The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) implemented a public outreach and input process in 2013 and 2014 in management Zones A, B and C. The goal of this process was to present the concept of Deer Management Units (DMUs) to stakeholders and to receive comments about deer management preferences for the proposed DMUs located in these zones. Normandeau Associates, a natural resource consulting firm in Gainesville, assisted FWC by marketing, coordinating, and facilitating the meetings and coordinating collection of the comments.

As a result of this outreach process, FWC is considering rule proposals that would implement greater antler regulations and change the number and timing of the antlerless deer days (“doe days”) for the DMUs within Zones A, B and C. These proposals are part of a larger project aimed at managing deer at a finer geographic scale with greater stakeholder involvement using DMUs.

Full summaries of all proposed rule changes, including DMU boundary descriptions, are included in the additional background material.
FWC staff is implementing the Commission-approved strategic plan for deer management (2008-2018) by proposing regulations specific to Deer Management Units (DMUs). This adaptive approach to deer management is intended to improve hunting opportunities and help maintain a healthy and reasonably balanced deer herd. The rationale behind the proposed DMUs is that deer biology, habitat, and stakeholders differ depending on where you are in Florida. The productivity of deer in Florida is linked to habitat. For example, portions of Florida have more productive soils, which equates to more productive deer habitat and deer populations and provides good potential for larger-antlered and larger-bodied deer. Agriculture is prevalent in some areas, which can lead to negative impacts when deer numbers are too high. However, for most of Florida, the deer density is low to moderate and far from biological carrying capacity allowing for different harvest regulations to increase or decrease deer densities at the DMU level based on stakeholder preferences.

You may find the strategic plan at www.myfwc.com/deer. Goals, objectives and strategies begin on Page 16 of the plan.
A Deer Management Unit (DMU) is a subdivision of a hunting zone with a unique combination of deer population characteristics, deer habitat, land-use patterns and deer stakeholder interests. Major roads or water features delineate DMU boundaries so hunters can locate boundaries easily in the field.

FWC staff began the DMU process in Zone D, which is located in Florida’s Panhandle and stretches from Tallahassee west to Alabama. The FWC approved new antler regulations and antlerless deer days for Zone D’s two DMUs during the April 2014 Commission meeting. Those changes are in effect for the current 2014-2015 hunting season.

The FWC is now considering changes to antler regulations and antlerless deer take based on stakeholder preferences for the DMUs within Zone A, B and C. In all, there are four zones and 12 DMUs. Changes are being considered for 10 DMUs: three DMUs in Zone A, Zone B is a DMU itself and six DMUs in Zone C.

Descriptions for the DMU boundaries are included in the draft rule language provided in the additional background documents.
The DMU management model is more than just lines on a map. It is based on managing deer with stakeholder input on preferences within each DMU. Season timing would remain linked to zones, but harvest regulations and other management issues may vary at the DMU level. The Deer Management Technical Assistance Group (DMTAG) assisted greatly in the development of the process used to engage the public and develop goals for the DMUs. In addition, DMTAG members helped to refine the DMU map.

To begin the public outreach process, the FWC contracted with Responsive Management, Inc., to conduct a scientifically designed phone survey (commonly referred to as the “phone survey” in this report) of hunters, farmers and residents to assess opinions and attitudes of deer management issues in Florida. There were 4,872 completed surveys statewide, including approximately 200 hunters, 100 farmers, and 100 residents in each DMU.

Normandeau Associates facilitated public outreach via 11 public meetings in Zone A, B and C combined, online webinars, an online presentation and online survey. The online survey could be accessed by anyone through the internet and was intended to get input on preferences for deer management by DMU.

Interested individuals could apply at the public meetings or online to be a part of a stakeholder Technical Assistance Group (TAG) to develop goals and objectives for DMUs while considering all public input. TAG had experiences hunting on private and public lands. The TAGs included still hunters and hunters who had experience using dogs to pursue deer. A private consulting firm facilitated the TAG meetings, where goals and objectives for managing the deer population size within each DMU were developed. The TAGs also provided input on other topics, such as antler regulations and bag limits for bucks. FWC staff then reviewed the goals and objectives and developed rule proposals intended to accomplish some of the goals and objectives developed by the TAGs. Some of the goals and objectives can and will be addressed by non-regulatory means.
In summary, residents (non-hunting, non-farming phone survey respondents) generally view deer positively and have few negative interactions with deer (such as deer-vehicle collisions, property damage or damage to landscaping). Hunters in general want to: increase the deer population, increase the buck population, increase the ratio of bucks to does and increase the chances of seeing and harvesting larger-bodied, larger-antlered deer. A Technical Assistance Group made up of stakeholders developed goals and objectives for DMUs that were the basis for the proposed changes.
The Technical Assistance Groups (TAGs) developed a number of goals and objectives for each DMU. A common goal or objective of all TAGs was for greater antler regulations to protect 1.5 year old bucks from harvest while allowing the harvest of bucks 2.5 years old or older. Antler regulation proposals vary by DMU based on biological data and hunter preferences.

