



Deer Removal Permits (DRPs) issued during Calendar Year 2003



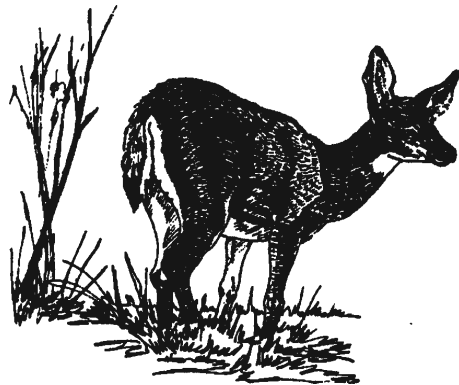
Forest Wildlife Information Series #04-03

October 2004

Introduction

During 2003, District Wildlife Biologists with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) continued to receive complaints of deer-related damage/problems statewide. In a few counties, numerous requests for Deer Removal Permits (DRPs) resulted in IDNR Natural Heritage and Law Enforcement personnel also performing site evaluations and issuing permits. Most complaints statewide were associated with deer-related damage to agricultural and/or specialty crops. However, special DRPs were again issued to airports due to public safety concerns.

Public hunting is the primary means of regulating deer densities statewide and thereby minimizing deer-related damage. However, modifying harvest quotas/regulations on a county-by-county basis may not address problems with seasonal and/or localized over-abundances of deer on individual properties. Quite often deer problems result when the property in question, or neighboring properties, serve as refuges (i.e., not open for deer hunting) for an increasing number of deer. Although the farmer experiencing deer damage may allow considerable deer hunting on his/her property during all legal deer hunting seasons, it may have little affect on the amount of damage if there is a never-ending supply of deer from the unhunted or under-hunted property next door.



A growing problem in a few counties is the increasing number of private properties being leased by individual hunters, groups of hunters, and/or outfitters. Although these properties are mostly being leased for deer and turkey hunting purposes, hunter numbers are quite often intentionally limited to provide a "quality" hunting experience and enhance one's opportunity to harvest deer. Unfortunately, if hunter numbers are too limited, or more focused on the harvest of "trophy" bucks, deer numbers will continue to increase on these essentially under-hunted refuges. DRPs will provide little relief to landowners adjacent to such refuges.

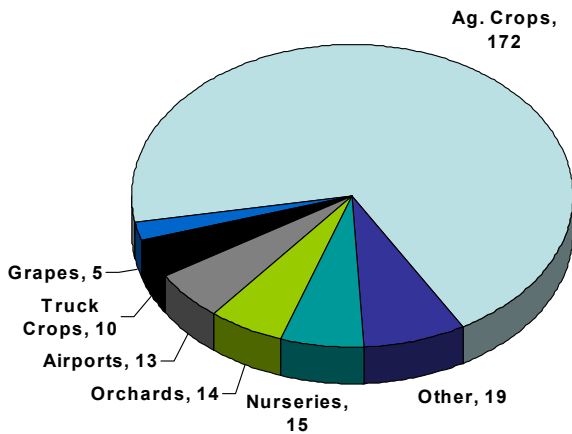
Additionally, DRPs are temporary in nature (e.g., most DRPs are issued for 30 days) and are best suited for addressing problems caused by individual, or small numbers of, animals. As a result, deer-related damage caused by large numbers of deer in an area will seldom be addressed by removing a few animals under a DRP alone. Communication and cooperation among neighboring landowners will be required in these situations.

DRPs issued during 2003

Special deer removal permits continued to be sought by landowners experiencing chronic deer damage in 2003. The majority of damage complaints involved deer browsing agricultural crops (Figure 1). Over 69 percent of the complaints received by IDNR field personnel concerned damage to corn and/or soybeans. Other agricultural crops included wheat, rye, alfalfa and other hay crops, and multiple crops on individual properties. The "Other" category in Figure 1 included pine/Christmas trees, soybean test plots, research plots, seedlings and other trees (CRP, grafted hybrids, etc.), ornamental plants/landscaping,

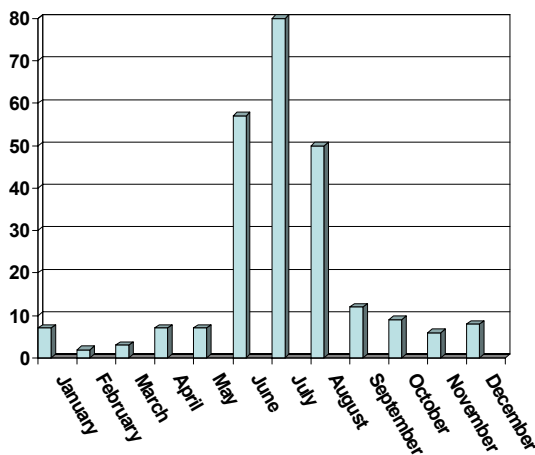
and golf courses. Thirteen DRPs were issued to airports to help alleviate public safety concerns about deer crossing runways and taxiways.

