

BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
WM-11-13 and WM-24-13(E)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to ss. 29.014, 29.041 and 227.11(2)(a), Stats., interpreting ss. 29.014, 29.041 and 29.192, Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold public meetings on revisions to ch's. NR 1, 10, 13, and 45 Wis. Adm. Code, related to deer management, hunting, and implementation of the 2012 White-tailed Deer Trustee Report.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the hearings will be held October 22 through October 31 at each of the following locations at the following times:

<b>October 22</b>			
Eagle River	Northland Pines HS Auditorium	1800 Pleasure Island Rd	6 – 8 pm
Eau Claire	DNR Service Center Conf. Rm.	1300 W. Clairemont Ave.	7 – 9 pm
Park Falls	Park Falls High School Auditorium	400 9th Street North	6 – 8 pm
Prairie du Chien	Prairie du Chien City Hall	214 East Blackhawk Ave.	7 – 9 pm
Richland Center	Richland County Courthouse Board Room	181 W. Seminary St.	6 – 8 pm
Schofield	D.C. Everest Middle School Auditorium	9302 Schofield Avenue	7 – 9 pm
<b>October 23</b>			
Superior	Superior Public Library	1530 Tower Ave	6 – 8 pm
Black River Falls	BRF Middle School/Lunda Auditorium	1202 Pierce St.	7 – 9 pm
Burlington	Veterans Terrace - Stars and Stripes Room	589 Milwaukee Avenue	6 – 8 pm
Fitchburg	DNR Service Center - Gathering Waters CR	3911 Fish Hatchery Road	6 – 8 pm
Horicon	Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center	N7725 Hwy 28	6 – 8 pm
Plymouth	Plymouth High School	125 Highland Ave	7 – 9 pm
Rhinelanders	James Williams Middle School, Auditorium	915 Acacia Lane	6 – 8 pm
<b>October 24</b>			
Green Bay	NWTC Rm SC132	2740 W. Mason St.	7 – 9 pm
Wautoma	Wautoma High School Cafeteria	514 S. Cambridge St.	7 – 9 pm
Hayward	Hayward High School, Auditorium	10320 Greenwood Ln.	6 – 8 pm
Portage	Law Enforcement Center	711 East Cook St	6 – 8 pm
La Crosse	DNR Service Center RM B-19	3550 Mormon Coulee Rd	7 – 9 pm
Mauston	Mauston H.S. Auditorium	800 Grayside Avenue	7 – 9 pm
<b>October 29</b>			
Ashland	Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center	29270 County Hwy G	6 – 8 pm
Baldwin	DNR Service Center, Conference Rm.	890 Spruce St.	7 – 9 pm

Clintonville	Clintonville High School	64 West Green Tree Rd	7 – 9 pm
Florence	Nat Res Center Conf Room	55631 Forestry Dr.	7 – 9 pm
Grantsburg	Crex Meadows Wildlife Education & Visitors Center	102 E. Crex Avenue	7 – 9 pm
Janesville	DNR Service Center - Janesville	2514 Morse Street	6 – 8 pm
Medford	Medford High School Red - White Theater	1015 W. Broadway Ave.	6 – 8 pm
Pewaukee	Wildwood Lodge - Hudson Bay Room	N14 W24121 Tower Place	6 – 8 pm
<b>October 30</b>			
Antigo	Antigo H S Auditorium	1900 10th Ave	7 – 9 pm
Barron	Barron Cnty Government Cntr, Room 110	355 East Monroe Avenue	7 – 9 pm
Crivitz	Crivitz High School	400 South Ave	7 – 9 pm
Dodgeville	DNR Service Center	1500 N. Johns St.	6 – 8 pm
Fountain City	Cochrane/Fountain City HS Auditorium	S2770 STH 35	7 – 9 pm
Oshkosh	Webster Stanley Middle School	915 Hazel Street	7 – 9 pm
<b>October 31</b>			
Ladysmith	Ladysmith High School Auditorium	1700 E. Edgewood Ave	6 – 8 pm
Darlington	Darlington Elementary School Auditorium	11630 Center Hill Rd.	6 – 8 pm

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department has made a preliminary determination that this action does not involve significant adverse environmental effects and does not need an environmental analysis under ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code. However, based on the comments received, the Department may prepare an environmental analysis before proceeding with rulemaking. This environmental review document would summarize the Department’s consideration of the impacts of the proposal and reasonable alternatives.

