbers and below goal.
- Rock Creek: Slight decrease and approaching goal objectives.
- Des Moines River, Saylorville dam to Riverview: Appear stable but still high.
- West DSM, South Woods: Relatively stable but very high numbers.
- Walnut Creek, Raccoon River to I-80: May be increasing and high numbers.
- Walnut Creek, west of I-80: Slight downward trend but very high.
- Living History Farms: Stable, but numbers above objective.

Overall, it would appear that the entire deer management zone, (DMZ), is approaching stabilization of deer numbers. There are, however, some areas of relatively high numbers that still need to be addressed to help a more uniform downward trend in the population across the entire DMZ. This would be reflected not only in the direct reduction in overall numbers, but the potential for recruitment via dispersal from higher concentration areas to those of lower densities.

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 331-6800
- 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		Deer Sighted													
	(Square Miles)	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Water Works Park Area	3.91	100	159	206	204	136	88	105	102	134	130	37	58	63	51	46
D.M, South of Grand	1.37			56	45	39	50	49	36	63	56	18	53	66	49	55
DSM airport west to 63 rd	1.78											150	164	188	103	
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	43	132	149	106	128	86	91	155	226	167	137	301	216	232	151
Easter Lake & Moines River East	6.74	26	43	58	135	145	110	163	132	146	239	84	418	233	209	254
Yellow Banks Park & Des Moines River	1.75	24	52	62	77	67	122	81	98	77	78	29	110	92	77	61
Four Mile Creek:																
I80 -Des Moines River	5.29	7	41	51	99	79	39	83	87	100	107	118	174	165	179	164
<i>Pleasant Hill west*</i>	0.93											48	71	59	86	63
Pleasant Hill east	2.27											25	31	150	162	128
North of I-80	4.45	58	128	128	158	117	103	86	80	104	127	16	124	202	136	177
Margo Frankel Woods	0.78	15	14	35	4	23	12	6	0	28	15	8	15	15	17	25
Rock Creek	2.91	26	74	38	51	49	79	24	39	44	27	52	66	92	58	47
Des Moines River:																
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	2.61	83	115	83	150	124	122	162	209	296	184	153	278	238	143	155
<i>North of I-80*</i>														175	122	124
<i>South of I-80*</i>														63	21	31
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.22									63	56	38	10	25	35	30
Walnut Creek:																
Raccoon River to I-80	0.79	0	1	7	5	23	14	14	25	42	19	30	50	19	40	40
<i>Clive Area; west of I-35*</i>	0.30													23	15	10
Living History Farms	0.41				20	20	10	42	16	34	26	30	25	43	23	17
West of I-80	1.38	59	229	285	261	270	225	146	203	336	177	227	340	172	147	186
Beaver Creek (Johnston)	0.59													100	74	80
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	3.11	41	92	117	133	125	89	113	135	230	135	89	198	150	166	268
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
Saylorville Reservoir																
Camp Dodge	2.23	55	71	93	105	108	69	73	68	195	165	148	234	148	109	93
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92		61	62	24	38	34	61	50	109	46	67	98	114	86	136
Dam to MLB (east side) <i>a</i>	2.55		41	72	94	83	85	86	50	137	94	55	66	127	91	90
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18		35	33	53	77	80	-	-		142	123	124	208	134	178
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
Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)	16	143	366	421	371	401	400	347	276	630	529	503	655	818	585	684
Chichaqua & Skunk River		96	85		197	109	-	-	187	133	106	181	210	-	154	-

*These are sub-groups of larger survey areas broken out for the benefit of local entity. Not added into totals to avoid duplication.

Urban Areas Surveyed	Area (Square Miles)	Deer per Square Mile															Change (2009 to 2010)	
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010		
Water Works Park Area	3.91	26	41	53	52	35	23	27	26	34	33	9	15	16	13	12		-8%
D.M, South of Grand	1.37	0	0	41	33	28	36	36	26	46	41	13	39	48	36	40		11%
DSM airport west to 63rd	1.78												84	92	106	58		-45%
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	10	31	35	25	30	20	22	37	54	40	33	72	51	55	36		-35%
Easter Lake & Moines River East	6.74	4	6	9	20	22	16	24	20	22	35	12	62	35	31	38		23%
Yellow Banks Park & Des Moines River	1.75	14	30	35	44	38	70	46	56	44	45	17	63	53	44	35		-20%
Four Mile Creek:																		
I80 -Des Moines River	5.29	1	8	10	19	15	7	16	16	19	20	22	33	31	34	31		-9%
<i>Pleasant Hill west*</i>	0.93											52	76	63	92	68		-26%
Pleasant Hill east	2.27	0										26	31	66	71	56		-21%
North of I-80	4.45	13	29	29	36	26	23	19	18	23	29	4	28	45	31	40		29%
Margo Frankel Woods	0.78	19	18	45	5	29	15	8	0	36	19	10	19	19	22	32		45%
Rock Creek	2.91	9	25	13	18	17	27	8	13	15	9	18	23	32	20	16		-20%
Des Moines River:																		
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	2.61	32	44	32	57	48	47	62	80	113	70	59	107	91	55	59		7%
<i>North of I-80*</i>																		
<i>South of I-80*</i>																		
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.22									286	255	173	45	114	159	136		-14%
Walnut Creek:																		
Raccoon River to I-80	0.79	0	1	9	6	29	18	18	32	53	24	38	63	24	51	51		0%
<i>Clive Area; west of I-35*</i>	0.30													77	50	33		
Living History Farms	0.41				49	49	24	102	39	83	63	73	61	105	56	41		-27%
West of I-80	1.38	43	166	207	189	196	163	106	147	243	128	164	246	125	107	135		26%
Beaver Creek (Johnston)	0.59													169	125	136		9%
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	3.11	13	30	38	43	40	29	36	43	74	43	29	64	48	53	86		62%
Total	45.79	11	24	28	32	29	25	25	29	42	34	24	52	48	43	43		0%

