



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY



Human Dimensions Research Program Fact Sheet

A Comparison of Harvest, Participation and Land Access among Resident and Non-resident Deer Hunters in Illinois

Purpose of the study: Compare the hunting activity, land access, expenditures and motivations of resident and non-resident deer hunters in Illinois.

Methods: 2,945 purchasers of 2006-2007 non-resident deer hunting permits and 2,919 purchasers of 2006-2007 resident habitat stamps or hunting licenses were sent a mail-back questionnaire in January – April 2007. We received 1,916 useable responses from non-residents, for a 65% response rate, and 1,744 useable responses from residents, for a response rate of 61%.

Highlights of results: Key findings of this survey were as follows:

- Both resident and non-resident hunters hunted the most days during the archery season, however, resident hunters harvested more deer during the regular firearm season than other seasons.
- Resident hunters harvested more does than other classes of deer, whereas non-residents harvested more bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side than other classes of deer.
- Non-resident hunters harvested male deer and antlered deer at a higher rate respective to their harvest of female deer or antlerless deer. Resident deer hunters were more likely to harvest female or antlerless deer than males or antlered deer.
- Non-resident hunters spent an average of \$2,142 to hunt in Illinois for an average of 8.6 days. Non-resident hunters who leased hunting land (18%) spent an average of \$1,435 to do so. Non-resident hunters who hired outfitters (37%) spent an average of \$2,045 to do so.
- Resident hunters spent an average of \$382 to hunt deer in Illinois for an average of 16.5 days. Resident hunters who leased deer hunting land (6%) spent an average of \$698 to do so. Resident hunters who hired outfitters (0.6%) paid an average of \$583 to do so.
- 44% of non-resident hunters were subject to restrictions by the landowner on the type of deer they were allowed to harvest. 52% of those who were restricted could only harvest deer over a specific Boone and Crockett or Pope and Young point score. 4% were required to harvest a doe before a buck.
- 13% of resident hunters were subject to restrictions by the landowner on the type of deer they were allowed to harvest. 30% of those who were restricted were not allowed to harvest a deer with fewer than 4 antler points on one side. 15% were required to harvest a doe before a buck.
- 55% of non-resident hunters rated the quality of their deer hunt in Illinois as above average or better. Only 40% of resident deer hunters rated the quality of their deer hunt in Illinois as above average or better.

For more information:

For full text of this and other Human Dimensions reports and surveys, please go to
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