**Plain Language Analysis:** There has been dissatisfaction with various issues related to white-tailed deer management and hunting in Wisconsin. Gubernatorial candidate Scott Walker made a promise to appoint a “Deer Trustee” to review programs. In October of 2011 Dr. James C. Kroll, officially known as Wisconsin’s white-tailed deer trustee, entered into a contract with the State of Wisconsin to conduct an independent, objective and scientifically-based review of Wisconsin’s deer management practices. The White-tailed Deer Trustee’s report was released to the public in July, 2012.

The objective of these proposed rules is to work with sportsmen and sportswomen and other stakeholders in order to implement ideas and solutions from the Deer Trustee’s report to forge a new age for deer management.

Sections 1 to 6 update Natural Resources Board policy so that the term “population objective” and “goal” are used consistently and for concise wording.

Section 7 creates introductory material that organizes the current Ch. NR 10 as Subchapter 1 and prepares for the creation of another subchapter.

Sections 8, 28 and 29 establish that CWD management zones will be identified as CWD-affected areas and are based on counties and not the previous configuration of deer management units and portions of units. These sections also establish that the population density objective in CWD-affected areas or portions of counties in CWD-affected areas is to decrease the deer herd.

Section 9 creates a definition of “afield” for the purpose of establishing that a deer cannot be accompanied by someone other than the person who tagged it if the person who tagged the deer is not also present while afield, similar to current rules.

Section 10 updates cross references and makes a cross-reference to the law which establishes the archer license more general so that it will continue to be accurate if new statutes related to hunting with crossbows are enacted.

Sections 11 to 17 of this proposal establish the deer hunting season dates for gun, archery, muzzleloader, and deer hunting by youth hunters. The standard deer hunting season framework established in these sections is:

Bow & Arrow/Archery	Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.
Youth	Two consecutive days beginning on the Saturday nearest October 8
October antlerless-only firearm ( <i>occurs only in those units where CWD or other disease has been found, and only after promulgation of emergency rules pursuant to s. 29.016(2), Stats.</i> )	Four consecutive days beginning on a Thursday and ending on the Saturday nearest, but not later than October 15 <sup>th</sup> .
Traditional firearm deer season	Saturday before Thanksgiving Day Holiday and continuing for 9 days.
Muzzleloader only	Beginning on the day after the traditional November firearm deer season and continuing for 14 days.
Holiday firearm deer season (South of State HWY 64)	Beginning on December 24 and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.

Noteworthy changes to current rule are that there is no longer a 4-day December antlerless-only, any-firearm-type deer season. These 4 days are instead added to the muzzleloader only season, extending that season from 10 to 14 days. This section establishes that a season commonly referred to as the December holiday hunt, beginning on December 24 and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6, is an either sex season south of State Highway 64 rather than open only in the CWD management zone. For consistency with statewide firearm hunting regulations, these sections repeal the extended firearm deer season that had been established for Metropolitan deer hunting units. Metropolitan units would continue to have a longer archer season which continues through the end of January. This section eliminates references to state park hunting seasons which are no longer needed because state statute has established that deer hunting is generally allowed in state parks. This section retains language which establishes the seasons for certain state parks when it is still needed because the existing seasons are different than the general statewide seasons. Finally, this section eliminates state park deer management unit designations and limited entry state park deer hunts.

These sections establish a bag limit of one buck during firearm deer seasons and one buck during bow & arrow seasons, plus additional antlerless deer where permits are available.

Finally, these sections make a number of remedial changes for consistency with state statute related to the elimination of earn-a-buck regulations for the first buck harvested.

Sections 18, 19 and 22 update cross references related to sharp-tailed grouse, fisher, and bear management zones or subzones so that the deer management unit map in effect in 2013 continues to be the one cross referenced.