The TAGs also developed goals and objectives related to the overall deer population within each DMU, specifically, whether the deer population should be increased, decreased or maintain at current levels based on stakeholder preferences. The Zone A TAG wanted to increase the deer population by reducing antlerless deer take (DMUs A1, A2 and A30). Other TAGs expressed a preference to maintain or increase the deer population by slightly reducing antlerless deer take (DMUs B1, C1, C2, C3, C4 and C6). The TAG for C5 wanted to maintain the deer population at current levels and spread out antlerless deer days to increase chances of hunters being able to hunt 1 or more days.

While these goals and objectives are being addressed by the proposed harvest regulation changes, other TAG goals and objectives will be considered as part of the FWC’s nonregulatory efforts to manage deer at the DMU level. The full report from each TAG is available at MyFWC.com/deer.
In Florida, hunters currently may harvest up to 2, 5-inch antlered deer per day with no season bag limit. The goal for antler regulations proposed for the DMUs within Zones A, B and C and already in place in other states is to protect the majority of 1.5-year-old bucks while allowing the harvest of the majority of 2.5-year-old and older bucks.

Current approach for managing bucks (male deer) in Florida – Regulations allow bucks to be managed for maximum sustained yield which allows the harvest of 1.5-year-old and older bucks while protecting or allowing only a conservative harvest of female deer to ensure young bucks are available each year for hunters to harvest.

An alternative approach is to protect young bucks (1.5-year-old and younger) from harvest allowing more bucks to persist into older age classes and resulting in more balanced deer herds (more bucks in older age classes and an increase in the ratio of bucks to does in the population). Depending on the deer population size and goals for future population size, does may or may not be allowed to be harvested with this approach. Restricting the harvest of most 1.5-year-old and younger bucks can increase the deer population as the buck population grows, but doe harvest is the primary driving force of population growth. This alternative approach is not trophy deer management, which usually entails protecting bucks from harvest until they reach their maximum antler potential around 4.5 to 6.5 years of age.

Antler Point Regulations (APRs) can be used for manipulating population size, age structure and buck to doe ratios. The current, longstanding approach to buck management has allowed the statewide deer population to increase over time, but the approach can lead to unbalanced sex ratios and few older bucks in the population. Many private land parcels are managed for older bucks, and a number of WMAs also have APRs in order to increase the buck population.
For an APR to be effective across the landscape and to reduce potential conflicts, the proposed DMU specific APRs would apply on all land within each DMU regardless of whether it is privately or publicly owned. If a property is split by a DMU boundary, the property would have 2 different APRs respective to the DMU. If an FWC-managed area currently has a more restrictive APR in place, it would remain.

Many hunters already follow voluntary antler regulations greater than the 5-inch state rule to manage for more bucks. However, hunters who hunt on small private land tracts often cannot successfully use voluntary antler regulations because the home range size of bucks includes multiple private property parcels owned by different individuals whom may have different harvest philosophies. “Tragedy of commons” also comes into play in that hunters on small acreage tracts may not pass on a young buck because they are concerned that it will be harvested by another hunter on adjoining land who is willing to harvest young bucks. This scenario is commonly mentioned by hunters hunting on public lands concerned that if they pass up a young buck voluntarily the next hunter may not. Mandatory APRs would increase the buck population and age structure for these scenarios where voluntary actions by hunters would not work in many situations.

**What impact will the APR have on the number of antlered deer harvested?**

We expect the antlered deer harvest to decrease initially and then rebound close to current levels after 3-4 years. It is difficult to estimate what the percent decline may be in the first year because many individual hunters, hunt clubs, private landowners and some WMAs already have some form of an antler restriction in place. Antlered deer harvest is currently monitored for each DMU so we will be able to determine the impact of any changes on harvest.
The harvest of female deer (does) is used to manage deer population size. If the deer population is greater than what the habitat can support, available food resources are less than optimal. Harvesting does can help keep a deer population from exceeding available resources or reduce a population if it already exceeds this threshold. When the deer population size does not exceed available resources, little or no doe harvest is necessary to manage herd properly. Deer populations in Florida are considered to be below biological carrying capacity. However, in some areas, deer populations may be close to exceeding levels the public will tolerate; this is commonly referred to as the social carrying capacity. Harvest of does is the primary method for controlling deer densities. Harvesting does can be used to alter buck to doe ratios (the number of does per buck) and to adjust the deer population size to be in balance with the habitat or public preferences. Harvesting too many does can reduce the population below desired levels, which will reduce future harvest potential and likely decrease hunter satisfaction.

Doe harvest is managed using antlerless deer harvest opportunities. Because public hunting areas often receive a high level of hunting and harvest pressure compared to private lands, antlerless deer regulations on public lands are more conservative to maintain desired deer populations and hunter satisfaction. Wherever possible, the FWC allows some limited take of antlerless deer to provide hunter opportunities for harvest. An antlerless deer is any deer (except spotted fawns) without antlers or with antlers less than 5 inches in length. Antlerless deer harvest opportunities are important to hunters, particularly for youth (hunter recruitment), and can increase hunter satisfaction.
Zone A

- Originally proposed 1 DMU for zone
- In response to stakeholder feedback, proposal modified to establish 3 DMUs
  - Boundaries based on best biological and ecological information available
- Some concern continues to be voiced regarding boundary between DMUs A2 and A3
Goals and objectives from the Zone A Technical Assistance Group included (1) implementing an antler regulation to protect 1.5-year-old and younger bucks from harvest while allowing the harvest of older bucks, and (2) increasing the deer population by reducing the antlerless deer (doe) harvest. Most WMAs in Zone A do not allow the harvest of antlerless deer. The proposed changes to antlerless deer take opportunities apply only to private lands.

The current antler regulation proposal calls for a 2 points on one side antler regulation in DMUs A1 and A2 and a 3 points on a side or 10” main beam in DMU A3. The differences among the DMUs are based on habitat productivity and stakeholder preferences. Further, the proposals take into account South Florida’s unique dynamics where hydrology, predation and other environmental factors greatly minimize the possibility of high-grading.

Currently, antlerless deer may be taken on private lands during the 30-day archery/crossbow season, during 7 consecutive days during gun season and by antlerless deer permit. The antlerless deer proposals would eliminate antlerless deer take during the archery/crossbow season and the antlerless deer season during general gun within DMU A1. For DMU A2, the proposals would allow harvest of antlerless deer during only the first 9 days of the archery/crossbow season and 2 days (Saturday-Sunday) during gun season. For DMU A3, the proposals would allow harvest of antlerless deer take during only the first 16 days of the archery/crossbow season and 4 days (Friday-Monday) during gun season. Antlerless deer would remain legal by antlerless deer permit in all DMUs.

Antlerless deer regulations for WMAs would remain by area specific regulations.
Poll Results for Antler Regulations (as of October 29, 2014)
The proposed antler point regulations received strong support from individuals completing the online poll. For the 2 points on a side antler regulation in DMU A1, 72% (170 individuals) supported the proposal while 25% (60 individuals) did not support the proposal.

For the 2 points on a side antler regulation in DMU A2, 68% (207 individuals) supported the proposal while 30% (92 individuals) did not support the proposal. Support for the proposed 2 points on a side regulation was high among DMU A2 hunters that indicated they frequently hunt Big Cypress WMA, 67% (122 individuals) supported the proposal while 32% (59 individuals) did not support the proposal.

For the proposed 3 points on a side or 10” main beam antler regulation for DMU A3, 69% (321 individuals) supported the proposal while 28% (130 individuals) did not support the proposal. Support for the proposed 3 points on a side or 10” main beam antler regulation was high among DMU A3 hunters that indicated they frequently hunt Big Cypress WMA north of Interstate 75 (southern boundary for DMU A3), 69% (50 individuals) supported the proposal while 30% (22 individuals) did not support the proposal.

Poll Results for Antlerless Regulations (as of October 29, 2014)
The regulation proposal to eliminate antlerless deer take during the archery/crossbow and gun seasons for DMU A1 received a fair amount of support with 45% (51 individuals) supporting the proposal; however, 50% (57 individuals) indicated they did not supporting the proposal. DMTAG members provided feedback to move forward with the initial proposal in order to achieve the goals set forth by the TAG.

