June-September 2014

Deer Management Plan Public Input Summary

Missouri Department of Conservation

October 2014

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- During June and July 2014, 14 Open Houses were held around the state to gather public input regarding Missouri's White-tailed Deer Management Plan, along with a designated web page to collect additional comments.

- A total of 1,305 attendees participated in at least one of 14 Deer Management Open Houses and provided almost 1800 comments.

- From June 1 – Sept. 30, 2014, over 2,000 online comments were received from 779 respondents.

- Over 100 comments came to Department offices, Ombudsman, Regulations Committee and Department website from June 1, 2014-Sept. 30, 2014.

- A total of almost 4,000 comments were received from both the open houses, online and through Department offices.

- Most commenters were men (95 percent of online comments, 88 percent of open house comments).

- Most respondents considered themselves hunters (98 percent of online commenters, 95 percent of open house participants).

- The majority of respondents who provided online comments heard about the opportunity from the Department website and the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine, while people attending the open houses heard of the opportunity through the *Missouri Conservationist*, radio and newspaper.

- Sixty-four percent of online commenters provided an email address so they could receive future updates, as compared to 31 percent of open house participants.

- Comments regarding archery methods-crossbows were the most numerous; followed closely by comments regarding season timing; then buck limits, antler-point restriction, antlerless season and chronic wasting disease (in that order).

- The most common themes and issues included:
  - Crossbows
    - Support a regulation change to allow crossbows during archery season.
    - Support the current regulation of not allowing crossbows during archery season.

- Season Timing
  - Support moving the firearm season back one week.
  - Support the current regulation.
- Buck Limit
  - Support one buck any method.
  - Support one buck for archery and one for firearms season.
- Antler Point Restriction
  - Support antler point restrictions/would like to see statewide regulation.
  - Eliminate antler point restriction.
- Antlerless Season
  - Eliminate the antlerless season.

INTRODUCTION

DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is arguably the most popular and important game species in North America. Additionally, the white-tailed deer is both socially and economically important to the citizens of Missouri. As Missouri's most popular game species with diverse citizen interest, the management of the white-tailed deer has a number of unique challenges that range from providing public viewing and hunting opportunities, to minimizing conflicts.

The white-tailed deer management plan was developed to outline the components of Missouri's deer management program and provide strategic direction for deer management in Missouri over the next 10 years. By clarifying the deer management goals and objectives of the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department), this plan provides an opportunity for critical input from Missouri citizens on the direction of deer management in Missouri. This plan outlines many activities that are already occurring and proposes new concepts to be evaluated during implementation of the plan. It does not outline operational details of the deer management program. Operational details (e.g., proposed regulation changes, research proposals and work plan adjustments) of plan implementation will be evaluated within a structured decision-making framework, and implemented through the appropriate processes.

Identifying deer management goals and priorities is a critical first step in establishing the foundation for the future of deer management in Missouri. The plan outlines four primary goals that incorporate the current priorities for deer management in Missouri: 1) Proactively manage for balanced deer populations below the biological and social carrying capacity within the defined management units at levels acceptable for agriculture, ecosystems, and other impacts consistent with the deer population, and recreational goals; use science-based wildlife management practices; 2) Provide opportunities for all citizens to enjoy deer-related recreational activities, and promote deer hunting as a socially and culturally important tradition that is the primary tool in achieving the deer population goal; 3) Ensure the maintenance of a healthy deer population and minimize the threat and impacts of diseases on the deer populations in Missouri; 4) Provide information to the public about all aspects of deer biology and management in Missouri and create opportunities for additional public engagement in the decision-making process regarding the management of Missouri's deer resource.

OPEN HOUSES

OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

During June and July 2014, 14 Open Houses were conducted around the state to gather public input regarding Missouri's White-tailed Deer Management Plan. The meetings did not have formal presentations. Instead, they used an open-house format where people could come and go any time between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Participants visited booths focusing on the history of deer management in Missouri, the State's new deer management plan, possible regulation changes, hunter retention and recruitment, deer health, public comments received so far, and other issues related to deer management. The open-house format lets attendees concentrate on their particular interests, asking questions and discussing their ideas one-on-one with biologists and other key staff. A total of 1,305 attendees participated in at least one of 14 Deer Management Open Houses.

Almost 1800 comments were received from open house participants with archery methods receiving the most comments followed closely by comments regarding season timing, buck limits, antler point restriction, the antlerless season and chronic wasting disease. See Appendix A for a full list of comments provided at the Open Houses.

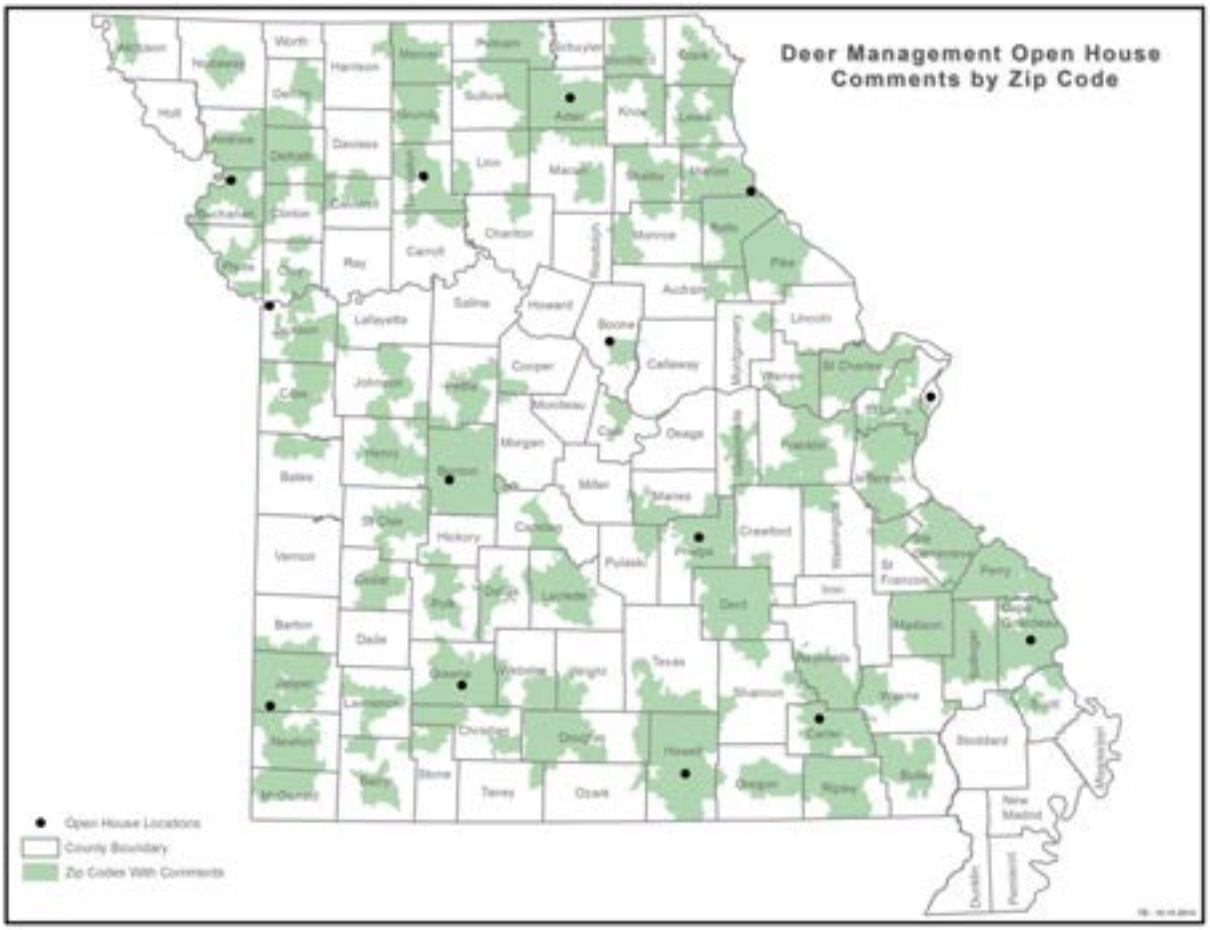
Meetings were held at the following locations:

- Rolla – June 16 – Rolla Junior High School Cafeteria, 1360 Soest Road.
- Springfield – June 17 – Missouri State University, Christopher Bond Learning Center, 2401 S. Kansas Expressway.
- Joplin – June 18 – Missouri Southern State University, Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall, 3950 Newman Road.
- Warsaw – June 19 – Warsaw Community Building Gymnasium, 181 Harrison St.
- St. Louis – June 23 – Crestwood Community Center Lounge, 9245 Whitecliff Park Lane, Crestwood.
- Jackson – June 24 – Knights of Columbus Hall, 3305 North High St.
- Van Buren – June 25 – Van Buren Youth and Community Center, 1204 D Highway.
- West Plains – June 26 – West Plains Civic Center Exhibit Hall, 110 St. Louis St.
- Kirksville – June 30 – Kirksville High School Gymnasium, 1300 S. Cottage Grove.
- Chillicothe – July 1 – Litton Agriculture Campus MW Jenkins Building, 10780 Liv 235.
- Kansas City – July 2 – Lakeland Community Church, Large Lobby, 913 NE Colbern Road, Lee's Summit.
- Hannibal – July 7 – Quality Inn, Atlantis Ballroom, 120 Lindsey Drive.
- St. Joseph – July 8 – Missouri Western University, 218/219 Blum Union, 4525 Downs Drive.
- Columbia – July 9 – Hilton Garden Inn, Magnolia Room, 3300 Vandiver Drive.

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

Most of the people who attended the open houses were men (88 percent) who considered themselves to be hunters (95 percent). The majority of participants heard about the open houses from the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine, radio advertisements and their local newspaper.

Map of Respondent Locations by ZIP code



THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED AT OPEN HOUSES

Public comments were collected at open houses, conducted June 16-July 9, 2014. A brief summary of the public comments provided at the open houses can be found below. The themes are listed in the order that received the most comments. For example, archery method-crossbow received the most comments; followed by buck limit, antler-point restrictions, antlerless season and chronic wasting disease. Issues for each theme are summarized and sample comments (that best explained the theme) are provided. A complete list of comments received is provided in Appendix A.

Archery Method-Crossbow

- Support allowing crossbows during the archery season.
- Support current regulations. Crossbows are currently prohibited during archery season

Sample of Archery Method-Crossbow Comments

I would like to see crossbow hunting allowed for the entire archery season. I moved to MO from OH, where crossbows have been legal since 1976, with no adverse effect on the traditional archery season.
I am for opening archery season to include crossbows for all. This would increase recruitment of younger hunters and female hunters.
Allow crossbows during archery….anything we can do to get people in the woods is a good thing.
I do not want to see crossbows allowed during the archery season. I don't mind hunters with an injury or disability use them but let's keep it at that. It's cocked and loaded, ready to shoot…Not to mention you have a scope on most xbows and are able to use a shooting rest.
Totally against crossbows during archery.
I am not in favor of allowing the use of crossbows during archery season. A crossbow is vastly different from a bow. A crossbow is loaded and under tension ready to fire when the triggers is pulled. It is more similar to a firearm than a bow….Please preserve the "nature" of archery season by restricting it to bows.

Season Timing

- Move firearm season one week later/out of the rut.
- Support firearm season as it is.

Sample of Season Timing Comments

I support moving the firearms deer season to make it later in November to avoid the peak of the rut and to allow for more breeding to occur.
I would love to see season pushed back 1 week to get out of middle of rut.
I would like to see the firearm season one week later. I believe this would increase the herd for future hunters.
I oppose moving deer season to a later date and believe it will reduce the number of hunters due to family travel for the holiday.
Please don't change firearms dates on behalf of 250,000 retail employees! If you move the

season to Thanksgiving any retail employee will be excluded from any hunting days due to Black Friday.
Do not move buck season out of the prime rut.

Buck Limit

- Limit 1 buck any method.
- Limit to 1 buck during archery season and 1 buck during firearm season.
- Keep current buck limits (2 for archery and 1 for firearm).

Sample of Buck Limit Comments

There is no real need for allowing 3 bucks to be taken.
Limiting the number of bucks a hunter can harvest is a good way for hunters to have a better opportunity to harvest an older age class buck.
3 bucks are probably more than necessary for most hunters.
I do not support restricting the archery harvest to just one antlered deer; I cannot see archers or the percentage of archers who take 2 antlered deer having a significant impact on the population.
Not in favor of a 1 buck system, too restrictive.
Do not want to change the bag limit for bucks. I think it is working well. I archery and firearm hunt and would not want to choose between them.

Antler-Point Restriction

- Eliminate antler point restriction.
- Make antler point restriction statewide.
- Yes on antler-point restriction.
- Keep antler-point restriction as-is.

Missouri currently has a 4-point antler restriction in 59 counties.

Sample of Antler-Point Restriction Comments

APR-GONE…Let them grow and replenish PLEASE!
Antler point restriction needs to be eliminated. Leaves inferior bucks to breed the does.
Find a method for harvesting undesirable bucks.
I think the antler restriction is one of the best things MDC has ever done and would like to see it

go state wide.
Keep up the point restriction, it works.
I support antler restrictions.

Antlerless Season

- Eliminate the antlerless season.
- Keep the antlerless season as-is.

Missouri currently has an antlerless firearm season from Nov. 26, 2014-Dec. 7, 2014.

Sample of Antlerless Season Comments

Eliminating the antlerless portion would help increase the deer herd
Antlerless-GONE. Let them grow and replenish PLEASE!
I am for removing the antlerless portion of the deer season
I am not in favor of eliminating the antlerless season
Keep the antlerless season

Chronic Wasting Disease

- Eliminate captive facilities.
- Need stronger regulations.
- Support new regulations.

Sample of Chronic Wasting Disease Comments

Game farms need to have double fences to keep captive deer away from wild deer. Deer need to remain to be considered wild game under the management of the MDC.
Support new regulations on captive deer.
Please continue to be aggressive in controlling CWD.
CWD is not a problem……

ADDITIONAL THEMES AND ISSUES

Additional themes and issues surfaced through the open house comments (see Appendix A for the full list of open house comments). These themes include deer permits, bag limits, landowner permits, non-resident permits, youth season, deer management assistance program (DMAP) and a large number of miscellaneous comments. Listed below are the additional themes with the most common issues listed below the theme.

Deer Permits

- No unlimited doe permits.
- Allow antlerless permits for rifle in Cape, Bollinger and Wayne Counties.
- More permits to shoot deer damaging crops.
- Limit number of permits available.
- No more nuisance permits.

Bag Limits

- Limit antlerless deer on a county-by-county basis.
- Increase doe harvest.
- Disagree with unlimited permits.
- Support limited does.
- Limit antlerless permits to one per person.

Landowner Permits

- Non-resident landowners should receive non-resident permits at a reduced rate.
- Landowners should own more than 5 acres for free permits.
- Immediate family of landowners, residing out of state should get landowner permits.
- Non-resident landowners should be able to hunt and fish for free (no cost permits).

Non-Residents

- Raise permit fees for non-residents.
- Make non-resident fees comparable to other states.
- Make non-resident hunting a draw hunt.
- Limit the number of permits.

Youth Season

- Raise age requirements for youth hunters.
- Youth can only hunt does, not bucks.
- Youth should be allowed to hunt anything.

Deer Management Assistance Program

- Allow Deer Management Assistance Program for Cape Girardeau, Bollinger and Wayne Counties.

Miscellaneous Comments

- No telecheck-go back to check in stations.
- Bollinger County has deer hot spots that need to be addressed/too many deer.
- Need more agents.
- More urban hunting.

Sample of Miscellaneous Comments

The members of the MVHFA [Mississippi Valley Hunters and Fishermens Association would like to congratulate and thank the MDC for the methodology used this year in proposals to alter deer management. The rapid response to last year's harvest numbers and the openness to working with stakeholders is to be commended. Especially noteworthy is the extra efforts to educate the public about the changes and willingness to seek input on management of deer population. The MVHFA supports the proposals and the professional wildlife management of the MDC.
This was a very informative meeting on deer and diseases and land management. We enjoyed this and found very valuable information in the answers and the booklets, thank you!
Very educational, Thank you!
Doing a great job!
…there are still plenty of deer there (Benton County). Only thing you will accomplish by only shooting two deer is overpopulating again.
The changes you are making are effectively reducing hunting opportunity days. Many people will be unhappy about this.
…your phone check in system needs to be closer monitored.
MDC needs to become proactive instead of reactive.

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

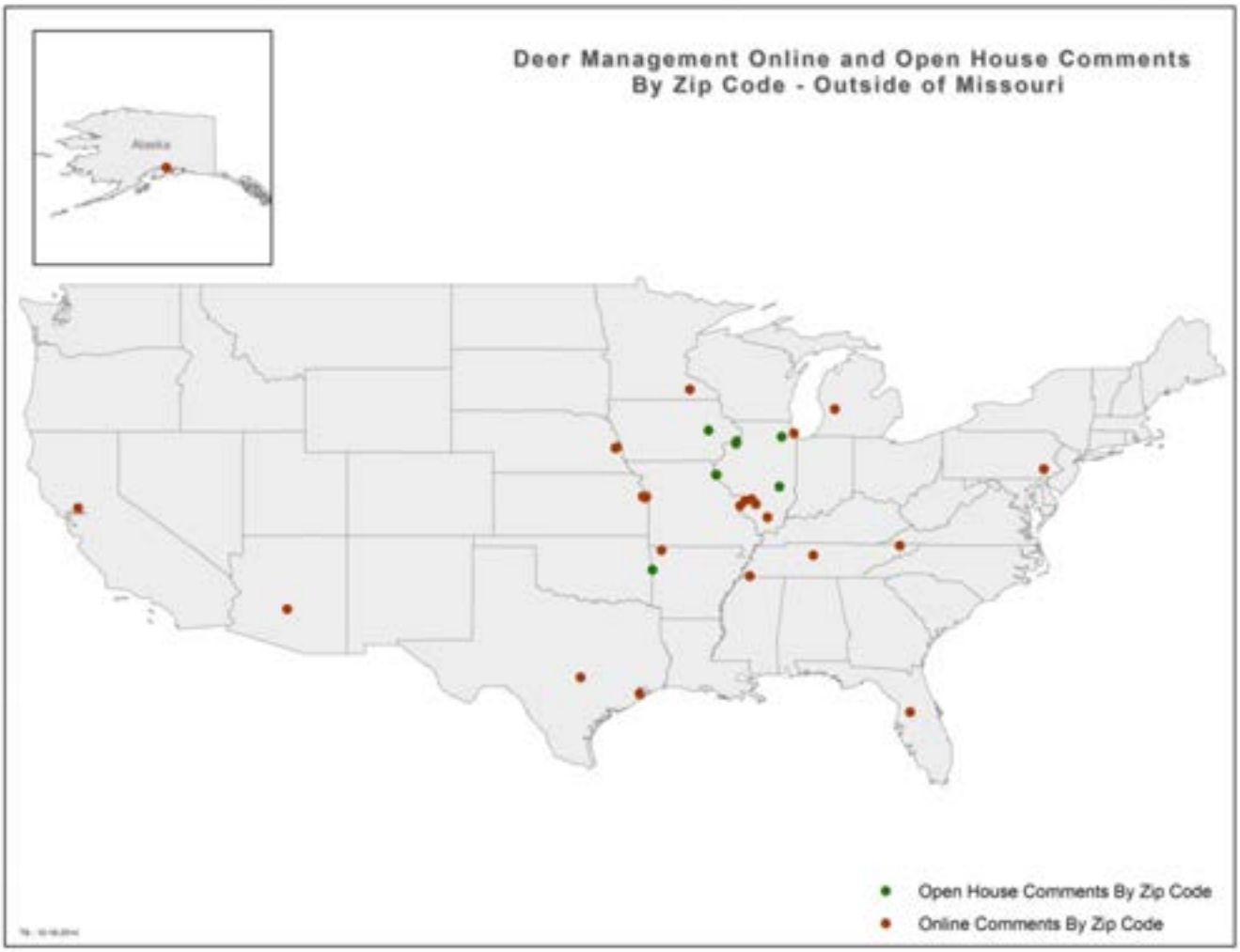
For those who could not attend an Open House, the Department set up an online open house which allowed citizens to access everything that was available at the 14 open houses across the state. Online comments were collected June 1-Sept. 30, 2014 at http://mdc.mo.gov/node/28079. Over 2,000 online comments were received from 761 respondents during this time frame.

