

# **Citizen Advisory Committee Wildlife Management Unit 4D Final Report**

**June 3, 2008**



**Pennsylvania Game  
Commission**

**Governor's Office of  
Administration**



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# Pennsylvania Game Commission Citizen Advisory Committee: WMU 4D

## Introduction and Overview

An objective in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) deer management plan was the use of local stakeholder groups to recommend a Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) specific deer population goal. Through a local Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), comprised of representatives of stakeholder groups within WMU 4D, participants communicated population goal recommendations based on input actively solicited and obtained from individuals within each representative's stakeholder group. This is not the easiest of tasks as attested to by the CAC members.

After recruiting stakeholder representatives from individuals recommended by PGC field staff and other outside organizations as well as people requesting to be considered through the PGC website, Bureau of Management Consulting (BMC) staff convened and facilitated an introductory and educational meeting on February 5, 2008. BMC staff asked CAC members to attempt to communicate with at least 10 representatives from each of their respective stakeholder groups. BMC facilitated a subsequent meeting on March 12, 2008, for the purpose of representatives providing stakeholder feedback, collectively discussing summaries of stakeholder perspectives, and reaching consensus, if possible, regarding a deer population goal recommendation for WMU 4D. CAC membership, role, and attendance at both meetings are shown in Exhibit 1. Thirteen different stakeholder groups were represented. CAC members collected input from 523 people. Where possible, two members were selected per stakeholder group. In the case of 4D, this resulted in 24 CAC members representing 13 different types of stakeholder groups. Primary members were identified for each stakeholder group and were responsible for coordinating their results with their counterpart. Both the primary and secondary members were invited to attend the second meeting. Only the primary members reported out the combined results and were given decision making authority for the stakeholder group.

The following is documentation relative to this process. It includes meeting agendas, information requested of and provided by PGC staff, stakeholder representative findings, the context of various perspectives, and the resulting consensus that led to the CAC recommendation of a deer population goal for WMU 4D over the next five years:

*Attending CAC primary members were unanimous in recommending a 15% increase in the WMU 4D deer herd.*

## First Meeting Summary

The purpose of the first meeting was to provide information to the members about the CAC process as well as background on deer management, both statewide, and within WMU 4D. BMC staff also polled members on their initial thoughts on the deer population in WMU 4D. This is presented as part of Table 1, which includes the complete voting history. The first meetings agenda is shown in Exhibit 2.

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<b>Exhibit 1</b>			
<b>List of CAC Stakeholder Groups/Representatives and Attendance at Meetings</b>			
<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Representative (*Primary Member)</b>	<b>February 5</b>	<b>March 13</b>
1. Ag-Commercial Nurseries/Orchards	James Walizer	✓	
2. Ag-Commercial Nurseries/Orchards	Alan Ard *	✓	Note <sup>1</sup>
3. Ag-Livestock/Cash Crops	Elvin Stoltzfus	✓	✓
4. Ag-Livestock/Cash Crops	John Rice *	✓	✓
5. Business-Direct	Michael Kramer *	✓	✓
6. Business-Direct	Jeff Witmer	✓	
7. Business-Indirect	Mark Belinda	✓	
8. Business-Indirect	John Warsing, Sr *	✓	✓
9. Conservationist	David Gilbert *	✓	✓
10. Conservationist	James Sinclair	✓	✓
11. Forest Industry	James Goss		✓
12. Forest Industry	David Jackson *	✓	✓
13. Highway Safety	Charles Streightiff *	✓	✓
14. Homeowner-Developed	Steven Van Sant *	✓	✓
15. Homeowner-Developed	Randy Ames	✓	
16. Public Landowner	Ricky Kerstetter	✓	
17. Public Landowner	Greg Roth *	✓	✓
18. Rural Non-Farm Landowner	Kevin Dietz	✓	✓
19. Rural Non-Farm Landowner	Vaughn Lewis *	✓	✓
20. Sportsman-Nonresident	Carl Merrow *	✓	✓
21. Sportsman-Nonresident	Timothy Schaeffer	✓	
22. Sportsman-Resident	William Filler	✓	
23. Sportsman-Resident	Maynard Zimmerman *	✓	✓
24. Tourism	Betsy Howell *	✓	✓

