

Appendix II: QUESTIONNAIRE



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

600 S Walnut / PO Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707-0025

Dirk Kempthorne / Governor
Steve M. Huffaker / Director

October 4, 2004

Name _____ Cont# _____
Address _____
City, State _____

Dear Hunter,

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game, in collaboration with sportsmen, has been working on a revision of Idaho's White-tailed Deer Management Plan. Numerous sportsmen have contributed to this effort by participating in surveys, public meetings, letters, and phone calls. An important focus of this planning effort is to recognize white-tailed deer as a unique and important wildlife resource in the state.

On November 18, 2004 the Idaho Fish & Game Commission will consider adopting a revised Idaho White-tailed Deer Management Plan and changes to white-tailed deer hunting opportunities. Specifically, a new White-tailed Deer Tag will be considered for 2005. This new tag could be used wherever white-tailed deer seasons occur and could only be used to harvest a white-tailed deer. The White-tailed Deer Tag would replace the existing Clearwater Deer Tag. The General Deer Tag and existing hunting opportunities, including hunting either mule deer or white-tailed deer, would remain unchanged over much of the state.

It is important for the Department and the Commission to know your opinion regarding a new White-tailed Deer Tag. Please take a few moments to review the background information, complete the brief survey, and return it in the prepaid envelope provided.

The Commission will use your input as they consider the new tag alternative. Your responses are valuable, so I am thanking you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad".

Bradley B. Compton
State Big Game Manager

Enclosures

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

208-334-3700 *☎*Fax: 208-334-2114 *☎*Idaho Relay (TDD) Service: 1-800-377-3529 *☎*<http://www.fishandgame.idaho.gov>

White-tailed Deer Plan Revision 2004 Hunter Survey



Cont#

BACKGROUND

The Department has conducted numerous sportsmen surveys during the past 1½ years to measure satisfaction levels with current white-tailed deer management and to identify where the public thought improvements could be made. These surveys indicate that hunters shared general agreement on a number of management issues, including:

- A. white-tailed deer should be managed separately from mule deer
- B. hunting white-tailed deer at the same time and place as elk was desirable
- C. hunting white-tailed deer at the same time and place as mule deer was desirable
- D. hunting white-tailed deer during November was desirable
- E. hunting deer in more than one part of the state in any given year was desirable
- F. using the Clearwater Deer Tag to reduce the number of people participating in late-season white-tailed deer hunts was desirable

Based on these survey results the Department, working with deer hunters, developed a management strategy that attempts to address all of these issues. The strategy involves creating a White-tailed Deer Tag, valid statewide for white-tailed deer. Hunters could choose either the current General Deer Tag ***OR*** a White-tailed Deer Tag, but not one of each. The White-tailed Deer Tag would replace the existing Clearwater Deer Tag.

A general description of what opportunities would be offered by the General Deer Tag compared to the White-tailed Deer Tag is:

<i>Hunters could choose either a General Deer Tag or a White-tailed Deer Tag</i>	
General Deer Tag	White-tailed Deer Tag
J used to harvest a mule deer or white-tailed deer where general seasons allow both species	J used to only harvest a white-tailed deer in any season open to General Deer Tag hunters
J used to hunt statewide including the Clearwater Region during <i>early</i> seasons	J used to hunt statewide including <i>late</i> season white-tailed deer only hunts

SURVEY

Q1. It is important to find out if previous survey results still reflect deer hunter opinions today. How acceptable do you find the management issue statements listed above (A-F)? (*circle one*)

All Are Acceptable	Most Are Acceptable	Neutral	Most Are Unacceptable	All Are Unacceptable
1	2	3	4	5

Q2. How acceptable would it be to you if the Idaho Fish & Game Commission created the White-Tailed Deer Tag? (*circle one*)

Highly Acceptable	Moderately Acceptable	Neutral	Moderately Unacceptable	Highly Unacceptable
1	2	3	4	5

(Continued on back)

Q3. How acceptable would it be to you for the White-tailed Deer Tag to replace the Clearwater Deer Tag? *(circle one)*

Highly Acceptable	Moderately Acceptable	Neutral	Moderately Unacceptable	Highly Unacceptable
1	2	3	4	5

Q4. If the Idaho Fish & Game Commission adopted the White-tailed Deer Tag strategy, which tag would you most likely purchase? *(check one)*

- General Deer Tag
- White-tailed Deer Tag
- Neither

Q5. Which species of deer do you normally hunt? *(check one)*

- Mule Deer
- White-tailed Deer
- Both Mule Deer & White-tailed Deer

Q6. Which Game Management Unit (e.g. 1, 8A, 39, 76, etc.) do you hunt deer in most often? *(list one unit)*

Game Management Unit _____

Q7. How many years have you hunted deer in Idaho?