The Online Open House web text is provided in Appendix D.
The Online Open House webpage included links to the Open House handouts (Appendices E, F, G).

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF ONLINE RESPONDENTS

Most of the respondents were men (95 percent) who consider themselves hunters (98 percent). Most of the online respondents heard about the opportunity to comment through the Department's website and the Missouri Conservationist magazine. Sixty-four percent of the online respondents provided an email address so they could receive future updates.

Map of Respondent Locations by U. S. ZIP code



Map of Respondent Locations by Missouri ZIP code

THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED THROUGH ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

A brief summary of comments provided through the online open house can be found below. These comments are not votes, but help the Department to understand themes and issues from the comments provided online. The themes are listed in the order that received the most comments. For example, archery method-crossbow received the most comments; followed by buck limit, antler-point restrictions, antlerless season and chronic wasting disease. Issues for each theme are summarized and sample comments (that best explained the theme) are provided. A complete list of comments received is provided in Appendix B.

Archery Method-Crossbow

- Support allowing crossbows during the archery season.
- Support current regulations. Crossbows are currently prohibited during archery season, except with a medical exemption.

Sample of Archery Method-Crossbow Comments

I would agree with allowing crossbows during archery season. I can see no management reason not to allow them, and this could attract new hunters into the sport.
I support the change to allow the use of crossbows, I believe we can get more young kids started hunting and also the older hunters will be able to enjoy hunting longer as they age.
I fully support the suggested change to add crossbows. I do not plan to hunt with a crossbow-I have been an archery hunter in Missouri for well over 30 years, but if it opens opportunities for others, then that's great!
When looking at the population maps and trends by county, it is clear only two counties in the state indicate having too many deer. The remaining counties are about right to too few; in addition, for most of the same counties the population trend is stable to decreasing. Adding another method to encourage additional hunting opportunities, at this time, seems illogical.
…to possibly allowing the crossgun in the REGULAR archery season, many neighboring states have allowed this, NONE with results hoped for.
I am NOT in favor of crossbows but for people that can't use a normal bow. It is nothing but a gun that fires an arrow."

Season Timing

- Move the firearms season one week later.
- The firearm season is fine as it is.

Sample of Season Timing Comments

I fully support the move of the firearms season to a week later….agree with your assessment that a move later in the year will take some pressure off of breeding bucks and hopefully will keep a better balanced age structure and more does will get bred the "first time around" by the dominant buck.
I strongly support moving the firearms season away from peak rut.
I agree with the movement of the firearms season. A season over Thanksgiving will allow me more time to hunt with my family and children, as they will be off school!
Do not move the firearms season over Thanksgiving week. For the large number of people that must travel to visit family, you will reduce opportunity to hunt, not increase it.
Where gun season is now is the PERFECT combination of catching the edge of the rut, catching the weather turning cooler without freezing to death, and it doesn't interfere with Thanksgiving.
Very disappointed with moving the season back a week.

Buck Limit

- Limit one buck per year, any method.
- Limit one buck for archery season and one buck for firearms season.
- Support current regulation of two bucks for archery and one buck for the firearms season.

Sample of Buck Limit Comments

I would agree to a one buck limit regardless of method. As a devoted deer hunter I recognize that science based fact is recognized and all efforts must be made to insure that our future of our young hunters have every opportunity to enjoy the whitetail as I have.
…one buck annually for harvest, I think this is a great idea no matter the method.
I strongly support…reducing the # of buck harvests per hunter.
I strongly oppose the one buck limit as I believe it will be limiting on the archery hunters only, and as you know a VERY small percentage of hunters kill more than 1 buck per season. I would concede that we don't need 3 any deer tags, so two would be sufficient.
I think limiting the bucks to 1 per year is a bad idea. I would agree with limiting it to two bucks per year. 1 with a gun and 1 with a bow. Limiting to 1 penalizes the hunters that both bow and gun hunt.
Restricting the buck harvest further to a one buck all methods I would be strongly opposed to. It would deprive me of hunting either bow season or gun season on my own land as I restrict harvest of does since population on my land is low…

Antler-Point Restrictions

- Support antler-point restrictions.
- Antler-point restrictions should be dropped.
- Antler-point restriction should be statewide.
- Missouri currently has a four-point antler restriction in 59 counties.

Sample of Antler-Point Restriction Comments

Antler restriction has definitely helped our yearlings make it.
…we have greatly benefited from the antler point restriction. We have been able to harvest 2.5-5.5 year old deer on a farm that never saw a deer over 1.5 years until the antler point restriction. It has been the greatest positive impact on the deer hunting at our farm.
We need to make the 4 point restriction state wide! We as hunters are begging you to do so….There are way too many bucks getting killed before they reach maturity!
I wish the "4 point rule" would go away…I see a lot of mature 6 point bucks out there that will seemingly never grow another point.

I hate them. I have a buck that is getting old and has been a solid wide thick 6 point for 3 years and he is off limits due to the restrictions. How can a guy effectively manage a herd with bad genetics?
…protects the inferior bucks that will never be anything and continue to breed to only make more little bucks with do nothing racks…

Antlerless Season

- Eliminate the antlerless only season.

Missouri currently has an antlerless firearm season from Nov. 26, 2014-Dec. 7, 2014.

Sample of Antlerless Season Comments

We definitely do not need….antlerless only seasons.
I fully support the removal of the antlerless portion of the firearms season until MDC sees a need for population reduction again.
I am also in agreement with the possibility of reducing, moving or even eliminating the antlerless season.
Antlerless season is a big opportunity for non-archery hunters to hunt more days, even if it is not as productive. Removing it will remove opportunity for many.

Chronic Wasting Disease

- Eliminate deer farms.
- Supportive of changes to captive deer regulation.

The Department is considering new regulations for captive cervid breeding facilities and large game hunting preserves.

Sample of Chronic Wasting Disease Comments

The practice of keeping captive deer herds should be outlawed. Why do we put the entire deer herd and the deer hunting industry (500,000+ hunters) at risk because a couple hundred people want to raise whitetails? Outlaw the practice before it's too late!
I feel like the MDC does a great job at preserving wildlife in the state of Missouri but really hope that they are able to get a hand on the CWD problem. I understand the need for deer farms in the state for testing and greater understanding of deer but I don't see the need for commercial hunting inside a fence. The state of Missouri offers some of the best whitetail hunting in the country so why do we allow farms to bring deer into the state that could potentially ruin that. I feel that

many of these establishments are money driven and don't have the interest of Missouri's overall deer health in mind.
I'm in total agreement with the Department's goal of regulating captive deer in an effort to prevent CWD. The majority of Missouri deer hunters do not hunt captive deer nor do they have a desire to do so. It is totally wrong to jeopardize deer hunting for the majority for a few that want captive deer.
Requiring the reporting of dying deer and double fencing is not too much of a burden to protect our wild deer.
Please enact and enforce high fence regulations!
I support the recommended regulation changes by MDC regarding captive cervids. Captive facilities should not be allowed to threaten our state's wildlife resources.
I am against the proposed regulation changes…No one knows why or where deer get CWD and over-regulating or putting deer farmers out of business isn't going to solve anything.

ADDITIONAL THEMES AND ISSUES

Additional themes and issues surfaced through the online comments. These themes include non-resident deer hunters, deer permits, Missouri landowners, bag limits, youth season, deer seasons and a large number of miscellaneous comments. Listed below are the additional themes with the most common issues listed below the theme.

Non-Resident Deer Hunting/Deer Hunters

- Non-resident deer hunters should not pay a fee to hunt on their own land.
- Non-resident hunting should be a draw.
- Charge the same fee for tags as the non-residents' state of residence charges.
- Raise non-resident fees.
- Reduce non-resident hunters.

Deer Permits

- Create a lifetime hunting license similar to Kansas.
- Removed unlimited permits.
- Consider making doe permits a draw for a couple of years.
- Reduce all permits.
- Crop damage permits should be closely monitored.

Missouri Landowners

- Reduce the quantity of landowner permits.
- Increase acreage requirement from 5 to 50 acres.
- Allow landowners to have one non-resident guest hunt for a reduced rate.
- Allow landowners more flexibility to manage their own property.

Bag Limits

- Reduce doe harvest.
- For doe management, require a doe taken prior to taking a buck.

Youth Season

- Youth season should be doe-only.
- Youth season encourages cheating/poaching.
- Regulate youth tags.

Deer Seasons

- Consider a late October doe portion or harvest doe only the first 5 days of the 11.
- Traditional season only starting September 1.
- Allow landowners a two day firearm season in early November.

Miscellaneous Comments

- Bring back check-in stations.
- Allow baiting.
- Listen to the deer biologists.
- Establish a Deer Management Assistance Program.
- Would love to see open house type interface with public to continue even when sweeping changes aren't in the wind.

Sample of Miscellaneous Comments

Deer are so valuable and so much funding comes from the deer seasons that this is really an important discussion. Thank God that our conservation department is not political like the other states. You all do a great job and I sincerely appreciate all that you do for us.
Lastly for myself and my family, I would like to thank MDC for taking public input on this all important issue. Missouri has all the ingredients to be the best deer hunting state in the nation. I believe that this is a critical movement in the management of Missouri's deer herd and look forward to calculated changes that improve the health and trophy status of our herd.
Thank for your efforts. I believe our Conservation Department is one of the finest in the country. Keep up the good work.
I attended the CWD meeting at the Nature Center earlier this year & found it enjoyable &

constructive.
Thank you for having these deer management get togethers around the state. I recently shared my views on issues with Jason Sumners and Tim Ripperger when they (and others) were in Rolla. It is good public relations to have state level conservation people listen to what the public has to say.
Involved real hunters, not special interest groups, to give you their thoughts and ideas. …but what you need to do is take note of how other states operate. The Department was too slow in lowering the doe numbers and disease took care of it with blue tongue… …I feel hunters will begin to be frustrated. Frustrated over spending time in a stand and not seeing a thing, lack of hunting opportunities, confusion over season times, limits and areas…

COMMENTS RECEIVED DIRECTLY

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED DIRECTLY

These comments came from the Department offices throughout the state, Ombudsman, Regulations Committee or Department website. These comments were sent to me directly, copied to me or received through telephone call. There are probably many that I did not receive. The full list of comments is found in Appendix C.

THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED THROUGH COMMENTS RECEIVED DIRECTLYAs with the open house and online comments, the themes are listed in the order that received the most comments. Archery method-crossbow received the most comments; followed closely by season timing, antler-point restriction, buck limit, antlerless season and chronic wasting disease. A brief summary of the public input themes and issues from the comments received can be found below.

Archery Method-Crossbow

- Support proposed regulations.
- Support the current regulations of prohibiting crossbows during the archery season.

Sample Archery Method-Crossbow Comments

…I don't know why it is taking so long to allow this. I have a wife and several other people that would be hunting more if we could legalize crossbows it's a win-win…
Missouri is losing money because there are a lot of hunters that go to other states to hunt with (a) crossbow
I want to have the right to crossbow hunt during the archery season
I do not support the unconditional use of crossbows during the archery season!
I'm not happy with the ease in which people are getting medical excuses to use crossbows in archery season. It's supposed to be archery season and a crossbow is close to being a rifle…
I believe the current system of allowing those with disability's use them is the best policy…

Season Timing

- Move firearms season one week later/out of the rut.
- Support firearm season as it is.

Sample of Season Timing Comments

"I support the idea of moving rifle season back one week to allow for more of the does to be

bred”
“Also moving firearms season back one week would help a lot”
“Would like to see the November portion moved back one week and supports the implementation of a split season”
“Moving firearms deer season to over Thanksgiving will probably decrease women participation”
“…and we need the season for gun to move…UP a week not back…”
“I think moving firearms deer season over Thanksgiving is a very bad idea”

Buck Limit

- Keep current buck limits of two bucks during archery season and one buck during firearm season.
- Limit to two bucks.

Sample of Buck Limit Comments

I could see a two buck limit but one I am not going to support at all
I don’t like the idea of being limited to one buck for the year
I like the idea of one buck per year

Antler-Point Restriction

- Make the antler-point restriction statewide.
- Remove the antler-point restriction.

Missouri currently has a four-point antler-point restriction in 59 counties.

Sample of Antler-Point Restriction Comments

I like the antler restriction in Callaway County…
I would support the point restriction statewide
Remove 4-point Antler Restriction rule across the board…
Lift the restriction when hunting on private property
Life the restriction for the first few days of the season for hunting on private property or

anywhere

Antlerless Season

- Eliminate the antlerless season.

Sample of Antlerless Season Comments

Support elimination of the antlerless and alternative methods portion of the season
I agree with…putting a hold on doe season

Chronic Wasting Disease

- Protect the deer herd.
- Supports proposed regulation changes.

The Department is considering new regulations for captive breeding facilities and high fence hunting preserves.

Sample of Chronic Wasting Disease Comments

"Don't bow to money regarding this CWD problem and deer breeders. That industry needs few curbs to protect our deer herd"
"Support all proposed regulation changes related to captive cervids"
"Supports the Governor's veto on legislation that would transfer regulatory authority for captive cervids from MDC to MDA"
"I don't think we need to import more!"

Sample of Miscellaneous Comments

I spent most of yesterday going around one of my larger pieces of property with one of your conservationists and he is writing up a guideline for me to make my property more deer and turkey friendly. It used to be a farm but all I've ever done was hunt on it, that's all I intend to do with it. He was very helpful and I learned more in a long morning that all my botany classes ever taught me. Please keep up the good work.
Hemorrhagic Disease took quite a toll on populations in NE Missouri, didn't see many deer during season, I feel like MDC did not come lean with hunters about the disease.
I don't hunt with a muzzleloader, but allowing hunting with a pistol during black powder season is not a good idea. Modern pistols are not in the same league as a muzzle loading rifle; they are far superior and should be kept in the regular gun season.

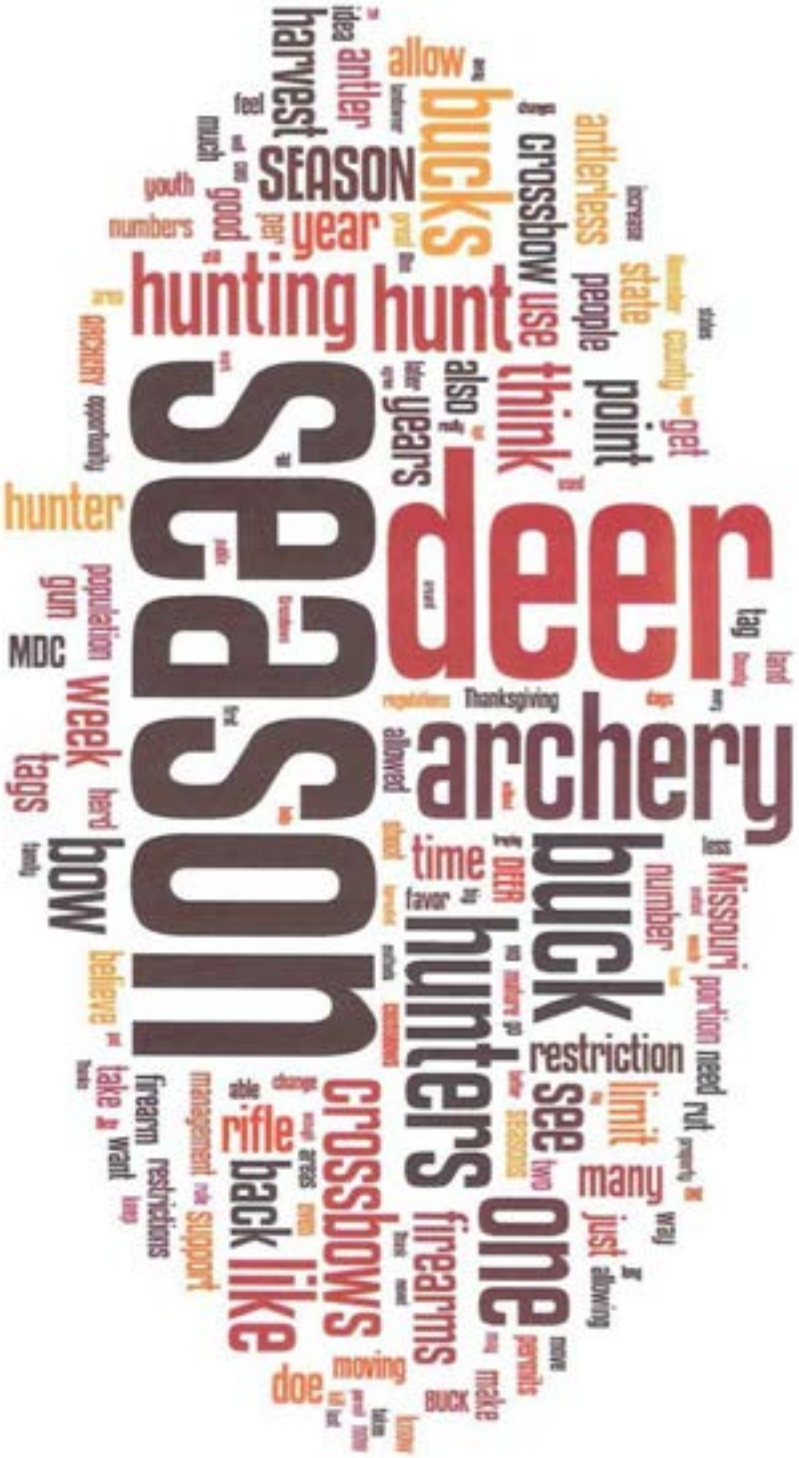
When are we going to get an MDC gun range down here near Poplar Thank you for the Bluff? The nearest one to us is Grasse, MO or maybe outside of Piedmont, both over 60 miles away. We need one down here and soon.
Thank you for the meetings to hear what Missourians think and to keep our deer herd viable.
Let hunters pick 11 days out of the 30 which they will be actively hunting. Hunters would not have to use their vacation days and it would put more people in the field to hunt.

SOCIAL MEDIA

During the months of June-August there was a lot of discussion through social media (Facebook). Since Facebook is a forum for discussion rather than to provide comments, the discussions have not been color coded or counted.

WORDLE VISUAL SUMMARY OF ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED

Wordle provides a visual summary of every comment received. Words that appeared more frequently in the comments received are displayed more prominently (i.e., with a larger font).



APPENDICES

Appendix A. Open House Comments
Appendix B. Online Comments
Appendix C. Comments that Came to the Department Offices, Ombudsman, Regulations Committee or the Department Website from June 1, 2014-Sept. 30, 2014
Appendix D. Online Open House Web Text
Appendix E. Online Comment Page Deer Management Comments
Appendix F. Draft White-Tailed Deer Management Plan
Appendix G. Open House Handouts

Appendix A. Open House Comments

Not satisfied with 4 pt rule in Phelps Co. Solution - Have a separate tag for trophy bucks, 3 pt or less have a different tag. Signed support reg proposals, would entirely eliminate captive facilities.
Limit the number of antlered deer taken by all methods. More and more deer are being taken by archery - need to monitor this method more closely.
Very informative. Professional staff - thank you
KEEP THE ANTLER POINT RESTRICTION
Would like to see age 55 and over to be able to use a crossbow during archery season
Bag limits are good the way they are.
Need to close doe season for Gasconade County
Crossbows during archery season.
1. Allow crossbows for all 55 and over. 2. Crossbows should not be allowed for youth hunters. They need to first learn on a compound and then go to crossbow if they want to. Using a crossbow is like driving a car before riding a bicycle.
Allow age 55 and over to use crossbows.
As a deer hunter, primarily archery, I appreciate the antler restriction rule and hope it stays in effect. I would support more limits on the number of deer (buck or doe) that an individual can harvest annually. I think some folks just harvest more deer than they can feasibly consume. Thanks for managing the herd, and thanks for the opportunity to comment.
I support moving the firearms deer season to make it later in November to avoid the peak of the rut and to allow for more breeding to occur.
I am opposed to the four point rule.
I trust MDC to curb/stop CWD in Missouri.
I believe MDC is managing deer and hunting nicely. You have a great knowledgeable team and I am confident any proposed/implemented charges will sense in Missouri's deer interest. I do think a more concerted effort is needed to encourage younger people to become active in conservation and hunting. Perhaps showcase young hunter/conservationists stories in MDC publications, Facebook, web, etc.
Very nice informative open house! We appreciate the effort involved in conducting it in Rolla. Also, we are quite supportive of the direction of deer herd management over the last several decades. Would suggest looking at short term managed deer hunts (ex. muzzleloader only for 2 days) at more CAs (ex. White River Trace) to help control herd size and mix.
Landowners should own more than 5 acres to obtain a free or free permit(s). Should have at least 40 acres.
Need stronger regs for captive deer. Prevent the spread of CWD.
The Department needs to get a very active and positive role in controlling CWD in MO. This should not be in the hands of those seeking profit.
I support the four point rule. It is working in Central MO.
I am opposed to the four point rule.
Limit antlerless permits as needed. Disagree with the unlimited number of permits.