Figure 1. Types of damage that DRPs were issued for in 2003.



Similar to past years, the demand for DRPs and the number of permits issued peaked in July due to the greater number of reports of damage to agricultural crops received this time of year (Figure 2).

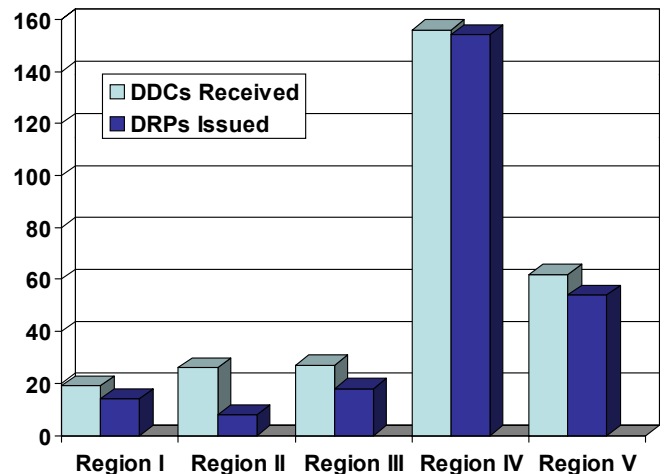
Figure 2. Number of DRPs issued by month during 2003.



Out of the 5 IDNR administrative regions in the state, demand for DRPs was again greatest in Region IV (Figure 3). The 154 permits issued in Region IV during 2003 equates to 62.1% of the permits issued statewide.

Permits issued in Calhoun and Pike counties comprised 69.5 percent of the permits issued in this Region and 43.1 percent of the permits issued statewide (see Table 1 on the last page for the county breakdown).

Figure 3. Number of deer damage complaints (DDCs) and DRPs issued by Region during 2003.

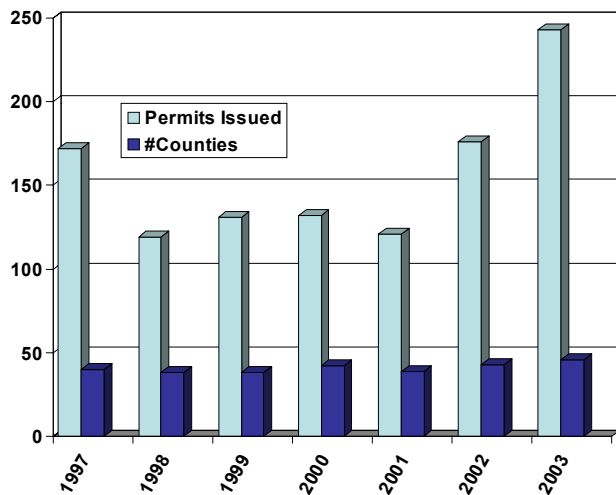


Given the current situation in these two counties, problems with deer-related damage can be expected to continue, and probably increase, in the future.

Statewide Trends in DRPs

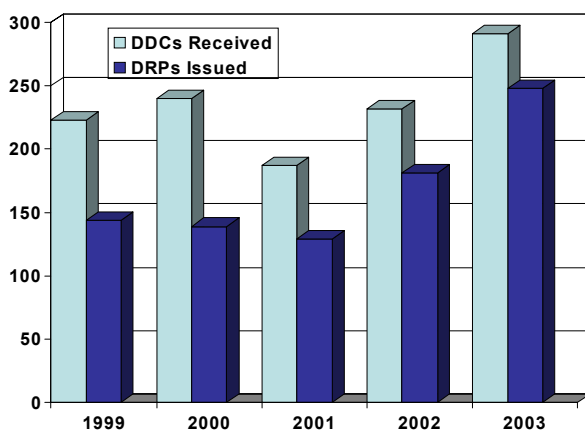
The number of DRPs issued by IDNR dropped considerably from 1992 to 1993 and continued to decrease through 1998. Although the statewide deer herd was considered to be stable, due to harvest liberalization by IDNR during the 1990's, localized overabundances due to the aforementioned refuges for deer resulted in more permits being issued in 2002, and again in 2003, than during each of the last five years (Figure 4). Calendar years 2002 and 2003 also saw a slight jump in the number of counties where DRPs were issued. This seems to indicate that certain counties have had and continue to have deer damage problems, rather than deer damage being a dramatic statewide concern.

Figure 4. Number of DRPs issued statewide and the number of counties in which DRPs were issued. Includes “hazing-only” permits.



