



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY



Human Dimensions Research Program Fact Sheet

2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey

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

Methods: 2,945 purchasers of 2006-2007 non-resident deer hunting permits were sent a mail-back questionnaire in January – March 2007. 45% of the individuals had purchased firearm permits and 55% had purchased archery permits. We received 1,916 useable responses for a 65% response rate.

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

- Non-resident deer hunters purchased more firearm permits per hunter (1.4 permits/hunter) than other types, but hunted more days during the archery season (12,289 days) than other seasons.
- Non-resident hunters harvested 0.5 deer/hunter during all seasons, 0.6 deer/hunter during the regular firearm, 0.5 deer/hunter during the archery, 0.5 deer/hunter during the muzzleloader and 0.4 deer/hunter during the late-winter seasons.
- Non-resident hunters harvested more bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side (47% of total harvest), than does (34%), bucks with < 4 antler points per side (13%), buck fawns (4%) and doe fawns (3%).
- Non-resident hunters spent an average of \$2,142 to hunt in Illinois for an average of 8.6 days. Hunters who leased hunting land (18% of all hunters) spent an average of \$1,435 to do so. Hunters who hired outfitters (37% of all hunters) spent an average of \$2,045 on outfitting fees.
- Most non-resident hunters ($> 85\%$ in all seasons) hunted on private land in Illinois.
- The most common reasons non-resident hunters hunt in Illinois is because they expect to harvest a trophy deer in Illinois (58%) or they hunt with family and friends in Illinois (18%).
- Many non-resident hunters are willing to harvest one buck with ≥ 4 antler points per side (57%), more than one doe (88%), no bucks with < 4 antler points per side (47%), no buck fawns (92%) and no doe fawns (75%).
- 44% of respondents 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% of those who were restricted 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. 65% rated the quality of the deer herd in Illinois as above average or higher. 65% rated Illinois deer management as above average or better.

For more information:

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

www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cwpe/hd/

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