

Deer Wintering Area Workshop

Munsungan Series
Center for Research on
Sustainable Forests

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Deer Wintering Area Workshop

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Case Studies

“Cooperative Agreements”

Background

- Cooperative agreements prior to LURC
- LURC P-FW zoning
- Cooperative agreements after LURC
- Northern and Eastern Maine Deer Task Force

Cooperative Agreements Prior to LURC

- Prior to ~1973, MDIFW entered into cooperative DWA management agreements with several private landowners
- MDIFW deemed the results of these agreements to be wanting because landowner objectives trumped deer winter shelter management objectives

LURC P-FW Zoning

- LURC established ~1973
- “Protection-Fish & Wildlife” zone established [P-FW]
- DWAs eligible to be zoned as P-FW
- P-FW zoning
 - Requires extensive surveys and documentation
 - Timber management only through Plan Agreement
 - Drop or add P-FW zones via petition to LURC
 - 3.5% cap on land area for DWAs

LURC P-FW Zoning

- ~200,000 acres zoned P-FW by mid-1980s [$\sim 1\%$ of the land base]
- P-FWs were not meeting MDIFW's deer population management objectives; they were only small subsets of the total necessary winter shelter
- P-FW zoning was “unpredictable” for landowners and management of P-FWs presented difficulties with economies-of-scale and silvicultural limitations

Cooperative Agreements after LURC

- DWA complexes
- Predictable, economies of scale, enhanced silvicultural options
- Consisted of an over-arching management principles document and individual long-term management plans for each DWA complex
- Agreement did not run with the land

Cooperative Agreements after LURC

- Land sales over the last decade or so have changed the face of land ownership in northern and eastern Maine
- Many of the original agreements were held by landowners who no longer own land in Maine or who have reduced the size of their ownership
- Lands previously under agreement are held by new owners

Cooperative Agreements after LURC

- 2007 Status of Cooperative Agreements
 - Agreements in effect:
 - 4 landowners
 - 192,721 acres
 - Lapsed or tentative agreements
 - 5 landowners
 - 87,129 acres
 - Unknown status
 - 2 landowners
 - 60,294 acres

Deer Task Force

- Legislative Resolve
- Matt Libby, Chair
- Stakeholders: SAM, MPGA, MBA, MFPC, SWOAM, MAS, MTA, MDIFW
- Met 8 times since this summer
- Developing recommended strategies to increase the deer population for the consideration of Commissioner Marten and the Legislature

Deer Task Force

- Recommendations address:
 - Deer population goals
 - DWA management
 - Predation
 - Research
 - Funding
 - Hunting
 - Education & outreach
 - MDIFW's capacity to manage DWAs

Deer Task Force

- Habitat recommendations
 - Cooperative DWA management efforts between landowners and MDIFW with the coordination of MFPC and SWOAM
 - LURC P-FW zoning may be implemented on lands not participating in the cooperative DWA initiative

Deer Task Force

- Cooperative DWA management efforts between landowners and MDIFW with the coordination of MFPC and SWOAM
 - Development of DWA management guidelines
 - MDIFW provide landowners with maps showing both historic and current deer use
 - Implementation of landscape-level DWA management program targeting DWAs actively used by wintering deer

Deer Task Force

- Cooperative DWA management efforts between landowners and MDIFW with the coordination of MFPC and SWOAM
 - Several members of the Task Force felt that a greater importance should be placed on zoning DWAs and revising LURC's P-FW standards to capture more DWA acreage

Deer Task Force

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Deer Task Force

- MDIFW will present the Task Force's recommended strategies to the Legislature's Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee in late December or early January

Public

- Wildlife is owned by everyone
- The Public Trust

Private

- Wildlife habitat is owned by private landowners
- Private Property Rights

Recurring DWA Problems

- How will the public / state and landowners address the differences that exist between their mutual desires?
- Is there a proper “mix” of responsibility for DWA conservation? If so, what is it?
- What are the appropriate DWA conservation tools?
- What is the best “mix” of these tools?



AAUGH!