<b>Exhibit 2</b>	
<b>Meeting Agenda, February 5, 2008</b>	
<p><b>I. Introduction</b></p> <p>A. Stakeholder Introductions</p> <p><b>II. Overview of the CAC Process</b></p> <p>A. Background &amp; Purpose</p> <p>B. Objectives</p> <p>C. Process/Consensus</p> <p>D. Role of Participants, PGC Staff, and Facilitators</p> <p>E. Meeting Ground Rules</p> <p>F. Operational Ground Rules</p> <p>G. Questions About the CAC Process</p> <p><b>III. Present Tabulation of Initial Thoughts</b></p>	<p><b>IV. PGC Presentations</b></p> <p>A. PGC Responsibilities and Mission</p> <p>B. History of Deer Management in Pennsylvania</p> <p>C. Deer Resource Information and Management System</p> <p>D. Consequences of Biological and Social Management at Different Deer Population Levels</p> <p>E. Questions</p> <p><b>V. Preparation Work for Second Meeting</b></p> <p>A. Consensus</p> <p>B. Stakeholder Opinion Worksheet</p> <p>C. Presentation Template for Stakeholder Summaries</p> <p>D. Agenda for Second Meeting</p> <p>E. Primary and Secondary Designation</p> <p><b>VI. Questions and Comments on the CAC Process</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> Alan Ard was not able to attend. He provided his material to Elvin Stoltzfus who presented the summary report for the Agriculture-Commercial Nurseries/Orchards group (see Appendix A).

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Prior to the first meeting, members received a document entitled “Pennsylvania Game Commission Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), Objectives and Process Overview,” which explained each of the items under the second area covered in the agenda and the worksheet and template listed in the fifth area of the agenda. Highlights from the first meeting included reviewing the following information.

*PGC Deer Management Program Goals:*

1. Manage deer for healthy deer.
2. Manage deer for healthy forest habitat.
3. Manage deer for reduced deer and human conflicts.

*Objectives of CAC’s:*

1. They provide an opportunity for the Game Commission to understand stakeholder values regarding deer management.
2. They provide an opportunity for stakeholders to interact with one another, facilitate communication among, and increase understanding of different stakeholder values and concerns.
3. They provide an opportunity for stakeholders to have direct input concerning deer population goals that ultimately affect all Pennsylvanians.
4. They provide an opportunity to inform stakeholders on the mission of the Game Commission, complexities of deer management, and the importance of proper management.

*Outcome of CAC proceedings:*

1. The goal is to build consensus among the committee and agree on a recommendation to increase, decrease, or stabilize the deer population in their WMU.
2. *Definition of consensus: Consensus is reached if all but one member agrees with the other members.*
3. If a consensus has been reached, BMC will present the recommendation to the Game Commission in a written format that explains how each stakeholder group’s concerns were considered in the decision.
4. If a consensus cannot be reached among committee members, a recommendation will be made following the guidelines given in the first meeting.

PGC staff grounded the process in an overview of the mission and history of the Commission, as well as details about the deer management program in conjunction with the goals of maintaining a healthy deer herd and a healthy forest habitat. Especially effective was the historical perspective on how deer management has been an emotional and controversial issue going back to the origins of the Commission. Specific deer and habitat data for WMU 4D was presented.

Members were provided with forms to collect opinions from other people within their stakeholder area as well as to summarize the results into an overall report. For each stakeholder group, the goal was to speak with at least 10 other people. The meeting ended with questions,

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comments, and decisions regarding primary and secondary member's status for the second meeting as shown in Exhibits 3 and 4.