Section 20 restores the protected status of white deer in a CWD management area.

Section 21 repeals a cross-reference related to blaze orange requirements during deer seasons in CWD zones which is not necessary because blaze orange requirements are already established in statute.

Section 23 revises population goals so that they will be expressed as management objectives to increase, maintain, or decrease the deer population density in a management unit. This section also establishes antlerless permits and their allowable uses and methods of distribution. This section establishes a \$12.00 fee for bonus permits which are issued for a CWD-affected area and a \$6.00 fee for bonus permits issued under the Deer Management Assistance Program. Finally, this section establishes that one bonus buck may be harvested in units with an objective to decrease the deer population instead of just in a CWD management zone. The harvest of two antlerless deer is required first and there is a limit of one bonus buck per year.

Section 24 modifies the tagging procedures so that a deer possessed in the field must be accompanied by the person who tagged it, even if the deer has already been registered. Deer which have been registered may be transported on roadways or possessed at home by someone other than the person who tagged it, consistent with current rules.

Section 25 establishes that a harvest registration number must be printed on the carcass tag to show proof that a deer has been registered with the department.

Section 26 modifies deer registration procedures to allow telephone or electronic recording of harvest. The ability to require in person registration in a CWD area is retained if the department determines that is necessary at times. Deer and bear harvest must be registered with the department by 5:00 p.m. of the day after the deer is taken into possession. Registration requirements will be the same statewide for both firearm and archer harvested deer.

Section 27 establishes deer management units, including metropolitan units. The note in this Section also maintains the deer management unit map that was in effect in 2013 because those boundaries continue to be used for other purposes such as the basis for the fisher management zone map. [For purposes of rules hearings in October 2013, the department will be evaluating a map based on the consolidation of existing deer management units and an alternative proposal to use counties as deer management units]

Section 30 establishes the Deer Management Assistance Program to assist with specialized management of deer in localized areas and for specific purposes. This section establishes fees and other conditions for participation in the program.

Section 31 updates a cross-reference related to establishing the harvest quota for tribal members in the ceded territories.

Section 32 repeals the requirement to obtain a special permit before hunting deer in a state park in the CWD management zone.

**Summary of, and Comparison with, Existing or Proposed Federal Regulations:** These state rules and statutes do not relieve individuals from the restrictions, requirements and conditions of federal statutes and regulations. Regulating the hunting and trapping of native species has been delegated to state fish and wildlife agencies.

**Comparison with Rules in Adjacent States:** All of Wisconsin's surrounding states use hunting seasons to provide hunting opportunities and to manage white-tailed deer herds. All of the surrounding states utilize a range of hunting seasons and allow the use of archery equipment, firearms and muzzleloading

firearms at certain times. The seasons proposed in this rule order do not vary significantly from the hunting opportunities that are available in other states.

### Illinois

The Illinois archery season runs from October 1, 2013 - January 19, 2014 except that it is closed during the firearm deer season in those portions of the state that hold a firearm deer season. Illinois has two periods for firearm deer hunting, a muzzleloader season, and special CWD and antlerless-only seasons. The first firearm season in 2013 is November 22 - 24 and the second season is December 5 - 8. The muzzleloader season is Dec. 13 - 15. The special CWD and antlerless-only seasons occur on December 26 - 29 and January 17 - 19, 2014. A youth firearm deer hunt is open on October 12 - 14. All firearm hunting permits are distributed first through a tiered drawing system where residents have a higher chance of being selected for a permit than non-residents, then through a random daily drawing, and finally they are offered over-the-counter on a first-come first-served basis until the unit's quota is reached. Hunters who are eligible to purchase a hunting permit receive an either-sex permit and one bonus antlerless-only permit. There is no limit on the number of resident archery licenses that will be issued, and each resident archery license includes an antlerless-only and an either sex permit. Non-resident archery licenses also include an either sex permit and an antlerless-only permit, but are allocated through a lottery system.

