Deer Management in Local Communities

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The Wildlife and their habitats of the state are valuable public natural resources held in trust by the state, and the state has a duty as trustee to manage its wildlife and their habitats effectively for the use and enjoyment of present and future residents and for the protection of the environment.
Deer Management in Local Communities

- Various interests of individual citizens, government officials, managers, interest groups:
  - Public safety
  - Property damage
  - Deer impacts on plant communities
  - Deer health
  - Humane treatment of deer
- Definitions and risk tolerance will vary
- Commitment for ongoing management required
- Common interest: reducing conflict

Objectives

Common community concerns...
- Deer-vehicle collisions
- Disease exposure
- Browsing natural vegetation
- Damage to landscaping
Lyme Disease

- Most often a mild illness mimicking the flu
- Serious problems involving the heart, joints and nervous system may develop in some individuals
- Lowering deer densities may reduce tick abundance, however, this may not decrease the prevalence of Lyme disease or the likelihood of infection
Trapping Deer

Feasibility, Affordability, and Acceptability

- Wildlife Division will not allow removal of live deer
  - Deer may not be converted to private ownership
  - Disease concerns preclude moving and releasing deer
- Deer may be trapped and euthanized
  - Affordability depends upon source of labor, extent of local involvement and regulation
  - Constraints: acceptability to local public as a barrier to initiation and access; susceptibility of deer

Hunting or Culling

Feasibility, Affordability, and Acceptability

- Local ordinance modification may be needed
- Safety zones for hunting (not culling) require written permission
- Verbal permission required to retrieve game
- Affordability depends upon source of labor, extent of local involvement and regulation
- Greatest constraint is acceptability to local public as a barrier to initiation and access
Questions or Comments?

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