



Strategic planning for deer management
Florida's 10-year plan

Purpose

- Present a brief overview of the plan
- Request Commission approval to begin implementation



Acknowledgements

- Team Sponsors
- Deer Management Working Group
- Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Subject Matter Action Teams



Planning Process

Working Group

Stakeholder
Advisory Group

Subject Matter
Action Teams



- The Working Group is made up primarily of staff from virtually every facet of the FWC.
- Subject matter action teams are temporary teams of experts assembled by the Working Group to develop specific proposals or research specific issues.
- The Stakeholder Advisory Group is a self constituted voluntary association of individuals, organizations and entities sharing a common interest in the management and conservation of white-tailed deer and their associated habitat. This group discusses issues, explores common interests, evaluates scientific information, reviews and comments upon proposals for regulations, management activities and research of white-tailed deer.

The Plan

Goals

Objectives

Strategies



- This presentation is intended to provide a high level overview of what is contained in the Draft Strategic Plan document. For details please refer to the draft plan.

- Goal—What we hope to accomplish, a desired future condition.

- Objective—A measureable "milepost" along the strategically chosen path toward the goal

- Strategy—Specific actions chosen to accomplish objectives.

Plan Goals:

Population

Ensure the existence of robust deer populations that meet the public's desires for recreational opportunities and protection of property while ensuring the long-term welfare of the species

Customer Satisfaction

Ensure a high degree of public satisfaction with deer management in Florida

Habitat

Manage deer habitats consistent with ecosystem health, deer population goals, and customer satisfaction goals



Population Goal

Objective 1: Manage deer populations on a local level.

Objective 2: Develop an ongoing capability to efficiently and accurately quantify public desires regarding target deer population levels.

Objective 3: Establish quantifiable deer population objectives for lands within the Wildlife Management Area System

Objective 4: Develop and implement a method for reliably determining how many (and where) deer are harvested annually in Florida

Objective 5: Ensure early detection and prompt response to diseases that threaten Florida's deer populations.



❑ Objective 1

❑ Strategies

- ❑ Develop deer management units (DMU)
- ❑ Establish target deer population levels for each DMU
- ❑ Develop deer population models
- ❑ Conduct necessary research

❑ Objective 2

❑ Strategy

- ❑ Define and measure cultural carrying capacity

❑ Objective 3

❑ Strategies

- ❑ Identify and establish appropriate method(s) of monitoring deer populations and harvest to achieve population objectives on Florida's WMAs
- ❑ Using established population objectives, develop a standardized science-based, data-driven method for determining antlerless harvest on WMAs
- ❑ Investigate the relationship between access control and deer mortality

❑ Objective 4

❑ Strategies

- ❑ Explore the feasibility of a mandatory tag and check system to determine how many and where deer are harvested in Florida each year
- ❑ Evaluate the feasibility of developing a more comprehensive harvest survey methodology

❑ Objective 5

❑ Strategies

- ❑ Continue monitoring for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- ❑ Discourage supplemental feeding methodologies and other activities that would concentrate deer closely enough to dramatically increase nose-to-nose contact
- ❑ Continue collaborating with Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study's exotic tick surveillance, EHD and BT monitoring efforts
- ❑ Work with other agencies and organizations as appropriate to educate Floridian's on deer management as it relates to human and animal health
- ❑ Encourage private landowners and hunt-clubs to participate in CWD-surveillance programs
- ❑ Review, and revise if necessary, the CWD Contingency Protocol to reflect knowledge gained by states and provinces experiencing recent outbreaks of CWD

Customer Satisfaction Goal

Objective 1: Maximize access to deer hunting opportunities and advocate for expanding those opportunities

Objective 2: Solicit and utilize human dimension data to develop and continually improve customer satisfaction

Objective 3: Manage deer-related impacts at an acceptable level

Objective 4: Develop a white-tailed deer information portal



❑ Objective 1

❑ Strategies

- ❑ Continue to evaluate existing deer hunting opportunities on public lands and seek to improve and expand access and opportunities while maintaining sustainable deer harvests, acceptable hunter satisfaction levels, compatibility with other land management priorities, and compatibility with purposes for acquisition
- ❑ Continue to work with federal, state and local government agencies to gain access to public owned or leased properties to create new deer hunting opportunities for the public
- ❑ Develop and deliver incentives that will enable and encourage private landowners to provide affordable deer hunting on private lands

❑ Objective 2

❑ Strategies

- ❑ Develop a hunter satisfaction index
- ❑ Identify and develop effective methods for determining the preferences of the public
- ❑ Develop an ongoing public dialog that engages stakeholders, garners public support, and facilitates proactive white-tailed deer management in Florida

❑ Objective 3

❑ Strategies

- ❑ Evaluate the agricultural, silvicultural, horticultural and human safety impacts caused by deer
- ❑ Conduct a comprehensive review of the agency's current deer depredation program
- ❑ Promote hunting as the primary tool for alleviating crop depredation
- ❑ Provide deer management technical assistance to communities and landowners where feasible
- ❑ Develop and promote educational materials that deal specifically with deer damage prevention and abatement techniques

❑ Objective 4

❑ Strategies

- ❑ Review the Agency's deer-related data collection and monitoring activities
- ❑ Coordinate and integrate deer-related data collection activities across divisions and offices to provide value-added reporting of deer management and harvest data to the public
- ❑ Educate Floridians about white-tailed deer biology, ecology, behavior, and management

Habitat Goal

Objective 1: Assess the amount and relative quality of deer habitat throughout Florida by DMU

Objective 2: Promote deer habitat management practices that are compatible with the needs of diverse native wildlife species, and humans on private and public lands.



❑ Objective 1

❑ Strategies

- ❑ Conduct a deer habitat inventory
- ❑ Monitor changes in land use that affect deer habitat quality and quantity

❑ Objective 2

❑ Strategies

- ❑ Provide habitat management technical assistance to private landowners where feasible
- ❑ Support habitat management objectives on public lands which seek to manipulate vegetation or plant communities for early successional wildlife
 - ❑ *Early successional wildlife refers to species of wildlife that depend on habitats that include areas of land in early stages of plant community succession. Plant community succession is the change in plant communities from one type or structure to another over time. The early stages of succession in Florida generally occur after a plant community has been disturbed in some way such as through prescribed burning, mowing, chopping, plowing or herbiciding. This disturbance tends to set back succession to earlier stages where plants re-sprout, re-seed, or re-colonize an area providing new fresh growth that provides important forage and cover for deer and other wildlife.*
- ❑ Promote habitat management practices that provide long-term benefits to a diversity of wildlife species

Plan Benefits

- Establishes a framework of what needs to be done during the next ten years to effectively manage deer in Florida
- Informs the public of the direction FWC intends to go toward managing deer populations, and deer-related recreation over the next ten years
- Aids in focusing existing resources toward priority management issues



Requested Commission Action

- Approval to begin plan implementation