### Exhibit 3 Topics During the Questions and Comment Period, February 5, 2007

1. PGC use of the CAC recommendation in their decision making.
2. Hunter report card return rate.
3. Deer health trends.
4. Relationship of declining herd and forest regeneration.
5. Factors used in determining and adjusting WMU's.
6. Other states WMU sizes.
7. Other methods used by PGC other than CAC to measure deer-human conflicts.
8. Need for CAC members to attempt to gather feedback from all counties within the WMU.
9. Need for a PGC goal related to hunters since they pay license fees.
10. Influence of DCNR decisions on the deer herd.
11. Antler size of deer.
12. Need for CAC survey questions to focus on habitat, not deer.

### Exhibit 4 Primary/Secondary Member Designation for the Second CAC Meeting, March 13, 2008

The following stakeholder groups decided primary/secondary membership on the CAC as follows (for those groups with two members):

Stakeholder Group	Primary member	Secondary member
Ag-Commercial Nurseries/Orchards	Alan Ard	James Walizer
Ag-Livestock/Cash Crops	John Rice	Elvin Stoltzfus
Business-Direct	Michael Kramer	Jeff Witmer
Business-Indirect	John Warsing, Sr	Mark Belinda
Conservationist	David Gilbert	James Sinclair
Forest Industry	David Jackson	James Goss
Homeowner-Developed	Steven Van Sant	Randy Ames
Public Landowner	Greg Roth	Ricky Kerstetter
Rural Non-Farm Landowner	Vaughn Lewis	Kevin Dietz
Sportsman-Nonresident	Carl Merrow	Timothy Schaeffer
Sportsman-Resident	Maynard Zimmerman	William Filler

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## Second Meeting Summary

The purpose of the second meeting was for the members to present their findings, ask questions of one another, and attempt to move towards consensus. The agenda is shown in Exhibit 5.

<b>Exhibit 5</b> <b>Meeting Agenda, March 12, 2006</b>	
<b>I. Quick review</b> A. Review of CAC Handout Document B. Process for this Meeting  <b>II. Interest Group Presentations</b> A. Presentations B. Clarification C. Initial Tally of Interest Group Positions  <b>Break</b>  <b>III. Discussion/Consensus</b>	<b>IV. Next Steps</b> A. BMC Completes Summary of Proceedings B. Summary is Sent to CAC Members and Game Commission Staff C. PGC Staff Presents the Summary to the Commissioners  <b>V. Questions and Comments</b>  <b>VI. Evaluation of the Process</b>

For each stakeholder group, four questions were posed for the members to answer. In addition, members were asked to collect comments to answer why those among their stakeholder group feels the way they do. The individual stakeholder reports are included as Appendix A.

The questions are as follows:

- A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?
- B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or about right?
- C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?
- D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

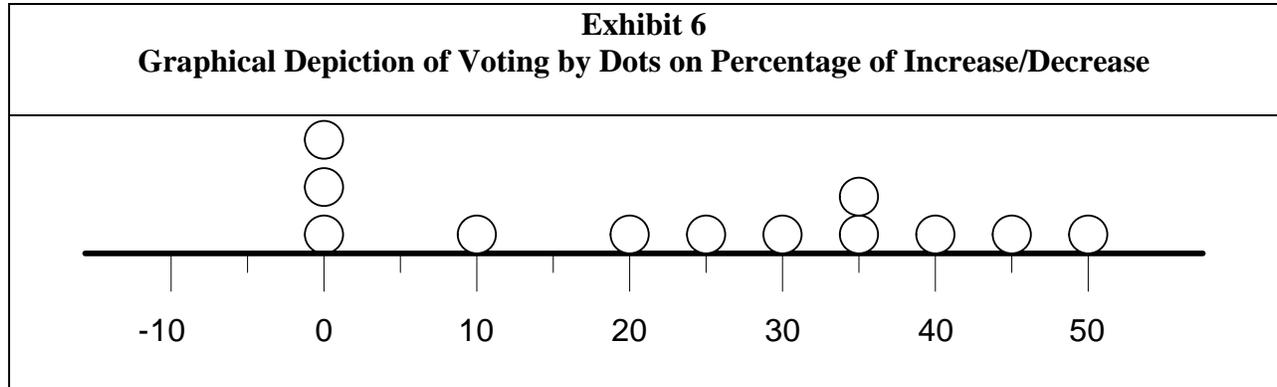
At the beginning of this discussion, BMC tabulated the results of stakeholder sentiment reported at March 12 meeting and displayed it on a table that was subsequently compared to the results of CAC member sentiment that they provided at the beginning of the February 5 meeting. As indicated in Table 1, the results were fairly consistent.