The initial regulation proposal to eliminate antlerless deer take during the archery/crossbow and gun seasons (allow by antlerless deer permit only) for DMU A2 was not supported in the online poll: 36% (59 individuals) supported the proposal while 57% (93 individuals) did not support the proposal. DMTAG members suggested the proposal be modified to allow antlerless deer take during the first 9 days of the archery/crossbow season and during 2 days (Saturday-Sunday) of the gun season.

The initial regulation proposal to allow antlerless harvest during only the last 9 days of archery season and 2 days during gun in DMU A3 was not supported in the online poll: 36% (93 individuals) supported the proposal while 9 (151 individuals) did not support the proposal. DMTAG members suggested the proposal be modified to allow antlerless deer take during the first 16 days of the archery/crossbow season and during 4 consecutive days (Friday-Monday) of the gun season.

Poll results for the updated proposals will be available during the November 21, 2014 Commission meeting.
Goals and objectives from the Zone B Technical Assistance Group included (1) implementing an antler regulation to protect 1.5 year old and younger bucks from harvest while allowing the harvest of older bucks, and (2) increasing the deer population by slightly reducing the antlerless deer (doe) harvest.

The antler regulation proposal calls for a 3 points on a side or 10” main beam in DMU B1. This would protect 91% of the 1.5 year old age class.

Currently, antlerless deer may be taken on private lands during the 30-day archery/crossbow season, during 7 consecutive days during gun season and by antlerless deer permit. The antlerless deer proposal would continue to allow the harvest of antlerless deer during all of the archery/crossbow season and would reduce the antlerless deer days during gun season from 7 to 3 days (Friday-Sunday). Antlerless deer would remain legal to take by antlerless deer permit.

Antlerless deer regulations for WMAs would remain by area specific regulations.
Poll Results for Antler Regulations (as of October 29, 2014)
The proposed antler point regulation received strong support from individuals completing the online poll. For the proposed 3 points on a side or 10” main beam antler regulation for DMU B1, 61% (586 individuals) supported the proposal while 33% (321 individuals) did not support the proposal. There was good support for the proposed 3 points on a side or 10” main beam antler regulation among DMU B1 hunters that indicated they frequently hunt Richloam WMA, 54% (142 individuals) supported the proposal while 39% (102 individuals) did not support the proposal.

Poll Results for Antlerless Regulations (as of October 29, 2014)
The regulation proposal to allow antlerless harvest during all 30 days of the archery/crossbow season and 3 days during gun in DMU B1 to help reduce the number of does being harvested in an effort to stabilize or increase the deer population was supported in the online poll, 53% (341 individuals) supported the proposal while 42% (269 individuals) did not support the proposal. DMTAG members were generally supportive of the proposal.
Goals and objectives from the 3 Zone C Technical Assistance Groups included implementing an antler regulation to protect 1.5-year-old and younger bucks from harvest while allowing the harvest of older bucks.

The current antler regulation proposal calls for a 2 points on one side antler regulation in DMU C3 and a 3 points on a side or 10” main beam in DMUs C1, C2, C4, C5 and C6. The differences between the DMUs are based on habitat productivity.
The goals and objectives for DMUs C1, C2, C3, C4 and C6 from the Technical Assistance Groups included maintaining or increasing the deer population by slightly reducing antlerless deer take opportunities. The proposals for the DMUs with Zone C would still allow antlerless deer to be harvested during the archery/crossbow season but would reduce the antlerless deer season from 7 to 3 days (Friday-Sunday) in DMUs C2 and C3 and from 7 to 4 days (Friday-Monday) in DMUs C1, C4 and C6. Antlerless deer also could still be harvested by antlerless deer permit. Based on low support for the original proposals indicated by the online poll and other input, the DMTAG members suggested an extra day of antlerless harvest. Therefore, the proposals presented herein for DMUs C1, C3, C4 and C6 contain this additional day.

The goals and objectives for DMU C5 from the Technical Assistance Group included (1) maintaining the population at current densities and (2) spreading out the antlerless deer season over multiple weekends while avoiding an increase in the overall doe harvest. The proposal would still allow antlerless deer to be harvested during the archery/crossbow season but would reduce the antlerless deer season during general gun from 7 consecutive days to 6 days on weekends, 2 weekends during general gun season (Saturday-Sunday) and 1 weekend during muzzleloading gun season (Saturday-Sunday). Antlerless deer could still be harvested by antlerless deer permit.