Limit the buck harvest to no more than 2 any method.
1. They need to increase hunting in the big cities, St. Louis for example. 2. The hunting by points should be either statewide or gotten rid of. 3. Keep using rut as the main gun season. 4. Albino deer should be protected.
1. Sirs, I would like to thank you for providing a forum for comments here in Rolla. 2. Last year was a bad year initially for hunting, weather was not cooperative, the blankity blank wind was very disruptive to the hunt entirely. I would like to see additional days for hunting perhaps couple weeks later, even after the rut is closer to being over. By that I mean with rifle, I do not have a muzzleloader and do not want one. 3. Lastly, I would like to see more forums in the area, on other conservation areas. Possibly, fishing, forestry, maybe even fowl (bird species) related.
1. Reconsider the youth hunt (week before regular seasons). Too many adults hunting & taking game. Adults not following rules/regs. 2. Remove 4 pt rule from Maries Co. People poach anything over 4 pt before the season and deer herd is thinning a lot, rapidly. 3. Monitor predator rules & predator population in Maries Co. too. Too many coyotes.
After talking, hearing both sides of deer behind fences, I understand not wanting to "shut down businesses" but I still believe they have no ethical or sportsmanship being allowed. I have concerns for CWD as well as neighbor's rights. Other industries are having to be held to standards which shut many of them down as well. Also, deer farmers that let their animals loose are detrimental to the wild herd. And the deer farmers who sue neighbors because they have dogs is also not fair.
The presented plans so far seem reasonable and make sense. The suggested approaches appear to be a good starting point to increase deer population while maintaining/increasing funds for the Conservation Department and maintaining good hunting experiences long term.
Moving firearms season to Thanksgiving week makes a lot of sense and I don't see a downside. And do not allow crossbows during archery season (they are not bows)
Suggest reducing doe tags to increase populations. Spread the 4 pt rule to statewide.
Would like to reduce the buck limit and expand the 4 point rule statewide.
Really don't care for the APR. Caters to the trophy hunter. Maries & Phelps counties.
Too many does-20+ in a group during the winter
Don't have a problem with changing the opening of firearms season. What about the youth season? Rules need to be changed for the youth season. The "hunters" need to be able to physically handle the weapon
I like the sound of local management
Allow increased doe harvest
In favor of the 4 pt "limit"
Antler 4 point rule in Phelps County is showing no sign of working. I hunt before the rule and after. I have not seen an increase in larger bucks. Most of the deer I see are in the 4 pt and 6 pt size but thin body weight is around 150 lbs. Why does archery hunter have 4 pt rule-it takes more time and skill to harvest deer for food!

I am somewhat concerned about pushing the season back by a week, with only 80 acres in our plot it can be quite difficult to take 1 or 2 deer in the season because of the "skitishness" they get. Without the bucks "stirring" up the does there isn't much to keep them moving during daylight hours this makes muzzle loader difficult at best and if regular season were as difficult as muzzle loader we might not get our 2 deer (which is our chosen "take" to manage our herd numbers)
Make no changes to the season date. Make crossbow methods open for everyone. Don't expand the 4 point restrictions to the southern region of the state
All high fence operations should be banned. They are the culprits of CWD. Moving youth earlier and gun season are both great ideas. Allow crossbow use during archery for all seasons
Please don't move deer season to Thanksgiving week. Thanksgiving is family time not just the ones that deer hunt. The holidays are busy enough
Limit doe permits statewide. Point restriction statewide. Reduce season length in November portion. 1 buck limit for archery and firearm combined. Thank you for having this opportunity to "voice".
Good event. MDC does a good job
Timing of firearm season-I am now older and would not welcome the cold associated with pushing back the season one week. However, I trust the MDC wildlife professional and would support their recommendation. Antler point restriction- I would support this statewide. It does little good for me to pass on the healthy 4 pt only to have the neighbor shoot the same deer.
Keep November firearms dates as they are. Move muzzloader season back to November (late)
Please don't open crossbows up during the bow season. Too many inexperience hunters with a weapon that will shoot 100 yards hunting with bow hunters
Require double fencing for all deer permit areas
Thanks for putting this on
I own land in 7 MO Counties 108-Dallas Co, 76-Barton Co, 190-Webster Co, 197-Daviess Co, 100-Dekalb Co, 40-Caldwell, 220-Butler Co., but I only get 2 deer tags.
I would like an opportunity to hunt deer in velvet. Although, I do feel the archery season starts too early because of the pressure aspect. Maybe a managed hunt during August would allow hunters an opportunity to harvest a buck in velvet and allow a "cool off period" to allow the effects of the pressure, however minimal it may be to wear off.
Allow 2 deer maximum with only 1 taken prior to firearm November season. Allow use of crossbows during the entire archery portion
No dog hunting deer
Need one buck tag for all season bow or gun! So it will take hunters out of the woods and make them more selective
I am for opening archery season to include crossbows for all. This would increase recruitment of younger hunters and female hunters. I am for 4 point rule state wide. I am for moving the firearm season back one week to incorporate the Thanksgiving holiday. I am for staying with the county by county to manage our deer. I am for removing the antlerless portion of deer season.
I would like to see gun season extended to include Thanksgiving

Dropping antlerless permits in Laclede County from unlimited to one was unnecessary. Plenty of deer.
I would like to make a proposal that Missouri landowners residing out of state receive some sort of reduction on the purchase of deer and turkey non-resident permits. These landowners maintain the land (& game) and pay taxes on this Missouri property. As a landowner myself I would be receptive to forfeiting my landowner permits to see this proposal seriously considered. Thank you. Hickory County landowner. R.C.
Change bag limit on bucks for archery to one. Allow crossbows during archery season without a Dr. permit.
Agree to a one week later opener for gun season
Limit one buck during the archery season
I have been hunting deer 69 years. First hunt 1945. 18 deer taken. Dad and I got two in Ozark Co-we doubled for 42 years. My congrats to conservation people best plans I see is only allow 8 pointer or better few people only hunt for meat. Too many regulations on venison meat sales. New Zealand ships tons of deer to US each year. D.H.
Would like to see more Conservation Agents, would like MDC to have a bigger budget, would not mind paying more for H&F permits for deer tags
Bois D Arc-Archery only-Would like another area near Springfield
Fewer doe tags. Antler-point restriction. 4 points on one side for southwest/southern portion of Missouri (like Northern Missouri)
I absolutely disagree with allowing crossbows in the archery season. I will not encourage anyone to hunt earlier or later in their hunting career, it will only allow lazy hunters to hunt during our archery season. Don’t do it. G.S.
Agree: 1.) pushing season back one week, 2.) eliminate doe season. On Fence: 1.) only one buck per season and Disagree: 1.) allowing landowners to continue receiving the same number of deer permits. Cut back to one buck and one doe
At age 65 years of age I know my bowhunting seasons are few in the near future. Plus shoulder surgery on both doesn't help. I'm still able to draw 60# bow but I don't want to admit that I need a medical exemption. I think it would draw (crossbows) additional bow hunters and provide a lot more opportunity for hundreds of "new" archery hunters.
Do not change archery season for crossbows-they can use it now with exemption
Double fence all facilities including existing
More "meat" hunters in this area. Favor antler point restriction. Youth season is good. Fair chase solution is good-hunter recruitment. Moving season 1 week back-good idea-hope it covers Thanksgiving-provide family opportunity. Yearling bucks and breeding-question. Not in favor of "Earn a Buck". Need additional enforcement in SW. Found EHD. Allow crossbows during archery-support-range is further-not that much farther-shoot crossbow same range as a bow-not as easy as it may appear- cumbersome, heavy-same preparation as a bow-no advantage to crossbow use #'s in other states do not show a statistically significant (not sure of the word). Anything we can do to get people in the woods is a good thing. High fence bothers me. Deer are

not livestock-Wisconsin example. MDC should require double fence @ minimum. Fines for lack of inspection. Lack of fencing should not be allowed
Move firearm season out of the rut; antler point restrictions statewide, no added special weapon gun seasons (gun season, youth, muzzleloader). We already have enough days we have to wear orange! Changed managed hunt draws to make residents more likely to be drawn than non-residents. Raise non-resident tags to be more comparable prices to bordering states
Move firearm season out of the run-last 10 days of November, antler point restriction statewide, change archery regs to 1 buck/season, raise non-resident purchase price & change to draw. Too many non-residents hunting in MO. Move youth season to mid-October.
Do not allow crossbows in the archery season! Please do move the main firearm season to the week of Thanksgiving. Do not change the buck limit to 1/person. Do all you can to keep CWD under control and out of our state.
Limit antlerless tags to 2. This is a sport, not Walmart
1.) Raise price of non-resident tags. All other states are $100 and more than MO. 2.) Limit the number of NON REGS tags. Opening day of MO rifle season-public land in NOMO 9 out of 10 vehicles were from out of state! Being a tax payer and not having a place to hunt is frustrating. 3.) Move rifle season back at least until after Thanksgiving
1.) Move rifle season back. 2.) Make non-res a draw so public/lease land is not over ran with out of staters. 3. Statewide point restriction.
MDC does a great job in managing deer and other game in our state. In the interest of protecting and increasing the deer population, I would support: shifting firearms season 1 week later, shortening the antlerless season as long as alternative methods remain intact. I would hate to see the management of captive deer to be placed under the USDA. Is there anyway MDC can compromise with the owners of Deer breeding operations to pacify them and maintain control over management of deer is that if MDC loses control of the captive deer management that it will never get it back. Furthermore, lack of oversight by the Dept. of Agriculture would doom our deer her to be ravaged by CWD.
I oppose the use of crossbows in the archery season. If you want to increase the hunters and their change at harvest increase the crossbow managed hunts for those who choose to hunt with a crossbow. I also oppose the change to the number of bucks a person can harvest as i believe that it keeps more people hunting during the archery season for that chance at harvesting a mature buck.
Is there some mechanism that can be put in place to allow urban problem areas (local landowners) be put in contact with hunters? The SGF Nature Center has built a nuisance problem with overpopulation of deer in close proximity to 2 heavily traveled highways
Comments related to archer methods- crossbow- support use of crossbow use during archery season for hunter that are elderly or youth cannot use traditional archery methods.
Laser sights and electronic calls use of baits
One of the ladies explained to me about the research on crossbow for any bow hunter. I truly

appreciate her explanation.
Allow crossbow
Move rifle season back a week over Thanksgiving - Legalize crossbows
Like to see rifle season 1st week of December - all the individual public comments on sign - no more than 2 bucks killed
I would like to see deer season run longer and later in the year. I think it is too warm now I really see nothing wrong with bag limits now. I like being able to buy 1 any deer tag and at least one bonus.
Antlerless permit restrictions on conservation land SW. Captive herd controls - Permit system for conservation areas 3 days max!
Public land limit antlerless
My question is about the Mount Rose Conservation Area- Why does this area close to bowhunters on 15 Oct., this last year, I was told that we could only hunt a small portion of the land after the date above. When asked why we couldn't hunt the other areas the excuse was that we (the bowhunter) would make too much noise coming in and out of the area. I have a problem with this explanation. Then I was told that bowhunters have all kinds of hunting areas also. I would like more insight on the question and responses from above. A.B.
Captive deer should have been outlawed years ago.
Cut down on unlimited antlerless permits
I am not in favor of crossbows in the general archery season. I am not opposed to people with physical conditions using them but able bodied hunters do not need them.
Not in favor of crossbow use as a general method. What we have now is ok.
All for leaving it like it is as for crossbows.
Regs should include sites for proper disposal of carcass remains - a place to physically take the remains to.
Next season go to 1 buck archery 1 buck with rifle or alternate method - in 1 or 2 more years go to 1 buck total- easier to accept the change.
I don't think that shotgun or black powder cartridges should be added to the alternative methods hunting. A crossbow would be fine. I believe that the buck restriction in archery should be changed to 1 buck the same as regular firearms season. I agree with keeping CWD carcasses in the region they come from to keep from spreading it further. I do not support statewide antler restrictions.
Would like to see archery or firearm limit to 1 buck each. I support regs to restrict movement of whole carcasses from CWD area. Don't support statewide antler restrictions.
Do away with unlimited does & one buck only, or 4 point rule statewide.
Go to one buck a year per hunter no matter what weapon used.
Make crossbows legal - one buck per year per hunter not matter what weapon is used. - Move gun season to run through Thanksgiving.
1 Buck limit per hunter per year - Rifle season open Saturday before Thanksgiving - Crossbows legal during Archery Season. - Muzzleloader Season Sept. 15 -30 - Limited doe permits.

Go ahead & allow crossbows into archery.
One buck allowed for every hunter, or 4 point rule applied to every county.
1 buck limit per hunter per year - Rifle season open Saturday before Thanksgiving - Crossbows legal during Archery Season. - Muzzleloader Season Sept. 15 -30 - Limited doe permits.
Keep archery methods same as they are, not crossbows unless handicapped. - I like propose changes on 1) later gun season 2) 1 buck per hunter per deer season. - I would like to see 4 pt rule statewide.
Support 4 pt rule for statewide except during youth season.
Timing of youth season.
4 pt. rule
I agree with moving the season back. - I would rather see the youth season moved back up to suit a more pleasurable youth hunt,
Maintain current bag limits.
Allow crossbow during archery
4 point antler minimum for harvest!!!! Need to let the bucks mature.
I agree with limiting to 1 buck tag. However as a landowner I believe with the travel of bucks during rut I feel the 4 pt. rule would be of more benefit for our age structure.
Increase difficulty to raise deer in captivity. Quit allowing them to import them.
All crossbows for all archery season.
I would like deer season during gun season not to happen during a full moon due to possible poaching and if weather is warm deer are less likely to move during the day.
Go to (1) buck per year, any method. - Like Kentucky
Pro crossbow season within archer season. I want my boy to bowhunt before he's 12.
Support the movement of firearm season back a week
I support moving firearms season back 1 week toward Thanksgiving.
I think crossbows during the archery are a great idea. - I do not think the buck/antlered tags should be reduced. - I do not like the 4 point restriction.
I strongly agree on making crossbows legal in archery season
Hunt wild game for health reasons
Very informative professional staff, Thank You
We like the Xplor magazine for kids. You are doing a great job on that as well as the Conservationist. Keep it up-a great idea for the future hunters!
Make crossbows legal. Us older hunters with injuries can't bow hunt without the expense of a doctor's approval.
I think the 7 point law should be done away with or changed for land owner or seniors
I enjoyed the one-on-one conversations with all of the presenters. The set-up of booths was easy to navigate around.
I don't see a greater advantage over a compound bow when using a crossbow other than the string being continually drawn and am in favor of using a crossbow in the same time frame as a

regular bow. I think people see to many movies and confuse a crossbow with something it is not. I also think it would make a lot more hunters turn to archers because they don't have to purchase two different products when transitioning seasons if money is tight.
Leave deer season in the rut
Please take centerfire handguns out of the alternative methods season. Some of these handguns are chambered for rifle cartridges (30-30, .243, .308) I think the season should be for primitive weapons only! The season should be Primitive Weapons Season!
I think you should do away with the 7 point law or change it for landowners and seniors
No, to allow 1 buck for all seasons. Keep the antler point restriction.
Please move the opening day of firearms season to a weekday (similar to spring turkey season). As a landowner I would appreciate being able to firearm hunt on a weekday before the masses of hunters appear on the weekend. Kansas pens their firearm season on a Wednesday every year and it is great! I am not in favor of moving the opening of firearms season one week later. There would actually be less opportunity for hunting because of travel, eating, visiting on Thanksgiving day. Also, Black Friday is a big thing now and would interfere with deer hunting. I enjoy the peaceful days of firearm hunting during weekdays. By moving the season one week later, there would actually be less opportunity for me to hunt. Do not reduce or eliminate the antlerless portion of the season. As a landowner, I need the antlerless portion to concentrate on the harvest of does while managing my property.
1 buck with firearms. No more than 2 antlerless
Youth season hunt should be restricted to legal antlered buck. 8 pt or better. Not small bucks. They still have opportunity to shoot a doe.
Hunters should only be allowed to harvest one buck. Legal antlered buck during bow season NOT TWO!
Too many bonus tags. Don't like the 4pt system
I think hunters should only be allowed one buck during archery season (not two bucks) and one buck during firearms season. A mix of two bucks per year. The current regulations allow a hunter to harvest three per year. That is excessive.
Too many doe tags
As far as the timing of firearms season I think it is a good idea. As far as the rut is concerned. Moving the season - rut back one week so more doe and be bred.
I believe the bag limits on antlered deer should stay the same - limiting the antlerless deer is one way to keep the heard in good shape.
Not sure were in Benton Co. you count deer but need to count them on farm lands, there is still plenty of deer there. Only thing you will accomplish by only shooting two deer is overpopulating again. Thanks
I am not in favor of allowing the use of crossbows during archery season. A crossbow is vastly different from a bow. A crossbow is loaded and under tension ready to fire when the trigger is pulled. It is more similar to a firearm than a bow. I am 53.5 years old and have no trouble hunting with a bow. Please preserve the "nature" of archery season by restricting it to bows.