Thank you for completing this survey and returning it to us by October 25.

Please mail your completed survey and any additional comments you may have to IDFG by using the enclosed postage paid envelope, or mail to Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Attn: Wildlife Bureau, 600 South Walnut/PO Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707.



RESULTS

SAMPLE:

Seven hundred letters each were mailed to hunters in the Panhandle Region, the Clearwater Region, and in the remainder of the state, for a total of 2,100 letters. If no response was received from the letter, a follow-up phone call was made to solicit opinions. A total of 1,177 responses were received (56% response rate). An additional 446 responses were received on the same questionnaire from the Department website. The majority of responses from the web site were from the Clearwater and Panhandle Regions, in that order.

Q1. How acceptable do you find the 6 management issue statements (A-F)?

Group	Responses N=	Highly Acceptable 1	Moderately Acceptable 2	Neutral 3	Moderately Unaccept. 4	Highly Unaccept. 5	Unknown 6
Mail Survey	1177	27%	42%	17%	8%	4%	1%
Panhandle	394	28%	44%	13%	8%	5%	1%
Clearwater	411	29%	44%	14%	8%	4%	1%
South	372	26%	39%	23%	8%	4%	2%
Website	446	23%	53%	11%	10%	3%	---

Q2. How acceptable would it be to you if the Idaho Fish & Game Commission created the White-tailed Deer Tag?

Group	Responses N=	Highly Acceptable 1	Moderately Acceptable 2	Neutral 3	Moderately Unaccept. 4	Highly Unaccept. 5	Unknown 6
Mail Survey	1177	30%	22%	20%	8%	18%	1%
Panhandle	394	27%	22%	22%	7%	20%	1%
Clearwater	411	29%	22%	17%	10%	21%	1%
South	372	33%	22%	26%	9%	13%	1%
Website	446	34%	26%	10%	12%	18%	---

Q3. How acceptable would it be to you for the White-tailed Deer Tag to replace the Clearwater Deer Tag?

Group	Responses N=	Highly Acceptable 1	Moderately Acceptable 2	Neutral 3	Moderately Unaccept. 4	Highly Unaccept. 5	Unknown 6
Mail Survey	1177	32%	18%	22%	7%	17%	3%
Panhandle	394	31%	17%	25%	6%	17%	4%

Clearwater	411	29%	20%	13%	11%	24%	3%
South	372	37%	18%	30%	5%	9%	2%
Website	446	35%	22%	15%	9%	19%	---

Q4. If the Idaho Fish & Game Commission adopted the White-tailed Deer Tag strategy, which tag would you most likely purchase?

Group	Responses N=	General Tag	White-tail Tag	Neither	Unknown
Mail Survey	1177	65%	28%	4%	3%
Panhandle	394	68%	26%	4%	3%
Clearwater	411	43%	48%	6%	3%
South	372	88%	6%	3%	3%
Website	446	55%	41%	4%	---

Q5. Which species of deer do you normally hunt?

Group	Responses N=	Mule Deer	White-tail	Both	Unknown
Mail Survey	1177	28%	36%	33%	2%
Panhandle	394	4%	49%	45%	3%
Clearwater	411	8%	57%	33%	2%
South	372	76%	1%	20%	2%
Website	446	24%	33%	43%	---

Q6. Which Game Management Unit (e.g. 1, 8A, 39, 76, etc.) do you hunt deer in most often?
Game Management Unit _____

Q7. How many years have you hunted deer in Idaho?

Group	Responses N=	Minimum	25%	Median	75%	Maximum	Mean
Mail Survey	1150	1	7	15	30	72	20.5
Panhandle	384	1	6	18	30	72	20.3
Clearwater	402	1	10	20	34	70	22.1
South	364	1	5	16	29	60	18.9
Website	446	0	9	17	27.3	50	18.4