The individual report summaries were unanimous in the view that the deer herd was currently decreasing with a corresponding majority of individual respondents (for 11 stakeholder groups) recommending an increase in the herd with the remaining two recommending staying the same (Conservationist) and decreasing (Forest Industry).

A second exercise provided each stakeholder the opportunity to place a dot on a graph at the place they felt best represented the type of increase or decrease that should take place, if any, based on their experience within their stakeholder group, what they learned during the survey process, and what they learned from PGC and each other during the course of the two meetings.

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This graphical depiction provided the stakeholders with a starting point for their discussion. This is illustrated in Exhibit 6.



One common theme among the feedback received by CAC members was concern over the interest of youth in hunting given the lower deer numbers. One member noted they did not hear any comments regarding the health and weight of the deer in 4D. There was discussion about the diversity of the topography of 4D and the habitat's ability to support deer.

After a thorough discussion, the group decided to start the process of reaching towards a recommendation by initially offering a recommendation for discussion of increasing the herd by 25% over the next five years. This was offered as a starting point since it represented an approximate mid-point between the preferences shown in Exhibit 6. When this did not yield a consensus decision, the PGC technical advisor reminded the group that if at all possible, the group was asked to be willing to work towards a consensus decisions and noted this would resonate with the Commissioners versus a split decision.

Those preferring an increase raised the widespread agreement among most members that the herd in 4D is decreasing and voiced their concern for the future of the sport, especially among the young. Those leaning towards keeping it the same said the decision needs to be grounded in health of the habitat and the deer. Even some hunter respondents questioned whether the forest can support an increase in the deer herd which resulted in many of them recommending the herd remaining the same or even decrease (52 for remain the same, 62 for the herd to increase, and 22 for the herd to decrease). Another proposal for consideration was made for increasing the herd by 15% over the next five years. This proposal received consensus from the group. Some of the key "whys" of the discussion are included in Appendix B.

The following is the consensus decision:

*Attending CAC primary members were unanimous in recommending a 15% increase in the WMU 4D deer herd.*

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**Table 1**  
**CAC Voting Summary for WMU 4D Deer Herd Questions and Consensus Decision**

Question	February 5, 2007	March 13, 2007	March 13, 2007
	Initial Vote	Presentation Results	Consensus Decision
In your opinion, is the deer herd in WMU4D increasing, decreasing, or stable?			
o Increasing	2	0	
o Decreasing	17	13	
o Stable	4	0	
o Do Not Know	0	0	
In your opinion, is the deer herd in WMU4D too high, too low, or about right?			
o Too High	0	1	
o Too Low	15	11	
o About Right	5	1	
o Do Not Know	3	0	
Over the next five years, do you think the deer herd in WMU 4D should increase, decrease, or remain the same?			
o Increase	13	11	<b>X</b>
o Decrease	1	1	
o Remain The Same	4	1	
o Do Not Know	5	0	
Increase by approximately how much (percent)?	Not Covered	20, 23, 27, 30, 37, 62, 63, 70, 100, 20 to 300	<b>15</b>
Decrease by approximately how much (percent)?	Not Covered	23	
Number of present CAC members	23	16 (12 of 13 primary)	
Number of stakeholder feedback collected by CAC members	Not Applicable	523	