### Iowa

In Iowa, there are two archery seasons, two muzzleloader season, and two shotgun seasons. There is also an antlerless-only season, a youth hunt for residents, and a holiday season for nonresidents. The archery season runs from October 1 – December 6 and December 23 – January 10, 2014. The muzzleloader seasons run from October 12 – 20 (residents only) and December 23 – January 10, 2014. The shotgun seasons run from December 7 – 11 and December 14 – 22. The antlerless-only season runs from January 11 – 19, 2014, the youth hunt runs from September 21 – October 6, and the holiday season runs from December 24 – January 2, 2014. When a hunter purchases an 'Any Deer License', they are entitled to harvesting either a buck or an antlerless deer statewide. Hunters also have the option to purchase an 'Antlerless-only License' which is valid for a specific zone in the state. The number of antlerless licenses available in any particular zone is determined by a quota system, and hunters are able to purchase these licenses on a first-come first-served basis until the quota is reached.

### Michigan

Michigan has one firearm season, two archery seasons, and one muzzleloader season, as well as two antlerless-only seasons and a youth hunt. The firearm season run November 15 – 30. The archery seasons runs October 1 – November 14 and December 1 – January 1, 2014. Michigan's muzzleloader-only season is split into three zones with each zone's season occurring in December and lasting for either 10 or 17 days. The antlerless-only seasons run from September 21-22 and December 23 – January 1, 2014 and the youth hunt occurs on Sept 21-22. Hunters interested in harvesting an antlerless deer must purchase an antlerless license that is valid within a specific DMU for use on either public land or private land. In some DMUs, these licenses may only be purchased over the counter, whereas in others there is an application process and drawing.

### Minnesota

Minnesota has one archery season, one firearm season that is divided into four separate zones, and one muzzleloader season. There is also a special archery season on Camp Ripley (a military base) and a youth season. The archery season runs from September 14 – December 31. The firearm season runs November 9 – 17, November 9 – 24, or November 23 – December 1 depending on the zone. The muzzleloader season runs November 30 – December 15. The special archery hunt on Camp Ripley occurs on October 26 – 27 and November 2-3. The youth hunt runs from October 17 – 20. Antlerless permits are distributed through a license lottery in "lottery" areas of the state. In "Hunter Choice", "Managed", or "Intensive" areas licenses are either-sex. Bonus permits for antlerless deer are available over the counter for use in managed and intensive areas.

**Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies:** Implementation of the Deer Trustee's report will result in establishing a number of new policies for deer management and hunting management

compared to current rules. The primary policy alternatives evaluated in development of these rules are ones recommended in the report. Throughout this rulemaking process, the department and its partners did evaluate other policy alternatives as they were identified.

The full report is located on the Wisconsin Department of Administration's website at: <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/section.asp?linkid=239&locid=0>

Revisions to Ch. NR 1 are minor and consist of an update to Natural Resources Board policy so that the term "population objective" and "goal" are used consistently throughout the board order and for concise wording. This rule order favors the term "objective" to describe the deer population level that management activities are designed to achieve. The terms "objective" and "goal" are very similar and "objective" is favored in this rulemaking because it was a recommendation of the trustee's report.

Chapter NR 10 establishes most of the deer population management policy and practices and hunting regulations that are in place today. Currently, Ch. NR 10 establishes the Sex-Age-Kill model for estimating deer populations, deer population goals, and deer management units. These rules repeal that specific population model from the chapter. However, these rules do not prohibit the department from continuing to analyze deer populations using the Sex-Age-Kill model or others as methods of developing population information. These rules will replace the current population goals by eliminating numeric goals and replacing them with a simplified statement of objectives to "increase, stabilize, or decrease the deer population." These rules establish a set of metrics to monitor progress towards the objective. These rules significantly reduce the number of deer management units. These rules do not change the department's current requirement to evaluate deer management unit boundaries and population goals or objectives on a recurring three year basis.