Antlerless deer regulations for WMAs would remain by area specific regulations.
Poll Results for Antler Regulations (as of October 29, 2014)
The proposed antler point regulations received strong support from individuals completing the online poll for DMUs C1, C2, C3, and C5. For the 3 points on a side or 10" main beam antler regulation in DMU C1, 59% (240 individuals) supported the proposal while 36% (144 individuals) did not support the proposal. In DMU C2, 65% (486 individuals) supported the proposal while 31% (228 individuals) did not support the proposal. For the 2 points on one side antler regulation proposal for DMU C3, 66% (703 individuals) supported the proposal while 30% (321 individuals) did not support the proposal. For the 3 points on a side or 10" main beam antler regulation in DMU C4, 52% (755 individuals) supported the proposal while 43% (627 individuals) did not support the proposal. For the 3 points on a side or 10" main beam antler regulation proposal in DMU C5, 68% (336 individuals) supported the proposal while 27% (134 individuals) did not support the proposal. For the 3 points on a side or 10" main beam antler regulation proposal in DMU C6, 56% (634 individuals) supported the proposal while 39% (435 individuals) did not support the proposal.

While there was support for the proposed 3 points on a side or 10" main beam antler regulation proposal for DMU C4, there was less support for the proposal among DMU C4 hunters that indicated they frequently hunt Ocala WMA, 41% (198 individuals) supported the proposal while 55% (262 individuals) did not support the proposal.

Poll Results for Antlerless Regulations (as of October 29, 2014)
The regulation proposal to reduce the antlerless deer season during general gun from 7 days to 3 days in DMU C1 was not supported by individuals who participated in the online poll (44% or 112 individuals supported the proposal compared to 52% or 133 that did not support the proposal). DMTAG members suggested an extra day be added to increase support while keeping in mind the goal of increasing the deer population within DMU C1.

For DMU C2, the proposal was to reduce the antlerless deer season during gun from 7 to 3 days. A small majority supported the proposal with 49% (202 individuals) support compared to 46% (190 individuals) not supporting the proposal. This proposal was not changed.

For DMU C3, the proposal was to reduce the antlerless deer season during gun from 7 to 2 days. Most poll participants did not support this reduction with 37% (225 individuals) supporting the proposal compared to 60% (367 individuals) that did not support the proposal. DMTAG members suggested an extra day be added to increase support while keeping in mind the goal of increasing the deer population within DMU C3.

For DMU C4, the initial proposal was to reduce the antlerless deer season during gun from 7 to 3 days. Most poll participants did not support this reduction with 37% (306 individuals) supporting the proposal compared to 58% (480 individuals) that did not support the proposal. DMTAG members suggested an extra day be added to increase support while keeping in mind the goal of increasing the deer population within DMU C4.

For DMU C5, the initial proposal was to reduce from 7 consecutive days to 6 days on weekends (4 days with Saturday/Sunday format during gun season and 2 days with Saturday/Sunday format during muzzleloading gun season). Most poll participants did support this distribution of the antlerless deer days over multiple weekends with 59% (186 individuals) supporting the proposal compared to 35% (111 individuals) that did not support the proposal. This proposal was not changed.

For DMU C6, the initial proposal was to reduce the antlerless deer season during gun from 7 to 3 days. Most poll participants did not support this reduction with 35% (234 individuals) supporting the proposal compared to 63% (424 individuals) that did not support the proposal. DMTAG members suggested an extra day be added to increase support while keeping in mind the goal of increasing the deer population within DMU C6.

Poll results for the updated proposals will be available during the November 21, 2014 Commission meeting.
A youth exemption applies for all DMUs so that youth under 16 years of age may harvest any antlered deer.
Public Feedback

- **Antler regulations:**
  - Supported by a majority of hunters responding to polls for each DMU
  - Some support for a season limit on the number of smaller-antlered deer youth may take

- **Antlerless deer seasons:**
  - Original proposals supported in only 3 of 10 DMUs
  - Proposals adjusted based on input
The process of developing DMU proposals for Zones A, B and C has gone very well, with good coordination between staff and stakeholders. The public has actively participated, which has strengthened the proposals. There seems to be widespread public support for this project, and hunters are requesting other improvements to deer management in Florida, consistent with FWC’s strategic plan.