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## APPENDIX A: Individual Stakeholder Reports

### 1. Conservation – David Gilbert (20 responses)

#### Answers to Questions

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 1                  Decreasing = 8                  Stable = 9                  Do Not Know = 2

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 3                  Too Low = 5                  About Right = 9                  Do Not Know = 3

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 7                  Decrease = 3                  Remain Same = 7                  Do Not Know = 3

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?<sup>2</sup>

Percent Increase = Not reported

Percent Decrease = Not reported

#### Whys

The opinions of the Conservationist stakeholder group reflect the notion that habitat/resources in WMU 4D should be managed to adequately support deer populations with available forest resources. If forest regeneration can't match pace with deer density, then the numbers to be reduced further. In time, with adequate forest regeneration, deer density can increase to match that of which the forest can support. Further change by the hunting public may be required for this to occur. The decisions we make today will directly affect the health of our ecosystem tomorrow. We can allow that to degrade or remain marginal or we can make the tough decisions to change it for the better for hunters, forests and all wildlife species – including deer.

#### Of Those Wanting an Increase:

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  Not Reported

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  Not Reported

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<sup>2</sup> Values not reported due to the overall recommendation to remain the same.

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## 2. Sportsmen – Resident – Maynard Zimmerman (136 responses)

### Answers to Questions

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 72      Decreasing = 10      Stable = 54      Do Not Know = 0

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 3      Too Low = 75      About Right = 58      Do Not Know = 0

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 62      Decrease = 22      Remain Same = 52      Do Not Know = 0

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 30 (Average)

Percent Decrease = Not reported

### Whys

- Many hunters believe youth have lost interest because they do not see deer.
- Hunters who hunt in the mountains and put on drives and walk a lot are seeing less deer.
- The majority wanted to see a reduction in doe hunting.
- Of those saying remain the same they cited concern for habitat, their desire for bigger bucks and does, and trust in the judgment of PGC biologists.

### Of Those Wanting an Increase:

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions: 61

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions: 0

One person did not reply.

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### **3. Public Landowner – Greg Roth** (14 responses)

#### **Answers to Questions**

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 1                  Decreasing = 6                  Stable = 6                  Do Not Know = 1

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 2                  Too Low = 7                  About Right = 5                  Do Not Know = 0

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 7                  Decrease = 1                  Remain Same = 5                  Do Not Know = 1

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 23 (Average)

Percent Decrease = 30

#### **Whys**

- Hunting heritage.
- Hunting for future generations.
- Regeneration problems not solely caused by deer.

#### **Of Those Wanting an Increase:**

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions: 7

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions: 0

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### **4. Sportsman-Nonresident – Carl Merrow** (12 responses)

#### **Answers to Questions**

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 0                  Decreasing = 12                  Stable = 0                  Do Not Know = 0

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 0                  Too Low = 12                  About Right = 0                  Do Not Know = 0

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 12                  Decrease = 0                  Remain Same = 0                  Do Not Know = 0

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 100 (Average)

Percent Decrease = N/A

#### **Whys**

- Increase viewing opportunities.
- Increase hunting opportunities, especially for youth.

#### **Of Those Wanting an Increase:**

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  12

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  0

## Pennsylvania Game Commission Citizen Advisory Committee: WMU 4D

### **5. Forest Industry – David Jackson** (15 responses)

#### **Answers to Questions**

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 2                  Decreasing = 12                  Stable = 3                  Do Not Know = 1

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 11                  Too Low = 3                  About Right = 4                  Do Not Know = 1

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 2                  Decrease = 11                  Remain Same = 3                  Do Not Know = 2

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 25, 50

Percent Decrease = 23 (Average)

#### **Whys**

- Deer are still out of balance with the habitat.
- Browse lines are still present.
- There is a need for a proper balance between the herd and the habitat.
- Of the two saying increase, they were concerned for the future of hunting for youth and stated regeneration is present.