We need to look ahead at our wildlife management especially deer seasons - populations etc. the proper managed deer herd is very important for our future hunters - generation - here in Missouri. Keep up the good work - and take a good look at the comments - from the public and hunters
I am a Pettis Co landowner and I have been told that I must see a wildlife violation in progress before an agent will come out. In the last 5 years no agent has showed up to investigate wildlife violations on my property. I will be notifying an agent before gun season this year.
1 buck 1 doe before and after gun season - crossbows ok
1 buck with bow - 1 antlerless
I feel allowing crossbow use during archery season would extend the hunting life of older hunters as we age, the ability to draw and hold a bow of adequate strength to provide an ethical shot diminishes with age. A crossbow would allow older hunter to continue archery hunting. The two buck quota per archery tag is just fine the way it is.
Would be OK for crossbow use during bow season.
OK with moving season back a week to run over thanksgiving.
Limit number of any deer permits to one.
Buck limit is fine not many people kill more than 1 buck with bow. If it is changed allow 2 bucks with no more than 1 with firearm or you may take 2 with bow even both before firearm season. Benton County deer numbers are way down 4-7 yrs. ago seen 15-20 a day now 5 or less. Buck to doe ratio about 1-1.5 or 2 it’s good. Love point restriction but allow 6 point no brow tine bucks to be harvested.
Allow crossbows for all of archery season.
Crossbows - I have mixed feelings on this. Personally I don't like crossbows during archery season but with so much anti-hunting activity I would be willing to allow it as I feel that all hunters should hold together against the common foe. We can't afford to allow the opposition to divide and conquer us. Limits - bow hunters do not have a large enough effect on the population to require lower limits on harvest. I never fill all the tags that I purchase. The cost of tags is low enough that I have enough to respond to any situation I meet.
Antler point restriction - I do not favor antler point restrictions as we have a number of 4-5 year old bucks who are perfect 3x3 (no brow tines) and will never be legal. They will never have the required 4 points.
Allow private property managed to take culls and manage not only populations but quality.
Cut doe limit everywhere to 2. Most people that buy more than that aren't hunters
Should be bow only, a crossbow is like a gun and not enough deer in this area.
Most bowhunters don't harvest 2 buck deer, if anything, allow 2 bucks, no more than 1 with firearm and would be allowed to kill both with bow prior to firearm season or leave alone. Crossbows-leave the same or only after firearm portion. Have youths check in deer at station (adults hunting) during youth weekend, do not allow baiting...hurts turkey population, just look at Arkansas. Love 4 point rule. However, allow 6 pointers with no brow tines to be killed or bad genes will show up. I’ve got several on the area I hunt. Do not raise non-resident fees you have

the data 5.5% and most are like me former residents with family and friends. I spent over 3K last year hunting MO on public ground it's not cheap. Archer, gun turkey (both get 2 deer). I paid $575 in Arkansas $300 you get 2 bucks 4 does 2 spring turkey, bear and small game and furbearers. I lived here 36 years had leave for work. I will come back when I can. Only non-residents I know of are from here, family. I know a lot won't hunt because of gun season hunters, more violations come from residents than non % wise. Thanks for listening.
With the #'s of deer in Benton County I saw last year-not sure we don't need even tighter restrictions
Leave deer season dates alone, keep up the point restriction it works.
Issue less doe tags.
Reduce bow to one buck and 1 doe. Gun 1 buck, no more than two does
I would like to see a muzzleloading season in October
Any person who owns land and pays taxes should be able to get landowner permits, no matter if you live on it or not, still a landowner. Even if from out of state, you still own the land and pay taxes
1.) Ok to move firearms season out of rut 2.) Allow crossbow during archery 3.) Leave buck quotas alone 4.) Antlerless portion is fine. County by county good idea. 5.) Point restriction -ok. Make it statewide and tell'um to quit whiting!
Limit archery to 1 buck for both periods of the archery season. Move antlerless season to late October
Limit 2 deer per hunter regardless of method. Please consider dropping point restrictions, to maybe 3 points?
Make crossbows legal archery equipment
Be able to use crossbow during archery season
I would to see crossbows allowed during the full archery season (not just during gun season). It would be easier for the older population and younger people to enjoy (the hunt) longer.
Restrict limits-equal to firearm hunters i.e. 1 buck-1 does-2 per hunter
Legalize crossbows across the board!
Legalize crossbows. Boost revenue. Recruit younger hunters-retain older hunters. Will not affect the deer herd.
Raising the cost of any deer tag that would allow a hunter to shoot a buck no matter point restrictions while also keeping antler restrictions so a hunter that wanted to go by 4 point rule would pay $19 but a hunter that wanted no restrictions would pay $40.
Allowing only 2 bucks all season; landowners of so much land there is not antler restrictions; limit out of state hunters to earn buck; remove bucks from youth season does only; keep restrictions for non-land owners and out of state hunters; divide state into 2 zones using Missouri River as point of reference for different rules and regulations.
Muzzleloading season-have during the current firearms season. Traditional only.
No crossbows during archery season; antler point restriction lifted; how to have more input from the public; more urban hunting; good job on CWD.

1.) Leave November portion of firearm deer the same 2.) Do away with antler restriction 3.) Do away with deer game farms.
Youth portion earlier; No crossbow during archery; 1 deer per archer; deer population in Franklin County is too low.
Visible ID should be required for authorized and licensed hunters, especially in suburban areas. Too easy to shoot from your deck or patio.
Who is joining the legal registered hunters? Color vest, etc. Should be issued at time of registration, cost incurred as an additional registration fee.
I am very interest in QDM and practice it on my 260 acres in Randolph County. I believe MDC does an excellent job mixing science with public willingness.
MDC manage captive deer not usda; land values down; crossbows for people who need them; 1 buck for bow hunters; move buck season back 1 week so bigger bucks to service; reinstate antler restrictions for bigger bucks; limit doe harvest based on each county; charge out of staters what they charge us for licenses; youth season should be doe only; make it harder for poachers-use tags and tag deer and turkey immediately upon kill; j.m.
Need to be able to use crossbows.
No cross bows-leave as is; 1 buck ok for bow season.
No cross bows in archery season; crossbows legal in urban hunt.
I would like to see the ability to use a cross bow at the age of 65. This would help keep me in the sport longer.
Cross bows are a disadvantage not an advantage. They should be legal to all for entire bow season.
The mdc is a terrific organization keep up the good work; i am ok with the season going thru thanksgiving-i hunted that way when i was a teenager; open on the cross bow during archery. I am not sure here, if one has a handicap, physical issue that is fine. Or if someone is older than 65+ i am ok with it. Currently i am a compound bow hunter today and my sons (23) (16) are too. They do not support the cross bow issue. Youth!
Let old guys use cross bows during the archery season; b.k., St. Louis, mo - farm in knox co.
Missouri should allow cross bows during later archery seasons. After gun season and extended season through February.
I am for cross bow use during archery season.
All of the proposed cwd regulation changes for the captive cervid industry are critical to the long-term health of Missouri's wild deer herd and the economic benefits associated with hunting wild deer. The public interest clearly favors strict captive cervid regulation to protect the health of the wild herd. The regulation on the captive industry is no different than regulation on other disease-spreading or polluting activities. It is unfortunate is has adverse consequences on captive owners, but the public interest in a healthy wild deer herd greatly outweighs the consequences on captive cervid owners.
Had lot of big deer on camera before season. When rifle started we didn't see – n. Gasconade co.
I would be in favor of moving the season one week later in November.

Article says "historically" when firearms season includes the thanksgiving holiday hunting days increased. It has been 35 years since the season included thanksgiving. I really believe the hunting population has changed in the past 35 years.
I disagree with h any fencing of wild game.
Bucks 1-archery, 1 firearms; statewide 4 pt rule; stop urban season; stop antlerless season; move b.p. season to October.
I hunt in western franklin co and populations there have plummeted in the past few years while the population in eastern franklin co have exploded. I think more exploration of the density numbers need to be done in the east-central area. Your map shows franklin county's deer population as stable...that depends where you look.
No changes to firearms season.
I bowhunt all fall. I have no problem with adding cross bows to allowable methods
I'm ok with changing to one each for archery and firearms but not with one buck only. I bowhunt all fall and hunt during firearms and ml (alternative) seasons. A combined 2-buck limit would be fine, but one-only limits are just too low.
I appreciate the aggressive management initiatives employed to limit the spread of cwd, and wish it could be taken further in order to more severely limit high-fenced shooting operations. I am very supportive of the proposed regulations and can only hope they will come to pass.
I want the price of out of state lowered to $35. My grandkids (8) will not be able to afford this when they are 17 years old. Let the families hunt together. Today's world many families are scattered; on the 4 point law, why not sell a tag for $30 to let you shoot any buck. Just one. Many people leave deer for the critters (kyoats) when they find out there a 1/4 inch short.
Allow cross bow use during archery season; extend archery season beyond 15 Jan.
I would like to see no coyote hunting during any deer seasons. They trespass and run our deer away and you can't do a thing!
People running coyote dogs on private property. People have no control of their dogs. They have ruined my late season hunts more than once
I would love to open cross bow hunting to youth during archery season. M.p., house springs, mo.
Evaluate deer densities to determine doe tags and lift antler restrictions; limit cross bows to youth, disabled and seniors.
I would like to see a single buck for firearms (as it is now) and a single buck for archery.
Later firearms season; one non-resident buck, two resident buck; more time between firearms seasons.
Allow cross bows during archery season to allow older people to bow hunt more.
The upcoming limits on antlerless harvests are a great idea. I think limiting numbers should be extended to archery too. And i am primarily a bowhunter. I still hear of stories of bowhunters taking many does in areas where populations of deer are stable at best.
Let us use cross bows, I'm getting older
Timing of the firearms season: if the season is moved, i will lose one-half of my hunting opportunity for (modern) firearms hunting. I am out of state during thanksgiving, so where some

will gain holiday-weekend time to hunt, i quite likely will quit buying those tags.
Do not want to see the shift of firearms deer season to the thanksgiving week.
You give out too many landowner doe tags. Stop! Make the 8 pt rule state wide.
I am opposed to moving deer season dates. Family conflicts with the holiday week will create issues for hunter.
Do not change seasons. I am happy with all seasons. The rut is the best time to hunt bow, rifle and muzzle loader season are enjoyable now (2013 season/ regulations). Thank you.
Keep doe tag regulations as is.
Change rifle season later in year?
No problem with cross bow.
I support moving the firearms season to aid in breeding.
Bring back January extension hunts; study - how has telecheck impacted new hunters? Hunters have been gathering to talk about the hunt for 1000's of years. Now they don't.
Property located in Sullivan co; issue 1-coyote numbers-over the last few years we have seen more coyotes than ever. Every person hunting deer on our property has seen at least one opening day. Last fall turkey we witnessed a doe taken by a single coyote with the carcass cleaned to the bone in less than 24 hours. (pack heard in brush) in the late 90's and early 2000's we would hardly see a coyote. Issue 2- grasshoppers- in the middle and late 90's and early 2000's we would see grasshoppers in the fall all over thick. The property is surrounded by corn and beans (100's acres) on 3 sides. Our property is the buffer area and hardwoods. The grasshoppers are almost never seen anymore. And the turkey population is way less. There used to be several covies of quail which are now gone. Is there something in the gmo corn and beans grown or insecticides that are killing the grasshoppers? In the past when we would take turkeys, they would literally be bloated with grasshoppers. Not now. Mainly acorns, soybeans, and a couple of bags of some type, with many fewer turkeys taken.
Moving firearms season one week would move the season to the same as the Illinois. Firearms season. This would be a problem for hunters that hunt in both states.
I am against cross bows in archery season. Leave it in alternative; i like being able to take a buck during archery and gun season.
Move nov portion out of rut; youth portion earlier; cross bow ok; 1 buck gun/1 buck bow; for antler point restriction.
The over population of deer in St. Louis city needs to be addressed.
Limiting the number of bucks a hunter can harvest is a good way for hunters to have a better opportunity to harvest an older age class buck.
I trust the scientists at mdc to do what is in the best interest of the deer herd and the hunter. In that order.
1) I own 290 acres in iron county. I would like to see a change where my immediate family, even though not living with me, get landowner permits as they work the land with me and they will inherit the land. 2) Also, be allowed more landowner permits in relation to acres owned especially in a continuous tract. We have 5 food plots and 5 wildlife ponds managing for

wildlife year round with game cameras attesting to wildlife numbers on property 3) and spike bucks to be called in and counted as does. When you glass them with binocs and scopes you cannot identify them as spikes so when i am purposely harvesting does and i shoot it i do not know it is a buck till i walk up on it and see the spikes. Thus, I've wasted a valuable buck tag.
Keep unlimited antlerless in Gasconade County.
Youth should shoot a doe; they have the rest of their lives to shoot bucks.
The chart is true as it gets.
Need to raise age on youth hunts see too many pictures of a 6 yr old with a buck and rifle bigger than they are dad gets his deer early.
Later gun season.
More places to hunt in city and county. Maybe a landowner business owner hunter exchange or several different ways to hunt areas in the city and county of St. Louis.
No crossbows; season dates back to October 1 to Jan 1st.
No archery seasons should overlap with any firearm season.
I think the crossbow regulation is unacceptable it's fine for injured or kids under 12.
Antler point restrictions statewide; crossbows only during firearm and youth firearm.
Antler point restriction statewide; no crossbows during bowseason; keep same date for rifle season; keep buck harvest the same; move archery season back to Oct. 1.
What the herd can handle.
Allow landowners to harvest bucks that do not meet management goals.
I am in favor of using crossbows in the St. Louis area for deer and turkey.
Move bp season to October; drop urban season; restrict antlerless season.
I would not like to see rifle season dates changed to fall during thanksgiving.
Youth seasons should be removed and children should learn to hunt with adults during the regular seasons, they should be trained as adults.
Antlerless season back to late Dec/Jan.
Moving the gun season a week would put it on top of the doe season and thanksgiving, both bad ideas; elimination of doe season is a bad idea; i can't hunt black powder season because you have it at Christmas/new year's. I am forced to visit relatives then, not hunt; the changes you are making are effectively reducing hunting opportunity days. Many people will be unhappy about this.
Crossbows during archery season ok with me; moving the rifle season one week later ok; restricting the days allowed to harvest antlerless deer no, our area in Scotland co still has a very high population; a deer management agent to aid in accessing population in a segment of a county would be a tremendous help; dmap using the urban weekend as a doe season to reduce deer numbers.
Limit crossbows to youth, disable, and seniors; high fenced - cwd-intense regulations.
I want all seasons and regulations to stay same. I feel you have a great system; 1 buck per season is bad idea; along with limiting does is bad; keep 2015 regulations/seasons the same.
Allow crossbows during archery season; remove antlerless portion; keep antler point restriction

on a county by county basis.
Don't ever take the rifle season out of the rut. It is the magical 5-7 day a magnificent buck can make a mistake. I truly want a chance at that trophy. If anything extend rifle season.
Allow crossbows; don't move firearms season to thanksgiving week too many people travel for family reasons during the holidays.
Please look into letting us use crossbows for the bow season.
Allow crossbow hunting during archery season. Leave everything else alone.
I oppose moving deer season to a later date and believe it will reduce the number of hunters due to family travel for the holiday.
Be able to take both bucks before firearm season; earlier season to increase a velvet harvest; higher nonresident costs; no crossbow without a note!!
Reduce antlerless tags.
One thing i like to see is the January extended season return.
Making crossbows legal during archery season for anyone is ok.
About the crossbow, i think it’s perfectly fine to allow this method of crossbow. Give the people who enjoy the outdoors more opportunities! Limit the number of anydeer tags which will give more opportunities for others.
I am very happy with current rules/regulations (2013); i do agree with more cwd testing and rules; keep antler restrictions (seeing bigger bucks); 1 buck on all seasons is too restrictive, i would be happy with 1 buck per archery and 1 with rifle; i do not like the proposed limited doe population; methods for harvest and current hunting seasons are enjoyable; changing the rut hunting season would be a terrible idea; thank you for your time and everything you do.
If buck changes go into place, i think you should still allow at least 1 buck with bow and 1 with rifle.
One legal buck/year.
I agree with reducing the number of bucks taken by each hunter. 2 per year instead of 3. And the 2 fence rule for hunting preserves a must.
1 buck bow. 1 doe still population is stable. 1 buck doe. 1 doe. Get rid of late doe season. Deer or pounney too many days straight with gun seasons. Continue 4 point rule. Move season back 1 week (gun). Start bow season Sept. 1.
3 bucks are probably more than necessary for most hunters - if meat hunting, does are preferable - if trophy hunting, 2 bucks would give hunters a good opportunity for success.
Limit doe kill statewide; 2 bucks - 1 gun - 1 archery
Missouri should enact 4 point rule on all gun season. But lift the rule for archery season because it’s more competitive.
Keep the buck limit the same.
Move gun season back 1 week; 1 or 2 bucks max per hunter.
Do not want to change the bag limit for bucks. I think it is working well. I archery and firearm hunt and would not want to choose between them.
Current antlered harvest of (3) - 2 archery, 1 firearm is fine. There is no need to put more

pressure on does especially with the reduce deer numbers to due drought induced blue tongue.
1 buck per yr. No to any amt of doe tags. 2 does per yr.
I hunt in Warrenton in warren county. Our deer herd has been steady if not increasing for the past 10 years. We own 338 acres. No cwd or hd cases that we saw. We just have too many does and young bucks.
1. Mdc needs to become proactive instead of reactive. 2. If there are insufficient does to allow harvest on mdc ground then they should be restricted to landowners only on private property. The dept has been putting too much pressure on private landowners with unlimited doe tags to the public and not allowing them public ground to hunt them on.
Please do not put the season in thanksgiving.
You’re headed in the right direction. Limit doe kill to raise or stabilize population; move gun season back 1 week; raise pop in se mo.
I would like to see crossbows allowed during archery season without having a doctor’s exemption.
Keep government out of Missouri deer management. All they want is our $.
I support a later firearms season; i support late archery - crossbows; i support limited does - no antlerless season; i support 2 buck limit - 1 gun, 1 archery.
It doesn’t take a degree to know if you shoot all the does that’s next year’s deer herd.
Kill fewer does; no antler restrictions.
Nonresident landowners should hunt/fish free.
Limit the amount of antlerless permits to one per person.
Congratulations and thanks for an excellent job of management deer & turkey over the 60+ years of my hunting life. My concern has to do with a very sensitive issue (non-resident fees for deer and turkey permits). I own 86 acres in madison county. My son & grandson who live in Kansas help me manage my property (I’m 76 years old). We work food plots, hang stands etc. every year. Then they return to Kansas and wait to hear how my season went. (They can’t afford to spend nearly $1000 to hunt a weekend with dad/grandpa). It is soon reaching a point where i will have to give up hunting rather than hunt alone. Isn't there some way they could sign a onetime affidavit signed by the property owner to purchase lower cost permits good only on the property for which they were issued? This is only a suggestion for private property & family members. I would be happy to further discuss this with anyone from your dept. Again thank you for an outstanding job.
Nonresident landowners should hunt/fish free on their land.
Feel there needs to be a change in landowner tags. As a landowner in 3 counties, i have seen abuse take place by hunters on adjacent farms i.e., Amish and uniformed. Some households may have 10 or more people living and acquiring tags. Money lost. The Amish and uninformed do not understand overhunting. Educate Amish - i.e., Lewis county, etc.
I oppose hunting through thanksgiving.
When doing the surveys, why do 35k go to firearms and the same 35k go to archers. The surveys should be done at the same ratio of actual hunters. There are more firearms hunters than archers.

