

2012 PROCEEDINGS MIDWEST DEER AND WILD TURKEY STUDY GROUP MEETING

*October 16-19, 2012
Custer State Park, SD*



Submitted by:

*Andy Lindbloom and Kevin Robling
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks
February 2013*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	1
Meeting time and place	1
Attendance	1
Executive summary	2
Business Meeting	3
Director Information Items	4
Tables	
List of Participants	5
Previous Meeting Locations	7
Appendices	
Agenda	8
Letter of support	13
Agency Deer Reports	14
Illinois	15
Indiana	18
Iowa	35
Kansas	47
Kentucky	63
Michigan	74
Minnesota	128
Missouri	134
Nebraska	158
North Dakota	174
Ohio	197
South Dakota	236
Wisconsin	252
Agency Turkey Reports	263
Illinois	264
Indiana	270
Iowa	276
Kansas	284
Kentucky	292
Michigan	299
Missouri	318
Nebraska	337
North Dakota	344
Ohio	349
Ontario	356
South Dakota	357
Wisconsin	360

Background

The Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group (MDWTSG) meeting is an annual gathering of wildlife managers sanctioned by and affiliated with the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Primary objectives of the meeting include dissemination of deer and wild turkey management strategies, discussion of emerging or existing issues associated with deer and wild turkey management, and coordination of regional deer and wild turkey management or research efforts. The meeting location rotates among the Midwestern states that are active within the group.

Forums such as the MDWTSG meeting provide valuable opportunities for state deer and turkey biologists to become acquainted with emerging issues and exchange information and ideas related to deer and turkey research and management. The need for state fish and wildlife agencies to establish and maintain deer and turkey biologist positions and support travel of these biologists to the annual MDWTSG meeting is imperative for exchanging information to promote quality wildlife management and research in each state. It is more important than ever that state agencies are in the forefront of issues related to deer and turkey management in order to protect the heritage and recreational opportunities of hunting for future sportsmen and sportswomen.

Meeting Time and Place

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) hosted the 2012 Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group Meeting at the Blue Bell Lodge in Custer State Park, South Dakota on October 16-19. The field trip on October 18 consisted of a visit to two local Game Production Areas in the Black Hills with a discussion led by retired SDGFP habitat manager Dennie Mann, and a hike at the Mount Rushmore National Monument and Sylvan Lake in Custer State Park.

The MDWTSG appreciates the financial support provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Quality Deer Management Association to partially fund this meeting. Additional sponsors included the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Society (donated entrance fees to Mt. Rushmore), Custer State Park Resort Company (mints, lanyards), Eagle Sales of the Black Hills (refreshments), Cabela's (orange caps), and Mac Blais of Face Off Apparel and Graphics (logo design). Additionally, the NWTF donated door prizes for all attendees.

Attendance

Thirty-eight participants attended the workshop in 2012, including state deer and turkey biologists from 10 Midwest member states (Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) and attendees from other organizations including the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Quality Deer

Management Association, South Dakota State University, Michigan State University, and the United States Forest Service. A complete list of attendees and contact information for deer and turkey state biologists are available in Table 1.

Executive Summary

Attendees at the 2012 Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group meeting were welcomed by Matt Snyder, Superintendent of Custer State Park, SDGFP (Appendix 1). Julie Brazell started the professional session by presenting a history of Custer State Park. Several other speakers addressed the attendees as a joint group prior to the separate deer and turkey breakout sessions. Professional presentations given during the joint session included the following:

- Teddy Roosevelt Award and TR Family Day
- Whitetail Deer Trustee: Review of Wisconsin's deer management system
- CPR for urban deer management objectives
- Update on the Midwest Wild Turkey consortium: where do we go from here?
- Providing public hunting on private lands
- Attitudes and opinions of deer and turkey hunters in South Dakota – 1990s to Today
- Technology advances in wildlife applications
- Mountain pine beetles
- South Dakota's rapidly changing landscape
- Energy development in western North Dakota

Numerous speakers presented timely information on issues related to deer and turkey research and management during individual deer and turkey breakout sessions. These topics included:

