

Deer and Deer Management in Central New York: Local Residents' Interests and Concerns



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources

and the



Human Dimensions Research Unit, Department
of Natural Resources, Cornell University

Deer and Deer Management in Central New York: Residents' Interests and Concerns

Research conducted for the
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources

by the

Human Dimensions Research Unit
Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is sponsoring this survey to learn more about residents' interests and concerns regarding deer and deer management in their local area. Information that you and other residents provide in this survey will help set deer management goals in your local area.

We would like to hear from EVERYONE who receives this questionnaire, not just those who have strong opinions about deer. Everyone's opinions count.

Please complete this questionnaire as soon as you can, seal it with the white re-sealable label provided, and drop it in any mailbox; ***return postage has been pre-paid***. Your identity will be kept confidential and the information you give us will never be associated with your name.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

YOUR VIEWS ABOUT DEER IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

1. **The following is a list of interests people may have in deer. Please indicate how interested you are in each of the following in your local area.** *(Circle one number for each interest.)*

| Potential interests: | Not at all interested | Slightly interested | Moderately interested | Very interested | Extremely interested |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| a. Seeing deer near your home | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. Seeing deer in your local area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. Hunting deer in your local area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. Photographing deer in your local area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. Knowing that deer are healthy in your local area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f. Knowing that deer populations are doing well in your local area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g. Other (please specify): _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

2. The following is a list of concerns people can have about the presence of deer. Please indicate how concerned you are about each in your local area. (Circle one number for each concern.)

| Potential concerns about deer in your area: | Not at all concerned | Slightly concerned | Moderately concerned | Very concerned | Extremely concerned |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Deer damage to gardens and plantings around your home | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. Lost income of local farmers due to deer damage to crops | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. Over browsing of habitat by deer | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. Injury to you or family members from a deer-vehicle collision | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. You or those close to you getting Lyme disease | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f. Deer preventing natural regrowth of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g. Loss of plant or animal diversity due to deer feeding activity | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| h. Problems associated with hunting of deer | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| i. Other (please specify): _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

3. Please indicate the extent to which you believe the following events have increased, decreased, or stayed the same in your local area over the last 5 years. (Circle one number for each item.)

| Deer-related events: | Decreased greatly | Decreased slightly | Stayed about the same | Increased slightly | Increased greatly | Don't know |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
| a. Number of deer you see around your home | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| b. Number of deer you see in your local area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| c. Amount of deer damage to plants around your home | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| d. Amount of deer damage to farm crops | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| e. Deer hunting opportunity | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| f. Amount of deer damage to natural plants and forests | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| g. Number of people getting Lyme disease | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| h. Number of deer-vehicle collisions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| i. Number of deer harvested by hunters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| j. Other (please specify): _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

4. How important is it to you that deer managers address each of the following deer-related concerns in your local area?
(Circle one number for each item.)

| Deer-related concerns that could be addressed: | Not at all important | Slightly important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| a. Deer-vehicle collisions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. Deer damage to farm crops | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. Deer damage to gardens and plantings around homes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. Deer damage to natural plants and forests | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f. Deer health and well being | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g. Deer viewing opportunities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| h. Deer hunting opportunities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| i. Problems with deer hunters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| j. Other (please specify): _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

5. Which of the following deer-related problems have you personally experienced in the last 5 years? (Circle all numbers that apply.)

- 1 Deer damage to gardens and plantings around my home
- 2 Deer damage to farm crops
- 3 Deer-related auto accident
- 4 Lyme or other tick-borne disease
- 5 Deer damage to forests on private land
- 6 Problems with deer hunters

6. Generally, how frequently do you think about deer and/or deer management issues? (Circle one number.)

- 1 Never
- 2 Rarely
- 3 Occasionally
- 4 Often
- 5 Very often

7. Generally, how do you feel about having deer in your local area? (Circle one number.)

- 1 I enjoy deer and I do not worry about problems deer may cause
- 2 I enjoy deer but I worry about problems deer may cause
- 3 I do not enjoy deer and I regard them as a nuisance
- 4 I have no particular feelings about deer

8. Generally, when you think about all aspects of living with deer, how would you weigh the benefits and costs of having deer in your area? (Circle one number.)

- 1 The benefits of deer in my local area exceed the costs
- 2 The costs of deer in my local area exceed the benefits
- 3 The costs and benefits of deer in my local area are about an even tradeoff

HOW YOU LIKE TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT DEER

9. How do you prefer to get information about deer? (Circle all that apply.)

- 1 Reading a local community newspaper
- 2 Reading regional or national newspapers, online or print
- 3 Doing internet searches for information
- 4 Reading magazines
- 5 Watching local television news
- 6 Watching national television news
- 7 Listening to the radio
- 8 Reading books
- 9 Local meetings related to deer or deer management
- 10 Other (specify: _____)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

10. Are you male or female? (*Circle one number.*)

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

11. In what year were you born? (*Fill in the blank.*) 19_____

12. Which category best describes the area where you live for most of the year? (*Circle one number.*)

- 1 Rural—live on a farm
- 2 Rural—do not live on a farm
- 3 Village or hamlet (less than 10,000 people)
- 4 Small city (10,000 to 50,000 people)
- 5 Large city (over 50,000 but less than 200,000)
- 6 Very large city (over 200,000 people)
- 7 Suburb of a large or very large city

13. What is your current county of residence? (*Fill in the blank.*)

14. Which characteristics listed below apply to you personally?
(Circle all that apply to you.)

- 1 I have flower beds or vegetable gardens around my home
- 2 I have ornamental trees or shrubs around my home
- 3 I hunt deer in my local area
- 4 I own land in a rural area, but not a farm
- 5 I own agricultural land in my local area for crop or livestock production
- 6 I own land with woodlots or forests
- 7 I spend a lot of time driving in areas with lots of deer

*****END OF SURVEY*****

Citizen panel to discuss deer management in your area

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will be convening a citizen panel to discuss deer impacts in your area and provide feedback to the NYSDEC on those impacts. The panel will meet one or more times in your area. If you are interested in more information about this public input opportunity, please provide your email address OR a telephone number where you can be reached.

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

(Please use the space below to offer any comments.)

To return this questionnaire, simply seal it and drop it into the nearest mailbox. Postage has already been provided.