Move youth season back to middle of October.
Move early youth season to mid-October.
Bow season Oct. 1 - Jan 1; keep buck limits the same.
Keep the buck season time the same.
Bag limits should be done on a county by county basis; archery 2 any deer tags; no limitless antlerless tags; no crossbow without dr approval; get rid of antlerless season. Thank you.
Reduce bag limits; cut back buck and doe harvest!
Please: let’s keep archery deer season, archery deer season. Crossbow, in rifle season, plus maybe late season. It’s a cocked and loaded weapon! Maybe shotgun & muzzleloader; no center fire guns, "gigg guns" with maybe a longer season for those that have to gun hunt.
Ok to use crossbows; limit it to 1 buck.
Reduce the harvest.
Please end captive cervids. Cwd could be eliminated. Fenced "hunting" is not fair chase!
Don't allow crossbows. Reduce or separate season for compound.
Moving season a week later ok but to keep families happy - close season on thanksgiving day.
Manage a balance herd; later firearms season.
I'm against youth hunts all together, it is legalized poaching. Children should be brought up to act as adults, not treated special. They overlap with deer archery season which poses problems with archery also. The seasons start too early also.
I do not like the fact that all these outfitters come in and jack up the prices to lease farms or to even be able to find a farm to hunt! That forces the normal hunter to hunt public land that is now over run by hunters. Please limit the # of out of state tags that we are allowing!! All these guys are doing is going state to state to kill a big buck, possibly killing 5-6 big bucks a year!! This is making it almost impossible for the average (hunting working) man to put meat on the table to feed his family without spending big $$$!!!; and another thing that pisses me off is hearing an outfitter plant a great big food plot that draws deer (does) from all over the county, and then they complain about there's too many does on their property - so what do they do? They get an endless # of doe tags and they slaughter them! Everyman cannot afford to have food plots!! Limit them. That in itself is taking the hunt away from families that need to have a deer to put on their own table. these outfitters are going to end the (1 deer season) that many Missourians love. I hear this and i see this, on Facebook on twitter, i do not stand alone on this. These outfitters and certain land owners are doing everything they can to make the big dollars on "our" deer and taking away from the traditions of Missouri deer hunting!!!
Please don’t change firearms dates on behalf of 250,000 retail employees! If you move the season to thanksgiving any retail employee will be excluded from any hunting days due to black Friday.
First week of firearms season and black Friday will stress too many families.
2 bucks (1 archery; 1 firearm); bp season in October; stop urban season; stop antlerless season
1. Single buck per year; 2. Limit doe harvest in "low" areas; 3. Expand antler point restriction.
Crossbows should be separate from regular archery season

Move firearms season back one week. Illinois' firearms season starts close to November 21. They in (IL) seem to have excellent deer seasons. I must admit to hunting a true rut with bow & arrow.
Limit crossbows to gun or alternative seasons to limit # of hunters for long season. Too many landowner tags.
Start Oct. 1 (Sept. 15 too early); limit tags (2 tags - 1 buck; 1 doe); limit buck tags (1 buck = bow or gun)
Charge reciprocal amounts for tags from other states. I.e., if it cost me $500 for a tag in IL, it should cost $500 for an Illinois resident to hunt Missouri.
Limit 1 doe, 1 buck per year and can take with gun or bow.
Change to manage by area… not by county! Crossbows… only in urban areas out of tree stand only! Youth season early Oct. - ok; 1 buck all season? No… I've got 2 properties and 18 cameras. Lots of small bucks!! Keep antler restrictions (except, maybe for kids). kill more vermits!!! Hogs, coyotes, coons, etc...
Crossbows only in urban areas - in tree stands. Leave season as is. If food plots are legal, what about spreading corn - not pile corn - lot of private hunting access cannot have food plots. Most food plots are brush hogged and corn is spread.
The bag limit should change: 1 - antlered buck during firearms season, 1 - antlered buck during archery season.
I liked the info provided & help settled a few debates lol!
Limitingthe number of bucks a hunter can harvest is a good way for hunters to have a better opportunity to harvest an older age class buck.
Moving season to thanksgiving will cause my son and I to lose four days of hunting because of having to come back home on Wednesday instead of on Saturday or Sunday, the way the season is now.
1 Buck Bag Limit; Crossbows used during archery season; split rifle season into 2 portions; have an early October primitive methods hunt but must use your rifle tags.
As a landowner in Bollinger and Cape Counties, no antler point restrictions; incentives (permits) for landowners who manage; no change in time of season or length (firearm and archery); 1 buck archery, 1 buck firearms (max 2 per season); limit number of antlerless permits per hunter (no unlimited areas); reciprocal fees for non-residents.
Would like to see crossbows allowed during archery season; would like to see antler point restrictions in Bollinger County; Would like to see firearms season moved back a week; would like to see buck quotas reduced from 3 to 2 or 1.
Bow hunting was always a challenge. That is the beauty of the sport. Crossbows will take away from the sport, it wasn't meant to be easy. If crossbows are allowed, Bowhunter ED should be mandatory.
I do NOT want to see antler point restrictions in Perry or Cape Girardeau County; I do NOT want the firearms deer season to move; I would support using crossbows during the archery season although I do not bowhunt.

I don't like the idea of changing the season to the week of thanksgiving, it was like that before and people didn't like it because it took away from family time.
Against making crossbow legal for archery season, you just as well open it up for shotgun slugs and muzzle loaders; For making the 4 point restriction state wide.
Don't change the time of deer season; don't go to 1 buck; we don't need 4 point restriction; open crossbow hunting
For SE Mo., 4 on a side minimum; or doe before buck harvest.
I would support firearms season being split into 2 five day seasons. 1 before and 1 after "peak rut" with a one week break in between. Let archery hunters get a chance at hunting peak rut.
I do not support moving firearm season back a week.
Definitely allow more antlerless harvesting in selected areas.
I farm around Marble Hill, Mo, and have been suffering damage to soybeans on 400 acres. Over the last 5+ years I have lost $20,000 - $40,000 per year from deer damage. More does need to be harvested.
Bollinger county has a deer problem. There are hotspots that need to be addressed.
Bollinger County has too many deer in hot spots. Something needs to change in your management.
We went to one of these last year and really appreciate the chance to meet with MDC employees regularly.
Hunter education concerning shooting older bucks, not the less than 3 1/2 year old bucks. Educate by picture of the physical looks of a young deer vs. an older deer; Limit the number of tags for bow and gun hunting; why does a land owner need a tag for landowner and can purchase a tag at the local store as a non-landowner - can do?; I also think your phone in check in system needs to be closer monitored. Thank you.
I farm in Bollinger County, Marble Hill area, sections 17, 16, 15, 24, 21, 22, 23, 28, 27, 26, 33, 34, 35, 36, Township 31 N, Range 9E. I have deer damage on 400 acres of soybeans and have had for several years. This area has too many deer. Please do something to reduce deer numbers. This area could use 50% less deer. I hunt and encourage others to hunt on my land. We have tried electric fence, pepper spray, damage permits, just too many deer. I would appreciate DMAP & liberalization of doe tags. Thank you, S.U.
There are too many deer in Bollinger County. They are hurting our livelihood.
Concerned that buck limits would be catering to the trophy hunter; current regs are about right as far as seasons and limits go; on our north cape county farm, we have too few deer, despite intense management of quality habitat.
I do not agree with anyone being able to use crossbow; I don't like unlimited doe tags; I do agree with only one buck per season to provide more mature bucks; I own 70 acres and plant plots just for wildlife to hunt and to watch, the numbers are going down in my area even though my property is managed for mature deer.
I farm and hunt in Bollinger County, near Marble Hill, MO. I enjoy deer hunting, but I live off the corn, corn soybeans, milo, and wheat that I grow. Over the last 8 years, I have lost $20,000-

$40,000 from deer damage to my soybeans. More deer need to be killed. I strongly support DMAP, but I believe the problem of too many deer is county wide. I support any regulation that helps to reduce the amount of property damage I have been and am experiencing. I also support any regulation that makes it easier to kill deer in season, like the use of crossbows, electronic calls etc.
I am interested that cross bows be allowed for archery season.
Allow crossbows.
I am strongly against a (1) buck limit for the following reasons: A possible drop in hunter participation (esp. among bowhunters). The argument that hunters will be more selective will more than likely not go as planned. In my opinion, a bowhunter rarely takes more than (1) buck already. He/She is already selective and this will only hurt them. It also could cause bowhunters to take less does. If I tag out in September I'm much less likely to keep going just for a doe leading to possible overpopulation of deer and overall less interest in hunting for both young and old hunters.
If changing number of bucks killed in 1 year. Possibly do the same as Illinois. 2 bucks with a bow or 1 with a bow and 1 with a gun. Does make unlimited with bow lit it is and rifle 1 or 2 is good.
No to crossbows during the bow season; limit total bucks to 2-bow and rifle; back season up one week.
I support APR in Bollinger County.
Support moving gun season back; support earlier youth season; do not support crossbows during bow season; would support statewide antler point restriction; would like to see bow season stay the same as it is now.
Don't favor crossbows unless disabled or over 60-65 years old.
Allowing antlerless permits for rifle to use in Cape, Bollinger and Wayne Counties; Also, please consider implementing an antler restriction in the SE section of MO or implementing statewide.
We need doe tags/additional/ during firearms deer season so we can control herd #'s in Cape, Wayne, and Bollinger County.
I would like to archery hunt deer on the wooded area behind my property. The deer are a problem. I live in the city limits.
Allow DMAP for Cape Girardeau, Bollinger and Wayne Counties.
I would like to see season change to cut down on bucks being shot too many small buck being shot in middle of rut plus 500 yd. shot wounding large bucks.
I would like to allow crossbows in bow season; but not allow shotguns in the alternative season; also not use black powder cartridges.
If the season is moved later the antlered tag limit may not need to be altered as they are not moving around out of the rut.
If there is a plan to reduce buck harvest, I suggest limiting archer to 1 buck harvest; I am also in favor of leaving the firearm season as it is.
Not in favor of moving firearm season from current time.

I farm around Marble Hill, Missouri and have been receiving permits to shoot deer damaging my soybeans for the last 5+ years. The deer damage is getting worse, and I need more permits to control the deer in my bean fields. I grow around 400 acres of soybeans a year and lose 3-10 bushels per acre to deer; at $12 [per bushel...you do the math. More deer need to be killed, either in season or in May, June and July.
I farm in Southwest Bollinger Co next to Duck Creek. We have way too many deer. I know special rifle hunts on duck creek are not possible in flat land. But muzzle and doe only hunts would help. Thank you.
No crossbows.
I think the deer herd in Bollinger County is overpopulated.
I don't want to see the timing moved in Nov.
We need to keep crossbows out of archery season. The comments about youth and ladies is not accurate, they cannot handle the physical weight of the crossbow. Also carrying a cocked and loaded bow is unsafe!! There is already plenty of season for some to use them if they really want to.
I support antler point restrictions.
Opposed to the use of crossbows for the able bodied hunters during the archery season.
Not in support of crossbows for the archery season unless disabled. There are seasons for them or use in special hunts.
Extend the antlerless portion to reduce does, and therefore population; allow more antlerless tags
I raise soybeans and in a single crop season deer eat over $40,000 worth of my plants. I do hunt and grew up enjoying it as a sport but it has turned into a job that happens at a time when I don't have time. When I hunt deer-I'm mad at them and have no mercy, shoot a whole herd. (Boll walk across, I will find a tag for everyone I can down. This situation is not far away from the law and its officials of having no authority or control in the farmer's mind. (Bollinger County).
I would like to see senior citizens to get crossbow permits like neighboring states and allow crossbow during archer season. I am 66 and would enjoy the privilege; need to allow local landowners permits needed to control does instead of mass summer kill to control deer damage.
Bollinger County. Written by the mother of 5 children. The deer eat out crops! We are farmers that take a loss to deer every year. They consume $40,000 dollars of crops a year. We have a family of 7, our children age are 11, 10, 8, 6 & 3. We can't afford to feed the deer and not our children.
Bag Limit-keep the same or only drop to 2. Do the same as Illinois 2 with bow or 1 with bow and 1 with a gun; no crossbow unless hurt; keep unlimited does with archery and keep Perry County the same for rifle season; I'm a bowhunter so I'm ok with moving the rifle season; Is it possible to move the youth season in Sept. or Oct. to where kids have 3 weekends to hunt?
We need doe tags to control deer population in Cape County, Bollinger County and Wayne County. I am a private wildlife manager, past land owner and worked in law enforcement closely with the MO Dept. of Conservation for many years.
Please allow the use of firearm antlerless permits in Cape Girardeau, Bollinger and Wayne

Counties. This would allow landowners the opportunity to manage their land @ their expense with better/more effective success than archery.
I would love to see season pushed back 1 week to get out of middle of rut; 1 buck only-would like to see more trophy bucks; tired of giving Ill 500.00 per year for bow hunting. Would like to keep money in MO.
I believe MDC should strongly consider better management of deer herd so farmers aren't put in a position to use crop damage tags outside the normal season; also a 1 buck rule would better manage the buck population and encourage more does to be harvested; I'm from Kentucky & I believe their conservation efforts should be a model for the entire country or at least part of the country.
APR in Bollinger County; 2 buck limit bow and rifle; move rifle season back 1 week; continue to work with coops-help mail & advertise.
Love to hunt. Want to know about changes of regs. I think things have pretty well.
No horn restriction on hunters over 70.
In favor of allowing crossbows; reducing the limit to 2 bucks.
No to crossbows.
No small bucks - protect and raise quality bucks.
Firearms should stay the way it is; bow season should stay same.
Find a treatment for ehd - ways to kill the midge. Far more deer die from ehd. None have died in the state of mo. from cwd. All have been harvested/or shot.
Against moving season back over thanksgiving; against crossbows for everyone; for 1 antlered deer only.
Please stop use of crossbows; ok to move rifle season back one week; stop antlerless for now; allow non-residents who's families own farms in mo. to hunt for a residence fee.
Deer eating crops; can more be done to shoot more does?
We love the mdc and all they do! We love wildlife! We do not like the misinformation they are using to scare people. It is a scientific fact that cwd will not wipe out the deer population. Please use science to make the selections in management. There are many out there on the fence, cwd etc...dept. Of ag. Is better equipped to handle the cervid industry and it needs to be passed over to them. (data entry comment: on the front of the comment card it states they are past deer farmers)
Deer are eating too many crops; need to open apple creek up to does only for a few years and or relocate to other areas.
Moving season to thanksgiving will shorten my hunting by 4 days.
No on crossbows; stop antlerless hunting 1 year or more; move rifle season 1 week back; all youths to hunt during present rifle season dates.
Keep up the good work!
Crossbows are a mute point for me as i have a disabled permit and can presently hunt with it, but otherwise i would be in favor of opening xbows for use during archery season. This might eventually introduce some to conventional archery after being able to hunt the extended period

and being exposed to others who hunt with archery equipt.
I support a 2 buck limit, 1 archery, 1 firearm; i support crossbows during archery season; i do not support changing dates on firearm season.
I would support a one buck bag limit for firearms and archery combined.
I farm in the duck creek area in Bollinger co. It would be good to have a special hunt like others i have heard about, where you would have to bag a doe before you could bag a buck. I understand high power rifles are too dangerous because of the flat land. But muzzle load and archery would be good. Also the work on duck creek area is a great thing.
I farm 700 acres in Bollinger county near marble hill mo. I raise 400 acres of soybeans per year and have substantial damage to my crops from deer. I am in favor of bag limits that take more does than bucks. As a hunter i would like to see fewer deer and more large bucks.
I have substantial loss of crops by too many deer. My farm is made up of small fields and the 2012 crop loss was critical in the smaller fields. I allow uncontrolled hunting. All legal hunters are welcome. I do not hunt.
I am in favor in increased controls on captive deer; I'm in favor of continued restrictions on crossbows; I'm not opposed to senior hunters (>62) using crossbows - like Illinois; hunt wild deer managed by mdc!
Concern about game farms fencing off large areas and cutting off free roaming animals from travel areas.
I would like to see the firearm season one week later. I believe this would increase the herd for future hunters; i would like to see less doe tags available in northern counties. I hunt in Adair, Linn and Callaway counties. The deer population seems to be decreasing at a rapid rate.
We farm and are having significant losses and damage to our crops. Soybeans are hit especially hard. We see herds of 8-12 at a time in fields. Something needs to be done.
Too many deer - eating our crops, clover and alfalfa and soybeans are expensive and when there is 30-so head of a night--it is hard to make payments work. Something needs to be done.
I'm a farmer joining duck creek cons area. Please keep letting me have damage permits. It's made a difference. We need more does taken during season. Thanks.
They already have testing requirements and regulations for all cervidae in Missouri. The proposed strict regulations will put deer breeders not just whitetail breeders. We raise red deer, deer and fallow deer for years. All tested and following all regulations already in place.
I don't want the season pushed back.
Deer eat too many of my crops. I farm 1300 acres and a few places the deer are too thick. I have to replant too many beans. Year before last they cost me around 15,000 dollars. They cleaned off thirty acres completely. Replanted levee and ate them again. I can't afford this. I like deer but they are too thick in place.
Yes i would like to see crossbow during bow hunting.
I agree with restricting deer imported to mo. A agree with all potential regulations even though i am a farmer and have problems with deer eating my crops, we need to stop this disease as soon

as possible.
I support moving rifle season back out of the rut.
We need dmap for cape Bollinger Wayne counties.
I am for the bag limit change. My idea would be 1 buck archery 1 buck rifle. More goal is to let small bucks grow.
Allow 1 buck and 1 doe total.
I support allowing 1 buck with archery and 1 buck with a gun. This would force a bowhunter to be more selective before shooting a buck. I do not support point restrictions. I do support localized management.
Would consider for sure at least no more than 2 bucks.
Limit 1 buck only for archery, or even to 1 buck per year.
Don't change the bagging limits in this area.
I would like to see coon season open 1st of Nov. and closed during rifle season.
I don't want to see 1 buck limit. I bow and rifle hunt.
I'm okay with limiting to one antlered deer; and having a minimum size of antlers on the deer as required in some northern counties. As long as the population doesn't get too thick.
Reduce antlerless archery bonus permits to 1 per person.
Bollinger county needs bonus rifle tag; crossbows legal for everybody.
Allowing only one buck ties the hands of us who hunt with bow and ml.
Leave deer firearm season the same; archery season change back to 1 Oct. start; limits same.
As a hunter, business man, and farmer moving deer season to thanksgiving week is a bad idea; taking out the conservation vendor machines would cost me money, we sell $10,000-$8,000 worth of deer tags week before deer season. That is my biggest sale week of the year. Also all thanksgiving week i work.
Pro for allowing crossbows for everyone, easier for younger hunters to bowhunt. Con, easier to kill than traditional archery resulting in more deer killed - easier for people to take more deer. If allow crossbows for everyone limit 1 buck.
Allowing crossbows will be a good thing. This will allow more hunters the opportunity to hunt and allow hunters who can't pull a compound to hunt
Bow season cut buck tags to 1 and leave gun season alone; put muzzleloader season with separate tag (sell separate tag).
Pushing season later would fall over thanksgiving - not ideal for families; is your data on the chart over several years or one? If one, not very accurate b/c you are looking at trends 2 years ago peak rut was before gun season – fell on youth season so # of does bred by opening day was higher.
Continue to allow the 3 buck limit. But you could implement an early muzzleloader season and if a buck is taken that goes toward his firearm buck tag.
Moving our season back will be bad for my business. I'm a taxidermist and comparing late season #'s to one season #'s now there is no comparison…bucks are wore out from the rut and will not be up moving giving trophy hunters a slim chance of harvesting a trophy buck. If this

regulation is changed, an early two day muzzleloader season should be implemented and a separate muzzleloader tag should be sold to generate more revenue. If a hunter takes a buck during the early muzzleloader season that fills his firearm tag.
Increase in archery limit.
Make archery season Sept. 1 thru Feb. 28. Make Feb. 1st-28 recurve and longbow season.
Allow crossbow during archery season - yes; make antler point restriction apply statewide (no); 1 limit tags to family of 5-90 acres.
Youth deer season should be 2 weeks prior to regular and 2nd season should be weekend after regular season.
Make all deer farms illegal.
Make all deer breeders illegal.
Age requirement age 6, not old enough kids, need to be a little older
My dad started me out coon hunting when i was 3 yrs old. When i was a kid if you saw a bear track that was the talk of the town for a week. If you happened to see a deer you were a hero.
I got a Facebook post mdc. I follow mdc post all the time it’s a great way to stay informed.
Fencing should be at least 3 fences with no more than 6' between fences. Fences should be at least 14' high.
Fencing should be adequate to keep from raised deer from wild deer and no importation of deer from other states.
I think it would be a great idea for the disabled people to be able to hunt during bow season a crossbow would make it possible for handicapped people to hunt.
Allow crossbows for handicapped hunters.
Move rifle season back one week; 4 point season antler restriction; keep buck limit the same.
Allow crossbows for everyone. It’s still a short range weapon. Tradition doesn't matter because lasers plus lights are allowed on other bows.
Bag limits - i agree.
Leave regs to conservation department.
Bag limits - leave the same.
One buck per person.
I think that fewer bucks should be taken per year if we're trying to increase larger bucks.
I agree.
Remove antler point restriction; allow all black powder guns during alternative methods; antlerless deer on county by county.
Change hunting and fishing permit requirements for active military personnel. Allow all active military personnel to purchase all permits as residents regardless of residency.
Two areas of concern. Crossbows-fine for handicapped but should not be used by anyone who wants to use a crossbow. You might as well use a gun; unlimited archery antlerless. I believe that four deer on an archery permit is plenty. If the numbers are too high, then start with one or two. But not unlimited. I think it will promote a lot road hunting and will cause problems between hunters and landowners.