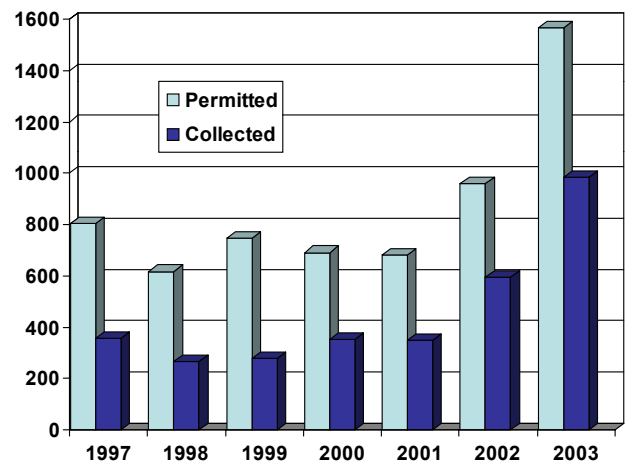
Over the last five years, the number of deer damage complaints from property owners has increased, also with a notable jump in damage reports in 2002 and 2003 (Figure 5). The number of deer damage complaints shown in Figure 5 should be considered the minimum as some field offices do not regularly fill out and submit Deer Damage Complaint Logs to IDNR’s Forest Wildlife Program.

Figure 5. Number of deer damage complaints (DDCs) received by IDNR and number of permits issued. Includes “hazing-only” permits.



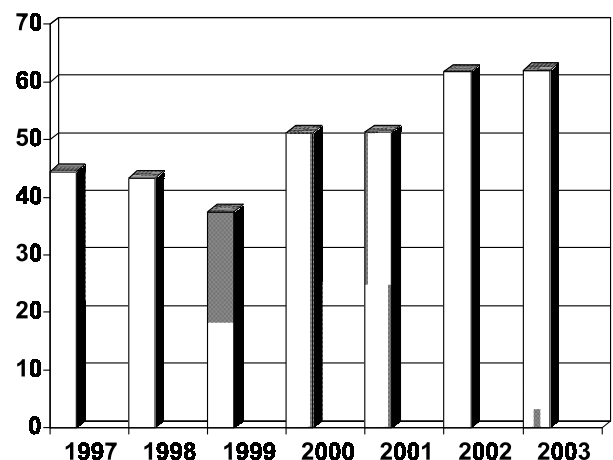
Collecting deer under authority of a deer removal permit can be very time-consuming and labor intensive. The authorized shooters must attempt to “pattern” the deer causing damage and be present when the deer are present. Disposition of deer carcasses, preferably for human consumption, also takes time. DRPs are often not “filled”; the number of deer permitted is often not actually collected (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Number of deer permitted under all DRPs statewide and number of deer actually collected.



However, permittee success increased during 2002 and 2003 when 61.8% and 62.8%, respectively, of the deer authorized where actually collected (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Percentage of deer permitted under DRPs that were actually collected.



This is to a large degree due to the high "success" rate among the permittees and their designated "shooters" in Region IV; permittees in this Region took 70.9% of the deer they were authorized to take. DRP recipients in Calhoun and Pike counties removed 78.2% and 76.3% of the deer permitted, respectively, which indicates the authorized shooters were very proficient and/or deer were plentiful.

Deer Removal Permits are not issued for, nor do they accomplish, localized deer herd reduction. They are specifically issued to allow the landowner or tenant, experiencing deer-related damage, to augment other damage abatement techniques. Localized deer population control is achieved by increasing hunter harvest of female deer and not providing unhunted or under-hunted refuges for the deer.

For more information about Deer Removal Permits or deer damage abatement, contact your local IDNR District Wildlife Biologist, IDNR Regional headquarters, or the Urban Deer Project office in Elgin.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal financial assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Offices, Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240. Department of Natural Resources information is available to the hearing impaired by calling DNR's Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: (217) 782-9175. The Ameritech Relay Number is (800) 526-0844.

Deer Removal Permits Issued By County -- 2003

<u>County</u>	<u>Permits Issued</u>	<u>Deer Allowed</u>	<u>Deer Taken</u>
Adams	14(1)	57+	45
Brown	1	5	0
Calhoun	56	333	254
Carroll	1	2	1
Champaign	2	8	3
Clinton	1	3	0
DeWitt	6	43	24
Edwards	1	5	1
Franklin	3	18	6
Greene	6	34	9
Hamilton	3	15	15
Hardin	2	5	3
Henderson	1	10	7
Jackson	4	40	20
Jefferson	6	40	29
Jersey	3	16	6
Johnson	6	34	14
Kane	3	30	8
Kankakee	1	10	7
LaSalle	7	75	28
Lawrence	1	3	0
Livingston	2	8	1
Macon	4	20	8
Macoupin	1	3	0
Madison	1	4	3
Massac	4	39	29
McHenry	2	20	18
McLean	1	4	4
Menard	3	6	1
Morgan	1	2	0
Peoria	2	20	9
Perry	4	23	16
Piatt	2	12	10
Pike	51	371	290
Randolph	(1)	0	0
Saline	1	10	1
Sangamon	8	30	8
St. Clair	2	6	1
Union	10	62	29
Vermillion	(1)	0	0
Warren	1	4	3
Washington	2(2)	7	3
White	6	55	46
Will	2	11	9
Williamson	3	25	15
Winnebago	2	40	0
<hr/>			
TOTALS	243(5)	1568	984

* Numbers in parentheses indicate DRPs issued for hazing/harassing deer only.