Under these rules, the department will be able to modify antlerless harvest quotas, and permit levels on an annual basis. These rules recommend that the department consult with groups or representatives for certain deer related interests in establishing quotas each year. Historical demand for antlerless permits has not been a factor that the department was required to consider in quota setting in the past but would be a mandatory consideration under these rules. Under this proposal, hunters in most of the state will continue to receive an antlerless deer tag with the purchase of a firearm or archery license. This tag will be comparable to the current "herd control unit" tag which is issued in units that are 20% or more over the established population goal. Under the proposal, these tags will be valid in any farmland unit. The department currently issues additional herd control tags for the cost of a \$2.00 issuance fee but those tags will be discontinued by this rule. Under this proposal, the standard fee of \$12.00, also the current fee for a bonus permit, will apply for all antlerless permits which are in addition to the one that was issued with hunting licenses. These rules also establish a \$12.00 fee for additional antlerless tags which allow harvest of deer in the CWD-affected area. Under statute, \$5.00 of the fee for these permits will be credited to an account for management and testing of chronic wasting disease. Finally, through the Deer Management Assistance Program, these rules allow establishing unique antlerless deer permits that are specific for use on properties enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program. A recommendation resulting from the public involvement process that preceded development of these rules was that the fee for bonus permits should be \$10.00. That is not proposed in these rules because the bonus permit fee is already established by statute and the department does not have rulemaking authority to change it. Other permits, the fee for which the department does have rulemaking authority, are generally also \$12.00 for consistency with bonus permits.

A variety of related hunting regulations changes are proposed in these rules. Many of them are simplifications to current rules. Changes include the names for permits and the allowable use of various deer permits. Deer carcass tags, tagging, and transportation requirements are modified where possible in order to simplify regulations or as opportunities will arise during development of new automated licensing systems. The current requirement to register deer is replaced in these rules with a more customer-friendly harvest reporting procedure using telephone or internet. Black bear are another species for which in-person registration of harvested animals is required. These rules will modify bear harvest recording requirements because deer and bear registration occur at the same locations and through the same process under current rules. These rules will eliminate deadlines to register deer and

bear that currently vary by season, harvest method, and location. Instead, a simple statewide requirement to register deer and bear harvest before midnight of the date of harvest is established. This allows fewer hours to register an animal than under current law but electronic registration will be significantly more convenient. Faster registration of deer will provide the department and others who are interested with very timely harvest information. The shorter deadline may also help with enforcing bag limit restrictions. The option to require in-person registration of deer carcasses is preserved in areas that are part of a CWD affected area or where necessary for deer population and herd health monitoring purposes. The department could take advantage of this authority in order to collect tissue specimens for sampling for a wide variety of diseases or biometrics associated with deer populations. Finally, in order to assure hunter accountability and compliance with group bagging restrictions, these rules establish that a deer carcass possessed in the field must be accompanied by the person who tagged it. For practical purposes, this requirement is the same as current rules because in-the-field registration of harvested deer was not possible previously. However, now that deer could be registered while in the field, rules will continue to require that the person who tagged the carcass accompany it during dragging or other field transport. Deer that have been registered could be transported by other people on public roads or possessed at home.

Season date modifications will have the impact of opening a number of refuges, which are established in NR 11 and 15, to additional deer hunting during the late firearm season that begins on December 24. These refuges are located primarily on department managed lands and most of them were established to provide undisturbed resting areas for migrating waterfowl. This deer hunt will occur very late in fall migration and will normally be after all waterfowl seasons are closed.

The department is recommending deer hunting season date modifications as a result of this rulemaking. While the report generally recommended that, "keeping seasons and bag limits consistent for longer periods of time would allow better assessment of management progress", it is challenging to discuss management system changes of this scale without considering season dates. These rules will maintain the current season for hunting deer by archery methods. This proposal maintains the traditional Wisconsin firearm deer season opener on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and 9 day structure. The current 10 day muzzleloader season is extended by four days under this proposal and this extended muzzleloader-only season will replace what had previously been a statewide four day any-firearm season for antlerless deer only. This proposal establishes an additional firearm deer hunting opportunity in the portion of the state South of HWY 64 beginning on December 24 and continuing to the Sunday nearest January 6. This holiday deer hunt occurs under current rules in the CWD management zone. It has been a low-pressure event but, for some, a greatly appreciated opportunity for additional deer hunting at a time when families are together and around which some new deer hunting traditions are developing. The late firearm season, or holiday hunt, is similar to seasons offered in other adjacent states and will occur during a time of the year when more residents are traditionally taking vacation or home for the holidays as in the case of veterans. Finally, only in areas that are part of the CWD season under current rules, archery deer hunting has been allowed on the day before the traditional 9-day firearm season opens. Under this proposal, the archery deer season will be open statewide on the day before the traditional 9-day firearm season for consistency with the rest of the state.

