

**PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
PROJECT ANNUAL JOB REPORT**

PROJECT CODE NO.: 06210

TITLE: White-tailed Deer Research/Management

JOB CODE NO.: 21009

TITLE: Evaluation of Biological Effects and Social Acceptance of New Antler Restrictions for White-tailed Deer Hunting Season in Pennsylvania

PERIOD COVERED: 1 July 2008 through 30 June 2009

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, The Pennsylvania State University

WORK LOCATION(S): Centre and Armstrong counties and statewide

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DATE: 30 June 2009

ABSTRACT Confirmatory factor analysis is being used to characterize hunter attitudes regarding antler point restrictions in Pennsylvania. However, no final analyses have been conducted. A final report with a complete evaluation of biological and social aspects of antler point restrictions is expected in 2009-10.

OBJECTIVES

1. To estimate survival and identify mortality causes of male white-tailed deer from 6 to 30 months of age.
2. To monitor movements of male white-tailed deer from 6 to 30 months of age.
3. To evaluate hunter acceptance and satisfaction with antler restrictions.

METHODS

Objectives 1 and 2 were completed in 2005-06. Objective 3 is the only objective that remains to be completed.

Confirmatory factor analysis is being used on survey data to characterize hunter attitudes regarding antler restrictions. However, final analysis and interpretation of the data are not yet

complete. Further refinement of descriptive statistics of each survey question is also being conducted. This analysis deletes survey records with no response because there is no way to interpret them or use them for inference to the population of hunters.

RESULTS

No final analyses on hunter survey data were conducted in 2008-09. A final report will incorporate biological and social data sets to assess the success of antler point restrictions in Pennsylvania. The final report is expected in 2009-10.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Complete data analysis of hunter satisfaction surveys.
2. Write final report.