- Factors affecting survival of white-tailed deer in the Black Hills
- Aerial sightability of white-tailed deer and mule deer within various habitat types and geographical areas throughout South Dakota
- Captive cervid legislation: current status and proposed expansion
- Assessing Michigan deer hunter compliance with a baiting ban
- Discussion and input on Wisconsin's white-tailed deer review and recommendations
- Wild turkey in the Black Hills – past, present, and future
- Introduction to NWTF's Plains Riparian Initiatives
- Eastern turkey introductions in South Dakota – a historical perspective
- Regional effects of landscape-scale habitat and weather on wild turkey harvest potential

The group participated in numerous discussions throughout the course of the meeting. Participants in the breakout sessions delivered state status reports on deer or wild turkey for their state or province and discussion focused on management issues. All participating states and provinces provided copies of annual status reports for deer (Appendix 3) and turkey (Appendix 4).

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting was conducted as a joint session of the Deer and Wild Turkey groups on October 18, 2012 at 10 am. Several items of interest to the entire group were discussed as described below.

1. Future meeting location - as had been established at the 2011 Study Group Meeting at Roscommon, MI, Tom Micetich (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) confirmed that the 2013 meeting will be held in Illinois. No specific dates were proposed for the meeting. A complete list of past host states are available in Table 2.
2. Cooperative deer genetics research update - Tom Litchfield (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) provided the group with an update from a deer research project at Iowa State University. Tom had previously requested assistance with this project at the 2011 business meeting. The first year of the research project has been completed, with 7 mid-western states providing approximately 1400 genetic samples to Lynn Gardner, PhD candidate 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.
3. Wild Turkey Consortium - the Wild Turkey group proposed that a regional framework for data sharing and management may be of assistance to biologists at the business meeting in 2011. To enable the management of a regional database to store these data and process analyses, financial support from numerous states or provinces has already been secured. This topic and progress was further discussed and support during the business meeting was unanimous. A letter of support was drafted and sent to the Midwest directors (Appendix 2).
4. Feeding and Baiting Educational Materials - There was a lengthy discussion surrounding the need for additional materials regarding wildlife feeding and baiting and the negative consequences associated with those activities at the 2011 business meeting. This topic was also of interest to the Midwest Wildlife Health Committee, which subsequently produced an informational handout that was presented to the MAFWA directors. Although this handout will not be officially sanctioned by MAFWA, individual states can still use and distribute it as needed and approved by their administration. Dale Garner provided the group with the final electronic document produced by the Wildlife Health Committee.
5. MDWTSG past proceedings/business collection and storage - the idea of creating a central storage location of past meeting information was discussed. Items that could be collected included past proceedings, resolutions, briefing papers, email surveys, and other historical documents. Options for storage that were discussed included paper publications, compact disk, and/or website. Bill Jensen will work on collecting all previous proceedings and some historical documents to be put on a CD, Andy Lindbloom will further investigate the development of a website for the Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey study group. Some money may be available from MAFWA to produce these items.

6. Midwest Deer-Vehicle Collisions – There is a student at Michigan State interested in a geospatial statistical analysis of county level deer-vehicle collision data and traffic from across the region. States should expect to be contacted.
7. Acknowledgement of Lloyd Fox – after hearing that Lloyd was going to retire before next year's meeting (Lloyd could not be present for the business meeting), a motion was made to acknowledge Lloyd Fox for his successful career and substantial contributions to deer management and research in the Midwest.

Director Information Items

The Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group requests commitment by state Directors to support and encourage travel of state deer and turkey biologists to the annual Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Workshop.

Table 1. List of participants of the 2012 Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group Meeting.

Last Name	First Name	Agency/Affiliation	State	Phone	Email
Baker	Nathan	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-223-7709	nathan.baker@state.sd.us
Bowling	Andrea	Michigan Department of Natural Resources	MI	517-432-0804	abowling@msu.edu
Brewer	Paul	Illinois DNR	IL	217-782-4377	paul.brewer@illinois.gov
Ermer	Jacquie	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-882-5203	jacquie.ermer@state.sd.us
Flinn	Emily	Missouri Department of Conservation	MO	573-815-7901 ext. 3619	emily.flinn@mdc.mo.gov
Fox	Lloyd	KS Wildlife, Parks & Tourism	KS	620-342-0658	lloyd.fox@ksoutdoors.com
Garner	Dale	Iowa DNR	IA	515-281-6156	dale.garner@dnr.iowa.gov
Hams	Kit	Nebraska Game and Parks	NE	402-471-5442	kit.hams@nebraska.gov
Isabelle	Jason	Missouri Department of Conservation	MO	573-815-7901 ext.3622	jason.isabelle@mdc.mo.gov
Jenks	Jonathan	South Dakota State University	SD	605-688-4783	jonathan.jenks@sdstate.edu
Jensen	Bill	North Dakota Game and Fish Department	ND	701-220-5031	bjensen@nd.gov
Kanta	John	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-394-2391	john.kanta@state.sd.us
Kohn	Stan	North Dakota Game and Fish Department	ND	701-328-6339	skohn@nd.gov
Lehman	Chad	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-255-4515	chad.lehman@state.sd.us
Lindbloom	Andy	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-223-7652	andy.lindbloom@state.sd.us
Litchfield	Tom	Iowa DNR	IA	641-774-2958	tom.litchfield@dnr.iowa.gov
Longmire	Cynthia	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-773-4231	cynthia.longmire@state.sd.us
Lusk	Jeff	Nebraska Game and Parks	NE	402-471-1756	jeff.lusk@nebraska.gov
Marsh	Chris	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-773-2868	christopher.marsh@state.sd.us
McCaffery	Keith	Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resource	WI	715-365-2641	keith.mccaffery@wisconsin.gov
McKernan	Mike	NWTF SD State Chapter	SD	605-880-4221	mike.mckernan10@gmail.com
Micetich	Tom	Illinois DNR	IL	309-543-3316 ext.231	tom.micetich@illinois.gov
Norton	Mark	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-773-3096	mark.norton@state.sd.us
Pitman	Jim	KS Wildlife, Parks & Tourism	KS	620- 342-0658	jim.pitman@ksoutdoors.com
Robling	Kevin	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-394-1752	kevin.robbling@state.sd.us
Rolley	Robert	Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resource	WI	608-221-6341	robert.rolley@wisconsin.gov
Ross	Matthew	Quality Deer Management Association	NY	518-280-3714	mross@QDMA.com
Rudolph	Brent	Michigan Department of Natural Resources	MI	517-641-4903	rudolphb@michigan.gov
Rumble	Mark	United States Forest Service	SD	605-716-2174	mrumble@fs.fed.us

Table 1 continued

Last Name	First Name	Agency/Affiliation	State	Phone	Email
Schauer	Ron	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-362-2725	ron.schauer@state.sd.us
Shelton	Paul	Illinois DNR	IL	217-557-1052	paul.shelton@illinois.gov
Smith	Collin	National Wild Turkey Federation	SD	605-341-2479	csmith@nwtf.net
Snyder	Matt	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	605-255-4515	matt.snyder@state.sd.us
Stewart	Al	Michigan Department of Natural Resources	MI	517-241-3101	stewart1@michigan.gov
Tonkovich	Michael	ODNR, Division of Wildlife	OH	740-589-9922	mike.tonkovich@dnr.state.oh.us

Table 2. Previous Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey meeting locations.

Year	State	Location	Date
1977	Missouri	Fountain Grove Wildlife Area	January 17-19
1978	Wisconsin	Wyalusing State Park	January 16-17
1979	Iowa	Rathburn Fish Hatchery	January 15-18
1980	Minnesota	Whitewater State Park	January 21-24
1981	Indiana	Harrison-Crawford State Park	January 19-22
1982	Ohio	Lake Hope State Park	January 18-21
1983	Nebraska	Louisville 4-H Camp	January 17-21
1984	Kansas	Camp Aldrich	January 16-19
1985	South Dakota	Black Hills	May 7-10
1986	North Dakota	Camp-of-the-Cross	January 20-23
1987	Michigan	Kellogg Biological Station	January 27-29
1988	Illinois	Touch of Nature	February 1-4
1989	Missouri	YMCA Camp of the Ozarks	January 23-26
1990	Wisconsin	Bethel Horizons Prairie Center	January 15-18
1991	Iowa	Conservation Education Center	January 14-17
1992	Minnesota	Whitewater State Park	January 13-16
1993	Indiana	Harrison-Crawford State Park	January 11-14
1994	Ohio	Canter's Cave 4-H Park	January 30 - Feb 2
1995	Nebraska	Mahoney State Park	January 15-18
1996	Kansas	Camp Pecusa	January 14-16
1997	South Dakota	Camp NeSoDak	August 24-27
1998	North Dakota	Camp Grafton	August 9-12
1999	Ontario	Blue Springs Scout Reserve	August 15-18
2000	Michigan	Thunder Bay Resort	August 20-23
2001	Illinois	Dixon Springs Ag. Station	August 19-22
2002	Missouri	Conception Abbey	August 18-21
2003	Wisconsin	Bethel Horizons Prairie Center	August 24-27
2004	Iowa	Conservation Education Center	August 22-25
2005	Minnesota	Eagle Bluff Envir. Learning Center	August 21-24
2006	Indiana	Camp Ransburg, BSA	August 20-23
2007	Ohio	Canter's Cave 4-H Park	August 19-22
2008	Nebraska	Fort Robinson State Park	September 14-17
2009	Kansas	Rock Springs 4-H Camp	September 14-17
2010	North Dakota	Camp Grafton	August 22-25
2011	Michigan	Ralph A. MacMullen Center	September 25-28
2012	South Dakota	Custer State Park	October 16-19

Appendix 1. Agenda for the 2012 Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group Meeting, Custer State Park, South Dakota.

MEETING AGENDA
Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group
16-19 October 2012, Blue Bell Lodge
Custer State Park, South Dakota

TUESDAY – 16 OCTOBER

5:00 – 8:00 PM	Registration
6:00	Evening social and buffet – Blue Bell Lodge Lounge

WEDNESDAY – 17 OCTOBER

7:00 AM	Breakfast – Blue Bell Lodge Lounge
7:00 – 8:00	Registration

JOINT MEETING – WHITE BUFFALO ROOM

8:00 – 8:05 AM	Opening remarks/logistics
----------------	---------------------------

8:05 – 8:10

Welcome to Custer State Park – Matt Snyder, Superintendent of Custer State Park, SDGFP

8:10 – 8:30

History of Custer State Park – Julie Brazell, Custer State Park Naturalist, SDGFP

8:30 – 8:50

TR Award and Teddy Roosevelt Family Day – Bill Jensen, Big Game Biologist, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

8:50 – 9:10

Whitetail Deer Trustee: Review of Wisconsin's Deer Management System – Robert E. Rolley, Wildlife Population Ecologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

9:10 – 9:30

CPR for urban deer management objectives – Brent Rudolph, Deer and Elk Program Leader, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

9:30 – 9:50

Update on the Midwest Wild Turkey Consortium: Where do we go from here
– Andrea Bowling, Ph.D. student / Graduate Research Assistant, Michigan State University

9:50 – 10:10

Providing public hunting opportunity on private land in South Dakota –
Mark Norton, Farm Bill & Hunting Access Coordinator, SDGFP

10:10 AM

Break

10:20 – 10:40

Attitudes and opinions of deer and turkey hunters in South Dakota – 1990s to Today – Cynthia Longmire, Human Dimensions Specialist, SDGFP

10:40 – 11:00

Technology advances in wildlife applications – Chris Marsh, Program Analyst, SDGFP

11:00 – 11:20

Mountain pine beetles – Chad Lehman, Senior Wildlife Biologist, SDGFP

11:20 – 11:40

South Dakota's rapidly changing landscape – Mark Norton, Farm Bill & Hunting Access Coordinator, SDGFP

11:40 – 12:00

Energy development in western North Dakota – Bill Jensen, Big Game Biologist, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Noon

Lunch – Blue Bell Lodge Lounge

DEER BREAKOUT MEETING – WHITE BUFFALO ROOM

1:00 – 1:20 PM

Factors affecting survival of white-tailed deer in the Black Hills – Dr. Jonathan Jenks, Distinguished Professor of Natural Resource Management, South Dakota State University

1:20 – 1:40

Aerial sightability of white-tailed deer and mule deer within various habitat types and geographical areas throughout South Dakota – Kevin Robling, Big Game Biologist, SDGFP

1:40 – 2:00

Captive Cervid Legislation: Current Status and Proposed Expansion – Matt Ross, Certification Programs Manager, Quality Deer Management Association

2:00 – 2:20

Assessing Michigan Deer Hunter Compliance with a Baiting Ban – Brent Rudolph, Deer and Elk Program Leader, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

2:20 – 2:40

Discussion and input on Wisconsin's White-tailed deer review and recommendations – Robert E. Rolley, Wildlife Population Ecologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

2:40 – 3:00

State Reports

3:00 PM

Break – White Buffalo Room

3:20 – 5:00

State Reports

TURKEY BREAKOUT MEETING – BLUE BELL LODGE MEETING ROOM

1:00 – 1:20 PM

Wild turkeys in the Black Hills – past, present, and future – Mark Rumble, Research Wildlife Biologist, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station; Chad Lehman, Senior Wildlife Biologist, SDGFP

1:20 – 1:40

Introduction to NWTF's Plains Riparian Initiatives – Collin Smith, Regional Biologist, National Wild Turkey Federation

1:40 – 2:00

Eastern Turkey Introductions in South Dakota – A Historical Perspective – Ron Schauer, Regional Wildlife Manager, SDGFP

2:00 – 2:20

Regional Effects of Landscape-Scale Habitat and Weather on Wild Turkey Harvest Potential – Andrea Bowling, Ph.D. student / Graduate Research Assistant, Michigan State University

2:20 – 3:00

State Reports

3:00 PM

Break – White Buffalo Room

3:20 - 5:00 PM

State Reports

6:00 PM

Supper – Blue Bell Lodge Lounge

THURSDAY – 18 OCTOBER

7:00 AM

Breakfast – Blue Bell Lodge Lounge

DEER BREAKOUT MEETING – WHITE BUFFALO ROOM

8:00 – 10:00

State Reports

TURKEY BREAKOUT MEETING – BLUE BELL LODGE LOUNGE

8:00 – 10:00

State Reports

JOINT MEETING – WHITE BUFFALO ROOM

10:00 AM

Break – White Buffalo Room

10:20 – noon

Business Meeting

Noon

Sack Lunch – departure for field trip

1:00 – 5:00

Field Trip – Black Hills Management Areas

6:00 PM

Barbeque – Sylvan Lake Lodge

7:00 PM

Travel back to CSP

FRIDAY – 19 OCTOBER

7:00 AM

Breakfast – Blue Bell Lodge Lounge

8:00

Depart

A big thank you to the sponsors below!

National Wild Turkey Federation – \$500

Quality Deer Management Association – \$500

Mount Rushmore National Memorial Society – entrance fees to Mt. Rushmore

Custer State Park Resort Company – mints, landyard

Eagle Sales of the Black Hills – refreshments for field trip

Cabelas – hunting caps

Please support our sponsors!



Appendix 2. Letter sent to the directors of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, intended to communicate unanimous support from the MDWTSG for the Midwest Consortium for Wild Turkey Monitoring and Research.



Dear MAFWA Directors,

The biologists, who form the Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group and were in attendance at the 36th annual workshop, fully endorse and support the Midwest Consortium for Wild Turkey Monitoring and Research. We feel that all member states will benefit immensely from such a region-wide understanding of the drivers of wild turkey population trends. The proposed project aligns with our management objectives in that we strive to sustainably manage wildlife populations. The best available science, which the consortium will provide, is a necessary part of sustainable wild turkey management.

Sincerely,

Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group Members