Under current rule, numerous state parks are listed in the table that establishes deer seasons because the DNR was required to establish hunting seasons in state parks by administrative rule. Under 2011 ACT 168, hunting is allowed at state parks except where, or at times when, the Natural Resources Board has prohibited the activity in order to protect public safety or a unique plant or animal community. Because the old presumption that state parks are closed unless opened by rule has been replaced by a presumption that state parks are open unless board action has been taken to close them, most state park names have been removed from the table. Those parks will be open to deer hunting under normal statewide regulations at times when hunting has not been prohibited for safety related purposes. A number of parks, which had deer hunting seasons or regulations which are not the same as the ones that apply statewide are still found in the season table in order to preserve those unique seasons or regulations. All state park deer management unit number designations have been repealed and state parks are simply referred to by their name. Finally, current rules require that deer hunters in state parks in the CWD management zone obtain a free access permit to a park. The number of access permits is

not restricted. This rule repeals that requirement because it is no longer needed considering that access to other parks will not be monitored to this extent.

The trustee's report generally recommends a more passive approach than current department policy to the management of Chronic Wasting Disease. This approach is reflected by the establishment of deer seasons in CWD affected areas that are the same as in other areas of the state. Management of CWD in the state's deer herd is still important under these rules. These rules retain the firearm deer season occurring over the Christmas holiday, the option to issue landowner permits for sampling or for additional harvest opportunities, and provide advice on when an October firearm season will be held if necessary in a CWD areas. While the promulgation of emergency rules is required under s. 29.016, Stats., before an October firearm season can be held, establishing by permanent rule when that season would occur is intended to simplify development of an emergency rule if that authority is utilized. These rules modify the current CWD zone management system by designating it as the CWD-affected area using county boundaries to describe the zone instead of the previous DMU configuration based on roads and natural features such as rivers. A process for efficiently adding new counties as CWD-affected areas when the disease is discovered in new areas is created. The department currently establishes numeric population goals for deer units that are in a CWD zone. Those goals are modified by these rules so that they are consistent with the objectives for other units to increase, maintain, or decrease the density of the deer herd.

This rulemaking establishes a Deer Management Assistance Program that will allow landowners and hunters to work together with the department to manage deer on a site-specific basis. The program will actively involve members of the public in the collection, analysis, and reporting of deer harvest information and improve management of the deer herd at the local level. The rule establishes enrollment fees for participation in the program and statute has established that revenue will be credited back to implementation of the program. This proposal establishes a separate half-price fee of \$6.00 for antlerless deer hunting permits obtained through participation in the program. The lower fee is intended to be an incentive for participation. The program is a central recommendation of the report which recommended that the department establish: a) applicability to private and public lands, b) initial areas eligible to participate, c) administration of DMAP, d) funding, e) personnel and training, f) minimum property size to participate, g) fees, h) participation requirements, i) data collection requirements, j) registration of deer harvested on DMAP properties, k) data analysis and reporting, and l) assessment of DMAP effectiveness.

Chapter NR 13 is intended to regulate off-reservation treaty rights of treaty rights participants recognized by *Lac Courte Oreilles Band v. Voigt*, [700 F. 2d 341](#) (7th Cir. 1983). Modifications to Ch. NR 13 updates a cross reference with Ch. NR 10. Other out-of-date cross-references exist in this chapter but are not revised here as that might be more appropriate as a stand-alone, more thorough review. The report did not recommend changes to this chapter of administrative code.

**Analysis and Supporting Documents Used to Determine Effect on Small Business or in Preparation of Economic Impact Report:** These rules, and the legislation which grants the department rule making authority, do not have a significant fiscal effect on the private sector or small businesses. Additionally, no significant costs are associated with compliance to these rules.

