



# ***Pennsylvania's Deer Management Program***

***Managing deer for healthy deer, healthy habitat, and reduced deer-human conflicts for current and future generations***

*Bureau of Wildlife Management, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

## **CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES: FAQs**

*November 2009*

**QUESTION: How do I volunteer to be on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) in my area?**

ANSWER: If you want to participate on a CAC in your area, you can contact the Game Commission at 717-787-5529 and give your name, address, phone number, and stakeholder group you represent. Your information will be included on the list if you meet the basic criteria and given to the Office of Strategic Services. Please understand the Game Commission cannot guarantee that you will be selected or contacted.

### Additional Information:

1. Prior to the start of the CAC meetings in a Wildlife Management Unit (WMU), the Game Commission compiles a list of nominations from internal and external sources for each stakeholder group to be represented on the CAC. Once a list of nominees is compiled, it is forwarded to the Commonwealth's Office of Strategic Services.
2. The Game Commission does not participate in the interview or selection process so as to maintain as unbiased a group as is possible. For this reason we ask the Office of Strategic Services to select the participants based on a set of criteria. These criteria include that members 1) be fair and open-minded; 2) have good interpersonal skills; 3) cannot hold office in organizations related to the stakeholder group they are representing; and 4) be willing to collect input from members of the stakeholder group they represent outside of formal Citizen Advisory Committee meetings.

**QUESTION: Can I attend one of the meetings as a non-committee member?**

ANSWER: No. CAC meetings are not open to the general public. CACs are working groups and opening them to the public is not required or advisable.

### Additional Information:

1. CAC members are providing a recommendation that is considered along with other biological data by Game Commission biologists in forming a recommendation to Commissioners. CAC members are not making deer management decisions.
2. CAC members are part of the general public and they volunteer their time to participate in the potentially controversial topic of deer management. Subjecting CAC members during a meeting to media and public scrutiny is not constructive to open discussions and the collaboration required to reach a consensus.

3. Information discussed and results used by CAC members to form a deer management recommendation are contained in the final written report that is posted on the Game Commission's website. Whether a particular stakeholder group was accurately represented on the CAC can be determined based on the contents of the final report.
4. Conducting non-public meetings by no means prevents public participation in the CAC process. CAC members are required as part of their responsibilities to collect input from members of their stakeholder group outside of formal CAC meetings.

**QUESTION: How do I express my views to the CAC member representing my stakeholder group?**

ANSWER: Those wishing to share their thoughts on deer management in a WMU that is holding a CAC can contact the Game Commission at 717-787-5529 and provide their name, address, and stakeholder group to which they belong. A survey form will be mailed to them to complete and return. Completed survey forms will be shared with their stakeholder representative.

Additional Information:

1. If somebody does not want to wait for a survey form, they can provide their name, phone number, and stakeholder group. This information will be passed along to CAC members, but the Game Commission cannot guarantee they will be contacted.
2. Survey forms should be returned to OSS, at the address below, who will forward them to CAC members.

Deer Management Citizen Advisory Committees  
c/o Glenn Florence, Consulting Manager  
OA/Office of Strategic Services  
311 Finance Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**QUESTION: Who are the members on the CAC in my area?**

ANSWER: Names and contact information of CAC members are not made public during the CAC process. These are public volunteers, not state employees or elected officials. If members want to share this information about themselves, they may do so. However, CAC member's names are listed in the final report.

**QUESTION: How do I share my thoughts about deer management with the Game Commission outside of the CAC?**

ANSWER: You may send written comments to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110 at anytime or present testimony prior to quarterly Commission meetings in Harrisburg. Dates and times of Commission Meetings are available at [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us).