Staff would like to continue to work with stakeholders and bring back final rules for Commission consideration at the February 2015 Commission meeting in Jacksonville. If adopted, the proposed rules would apply to the 2015-2016 season.

Please continue to monitor MyFWC.com/Deer for updates.
Backup Material

The following slides are considered backup material and are not anticipated to be part of the actual presentation to the Commission.
For an APR to be effective across the landscape and to reduce potential conflicts, the proposed DMU specific APRs would apply on all land within each DMU regardless of whether it is privately or publicly owned. If a property is split by a DMU boundary, the property would have 2 different APRs respective to the DMU. If an FWC-managed area currently has a more restrictive APR in place, it would remain.

Many hunters already follow voluntary antler regulations greater than the 5-inch state rule to manage for more bucks. However, lots of hunters hunt on small private land tracts, and cannot successfully use voluntary antler regulations because the home range size of bucks includes multiple private property parcels owned by different individuals that may have different harvest philosophies. “Tragedy of commons” also comes into play in that hunters on small acreage tracts may not pass on a young buck because they are concerned that it will be harvested by another hunter on adjoining land who is willing to harvest young bucks. This scenario is also commonly mentioned by hunters hunting on public lands concerned that if they pass up a young buck voluntarily the next hunter may not. Mandatory APRs would increase the buck population and age structure for these scenarios where voluntary actions by hunters likely would not work..

**What impact will the APR have on the number of antlered deer harvested?**

We expect the antlered deer harvest to decrease initially and then rebound close to current levels after 3-4 years. It is difficult to estimate what the percent decline may be in the first year because many individual hunters, hunt clubs, private landowners and some WMAs already have some form of an antler restriction in place. Antlered deer harvest is currently monitored for each DMU so we will be able to determine the impact of any changes on harvest.

**What proportion of each age class will be protected by the proposed APR?**

The table shows the estimated percent of bucks by age class that would be protected from harvest under the proposed APR for each DMU. These estimates are based on harvest data collected from check stations throughout each DMU.
Here are examples of legal antlered deer under the proposed antler regulations with the 10 inch main beam option on the far right.

This alternative approach is not trophy deer management, which generally entails protecting bucks from harvest until they reach their maximum antler potential around 4.5 to 6.5 years of age.
DMUs will be used as a basis for developing geographically specific deer population goals, antlerless harvest opportunities (antlerless deer days and/or permits), antler regulations, and data collection to monitor this type of management. This slide shows proposed DMUs and ecoregions (major habitat types in Florida). Ecoregions, deer breeding chronology, and input from stakeholders were used to developed the proposed DMU boundaries.
Antlerless deer may be taken on private lands during the archery/crossbow season, during the general gun season’s antlerless deer days, by antlerless deer permit, private land deer management permit and with deer depredation permits. More conservative on public lands.
Summary – New Approach

- Managing deer at the DMU level using public input on population goals is a new way of doing business.
- Many hunters have asked FWC to manage deer differently in recent years and the DMU model allows greater stakeholder involvement in setting harvest regulations.
- This new approach to directly addresses locally specific public/hunter desires, while assuring sustainable harvests and populations for the future.
- Differing hunter preferences and deer population issues have been around for many years, but previous statewide approaches intended to address these topics have not been accepted.
The plan is to gather stakeholder preferences for deer management within each DMU and then develop goals and objectives for each DMU. Changes implemented to accomplish the goals and objectives developed from stakeholder preferences would be monitored to measure success. After 5-years, the stakeholder input process would be repeated to determine opinions on the previous 5-years and gather preferences for the next 5-years. This cycle would be repeated approximately every 5-years.
A number of states, including Florida (on WMAs), use APRs to accomplish certain buck harvest goals. Georgia allows the harvest of 2 antlered deer annually and one must have at least 4 points on a side (note: all antlered deer harvested must have 4 points on a side in 7 counties or a 15 inch outside spread in 2 counties); Alabama has a season bag limit of 3 deer, one of which must be at least 4 points on one side; Mississippi has a season bag limit of 3 antlered deer and they must have a minimum of a 10-inch inside spread or main-beam length of 13 inches or more; and Arkansas has a season bag limit of 2 antlered deer with a minimum of 3 points on one side.
Topics Discussed at Public Meetings

- Deer Population
- Antlerless Harvest
- Bag Limits
- Negative Impacts
- Antler Regulations
- Local Issues