#### **Of Those Wanting an Increase:**

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  2

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  0

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### **6. Agriculture –Livestock/Cash Crops – Elvin Stoltzfus** (21 responses)<sup>3</sup>

#### **Answers to Questions**

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 0                  Decreasing = 19                  Stable = 2                  Do Not Know = 0

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 1                  Too Low = 15                  About Right = 5                  Do Not Know = 0

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 15                  Decrease = 3                  Remain Same = 3                  Do Not Know = 0

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 56 (Average)

Percent Decrease = 42 (Average)

#### **Whys**

- For the sake of the coming generation.
- Increase the interest of youth in hunting.
- Need a stable herd.

#### **Of Those Wanting an Increase:**

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  13

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  0

Two people did not answer.

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<sup>3</sup> Totals are based on individual surveys given to BMC staff.

## Pennsylvania Game Commission Citizen Advisory Committee: WMU 4D

### 7. Agriculture –Commercial Nurseries/Orchards – Alan Ard (6 responses)

#### Answers to Questions

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 0                  Decreasing = 6                  Stable = 0                  Do Not Know = 0

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 0                  Too Low = 5                  About Right = 1                  Do Not Know = 0

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 5                  Decrease = 1                  Remain Same = 0                  Do Not Know = 0

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 62 (Average)

Percent Decrease = Not reported

#### Whys

- Concern for young hunting
- Economy
- The need to sustain an interest in hunting

#### Of Those Wanting an Increase:

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions: 5

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions: 0

## **Pennsylvania Game Commission Citizen Advisory Committee: WMU 4D**

### **8. Rural Non-Farm Landowner – Vaughn Lewis** (48 responses)

#### **Answers to Questions**

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 1                  Decreasing = 44                  Stable = 2                  Do Not Know = 1

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 0                  Too Low = 43                  About Right = 2                  Do Not Know = 3

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 45                  Decrease = 0                  Remain Same = 2                  Do Not Know = 1

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 70 (Average)

Percent Decrease = N/A

#### **Whys**

- People are not seeing deer.
- Concern for future hunting generations.

#### **Of Those Wanting an Increase:**

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  45

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  0

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### **9. Business - Direct – Michael Kramer** (15 responses)

#### **Answers to Questions**

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 0                  Decreasing = 14                  Stable = 1                  Do Not Know = 0

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 0                  Too Low = 15                  About Right = 0                  Do Not Know = 0

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 14                  Decrease = 0                  Remain Same = 1                  Do Not Know = 0

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 20-300 (103% Average)                  Percent Decrease = N/A

#### **Whys**

- Improve business and hunting.
- Retain youth for hunting and future growth of sport.
- Good for Pennsylvania's economy.

#### **Of Those Wanting an Increase:**

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  15

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  0

## Pennsylvania Game Commission Citizen Advisory Committee: WMU 4D

### **10. Business - Indirect – John Warsing, Sr.** (25 responses)

#### **Answers to Questions**

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 0                  Decreasing = 24                  Stable = 1                  Do Not Know = 0

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 0                  Too Low = 24                  About Right = 1                  Do Not Know = 0

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 16                  Decrease = 7                  Remain Same = 0                  Do Not Know = 2

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 27 (Average)

Percent Decrease = N/A

#### **Whys**

- Young hunter interest.
- Need to stay in business.

#### **Of Those Wanting an Increase:**

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  12

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  0

Four people did not answer.