Bag limits - i agree.
Leave the same if possible.
Allow crossbows for archery season; leave Nov. Portion same.
In carter county there is no antler point restriction. I would like it to stay that way. Only one buck in all seasons combined is a good idea.
Keep it the same.
Carter county should allow an antlerless permit for firearm hunters.
Thank the conservation is doing a wonderful job although i disagree with some things.
Stiffer regulations, higher fences for deer breeders.
Leave it the same - archery methods.
Leave the same - bag limits.
Leave firearms deer season as is. Do not move back one week. Moving back one week would only favor hunters.
Need to have a nonresident landowner tag at a discount price. These people are tax payers too.
Cwd should have been taken care of when the first case was in a captive herd. Now the whole state has to deal with the problem and try to keep it from spreading.
Remove antler point restriction to many small bucks wasted by people accidently shooting to small bucks; not in favor of telecheck. Mo. Needs to go back to check stations.
Deer limit for archery should be the same for firearms. Same amount of time for both; need to put nonresident landowner tags at discount price; leave firearm deer season as is. Do not move 1 week later; crossbow permits are too easily obtained; need check stations again, not telecheck.
Limit archery antlerless deer tags, unlimited archery antlerless tag is unfair to firearm hunters; need to shorten archery season sept-jan. Is too long a season.
Would like more antlerless harvest in Texas co (landowner); more enforcement against trespassing during deer season; extra permits for share the harvest; like idea of dmap.
Concerned somewhat about the crossbows being used in a legal matter if allowed by all hunters but would agree by mdc's decisions; oppose moving firearm season back one week, because it will allow the deer farms one more week to entice the mature bucks to their property; i believe the one buck limit would be a very bad move, again would give the deer farms more advantage; very much opposed to point restriction as again deer farms will entice the larger bucks to their property, and i may only be left with bucks that won't qualify, i believe the landowner has a right to decide. In our area, with the brush, hard to see points; i am very much against deer farms, as they don't have to obey the same laws i do, and their way of so called hunting is very unsportman, more like shooting fish in a barrel; also my grandkids ask why can't we put out bait and shoot the deer or turkey, i tell them because its unsportman action, and illegal for us. Why? Because it’s politics, and politicians don't care about white tail bucks only green bucks.
Don't allow unrestricted use of crossbow.
Not enough quail or fish too many deer and coons.
More effort on protection and more agents (cons. Agents); more emphasis on wildlife and research (less emphasis on money); tree at nursery are more expensive than out of state trees.

No more land purchases/take care of what we have; more emphasis on private land owners; mdc to furnish fencing for deer damage to crops; more landowner right for protecting property against wildlife.
Please allow crossbow for bow season.
Allow crossbow; 2 firearm any-deer; 4-pt or up.
Douglas county needs to have more antlerless permits available. Why does Howell county have unlimited but Douglas only 1.
Move rifle season out of the rut.
1 buck archery season, 1 buck gun season; in favor of 4 pt rule. Oregon county.
Add more counties to the Apr.
I'm in favor of using crossbow during bow season.
Bag limits – yes.
Crossbow ok for archery season.
Do not allow crossbows without a permit.
Do not support the department of ag controlling enclosed deer management.
I see too many does.
Recommend 40 acre minimum for landowner permit.
Deer hunting in the south part of mo. is ok.
Allow crossbow.
Objective d.
Limit number of tags per household; limit total deer tags to landowners (archery @ firearm); get rid of deer farms. No sport to them or be more strict as proposed.
Leave buck limits as is; i believe our hunting #'s have decreased over the years and too many hunters hunt for horns only. I believe that to be a problem. I typically have 2 bucks and 4-6 does/yr.
Limit the use of 1 antlerless permit on all public land.
Am no sure that cwd is a huge concern for our herd. Not sure.
Season time (date). Buck harvest - i do not see the need for change. Doe harvest - need to balance herd. Harvest does. Don't need to change dates hunters are hunting for horns not meat. I want the meat so i harvest 2-6 does/yr.
The timing of firearms season moving 1 week later in the year would be well accepted by myself and the hunters/conservationists i know personally.
Enforce 4 point rule.
I would be very interested in an earlier archery season for the chance at harvesting a buck in velvet. Even a managed hunt would be an excellent opportunity. Thank you.
Would like to see the opportunity to harvest 1 bow buck and 1 firearms buck; alternatively consider blending limit on bow and muzzleloader as "primitive methods and allow 1 of these and 1 modern firearms.
I support a limit on number of archery tags a single hunter can fill - 1 buck and no more than 2

antlerless.
Allow crossbows during archery season.
Move November rifle portion out of the rut; do not allow shotguns or pistols during the alternative methods seasons.
Eliminate the antlerless portion; limit antlerless harvest on a county-by-county basis; too many does are being taken during the rifle season in Clark county
No black powder cartridges should be allowed during alternate season, front leading, single shot muzzle loader only; only one buck to be harvested all season combined.
Have firearm season open after the rut; keep the four point rule in effect.
If you want to keep archery hunters long open up your crossbows- times are changing and adding this would help those keep up with their love - p.s. crossbows aren't a sure thing.
To keep your older hunters, let them use their any tag on what they want; make the age 65; how many would you keep because they got to take a deer?
Should expand cross bow opportunities.
I am in favor of allowing crossbows during archery season; i am in favor of moving firearms season 1-2 weeks later; i feel the seasons and limits are okay, i have seen plenty of deer for several years; i am not in favor of eliminating antlerless season. I like youth season right where it is in November.
I would be in favor of increasing land requirement from 5 acres to 80 acres for landowner tags; i would limit landowners to one any deer and one antlerless tag per immediate family member; i don’t hunt public areas, but feel the regulations are in line; i do not hunt urban areas, but feel there is a great need for more harvest and more opportunity in those areas.
Raise out of state tag prices; move rifle season after rut; reinstate 4 point antler restriction; eliminate no-limit antlerless (which you have done); reduce number of bucks 1 hunter can take during the combined season to 1 buck.
Would like to see 1 archery buck, 1 rifle buck, 1 muzzleloader each having a separate tag or 2 of the 3 choices; agree on moving season to later date
Decreasing the antlered deer limit would be beneficial in a couple ways including 1) promote better selection processes by hunters and 2) decrease unneeded antlered deer harvest - both would help promote an older average age structure within the antlered side of the herd.
Allowance of crossbows season/hunter wide; not a big fan for every hunter; fair chase methods are justified, but my personal definition of fair chase methods would not include able-bodied hunters using crossbows anywhere outside of the firearms season; the use of the crossbows during the archery season should be permitted to only those who are provided medical allowance.
No crossbows unless the hunter is physically disabled; move firearms season to late November; one buck limit for the entire hunting season; shorten antlerless portion of season; too many continuous days of firearms pressure on deer herd.
I support crossbows for all persons over 50 or with disabilities; one buck is a good idea; limit doe season.

In favor of using crossbows during the archery season.
No future new deer breeding operations or game preserves should be allowed - it should be illegal to possess in captivity any wild animal, deer are not cattle!
I really appreciate a doc that cares more about the deer herd than tag revenue; you folks do a great job; please restrict harvests until we see deer numbers rebound.
Landowner permits limited to people on title of land, children pay reduced tag fees- but must buy a tag; nonresident hunting permit should cost more than nonresident landowner permits.
I feel as though the landowner permit system is correctly manages, however, nonresident permit prices are too low.
Any landowner who has sufficient property to deer/turkey hunt on should be allowed to have family members who reside out of state (i.e., fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, grandchildren) hunt on same property to hunt at a much lower fee! Should not be forced to pay these rates!
To keep your older hunters, let them use their any tag on what they want; make the age 65; how many would you keep because they got to take a deer?
Allow crossbows; keep youth season as is; move rifle season back 1-2 weeks.
Keep some antlerless tags; keep 4 point restriction.
I am in favor of closing mo. borders to the importation of all living cervids and restricting the importation of cervid body parts (as is currently done); we need to increase fencing standards to include dual fences far enough apart to prevent disease transmission directly from deer to deer; we need to monitor all captive cervid herds and test all captive cervids that die from unknown causes; we also need to ban all deer feeding (de facto baiting) to reduce localized concentrations of deer
Captive deer under dept. of ag management, no way! Will we be seeing venison in the meat dept. at Hy-Vee?
I agree with regulating captive deer; i also applaud the mdc for finding a source instead of just eradicating the herd like IL and - good job!
I understand wanting to recruit new hunters, but a 6 year old child carrying a loaded gun terrifies me no matter how many adults are with him/her, yikes, too extreme!
Glad to see some reduction of antlerless deer permits which may be filled in our region. Neighbors were shooting many does and numbers are noticeably down.
Shotguns, black powder cartridges and handguns should be included in the November portion of firearms season, not in muzzleloader season. Remove the antler point restriction. Do not make it statewide. The deer protected by an antler point restriction are the most likely deer to transport diseases from our area to another.
No more landowner/lessee permits!!
Close down deer farms!! No more captive cervids!!
Move November deer season to the first part of December; bring back muzzle loading season no alternative method.
Yes! I vote for a later season for all of your reasons and maybe the weather is a little colder to allow for hanging deer longer.

Crossbows should be seen in the same light as modern muzzleloaders. I think cross bows can be incorporated into archery seasons, methods and limits; i am in favor of the Nov. portion of firearms season being one week later. My concern would be if the potentially reduced amount of buck deer movement would cause more hunter s to conduct deer drives. I would like to see the alternative methods portion revert to strictly muzzleloader methods (which would include modern muzzleloaders).
Resist the urge to please everyone. Do what is right by the critter. They are our passion they are our heritage. Our children's children and their children is what it's all about. No need to please everyone. Just look out for the critter.
I am currently 100% satisfied with regulations regarding the archery methods. Not in favor of any changes.
In my area Knox county, we have plenty of deer and could encourage more doe harvest; i think crossbow should be used in archery season.
Let the folks that need the crossbow have that opportunity. Don't lift that exemption; consider blending archery and muzzleloader into a primitive methods season.
Decide the goals; bring in more hunters into a season with liberal bag limits (adding crossbow hunters) maybe need to reduce number of avail bow tags first; or build the herd.
Why do antler point restrictions apply to youth during the regular season? If wanting to grow the hunting population, need to let the kids see success. Why restrict the rewards?
I have read the Missouri white-tailed deer management plan draft. I am in agreement, and in favor of the proposed plan.
Would not be in favor of allowing crossbow as an archery method. Unless physically needed.
I think you should be able to shoot 1 deer in gun season and 1 deer in archery season. Bucks.
Agree to moving firearm back.
Make non-resident deer tags reciprocal to the adjoining state or state from which the hunter is from.
Remove firearms season from rut.
You took the time to have a four point restriction so go with a firearm season much later; use crossbow and archery season to do your antlerless management.
I think it's going good - but for more money for the mdc and the kids and older people get smart and have a crossbow season or just let us use them it's a no brainer. Other states are doing it. Thank you.
If you stay with four point restriction and move rut much later first, then see if we need to drop a 3 buck to a 2 buck per season.
1 buck limit; move season back at least 1 week; less pressure - too much pressure from Nov. 1 to Jan 10; break/start tradition - good job!; limit antlerless; make a statement and big splash!
Would like to see privileges of landowner permits extend to land i rent for ag farming purposes that i don't live on. I live on 50a but rent 300-400. Current regs push my harvest to the 50a rather than the 300 i control.
Create ability to use crossbows; limit buck (shoo table) to 4 point on one side; high power rifle in

tree stands only
Longer bow and crossbow season; push rifle season much later; use bow and crossbow season to do more doe management for us; disease management - let mdc do the oversee on it not the ag
3 bucks allowed seems excessive; glad to see doe numbers have been considered in reducing the number of permits to be filled - we are seeing fewer and fewer deer around our place in Adair co.
I think you should be able to harvest 1 buck for bow and 1 buck for firearm season
Do away with the extra any deer permit; consider letting one allow youth to use there any deer permits.
The firearms season needs to be moved back to late November to avoid the rut; the antlerless season needs to be shortened and the second antlerless season needs to be removed.
Move youth season to early October; keep firearms season where it is; only allow 1 buck per season; do not allow crossbows.
Move the alternative methods away from Christmas; against cross bows in the archery season if we are going to continue permit crossbows. Keep them in the alternative methods portion.
I would like the conservation department to move the alternative method season where Christmas is not in the middle of it. This makes for very hard for out of state hunters to come to mo. I think the archer method should remain bow and compound bow only! The crossbow should be used by disabled or in the alternative method only.
Eliminate deer farms.
Eliminate deer farms; keep up the good work.
Chillicothe farm in Grundy co and would like to see longer deer seasons and more generous bag limits. Have problem with too many deer on his property.
I think the antler restriction is one of the best things mdc has ever done and would like to see it go state wide! Would like to see more restrictions on antlerless permits, not more than one per person.
I would like to see a trial of moving the season out of the primary breeding period. Our area has sufficient does but not bucks (mature bucks) with the current season bucks rarely reach a year old.
Deer seasons remain same even if tags are limited because we like our hunting.
This was a very informative meeting on deer and diseases and land management. We enjoyed this and found very valuable information in the answers and the booklets, thank you!
Bring back the public check-ins. The telecheck is difficult and the public check-ins were more effective. Plus the deer can be tested for diseases while being checked in. This goes for all the hunting seasons.
No crossbows in bow season!!!
We have way too many deer! They do about 2 billion damage each year. Not to mention killing several people in deer auto accidents each year, raising insurance rates!
My opinion is the deer population is too large. More ticks than before. Increase in deer accidents etc. Our neighbors have seen increase in soy beans destruction. Had to replant 10 acres 3 times. 56+ average adult deer increase Livingston and Caldwell county property. Will increase deer

hunters allowed.
Alternative methods season - go back to black powder only, too easy, basically an extended rifle season with new equipment available.
Please put us on an even keel with other states and legalize crossbows.
I believe legalizing within a county would be a good thing. I don't like the 3 deer rule; i think no more than 2 are enough for 1 hunter as far as season change for gun season please leaves it as is. We have grown up with the opening date and it has worked well for years.
Move rifle season back; do not go to a 1 buck per hunter per year; stiffen regs for out of state hunters (go to draw); keep doe season but move to end of Dec or 1st of Jan; do not allow crossbows during bow season; open bow season Sept. 1st.
I think that all hunters should only be allowed to take one buck per year! Also continue the point restriction rule.
One buck total per year; antler restrictions continue.
Shotgun with slugs should be allowed during alternative methods season; thinks the antlerless season shift has decreased interest in the antlerless season; maybe eliminate the antlerless season and lengthen the alternative seasons.
Allow crossbows during archery season- 1 buck total per year.
Give buck a primitive muzzleloader season; do not allow crossbows into archer season, the high tech compound bows are enough
Definitely allow 1 buck during archery season and 1 buck during rifle season; not much advantage for crossbows. I have one. Don’t eliminate antlerless season.
I would like to see you allow crossbows during archery season. At the very least allow people 60 yrs and older to use a crossbow; allow only one buck per person; limit antlerless harvest on a county by county basis and move the antler point restriction to statewide; do not move buck season out of the prime rut; do away with antlerless season.
Allow crossbows for archery at least for senior citizens; eliminate antlerless season; alternative methods include black powder cartridges but not shotguns; 1 buck per year all season combined; antler point restrictions statewide; limit antlerless harvest by counties; keep firearms during rut.
Oppose moving November firearm portion of deer season to include thanksgiving. Every hunter i have spoken with says this move would decrease the # of days he/she would get to hunt. Result will be decreased deer kill; telecheck works great but i miss being able to go to the check-in to see the deer taken.
I used to like to see gun season moved out of the rut or later in the season; i would also like to see the number of does limited.
Excellent showing and resource.
I agree with moving the firearms season buck a week but i think mdc should also consider shorting it; i would love to see a lottery for fire arms tags to regulate tags per county. Also an increase in out of state tag fees and even a slight increase in resident fees; youth season could be moved up a week or so; with increased tag fees it would be nice to see more agents to better

regulate poaching and illegal hunting (problem in mercer co); antlerless season eliminated except where needed based on numbers; deer management programs/seminars for landowners and hunters hosted by mdc; i would think 2 antlered deer per year would help enough without going to one.
Move rifle season to thanksgiving weekend; no cross bows; youth season should be moved to early Oct.; make antler restriction statewide.
Concerned about cwd and does post farm regulations - can mdc still govern deer farms if they go into dept of ag control? As a bowhunter, i am against allowing crossbows during regular archery season.
I think they should limit the amount of outstate tags they give out each year and also they should raise the price of out of state tags. I don't like the crossbow use in archery season and i think they should move rifle season
Very educational, thank you!
I am avidly against crossbows during archery season; Keep point restriction statewide; Yes, limit antlerless deer to counties differently; I am for not changing the number of bucks one can take; Yes, shotguns for alternative season; temporarily eliminate antlerless season until the population rises;
Keep point restriction; Eliminate second portion of firearms season; No crossbow without medical certificate in archery season; Move rifle season back to end of November.
You should not have to have a doe kill in the urban season count towards your regular season count.
Leave rifle season as is.
Leave rifle season as is.
I believe that you should be allowed to hunt with a crossbow in archery season after you reach 50 years of age.
Do not include thanksgiving in firearms season.
If you move back gun season after rut, do the same with archery.
Release pheasant at bilby ranch. Create a $10-15 permit for hunters who want to participate.
Change nonresident tag acquisition to that similar to Kansas, Iowa, or Illinois.
Copy the Kansas city region urban deer model state wide for urban hunts.
If gun season is moved back a week because of peak rut all bow hunting should also not be allowed during the week.
Increase early archery season by one more week in November; do not permit cross bow usage for anyone other than disabled.
No crossbows during archery season; move firearms - yes. One or two weeks towards December; eliminate antlerless season! Yes. Save does to grow herd; keep one buck for archery and one buck for firearms; antler point - yes, keep it as is - 4 pt minimum
Crossbows should only be permitted to someone physically handicapped during the archery season; moving the rifle season back would be a good thing; eliminating antlerless portion would help increase deer herd; i would like to see the buck limit changed to 1 buck-archery and 1 buck-

rifle season; antler restriction (4 pt) is a great thing.
If cross crossbows are allowed, i feel they only need to be allowed during firearm season; I'm all for pushing back the firearm season a week; eliminate the antlerless season to build up the deer population; keep one buck for archery and one for firearm season; keep the antler point restrictions the way they are.
Moving gun season back would be great.
I would not like to see antlered deer limit lowered; i like the crossbows being added; antlerless needs more limitation.
I support moving firearms season later and out of the rut; i support going to a one buck per year regulation; i oppose crossbows being included during archery season.
Please do not include crossbows in our archery season. Leave it as it that this falls into a disability situation.
One buck/year is just fine with me.
I favor double fence on all game farms.
I deer hunted in mo. first in 1950 and have hunted ever since (except when living out of state a few years); i feel, overall, mdc has done an excellent job over the years. Except for favoring bow hunters, which should cease.
I do not support change to the firearm portion of the season. With moving it to the week of thanksgiving yes more people are off work but also more people travel out of town or have family in town and are not able to hunt at all.
Limit doe tags.
Have only one firearms season. Late Nov.
No youth deer season in Jan.
I believe crossbows should be allowed during archery season; do not agree with the one buck per hunter, i could see and agree to one buck for archery and one buck for firearms. I enjoy hunting both seasons and look forward to being outdoors but if there is a limit of one buck per hunter, that would have a lot of effects on everyone, example, i shoot a buck during archery season i wont hunt firearms, won't spend a week at a hotel or local restaurants, or other expense involved for that week; just do away with the antlerless portion season.
Archery hunters have always been favored in mo.; if gun season is moved back a week, archery should also be closed that week.
I would like to see one buck year.
Move youth deer season to Oct.
Move firearms deer season later in Nov.
Crossbows in archery season if we go to one buck a year any method.
I do not support changes in the archery season length. Keep it the same; i do not support restricting the archery harvest to just one antlered deer, i cannot see archers or the percentage of archers who take 2 antlered deer having a significant impact on the population; i could live with the legalization of crossbows; i do support antlerless permits being managed on a county by