Rural Areas																		
Saylorville Reservoir																		
Camp Dodge	2.23	25	32	42	47	48	31	33	30	87	74	66	105	66	49	42		-14%
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92	-	32	32	13	20	18	32	26	57	24	35	51	59	45	71		58%
Dam to MLB (east side) <i>a</i>	2.55	-	16	28	37	33	33	34	20	54	37	22	26	50	36	35		-3%
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18	-	8	8	13	18	19	-	-	-	34	29	30	50	32	43		34%
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		15%
Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)	16	-	23	27	24	26	25	22	18	40	34	32	42	52	37	44		19%

Chichaqua & Skunk River

2009 - 2010 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	0	3	16
Sycamore Trail (includes Area C in Johnston)				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	0	0	2	14
Easter Lake				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	0	1	0	9
Brown's Woods				
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	1	1	3	45
Thomas Mitchell Park				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	1	0	0	3
Mally's Weh-Weh-Neh-Kee Park				
Incentive Buck (included with Thomas Mitchell)	0	0	0	1
Four Mile Greenbelt				
Incentive Buck (included with Thomas Mitchell)	0	0	2	7
Yellow Banks Park				
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	1	0	3	14
Four Mile Trail				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)	0	0	2	6
Polk County Conservation (PCC)	Harvest Total	5	2	15

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

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
West of I-80	0	0	0	5
Greenbelt Park: East of NW 114th	0	0	0	0
Incentive Buck (None allotted at this time)	0	0	0	0
Sub-total	0	0	0	5
City of Clive Private Property				
None at present date				0
Sub-total	0	0	0	0
City of Clive	Harvest Total	0	0	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	8
Crocker Woods: Prospect Rd. & Hickman Rd.	0			1
Ewing Park	3		4	11
Laurel Hill Woods				
MacRae Park				1
Pioneer Park				1
Ashworth Park	1			8
Incentive Buck (10 allotted)				
Sub-total	5	0	5	30

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		4	39
SE / Easter Lake and Ewing Parks Area (SE 14th east, South of DM River to Limits)	3		3	23
South of Grand Area (West of Terrace Hill to 63rd, South of University to Waterworks)	3	1	5	32
MacRae Park Area	1		1	6
Prospect / Beaverville Park Area	1			6
East Area (East and Northeast area of city) Incentive Buck (20 allotted)	2			4
Sub-total	13	1	13	110
City of Des Moines	Harvest Total	18	1	18

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 (10 allotted)	1	0	2	48
Des Moines Water Works	Harvest Total	1	0	2

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 (None allotted a this time)	0	0	0	3	
Sub-total	0	0	0	3	
City of Johnston Private Property					
Private Property	1	0	2	23	
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)					
Sub-total	1	0	2	23	
City of Johnston	Harvest Total		1	0	2
				2	26

F. City of Pleasant Hill: Heath Ellis 208-5212					
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
City Property	0	0	0	1	
Private Property	1	0	3	4	
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)					
Four Mile Bike Trail (See PCC totals)					
City of Pleasant Hill	Harvest Total		1	0	3
				3	5

G. City of Urbandale Public Areas: S.K. Prophet 278-3900 Jeff Casey 331-6800					
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
City Parks					
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)					
Sub-total	0	0	0	0	
City of Urbandale Private Property					
Living History Farms (LHF) (West of I-35)	4			32	
Incentive Buck (4 allotted)					
Other Private Property	2			44	
Incentive Buck (4 allotted)					
Sub-total	6	0	0	76	
City of Urbandale	Harvest Total		6	0	0
				0	76

H. City of West Des Moines Public Areas: Sally Ortgies 222-3447							
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe			
South Woods Incentive Buck (2 allotted)			1	7			
Sub-total	0	0	1	7			
City of West Des Moines Private Property							
				7			
Sub-total	0	0	0	7			
City of West Des Moines	Total Harvest			0	0	1	14
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	3	22			
Polk City Refuge (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)	0	0	0	7			
USACE	Total Harvest			0	0	3	29
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	0	0	11			
Walnut Woods State Park	Total Harvest			0	0	0	11
Total Doe Harvested Zone 48				469			
Total Incentive Bucks Harvested Zone 48				32			
Total Shed Antlered Bucks Harvested Zone 48				3			
Total Button Bucks Harvested Zone 48				44			
Antler-less tags available zone 48:	1200	Sold:	942				
Incentive Buck Tags available Zone 48	71	Sold:	69				

K.	IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI)		Zone 48			
		Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
		2	6	68	345	
ELSI	Total Harvest	2	6	68	345	

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	9			31	
	Shotgun / Muzzle loader	21			38	
	**Buck (Normal seasons and any-sex tags allowed)					
Camp Dodge	Total Harvest	30	0	0	69	

M.	IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI)		Zone 61			
		Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe	
		0	1	3	16	
ELSI	Total Harvest	0	1	3	16	

Total Antler-less Deer Harvested Zone 61 89

Total Bucks Harvested Zone 61 30

Antler-less tags available zone 61: 400 Sold: 65

Antler-less Deer Harvested (Bow) Total 547

* Count including Camp Dodge (shotgun/muzzle) and ELSI zone 61 **605**

Incentive Bucks Total 32

Bucks: Camp Dodge and ELSI zone 61 Total 30**

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

Total Deer Harvested 667