**Effects on Small Businesses:** The department estimates that the economic impact of these rules will be none or minimal and, pursuant to 2011 Executive Order 50, will facilitate a 14 day period for comment on a draft economic impact analysis. The comment period will begin in September, 2013.

This proposal modifies rules that establish the department's habitat and deer harvest management strategies. Examples of the new management efforts include: increased emphasis of habitat management on private land through the Deer Management Assistance Program, eliminating the requirement to use a specific method of measuring and estimating deer populations even though that model may still be used and considered, and new ways to describe desired deer population levels. These rules will result in moderate revisions to regulations that apply to individual deer hunters. Examples of the types of changes proposed include adjustments to deer management unit boundaries,

simplified harvest registration procedures, different deer hunting regulations on private versus public lands, and different uses and changes in the availability of antlerless deer harvest permits.

Deer population, harvest, and habitat management affect many entities in this state. A broad description of affected industries includes agriculture, forestry, tourism, and retail. Governments may be impacted by these rules because many do have programs to manage nuisance deer locally. Many non-profit groups are focused on natural resource conservation, wildlife resources, or deer in particular, and may be affected by these rules.

The department anticipates there may be none or a minimal effect on the financial health of industries, governments, and groups. The department anticipates there will be no economic effects of these regulations for individual hunters and landowners.

Affected entities are likely to base their evaluations of economic impact on their opinions of whether-or-not the rules will result in deer population increases, stabilization, or decreases. For instance, agriculture and forest-products interests may benefit from low deer populations and resulting low levels of crop and tree damage. The tourism and retail industries may benefit from high deer populations that result in greater enthusiasm and participation in deer hunting. This rule package will be designed to balance competing interests with a different approach than current rules.

It may be important to note that the department is statutorily prohibited from managing deer populations with regulations that require a hunter to first harvest an antlerless deer before harvesting a buck. The department also lacks rulemaking authority for certain deer hunting season frameworks. These changes to the department's regulatory authority result from recently enacted statutes and they will not be considered as part of an economic analysis prepared for these rules. While deer may have significant positive or negative impacts to different entities, removal of these harvest regulations likely moderates the economic impact of this rule package.

The department anticipates that there will be no or very few implementation and compliance costs for the affected entities. These rules will not establish reporting or compliance requirements or other regulations for small business. A possible outcome of these rules is the elimination of deer registration stations at local businesses throughout the state. The department has summarized the value of registration fees paid by the department to businesses, and related impacts of this voluntary program, in the economic impact analysis.

This is not a complete estimate of economic impacts but, rather, a summary which indicates that these rules could have none or minimal economic effects. The final economic analysis for these rules includes a description of the specific impacts of deer and deer hunting in this state based on surveys and research done by the department and other state and federal agencies. However, even though significant research exists, the impact of wild deer on the environment and to people under various conditions cannot be anticipated with exact precision. The final analysis includes significant narrative descriptions of anticipated economic impacts.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to s. 227.114, Stats., it is not anticipated that the proposed rule will have an economic impact on small businesses. The Department's Small Business Regulatory Coordinator may be contacted at [SmallBusiness@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:SmallBusiness@dnr.state.wi.us) or by calling (608) 266-1959.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department has made a determination that this action does not involve significant adverse environmental effects and does not need an environmental analysis under ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Scott Loomans at (608)

267-2452 with specific information on your request at least 10 days before the date of the scheduled hearing.

The proposed rule and fiscal estimate may be reviewed and comments electronically submitted at the following Internet site: <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov> or by searching the keywords "administrative rules" on the department's website. Written comments on the proposed rule may be submitted via U.S. mail to Mr. Scott Loomans, Bureau of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or by email to [scott.loomans@wisconsin.gov](mailto:scott.loomans@wisconsin.gov). Comments may be submitted until October 31. Written comments, whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail, will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearings. A personal copy of the proposed rule and fiscal estimate may be obtained from Mr. Loomans.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Stepp, Secretary