county basis.
Somewhat opposed to crossbow during all archery season - would contribute to more spot light and other poaching kills.
If Nov. portion is moved back a week, that week should also be closed to all archery hunting. Bow hunters have always been favored in mo.
I strongly favor continuing the antler point restriction in bates county.
Do not allow crossbow during archery season; 4 day antlerless season; 1 buck archery and 1 buck firearm; firearm season same dates.
I do not support restricting the harvest to on antlered deer; i would be willing to trade the rifle season out of the rut for a later date but put the muzzleloader season in its place and move rifle season to December; i do support putting the youth season in early October; absolutely no way should shotguns be allowed in "alternative methods: keep it muzzleloaders only; i do support being able to harvest one antlered deer with a firearm but not archery; i do not support antlerless permit being managed by individual parcels of land. Allow a hunter to purchase a set amount of antlerless tags or allocate them on a per county basis, first come first serve; reinstate the antler point restrictions in the "cwd units"; get rid of telecheck! To many deer taking rides straight to the freezer
Ban the high fence enclosures and solve the problem with cwd; repeal the ban on using deer minerals or attractants in the cwd zone.
I would like to see more conservation areas only allow archery and muzzleloader for deer hunting.
We need more hunter education classes in the schools or more local classes.
I am in favor of eliminating the point restriction; possibly going to something similar to Ohio where 1 buck per year is all you can harvest.
I am a 56 year old archery hunter and am experiencing arthritis in my hands. I would like to see crossbow hunting allowed for the entire archery season. I moved to mo. from oh, where crossbows have been legal since 1976, with no adverse effect on the traditional archery season.
I support adding crossbow to the archery season.
I support adding crossbow to the archery season; i would like to see getting a buck during archery and during firearm season. Maybe earn a buck during archery by harvesting a doe first; leave antlerless season to use leftover tags from regular firearms season.
Add a second fence around captive deer.
Make more hunter safety courses available.
Remove antler point restriction altogether.
Remove antler point restriction.
Being a land owner, i appreciate the land owner tags but i think 5 acres is too small to really be considered a landowner.
Muzzle loading season should be muzzleloader not everything under the sun.
Would like to see a change in so called preference point system; muzzleloader season by itself

and earlier like it used to be; like antler restrictions; would like state to ease "baiting" restrictions on certain feeds.
Please consider baiting to be allowed; to possibly cut down on small bucks being taken; please if you're going to go to 1 buck per hunter in 2015 consider 1 buck for archery and 1 for gun. Then does the 1 buck tag in 2016 or 2017.
Nonresident landowners should not pay full non-resident prices to hunt their own land (fall turkey 110, spring turkey 190, firearms deer 225, archery deer 225, hunt/fish 80+42 + spouse and child) just to hunt their own property!
Would like to see crossbow hunting opportunities increased. It would increase hunter retention young and old. As a bow hunter of 36 years, when you get older you’re not as steady.
No crossbow in archery season without medical certificate.
I think it would be great for anyone to use crossbow without having to have a permit for it.
I believe in the usage of crossbows for everyone because if you get in an injury before bow season restricting arm movement it would be easier with a crossbow.
Move firearms season out of rut; no crossbows in general archery season - crossbows are okay in urban hunts; one buck per archery tag is ok.
I can see eliminating one of the archery buck tags but not going to 1 buck for rifle and archery.
I would like to see being able to kill one buck in archery season and one buck in rifle season. Also a one week later shift in firearms season would be great.
Move firearms portion out of the rut after thanksgiving; no need for antlerless portion any longer; move youth season to late September or early October when deer are more relaxed. Not in a pre-breeding state. Kids should learn to hunt them in their relaxed state or feeding patterns, not in rut crazed; 42 days of gun fire is slaughtering our herd!
In my opinion the archery season should be kept the way it is now written. Crossbows could only be used with a medical permit only. It was bad enough to allow handguns during mezzleloading season; don’t invade my woods with a rifle bow crossbreed.
I am glad to see the limit on antlerless permits at least for 2 or 3 years. Also, i still like the antler-point restriction and the alternative methods portion.
Allow crossbows during bow season; allow youth to harvest anything during regular season.
I would like to see 65 and over crossbow hunting in archery season.
Do not allow crossbows into archery season!
Make all captive deer herds illegal!
Do away with the tame deer farms and try and control the carcass leaving a cwd zone.
I support moving the firearms portion of the deer season later in the year. First of December would be good. Much like KS and IA; Game farms need to be double fenced or NOT EXIST; No crossbows.
I have concerns about the spread of CWD and how it is impacting the wild deer herd. Game farms need to have double fences to keep captive deer away from wild deer. Deer need to remain to be considered wild game under the management of the MDC. They should not be considered livestock; archery season should not include crossbows; move gun season to the 1st

week of December;
Move firearms season out of the rut. Saturday after Thanksgiving; Reduce hunting firearm days; move youth season out of pre-rut period; 42 days of gun fire is way too much!
Would like to see an extended youth season (1 week vs. 2 days)-gives more time to harvest; Would like to see crossbows allowed for any season; Thanks to MDC for your hard work, appreciated this open forum, keep up the good work!
I am an avid bow hunter but am ok with crossbows allowed during the archery season, especially for over 50 year olds; Moving season later is a good idea.
Limit deer harvest.
I understand the reasoning behind wildlife damage permits. But I feel when a farmer receives 2 of them and the local conservation agent refuses the third that should be the end of it. In my area this happened. The farmer then contacted his state representative who then contacted one of the higher ups in MDC and the agent was forced to issue the permit. I know this wasn't isolated and it happens statewide. Sad thing is that the deer were left to rot and the famer's crops failed because of the 2012 drought. Missourian's have pride in the fact that politics are not involved in conservation...we thought!
Don't keep deer in pens.
Reduce firearm season duration; Move firearm season out of the rut; Keep antler point restriction.
No crossbows.
No crossbows.
Going from unlimited antlerless permits to one seems pretty drastic. It will make it hard for me. I typically harvest 2 does to butcher. If I get a buck, I usually donate the meat to share the harvest. With the change, I may need to use my any deer tag for a 2nd doe and forfeit the chance at a buck (I don't bow hunt); I hunt Boone County, which has been under antler restrictions for many years. I like it and hope it continues; I vote to leave the timing of November firearms season as is; The changes seem to be a statewide reaction to regional issues. I still see large groups of does where I hunt; The last Mo Conservationist stated that it was a goal of the Department to encourage antlerless harvest. I don't see reducing the limit of antlerless tags to one and considering eliminating the antlerless season as steps toward that goal; Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.
I think our deer season has been too liberal i.e. limit; Overtake, combined with EHD has hurt our population. I saw zero deer on the property I own in St. Clair County Missouri on the opening weekend of firearms season. I do not like the 4 point rule. It hasn't made a difference in big bucks but people shoot little eight point deer because they are legal; The crossbow should not be allowed. It is a poaching weapon and doesn't aid hunter recruitment; I don't support a 1 buck limit; Moving the deer season a week later for gun season would be okay; No crossbows in special hunts.
No crossbows outside the gun season! If crossbows are allowed, I will support the repeal of the

conservation tax!
The antler point restriction should be removed. Every year I see 150# to 180# spikes I cannot legally shoot. I need meat not antlers!
I have concerns about the spread of CWD and how it is impacting the wild deer herd. Game farms need to have double fences to keep captive deer away from wild deer. Deer need to remain to be considered wild game and under the management of the MDC. They should not be considered livestock. Archery season should NOT include crossbows. Move gun season to 1st week of December.
NO to crossbows for all archery. Need to be for medical reasons.
NO to department of agriculture having control of any part of deer management.
Need to do away with 4 point reg. Glad to see that they put a limit on does. PS if they don't do away with 4 point reg the need to put an age limit 18 to 60.
I believe the Department of Conservation needs to eliminate the 4 point restriction on bucks and I am glad to see they put a limit on does to keep some people from shooting deer that don't even eat them. I would also like to see a bounty put on coyotes to save the young deer.
Crossbow regulations should stay the same - use for handicap & the alternative methods season; Increase acreage requirement for landowner permits; Reduce buck permits to one per year or, at the very least, one per season; I support new regulations on captive deer; Shotguns are just as accurate as rifles and should be kept in the regular gun season; As far as changing the gun season, I think the one buck per year will have the same result; I'm not a fan of the youth hunt.
I support use of crossbows for archery; I support getting rid of antlerless only season & moving gun season to a later date; I would like to see all day spring turkey season with bows only.
One buck for bow & one buck for gun.
Move deer season back a week; Eliminate doe season - let herd build up; Do away with point system (antlers), at least let people shoot a buck of choice-give kids & young hunters a chance to shoot a deer; Too much deer season - herd getting smaller; Give other hunters (coon, trappers, etc.) a chance - open season earlier like it used to be Nov 10th - it opens Nov 5 in Illinois, next door. Also, it would help ground nesting birds out.
Move Nov season back a week; Eliminate doe season; Let kids & new hunters shoot anything - no point limit (all seasons); We need to open raccoon season earlier like years ago to help turkeys and quail (ground nesting birds out) open Nov 5-10 like old days; Have early dog running season for coons.
Crossbow use support; Cut down gun hunting time; Move gun to latter day; Split gun season to begin buck then go to anything.
Eliminate 4 point restrictions. I prefer smaller deer for eating and do not want to shoot all does.
No crossbows in bow season. If you want to expand use of crossbows, allow them in muzzleloader season. In bow season, they would increase harvest - shorter season.
Crossbows fine.
Crossbows are fine; One buck only bow or gun!
Leave things alone.

Prefer that crossbows remain the same, medical certificate (exempt) only.
Youth season should be antlerless only. There is no way some of the children pictured in local papers are old enough to actually shoot a rifle on their own; Is there a minimum age for hunting? There should be if not; Consider having an antlerless season first so there is less hunting pressure for those of us willing to take a doe.
I support use of crossbows for archery; I support getting rid of antlerless only season and moving gun season to a later date; I would like to see all day spring turkey season with bows only.
1 buck only; Move season 1 week.
Move season back (great): One buck limit; Limit tags more.
The members of the MVHFA would like to congratulate and thank the MDC for the methodology used this year in proposals to alter deer management. The rapid response to last year's harvest numbers and the openness to working with stakeholders is to be commended. Especially noteworthy, is the extra efforts to educate the public about the changes and willingness to seek input on management of deer population. The MVHFA supports the proposals and the professional wildlife management of the MDC.
I feel the doe season should stop due to the number of deer I have seen on my farm.
Move gun season back one week-yes; 1 buck per year- yes; Crossbows-yes; Youth season - leave it the same; Antlerless season-drop it; Alternative methods-allow shotguns; Antler restrictions-keep it. Thanks for all that the Dept. is doing for sportsmen, wildlife, and youth. We have youth season, what about ladies only.
My parents live on the Linn, Macon, Adair, Sullivan counties line. It has made deer hunting more difficult but I understand the importance of controlling CWD. Deer confined or not are wildlife once they escape a pen they cannot be easily separated or I'd as "captive." Livestock are cattle, chickens, sheep, goats, hogs, and horses. When you look in a "farm" book, deer aren't in there. I'm opposed to the new ruling and support higher captive wildlife standards.
There is a large amount of deer in Marion & Ralls counties. I don't think you should change the limits of harvest also should make youth season longer, kids have a lot going on these days.
Do away with farm tags; Limit all landowners to 1 deer of either sex, cut back on all of the extra tags.
Limit the total number of tags available for antlered and antlerless deer. As well as nonresident tags; Move rifle season back to decrease harvest numbers of the rapidly declining deer population.
I would like to see fewer tags issued; Possibly a 2 buck limit; Either 1 with a bow, 1 with a gun, or 2 with a bow. Antlerless tags issued by county herd status to help control the population as needed.
I do not want to see crossbows allowed during the archery season. I don't mind hunters with an injury or disability use them but let's keep it at that. The technique when shooting a crossbow is more like a gun than a bow. It's cocked and loaded, ready to shoot. You don't have the challenge of trying to get drawn back on a deer without being detected like you do with a regular bow. Not to mention you have a scope on most xbows and are able to use a shooting rest. For those who

want them, allow them during the alternative season.
No crossbows in Archery season, if people need help hunting because of an injury, that's fine. Crossbows are too much of an advantage and an insult to the true bowhunters. Tag limits should be limited to one buck one doe for both the 1st and 2nd seasons of archery. Not unlimited amount of doe tags.
I believe firearms season should be moved back a few weeks out of the rut. NO CROSSBOWS during archery season. Limit total number of tags available.
I am in favor of crossbows during archery season.
Allow nonresident landowners to get doe tags (more) in proportion to acres owned.
Leave limits the way they were. Allow crossbows.
Allow nonresidents more discretion in managing their property.
No youth season! This season sends big buck into hiding before main season; Need to be six points on one side (min); Muzzleloader 1st weekend only, then rifles can be allowed!; Better communication between farmer and hunter in any area!; Late season (Dec.) big buck only!; No does.
I support moving youth season to early Oct.; I'm in favor of one antler restriction; I'm also in favor of moving one firearms season back a week.
I am in favor of crossbow use during archery season. I would like to see antler restrictions in gun season only. Not in archery season.
Oct. Muzzloader only. Really like the alternative season (handgun). Glad you moved antlerless season out of Jan into Nov. Dec would be okay also.
I support moving youth season to early October. I would be in favor of changing archery limit to one antlered deer and keeping current limit of one antlered buck from firearm season. I do not support one antlered deer for all methods. I support antler restriction and would be in favor of moving firearms season back one week. I support allowing crossbows during archery season.
Please allow residents with a lot of acres to buy and fill more antlerless doe tags.
Need to give landowners of large tracts of land some latitude in managing deer numbers on their land. I own 1000 acres & neighbor has 1500 acres adjacent. Limiting doe kill to 1/hunter won't get it without opening land up to others who will shoot bucks too.
Yes, allow crossbows during archery season; Youth 15 & under should be allowed to harvest any deer (no point restriction) during any open season; Ok to include shotguns during alternative methods season; Keep antlerless seasons; Remove 4-point rule; Reduce archery season to 1 buck; No particular concern over moving regular season back, but keep the same number of days. Ok to extend past Thanksgiving; OK to manage by county or management units if you need to.
Push rifle season back to first Saturday in December; #2 buck limit for all seasons combined; Keep doing what you're doing, need to contain the CWD zone like you have been doing.
No changes to bag limits; do away with the 8 point.
I would like to see firearms season one week later.

Would like to see crossbows legal during archery season.
Allow crossbows during archery seasons.
Allow crossbows in only a portion of the archery season; Possibly add a traditional only season; Move rifle season at least 1 week later; 1 buck is good, but 1 buck archery and 1 buck rifle would do about the same; Keep APRS statewide; Antlerless harvest managed by county is a positive; Eliminate antlerless.
In order to help facilitate abidance of the law, in each county pass out x# of MDC logo magnets to stick on car doors and give impression of more wardens than there really are. Decoys as it were.
If the antlerless season is eliminated, could the regular season be extended to keep the crowds down? If we have a short season we who hunt on CA's will see added pressure; I think the point restriction is putting a lot more pressure on does and may have to be suspended a couple years till the does come back; I think with better weather conditions the herd will come back quickly. The dry last few years really hurt the herd because of the gnats and the disease they cause. Mainly stay flexible.
Agree with all except removal of point restrictions.
We have 100A in Caldwell Co. We have had it 33 years. The antler restriction has prevented us from taking deer since it began. We now have very few deer in this area and what is happening is hunters are unable to find legal bucks as they shoot the does. I believe the decline of game on our farm is caused primarily by CRP. What used to be grain fields on 3 sides of our farm is now CRP. There is nothing for game to eat to make it thru winter. Our farm used to have an abundance of game. I want the antler restriction omitted for Caldwell Co!
General buck tag, method that is open weapon used one total buck with APR; Raise fee out of state; Move firearm to first Saturday after Thanksgiving; Give hunters 3 notice for hunters to plan ahead.
Do allow crossbows during archery season; Move gun season out of the rut; Allow 1 buck for gun and 1 buck for archery; Maintain APR and make it statewide.
I do not think crossbows should be allowed for a certain age limit. The thrill of bow hunting in being that close, over time I also think it would restrict tags as more used crossbows. The possibility scares me.
My suggestion is to require one antlerless per antlered take. Where I hunt in NW DeKalb Co I see an overabundance of does and small bucks.
If a "telecheck app" is ever implemented, maybe require a photo consisting of hunter, deer, and tag.
As a landowner who puts a lot of time and money into deer management. I would hate to see a one buck per year limit. Keep it one firearms one bow. Don't move gun season back a week either.
Every 3rd or 4th year you should open the 4 point rule to get rid of culls.
Offer a traditional only archery season before regular season.
Increase price on nonresident tags have lottery draw for nonresidents.

Don't move rifle season; bowhunters have enough opportunity; one deer limit is fine; If you put muzzleloader season back to where it was (thanksgiving) it will also get you increased hunter days-no need to move rifle season; Does will get bred-you don't see does without fawns this time of year-don't need to move season; Small game hunters are not a factor anymore.
Support crossbows in archery season/maybe restrict cb to one antlered deer and still allow bow to take 2. I think youth season should be left in early Nov//late Oct; I think antlerless portion should go back to 2 or 4 days, or suspended until #s need reduced by hunters again; I support moving main deer season to a one week later shift.
Archery season Oct 1st - Dec 1st; Gun season Dec 10th-Jan 31st (reduce firearms season to 9 days. Dec 1 - 10th).
Do not allow crossbows during archery.
Don't allow crossbows during archery season.
Do not change anything on bow hunting!
No to crossbows.
Limit tags to 1 buck tag/hunter.
One archery (buck) tag after hunter; Start season Oct 1st -Jan 31; Make turkey tags optional.
Every archer I know is opposed to crossbows in archery season. Hunters can prolong participation by using crossbows during alternative seasons and rifle season. A later general season would be much better for the deer population even two weeks later.
Do not allow crossbows during archery; Move November portion out of rut; Eliminate antlerless portion; Raise tag price on nonresidents.
Youth portion in early Oct; Move rifle season to early Dec (priority #1); Base doe tags on county by county; Limit the # of nonresident tags and make it a lottery draw for nonresidents.
DO NOT allow crossbows during archery season; Leave Nov season as is; Do not allow shotguns or black powder cartridges as alternative methods; Eliminate youth portion altogether! Some kids I see in the paper that have killed deer are too small to hold a rifle.
NO to crossbows. Will be too many idiots like in rifle season; limit antlerless tags to 2 for rifle; Limit antlerless to 4 for bow.
No crossbows
Do not move the Nov rifle season out of the rut; Allow more than 1 buck all seasons combined; Do not remove antler restrictions; Limit antlerless county by county.
Do not move Nov portion out of the rut; Do allow only one buck harvested in all seasons; do not remove the APR; Do limit antlerless harvest county by county.
Thank you for giving me HOPE!!! Move firearms season to Dec 1st; Protect button bucks.
As a deer hunter I'm seeing a sad situation. My daughters have seen barely any deer. I want them to have more the older they get. The deer population needs to rise. APR-GONE, Antlerless-GONE. Let them grow and replenish PLEASE!
I am a trophy hunter who just misses the deer. Please bring back the numbers in (Holt Co, MO). Jason, please help us!
Push back gun season to December.

