



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group Meeting



September 25-28, 2011
Roscommon, Michigan

Hosted by:

Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Table of Contents for Executive Summary

Meeting Time and Place:	3
Attendance:	3
Meeting Activities:	3
Joint Meeting Presentations	3
Deer Breakout Session.....	3
Turkey Breakout Session	4
Status Reports:	4
Illinois	
Indiana	
Iowa	
Kansas	
Michigan	
Minnesota	
Missouri	
Nebraska	
North Dakota	
Ohio	
Ontario	
South Dakota	
Wisconsin	
Action Item:	
Feeding and Baiting Risk Communication Devices	4
Business Meeting:	
Time and Place of Next Meeting.....	4
Research Request from Iowa	5
Wild Turkey Regional Data Framework	5
Need for Additional Materials on Feeding and Baiting	5
Other Items Included in the Complete Proceedings:	
Attendee Names and Contact Information	
Previous Meeting Locations	
Agenda	
Full Text of State Reports	

Executive Summary

MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) hosted the 2011 Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group Meeting at the Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center in Roscommon, MI on September 26 – 28, 2011.

ATTENDANCE:

Twenty-five specialist in deer and turkey management from 12 state or provincial fish and wildlife agencies participated in the 35th meeting of the Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group. Representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Ontario, South Dakota, and Wisconsin attended. In addition, a status report was received from Minnesota.

Invited guests and speakers gave presentations at the meeting. A total of 51 individuals were in attendance.

MEETING ACTIVITIES:

Joint Meeting Presentations -

Welcome to Michigan – Rodney Stokes, Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

Michigan Whitetails and Wild Turkeys: Hunting, Stakeholders, and Partners – Dr. Russ Mason, Wildlife Division Chief, MDNR

Welcome from Michigan Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation (Michigan NWTF) – Tony Snyder, President, Michigan NWTF

Transformative Change for Wildlife Management in Michigan: Wildlife Division's Strategic Plan – Dr. Patrick Lederle, Planning and Adaptation Section Supervisor, MDNR

Planning from Strategic to Operational Levels: Michigan's Deer Plan and Advisory Teams – Brent Rudolph, Deer and Elk Program Leader, MDNR

Regional Research Initiatives to Address Emerging Challenges – Dr. William Porter, Boone and Crockett Chair of Wildlife Conservation, Michigan State University (MSU)

Practical Application of Risk Communication Theory – Bret Muter, Graduate Research Assistant, MSU

Using Animal Movement Behavior to Assess the Risk of Disease Spread – Dr. Amy Dechen Quinn and Dr. David Williams, Post-Doctoral Research Associates, MSU

Deer Breakout Session -

Investing in Wisconsin's Whitetails – Dr. Robert Rolley, Wildlife Population Ecologist, Wisconsin DNR

Assessing Effects of Social Capital Among Michigan Deer Management Cooperatives – Anna Mitterling, Graduate Research Assistant, MSU

An Overview of 2000 and 2009 Regional Deer Harvest Density – Mike Wegan, Wildlife Research Technician, MDNR

Turkey Breakout Session -

Regional Comparison of Youth and Other Turkey Hunting Regulations – Dr. Todd Gosselink, Forest Wildlife Research Biologist, Iowa DNR

Effects of Landscape and Spring Weather on NY Fall Wild Turkey Harvest – Andrea Bowling, Graduate Research Assistant, MSU

Coronavirus Surveillance in Indiana Wild Turkeys – Steve Backs, Wildlife Research Biologist, Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife

STATUS REPORTS:

Each state representative provided an update on the deer and wild turkey issues within their jurisdiction. The proceedings of the complete meeting were prepared by Brent Rudolph, Al Stewart, Mike Wegan and Val Frawley. The 285 page proceedings were consolidated into a pdf file on a cd and mailed to all Midwest deer and wild turkey biologists as well as the state directors. Additional copies of the proceedings are available through the Michigan DNR.

ACTION ITEMS:

Feeding and Baiting Risk Communication Devices -

Momentum for creating risk communication devices started 2 yrs ago at the Midwest Deer & Turkey Group meeting with discussion initiated by Bill Jensen (ND). The group believed it was necessary to initiate regional actions regarding feeding/baiting of deer and turkeys. Last year, the wildlife health committee and the deer and wild turkey working group passed a joint resolution, which Dale Garner (IA) took to Midwest directors in June 2011. The directors passed the resolution but wanted both committees to develop a brochure to convey the message that all states could use.

How do you address vendors in your state (Cabelas, Bass Pro, etc.) that sell deer baiting/feeding products in your state when that activity is prohibited? Dale discussed how his working with Drury Brothers Outdoors led to Biologic deciding not to market deer feeding products (e.g. mineral licks, etc.) and instead focus on marketing food plot products because of health concerns for deer.

If you have a tradition of baiting/feeding in your state, you are going to have a difficult time changing those behaviors. However, states that don't have this tradition should be proactive in preventing these activities now.

Michelle, Dale and Dan formed a sub-committee on collecting language for the baiting/feeding brochure and trying to turn it into a final product. Comments are due to us by end of April. Dale will present our final project at the Directors meeting in June.

BUSINESS MEETING:

State representatives decided the location of the 2012 meeting would be in South Dakota. No specific date or location has been established for that meeting. Andy Lindbloom will coordinate that meeting. Tom Micetich (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) volunteered to organize the 2013 annual meeting in Illinois.

Tom Litchfield (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) requested assistance with a research project at Iowa State University. The degree of relatedness of deer through space and how this may influence the spread of disease are of interest in this project. Tom handed out materials for the collection of genetic material from harvested deer and requested that each state collect 200-300 samples over a fairly uniform spatial distribution, with an emphasis on deer harvested from states bordering Iowa. Additionally, collection should either be distributed evenly between sexes or be slightly dominated by females. The finest scale harvest location data that are available, sex, and date of harvest should be recorded for each sample.

The Wild Turkey group proposed that a regional framework for data sharing and management may be of assistance to biologists. By consolidating the data from Midwestern states into one database, management decisions can be informed by both the larger regional context of data and the needs of the individual state. To enable the management of a regional database to store these data and process analyses, individuals from the Wild Turkey group will investigate the possibility of procuring monies from their individual state or province wildlife agency budget.

Finally, there was a lengthy discussion surrounding the need for additional materials, both paper and web-based, regarding wildlife feeding and baiting and the negative consequences associated with those activities. Of most concern is communicating the disease transmission risks inherent in wildlife baiting and feeding. Brent Rudolph (Michigan Department of Natural Resources), Lloyd Fox (Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks), Tom Micetich, and Todd Gosselink (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) volunteered to review and evaluate the Wildlife Management Institute wildlife baiting and feeding risk communication devices. Additional materials may be generated to produce a consistent message platform across all Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies states.

Submitted by: Lloyd Fox, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism