

2014 Proceedings
Midwest Deer & Wild Turkey Study Group Meeting
September 9th-12th, 2014
Potosi, Missouri



Submitted by:

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Table of Contents

Background	3
Meeting Time and Place	3
Attendance.....	3
Executive Summary.....	3
Business Meeting	4
Table 1. List of Participants	5
Table 2. Previous Midwest Deer & Wild Turkey Study Group Meeting Locations	7

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 at 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 Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) hosted the 2014 MDWTSG meeting at the YMCA Trout Lodge in Potosi, Missouri on September 9-12. The MDWTSG appreciates the financial support provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) to partially fund this meeting. Additional sponsors included Cabela's (lanyards, door prizes) and Whitetails Unlimited (door prizes). Additionally, the NWTF donated beverages for socials.

Attendance

Fifty-three participants attended the 2014 meeting, including state deer and turkey biologists from 13 Midwest member states (Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) and attendees from other organizations including the NWTF, the QDMA, Michigan State University, University of Missouri, and the Ball State University. A complete list of attendees and contact information for deer and turkey state biologists are available in Table 1.

Executive Summary

Attendees at the 2014 MDWTSG meeting were welcomed by John Vogel, MDC Wildlife Regional Supervisor. Following the meeting introduction, there were five presentations that occurred during the joint session, including the following topics:

- Reframing the lead (Pb) discussion
- Biological and sociopolitical impacts of CWD in Missouri
- Statistical population reconstruction (SPR) as a tool to model deer and turkey populations
- Using SPR to estimate wild turkey population demographics
- Assessment of the factors that drive Midwestern turkey populations

Following the joint session, a number of presentations were given during both the deer and wild turkey break-out sessions. These topics included:

- Suggestions for applying SPR in assessments of deer population dynamics
- ABM for CWD: An adaptive disease management strategy
- Assessment of deer-vehicle collision occurrence in the Midwest
- Survival and cause-specific mortality of white-tailed deer fawns
- Community deer management in Town & Country Missouri
- NWTF - Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt update in Missouri
- National Wild Turkey Symposium update
- Sensitivity of maximum-sustainable-harvest rates for wild turkeys

In addition to the presentations, the deer break-out groups discussed a number of topics including:

- Population monitoring in the Midwest
- Private land deer management
- Public engagement in deer management
- Whitetail Summit and NDA

During a portion of the wild turkey break-out session, meeting attendees participated in a Midwest Wild Turkey Consortium Workshop. The Workshop provided attendees with an update about the Midwestern cooperative wild turkey research project and fostered discussion of project future direction. State status reports were presented in both the deer and wild turkey break-out sessions.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting was conducted as a joint session involving both deer and wild turkey program leaders. The group discussed compilation of the 2014 MDWTSG proceedings, which will be available on the Group's website along with meeting notes and information about upcoming meetings. The website has been a useful tool for MDWTSG members, however, the Group discussed the need for a webmaster to guide website future direction. The 2015 MDWTSG meeting will be hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Bill Jensen (North Dakota Game and Fish Department) provided the Group with information about neonicotinoids and made mention of a webinar on the subject presented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Group discussed some of the concerns regarding the potential impacts of neonicotinoids on wildlife due to the widespread use of the pesticide. Currently, only limited research exists on the potential impacts to game birds and small mammals. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is testing deer liver samples for the pesticide, and research is being initiated in South Dakota to assess the effects of the pesticide on pheasants and deer.

The Group discussed the next Midwestern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting, which will occur in Duluth, Minnesota in June 2015. Minnesota member(s) of the MDWTSG should plan on attending to provide a report for the MDWTSG.

Table 1. List of Participants

Last	First	Affiliation	State	Phone	Email
Belsare	Aniruddha	University of Missouri	MO		belsarea@missouri.edu
Burk	John	National Wild Turkey Federation	MO	(573) 676-5994	jburk@nwtf.net
Coffey	Jim	Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources	IA	(641) 774-2958	james.coffey@dnr.iowa.gov
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Darrow	David	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	MO	(417) 884-2526	david.darrow@mdc.mo.gov
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Flinn	Emily	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	MO	(573) 815-7900	emily.flinn@mdc.mo.gov
Fox	Lloyd	Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism	KS	(620) 342-0568	lloyd.fox@ksoutdoors.com
Hams	Kit	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	NE	(402) 471-5442	kit.hams@nebraska.gov
Hansen	Lonnie	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	MO	(573) 815-7900	lonnie.hansen@mdc.mo.gov
Haroldson	Brian	Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources	MN	(507) 642-8478	brian.haroldson@state.mn.us
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Kohn	Stan	North Dakota Game and Fish Dept.	ND	(701) 328-6300	skohn@nd.gov
Lindbloom	Andy	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	SD	(605) 223-7652	andy.lindbloom@state.sd.us
Lowry	Paul	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	MO	(816) 431-5476	paul.lowry@mdc.mo.gov
Lupardes	Jason	National Wild Turkey Federation	KY	(270) 599-1491	jlupardus@nwtf.net
Lusk	Jeffrey	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission	NE	(402) 471-1756	jeff.lusk@nebraska.gov
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McKee	Brad	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	MO	(417) 255-9561	brad.mckee@mdc.mo.gov
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Rudolph	Brent	Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources	MI	(517) 641-4903	rudolphb@michigan.gov
Schulz	John	University of Missouri	MO	(573) 823-0805	john.h.schulz1986@gmail.com
Shank	Erin	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	MO	(314) 301-1506	erin.shank@mdc.mo.gov
Shelton	Paul	Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources	IL	(309) 543-3316	paul.shelton@illinois.gov
Stevens	Bryan	Michigan State University	MI	(517) 432-4440	steve563@msu.edu
Stewart	Chad	Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife	IN	(812) 334-1137	cstewart@dnr.in.gov
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Sumners	Jason	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	MO	(573) 815-7900	jason.sumners@mdc.mo.gov
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Towe	Brian	Quality Deer Management Association	MO	(573) 397-1664	btowe@qdma.com
Vandeloecht	Brent	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	MO	(660) 258-5732	brent.vandeloecht@mdc.mo.gov
Vogel	John	Missouri Dept. of Conservation	MO	(636) 300-1953	john.vogel@mdc.mo.gov
Walter	Scott	Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources	WI	(608) 267-7861	scott.walter@wisconsin.gov
Williamson	Chad	Ball State University	IN		crwilliamson@bsugmail.net
Yancy	David	Kentucky Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Resources	KY	(800) 858-1549	david.yancy@ky.gov

Table 2. Previous Midwest Deer & Wild Turkey Study Group 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
2013	Illinois	Allerton Park	August 18-21
2014	Missouri	YMCA Camp of the Ozarks	September 9-12

2014 Midwest Deer & Wild Turkey Study Group Meeting Agenda



38th Annual Midwest Deer & Wild Turkey Study Group Meeting Potosi, Missouri September 9th – 12th, 2014



Agenda

Tuesday, September 9th

5:00 – 8:00	Registration	Mallard Room 3 & 4
5:00	Evening Social	Mallard Room 3 & 4

Wednesday, September 10th

7:00 – 8:30	Breakfast	Dining Room
7:00 – 8:30	Registration	Mallard Rooms 3 & 4
8:30 – 12:00	Joint Meeting	Mallard Rooms 3 & 4
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome – John Vogel, Missouri Dept. of Conservation	
8:45 – 9:30	Reframing the Pb Discussion: Understanding the Complexity of the Decision Landscape – John Schulz, University of Missouri	
9:30 – 10:00	Biological and Sociopolitical impacts of CWD in Missouri – Jason Sumners, Missouri Dept. of Conservation	
10:00 – 10:15	Break	
10:15 – 11:00	Statistical Population Reconstruction as a Tool to Model Deer and Turkey Populations – Dr. Joshua Millspaugh, University of Missouri	
11:00 – 11:30	Using Statistical Population Reconstruction to Estimate Demographics in Wild Turkey Populations – Jason Isabelle, Missouri Dept. of Conservation	
11:30 – 12:00	Midwest Wild Turkey Consortium: A Collective Assessment of the Factors that Drive Midwestern Turkey Populations – Dr. Chad Parent, Michigan State University	
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Dining Room
1:00 – 3:00	Breakout Groups	
	Deer Breakout	Mallard Rooms 1 & 2
1:00 – 1:20	Suggestions for Applying Statistical Population Reconstruction in Assessments of Deer Population Dynamics – Dr. Joshua Millspaugh, University of Missouri	
1:20 – 1:40	ABM for CWD: An adaptive disease management strategy - Aniruddha Belsare, University of Missouri	
1:40 – 2:00	Assessment of Deer-Vehicle Collision Occurrence Across Agriculture, Northern Forest, and Forest-Agriculture Matrix Environments of the Midwest United States – Dr. Brent Rudolph, Michigan Department of Natural Resources	
2:00 – 2:20	Break	
2:20 – 2:40	Survival and Cause-Specific Mortality of White-tailed Deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>) Fawns in Suburban, Exurban, and Rural Areas – Chad R. Williamson, Ball State University	
2:40 – 3:00	Community deer management in Town & Country, MO: Sharpshooting and sterilization methods to reduce suburban deer density – Erin Shank, Missouri Department of Conservation	
	Turkey Breakout	Mallard Rooms 3 & 4
1:00 – 1:20	Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt Missouri Update – John Burk, NWTF	

1:20 – 1:40	11th National Wild Turkey Symposium and NWTF Technical Committee Updates – Tom Hughes, NWTF	
1:40 – 2:00	Sensitivity of Maximum-Sustainable-Harvest Rates for Wild Turkeys – Bryan Stevens, Michigan State University	
2:00 – 3:00	State Reports	
3:00 – 5:00	Activities Distributed Throughout YMCA Property	
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner	Dining Room
7:00	Evening Social	Mallard Rooms 1 & 2

Thursday, September 11th

7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast	Dining Room
8:00 – 12:00	Breakout Groups	
	Deer Breakout	Mallard Rooms 1 & 2
	Round Table Discussion: Population monitoring, private land deer management, format of MAFWA Directors report (Tonkovich), public engagement (Shelton), Whitetail Summit & NDA (Rudolph), SEDSG (Flinn)	
	Turkey Breakout	Mallard Rooms 3 & 4
	Midwest Wild Turkey Consortium Workshop	
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Dining Room
1:00 – 3:00	Breakout Groups	
	Deer Breakout	Mallard Rooms 1 & 2
	State Reports	
	Turkey Breakout	Mallard Rooms 3 & 4
	State Reports	
3:00 – 3:15	Break	
3:15 – 5:00	Joint Business Meeting	Mallard Rooms 1 – 4
	Discussion Topics: 2014 MDWTSG Proceedings, 2015 Meeting Location, Impacts of Neonicotinoids on Larger Animals (Jensen), Committee Report to the MAFWA Directors Meeting (Rudolph),	
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner	Mallard Rooms 1 - 4
7:00	Evening Social	Mallard Rooms 1 - 4

Friday, September 12th

7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast	Dining Room
	Departure	