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## **11. Homeowner - Developed – Steve Van Sant** (166 responses)

### **Answers to Questions**

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 0                  Decreasing = 150                  Stable = 12                  Do Not Know = 4

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 1                  Too Low = 152                  About Right = 8                  Do Not Know = 4

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 136                  Decrease = 7                  Remain Same = 6                  Do Not Know = 3

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 63 (Average)

Percent Decrease = Not Reported

### **Whys**

The overwhelming majority of my stakeholder group feels that the deer herd should increase. Many of the residents stated they no longer see deer on or near their properties, with a noticeable decline over the past four or five years. Numerous homeowners stated they feel the deer herd had been over hunted. Many of the homeowners who participated in this survey are also hunters and they stated their concerns over the lack of deer sightings while in the forest and fields.

### **Of Those Wanting an Increase:**

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  126

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  5

A total of 21 people replied as being unsure.

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## **12. Highway Safety – Charles Streightiff** (22 responses)

### Answers to Questions

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 0                  Decreasing = 22                  Stable = 0                  Do Not Know = 0

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 0                  Too Low = 19                  About Right = 3                  Do Not Know = 0

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 18                  Decrease = 0                  Remain Same = 4                  Do Not Know = 0

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 20 (Average)

Percent Decrease = Not Reported

### Whys

- Want to see more deer for hunting.
- Not as many accidents on our roadways (one reply).

### Of Those Wanting an Increase:

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  18

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  0

A total of 21 people replied as being unsure.

## **Pennsylvania Game Commission Citizen Advisory Committee: WMU 4D**

### **13. Tourism – Betsey Howell** (20 responses)

#### **Answers to Questions**

A. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing = 3                  Decreasing = 8                  Stable = 6                  Do Not Know = 3

B. In your opinion, is the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) too high, too low, or About right?

Too High = 0                  Too Low = 8                  About Right = 8                  Do Not Know = 4

C. In your opinion, do you think the deer herd should increase, decrease, or remain the same?

Increase = 9                  Decrease = 1                  Remain Same = 7                  Do Not Know = 3

D. In your opinion, by what percentage should the deer herd in your area (WMU 4D) increase or decrease?

Percent Increase = 37 (Average)

Percent Decrease = 10

#### **Whys**

From the tourism perspective, increasing or maintaining the current deer herd would provide an economic benefit to local businesses, specifically the rural areas, from hunters coming into Pennsylvania, but they are not going to come here if they believe the deer population is decreasing.

#### **Of Those Wanting an Increase:**

A. Number willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  5

B. Number not willing to tolerate an increase in negative interactions:                  2

Two people did not reply.

**Total response for all stakeholder groups = 523**

## **Pennsylvania Game Commission Citizen Advisory Committee: WMU 4D**

### **APPENDIX B: CAC Member Points During Consensus Discussion and Decision**

The focus of the discussion was on the “whys” underlying opinions to increase or decrease the deer herd.

- There is widespread agreement that the deer herd in 4D is decreasing with many feeling it has dropped to unacceptable levels.
- When youth are not seeing deer, the tradition of hunting is threatened.
- Recommendations for increasing the herd by such high numbers is not based on what the habitat can support.
- Even some hunter respondents questioned whether the forest can currently support an increase in the deer herd over the next five years.
- There were no comments regarding the health and weight of the deer herd in 4D.
- It was questioned about how much of regeneration problems are caused by deer. The Forest Industry representative put the figure at about 80 percent.
- Business interests (direct and indirect) and the tourism industry suffer with a decreasing herd.

#### *Additional Issues included:*

- The topography of WMU 4D is very diverse.
- There was uncertainly expressed how the CAC process is related to enabling the PGC to address their goal to “Mange deer for reduced deer and human conflicts”. It was suggested that questions that directly ask what problems or damage has been seen by deer/human conflict would better target the goal.
- Quality deer management includes decision making based on the condition of the deer regarding weight and antler size.
- Experiences in other states have shown that better timber management yields a better deer herd.

***Conclusion:*** *Attending CAC primary members were unanimous in recommending a 15% increase in the WMU 4D deer herd.*