Change gun season to December.
Move gun season back and be allowed 1 antlered deer.
Don’t' move season back an additional week; Keep doe season; 1 buck total.
I think we should check stations. Too much poaching.
Go back to check stations.
I am 44 years old and can no longer ethically use legal archery equipment to hunt deer. For that reason I have stopped archery hunting. With the use of a crossbow I could once again enjoy archery season. Please make this possible for hunters at least over 40 years old.
Allow crossbows during archery; Allow only 1 buck to be harvested; Make antler point restriction statewide; Keep antler restriction in place.
Allow only 1 buck to be harvested all season combined. Keep antler point restriction; Limit antlerless harvest on a county by county basis.
Youth season in Oct; Move Nov season out of rut; Be allowed one buck for both muzzloading and center fire; Antlerless harvest by counties; Charge more for nonresidents.
Should be allowed one buck all year; Move Nov portion out of rut; Make APR statewide.
Allow only 1 buck to be harvested.
Crossbow by health permit only; Shotgun with black powder ok; Keep point for 2 more years NWMO; Antlerless to 2 per hunter; Reduce out of state hunters.
Please move firearm season back; Do not eliminate buck tag to 1; 1 bow & 1 rifle would not change seasons impact; Do away with doe season; Have youth season no longer in Jan (too cold)
Increase nonresident permits.
How can MDC educate municipalities on allowing more "urban" hunting? Many city council members, mayors, are uneducated about the damage done and ways citizens could enjoy helping their communities.
Continue antler restrictions; reduce harvest a lot for few years. I've hunted deer in MO since 1968 and the past 2 years are getting close to those days for numbers and quality.
Remove the antler point restriction leave rifle season as is now.
Move firearms to post Thanksgiving; Presently one buck limit would be great; I own two properties 1-17a Buchanan Co and 205 in Gentry Co. In Buck Co, on Route W where I live, we saw our first deer this spring (3) in 1.5 yrs.
I believe the firearms season needs moved out of November to the first week of December. Also believe youth season should be the first week of October.
I believe hunters should just be allowed one doe with archery and one with firearm methods.
I agree with lowering deer permits to rebound from diseases.
No opinion on crossbows; Not sure what the rational would be for moving the Nov portion back a week, I tend to support the current dates; I support whatever the science says for the elimination or reduction of the antlerless portion. I support whatever the biology says about archery season or a one buck annual limit; general support APR.
How do you know population trends?
All herd management plans are worthless if we do not control the CWD by removing all deer/elk

farms
Landowners should have their own 2 day season; Buck and doe season should be separate days and seasons; Do not set the firearm season later. It should be moved up in the month; The bow season should stop one week before firearm season; 1 buck per hunter per year.
Think you should go back to some presentations for the annual meetings.
No crossbow during archery; Yes move Nov firearm out of rut; Do not remove APR; No do not eliminate antlerless portions; 1 buck archery; 1 buck firearms; Alternate methods should include shotgun & black powder.
1 buck for archery, 1 for rifle; Should allow for crossbows; Should allow muzzleloader for alternative method; Would like to see more agents in the field. Go back to check stations. Population going down, when agents left the "field"; Move out of the rut and move youth to Oct.
Move rut to Dec.
Move youth to Oct or Sept; Keep doe only season; Keep buck harvest at least 2. MO has plenty. Plus, other states like IA allow 3; Keep APR; Doe harvest by county or by what private ownership dictated.
Please consider moving gun season back at least one week later.
I believe one buck for archery and one for gun.
Crossbows should be allowed for the 50 & older hunters.
Move the firearms portion out of the rut to ensure a healthier deer pop.; Make youth season 1 week long during pre-rut; Adjust bag limits of deer according to county; 2 buck limit for firearms/archery/alternative combined.
Put youth deer season at the end of regular season. You know what is happening?!
Need more areas along the MO River to be archery only. (Atchison & Holt counties). Over ran with out of state firearms hunters. Need to be a draw system for out of state to hunt these public area.
I think it just right. Maybe reduce the price of tags.
Remove 4 pt rule; Create mistake tag during season or cull tag-post season culling tag; Move rifle season to December out of the peak rut.
Open season on Monday instead of Saturday-safety first; 2 bucks only per hunter 1 rifle, 1 archery; Raise price of out of state tags to equal other states.
2 youth weekend before firearms season; 30-40 acres min on landowner tags.
Get rid of all deer and elk farms or our deer hunting is going to be gone soon.
I think localized management is a great ideal for overpopulation of deer in some areas.
Have firearm season the last week of Nov. Let all of the older deer do the breeding. Older bucks will have a higher chance of getting older. Better chance of archery hunters getting a bigger deer.
Keep crossbows and archery except for health reasons.
Limit out of state to archery or firearm not both; Make a draw system for out of state hunters; For instance, they must apply for the public land they choose to hunt NWMO public land along the MO River is over ran with out of state hunters in November; More archery only areas please.
Localize CWD and located counties most affected by EHD and regulate those areas more

strictly.
Very cool, good info.
Great displays. Thank you for your time.
Increase doe harvest; let us shoot at least 2 bucks per farm management plan
Shoot one doe before allowed to shoot a buck.
Push rifle season back into December to allow mature bucks to regain their wits.
Do not allow crossbow hunting during archery season unless the person is handicap. Anyone can learn to shoot a bow.
I would like to see point restrictions continue throughout the state.
Not as many tags allowed to individual hunter; More guided hunts for youths and education for children during summers; Eliminate black powder from Pigeon Hill, Buchanan co.

Appendix B. Online Comments

I am strongly against the proposed changes in the archery regulations concerning the use of crossbows! Crossbows have no place in the archery season, yes they are a primitive weapon, but they should only be allowed in the archery season for the same reasons as you have always laid out, those not physically able to use a standard bow. This change will only allow the people who are too lazy to invest the time to practice and become proficient to hunt during the archery season. I am 62 years old and still hunt with a 60# recurve, there may come a time when I can't shoot that bow anymore, I will then get myself a lighter bow. We are forced to share most of our season with other hunters as it is, please don't make us share the whole season. For true bow hunters it is about doing what they love, not about the kill or making it easier, for a lot of us it is the only method we use, even during the firearms season. We already accept the handicap, if you want to call it that, but please don't force another handicap on us by making us compete with crossbows. No true bow hunter would hunt with a crossbow, it will only be the people concerned with killing and the easier and faster the better. Those people who are in need of the use of a crossbow because of physical reason are welcome, keep it that way!
Would the conservation commission ever consider a late October doe portion season or harvest doe only the first five days of the 11 day season and hunt for bucks only the last six days of the 11 day season. This would eliminate the antlerless portion which is too long of a season to begin with. And you lose hunting pressure when seasons are that lengthy or certain hunters are for antler only hunting because these hunting shows characterize big horns for their walls or lodges when most hunters enjoy venison for food not hanging antlers on the wall and venison donated to local food banks
As a lifelong hunter I support regulation of our wildlife for future generations. I hunt all seasons but spend the most time hunting deer as a family outdoor tradition. In 2009 a disability caused me not to be able to bow hunt as I had done my entire life. My only option was a crossbow. Getting a permit to use one has been an extra expense on my already strained budget because I had to make an appointment to have my doctor fill out the form. He would always insist waiting till closer to season to fill out the form. With the speeds and accuracy of the new compound bow technology crossbows are no longer an advantage over them. All a crossbow allows is to let people like I enjoy hunting without having special permission to do so. I believe it allows handicapped people the equal privilege of hunting a season that non-handicapped hunters already enjoy. Respectfully C. H.
I am in support of the following proposals: Allowing crossbows during the archery season; moving the firearms season 1 week later in Nov; eliminating the antlerless portion of the firearms season; restrict buck harvest to only 1/year/person regardless of weapon.

Great article in the Conservationist. As a landowner that manages property primarily for wildlife (Macon County) I have a keen interest in deer management. I will sure try to make a meeting but wanted to comment here as well. I like the idea of moving the rifle season back a week. I am a traditionalist and this is a big deal for sure but it's a good idea. The long doe season is a mistake and most definitely negatively impacts quail hunting. Limiting doe harvest to 2 or 3 per year seems like plenty. One question I have is that I used to read that spike bucks and poorly antlered young deer would never develop into good heads. Is this true? If it is, I don't like the antler point restrictions. If this is not true then most definitely keep the antler point restriction in place. I have commented plenty on high fence in the past but surely requiring the reporting of dying deer and double fencing is not too much a burden to protect our wild deer. I don't think it matters much if crossbows are legal during archery season but I am no expert on it. I do know that modern bows are amazingly effective. I would think that one buck with a bow and one with a rifle would be enough. Deer are so valuable and so much funding comes from the deer seasons that this is really an important discussion. Thank God that our conservation department is not political like the other states. You all do a great job and I sincerely appreciate all that you do for us.
I moved to Missouri from Illinois about 5 years ago. I absolutely love the hunting seasons and regulations of this state. You have done an excellent job. My concern is the poaching. I have heard of people that spotlight, others that shoot deer off the back of a 4 wheeler, and others that use dogs. This is both unsportsmanlike and a hindrance for those of us that obey the regulations in hopes for a better herd of deer. I think that the best management plan would be to enforce current regulations.
Having just turned 69, I am in favor of crossbows being legalized for archery season.
Please at least make youth hunters able to use crossbows during archery season. That would be a great way to recruit new hunters. My daughter who is 7 cannot pull a compound bow but she can shoot a crossbow. Also please move rifle season out of the peak rut. Look at Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois. There is a reason they don't have firearm season during peak rut. Rifle season being moved back one week would make a huge difference.
First I want to applaud the Department for your efforts on behalf of the landowners, sportsmen, youth, and wildlife of Missouri. You are doing a great job. Crossbows-I would prefer to not have them included as legal archery equipment for everybody, but I do agree with the current medical exemptions. If they did become legal I would probably try one, but I think that something special about archery season would be lost Antlerless Season-I don't think that we need it. Doe harvest might remain the same or go up without it, because some hunters pass on does during the regular firearm season then never get around to going back out later. Delaying firearms season a week-We have harvested a number of mature, 140"+ type bucks on

our farm. The best chances for those kinds of bucks come during youth season, Nov. 7 & 8 with a bow, during the second half of firearms season, or in December on a hot food source. Our mature bucks are almost always locked down with does and off the radar from Nov. 9-16. If we see a big one then it usually because we happened to get right in the cover where he is holed up with a doe. But, there are 2 yr. old bucks parading everywhere getting hammered. I have become in favor of moving the season back to protect the 2 & 3 year old bucks. Antler restriction has definitely helped our yearlings make it. That Nov. 17-22 time frame will be even better for hunting mature bucks when it is the opening weekend and after two years there will be more of them. I know that you are trying to balance things for a lot of different interests, but for me and my hunters we want monster bucks to enjoy throughout the year and to match wits with in the fall. I also like the idea of firearms season over Thanksgiving break from school, college, and work. Landowner tags-I'm a significant landowner but I also buy a resident tag because I often hunt on neighbors or family members that are not immediate. I can assure you that it is common practice to use landowner permits "liberally. Other thoughts- I love deer hunting, but the coon, rabbit, and quail hunters have paid a big price because of deer mania and they should definitely be considered part of the equation when setting deer regulations. Thanks for reading.
I hunt in Osage and Maries County primarily in Osage. I strongly believe we need to limit the harvesting off antlerless deer. Not only because of does but also button bucks. The summer of 2012 was devastating on our deer herd. We definitely do not need unlimited firearms, antlerless tags, or antlerless only seasons. I want to see more mature bucks and I think if we would follow some of Iowa's seasons and regulations we would have more. The state of Missouri should try (for a couple years) putting firearms deer season the first week of December and I think our mature buck sightings would double. Where I hunt the bucks don't have a chance to get mature because during November firearms they all get shot because they're still chasing does. Last I would like to also say I strongly disagree with crossbows being used during archery season. It's way easier to kill a deer with a crossbow. If someone wants to archery hunt they should use a compound or recurve. Thanks for giving Missouri hunters the chance to express their opinions on the seasons and regulations.
My comments are in response to the Deer Management Plan article in the June "Conservationist": 1. Do not move the firearms season over Thanksgiving week. For the large number of people that must travel to visit family, you will reduce opportunity to hunt, not increase it. 2. The antler point restriction in Ste. Genevieve County is a disaster. Your charts showing the significant decline in that county's deer numbers are telling. Beyond satisfying only that segment that think a deer is "worth" harvesting if it has over 8 points, if that regulation's only

real management objective is to increase doe harvest, please eliminate in Ste. Genevieve County so that reasonable herd numbers can be restored. This "horn hoarder" mentality we've evolved into misses the real spirit of the hunt, when any deer harvested should be considered a "trophy".
I think MDC does a great job and will abide by your plan
Please do not open up archery season for cross-bow hunters. If you do, you may as well open it up for rifles too because it's the same thing.
Crossbows as a tool for keeping older hunters active. I have been hunting with a handicap permit for four years. If not for the crossbow I wouldn't be able to hunt. I was an active compound user for years and I can tell you the crossbow is not an advantage. It is heavy, harder to carry, clumsier, and noisy. The effective range is no greater than the newer compounds. If I could go back to the compound I would, but by using the crossbow I can still hunt at 65 years of age. I would like to see hunters have the choice of what they can use crossbow or compound, without having to go to a doctor for a permit. Thank you for listening.
After reading the article in the Conservationist I thought I needed to get online and comment since I will not be able to attend one of the open houses. First I am absolutely against moving the rifle season back to include Thanksgiving. First I think staying with the traditional opener is important to maintaining the traditions built up over the past decades. I also think that having the firearms season during the peak rut gives the opportunity to harvest a mature trophy to the most Missouri hunters, since there are more firearm hunters than archery. There are elitist archery hunters that complain every year about rifle season being in the peak rut, but that is just because of selfish reasons on their part. There is no sound population management reason to move the firearm season. Also I believe fewer people will be able to hunt as many hours if the season was in Thanksgiving week. Vacation time will be harder to get as you will be competing with non-hunters and family obligations will keep folks away from hunting. Another topic is the antlerless season. If we are going to continue this season I think it would best serve us to have an early season sometime in October. Maybe three days. This would thin out the doe population before peak rut and probably make the rut more intense as competition for the fewer numbers of does would be greater among bucks. I personally think deer numbers are very low in Dallas county and would like to see antlerless season abandoned. I would agree with allowing crossbows during archery season. I can see no management reason not to allow them, and this could attract new hunters into the sport. Lastly the biggest hurdle for all deer hunters is the lack of access to quality hunting grounds. Missouri's public lands are, for the most part over pressured, during a big part of the hunting seasons. Fewer people have connections with friends and family on farms and they have no place to hunt. I think that if Missouri doesn't get creative in opening new hunting lands, such as doing something like walk in hunting areas in Kansas, the next generation of hunters will

disappear. Private landowners are no longer willing to give away hunting access, nor should they. The hunting community is going to have to accept paying for land access and be willing to help fund Walk In or similar programs in Missouri.
I just read the proposed season changes in the magazine. I would like to express my opinion as a deer hunter, coon hunter and trapper. I would like to see the rifle season portion moved out of the rut phase. Make the last 12 days of November the firearms portion. However, this would also include the muzzleloader portion. If someone wants to muzzleloader hunt, do that during the firearms portion. Other outdoorsmen are limited to their trips afield due to the ongoing seasons. I would like to see all deer seasons end at the end of firearms season. This allows deer hunters approximately two and a half months to purse their quarry which is equal to the furbearer season. I would also allow for furbearer season to remained closed until Dec 1 and run until Feb 15. This will almost resolve the conflicts between the two parties. Thank you. R.
In my opinion one factor complicating management is the recent explosion of so called outfitters. They tie up huge areas of many counties and at that point any management plan is voided. These operations only exist by promising trophy buck kills, they don't sell doe hunts, they don't promote any sportsmanship, and they bring very little to the local economy. Why couldn't MDC out bid these parasites and then manage those acres as far hunting pressure per area. It would be an opportunity to put the so called city hunter in a specific area at a specific time with an opportunity to harvest a deer in a controlled situation. It gets the landowner of the hook as far as monitoring and overseeing and it would give MDC great management abilities on a county by county basis. I realize this sort of plan would take lots of planning and would be difficult to implement but it could be done, the outfitters are doing the easy parts now buy securing the land leases and getting hunters on the properties, they just don't care about the management of the resources. These folks are creating ever increasing problems in our northeast Missouri area. They are confrontational with adjoining landowners and the small acreage owners as well as any local hunters. Many of them operate under the policy of another sucker is born every day and really take great advantage of their clients. While I suppose that on the surface doesn’t affect me it certainly is a poor reflection on our area and state to those being taken advantage of. Thank you to allowing me a place to express an opinion.
I am very disappointed that there are new regulations on doe permits. If you look back 30+ years ago Texas tried this and the following year’s deer died from over population because of food and water supply shortages, leading to rotting corpses and disease. As long as I drive Missouri highways and see dead deer (hit by vehicles) every few miles, I wonder why on earth would you restrict the taking of does? This makes no sense. I hunt on 660+ acres private property in Pike county and we have never taken over 10 does and 3 bucks in any given year. The owner has constantly made improvements for better deer and we do not shoot any bucks under 5 years. Now you are going to restrict us to 3 female deer on these 660+ acres...your decision is flirting with disaster. Just for note the combined hunting seasons for buck and doe without any break was also a bad move. I do support conservation but this is wrong! Maybe

you guys are over thinking?
The tele-check method of checking deer harvested in the field is ineffective at best. Over the past several years I've seen many immature deer, buck and doe alike taken by hunters at deer processing locations. The prolonged deer hunting season is a much to blame with the deer herd decline. As are the diseases presently infecting the deer population in general. Unfortunately the spike in deer hunting popularity and big business involvement are bad for the deer
My family owns a 100 acre farm in Gasconade County. We bow hunt as well as rifle hunt. We have made see the quality of our deer and hunting experiences greatly increase in the past 4 years or so for reasons that I will outline below. I hope to attend the St. Louis Open House on June 23rd. I wanted to share my thoughts here in case I am unable to attend. First, I would like to say that I strongly agree with the 4 primary goals of the deer management plan in terms of a statewide plan. I wanted to comment more specifically on the proposed new regulations. I am in favor of allowing easier access to crossbows during the archery season. My father is in his late sixties and his archery career would be extended by using a crossbow. I also have nephews that may use it as they begin hunting. I do not support the elimination of the antlerless firearms portion. We try to keep our sex ratio balanced on our farm and there has been several times when we needed to take a doe late in the season and the antlerless portion allowed us to do so. I also support moving the November firearms portion one week later. We bow hunt on our farm and would still be able to hunt during the peak of the rut. It would also allow for more hunting over the Thanksgiving holiday. When it comes to buck harvest we have greatly benefited from the antler point restriction. We have been able to harvest 2.5-5.5 year old deer on a farm that never saw a deer over 1.5 years until the antler point restriction. It has been the greatest positive impact on the deer hunting at our farm. For this reason I support the reduction in total bucks an individual could harvest. I also support limiting localized management efforts and decreasing the number of antlerless tags that are giving in a single county. I am most excited about the possibility of a Deer Management Assistance Program! We have attempted to establish a Quality Deer Cooperative with our surrounding landowners. Some progress has been made in terms of communication but it has strongly lacked structure. I would love to see a similar program established with the help of MDC. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. A. K.
I understand deer management is complicated with a variety of considerations, including urban versus rural management, hunter and landowner differences of opinion, among other conflicts, but one area I fail to understand is expanding archery season to include crossbows, particularly on a statewide basis.

When looking at the population maps and trends by county, it is clear only two counties in the state indicate having too many deer. The remaining counties are about right to too few; in addition, for most of the same counties the population trend is stable to decreasing. Adding another method to encourage additional hunting opportunities at this time seems illogical. I have only known a few people who used a cross bow during archery season and every one of them were not archery hunters on a regular basis, but used a minor medical excuse to obtain a medical exemption as an attempt to get an early opportunity at a big buck using more advanced equipment. I don't think there is a doctor around who really has conservation in mind when granting these exemptions and most will grant a medical exemption if asked, no matter what the situation. It seems if the department is considering expanding the season to include crossbows it should be limited to urban areas that are overpopulated. I understand there are legitimate medical reasons for considering cross bows, but it seems this is highly abused and given the populations trends makes no sense on a statewide basis.
In regards to the proposal about starting firearms deer season one week later to incorporate the Thanksgiving holiday. I'm OPPOSED to that proposal for the following reasons: As a hunter, husband, and father it will prohibit me from hunting over the Thanksgiving holiday for 5 days as my family travels to visit family out of state. The worst part of is my 12 year old son will lose the opportunity to hunt those days. The article in the Conservationist states historically there is an increase in hunting days when it falls over Thanksgiving, that may have been true 30 years ago, but now there is Black Friday, high school basketball starts, and families travel more over the 4 day holiday. I have spoken to over a dozen fellow hunters and they too do not like this change for the same reason I have stated. I hope you keep the regulation the same so my family and along with my friends can continue to spend more time in the "deer woods". Thank you
I think crossbows should be legal for archery season. I would like to see the antlerless only rifle season eliminated. No opinion on moving rifle season back a week.
I hunt for the enjoyment and the meat. I don't care about trophy bucks. Those that do helped create the antler restriction. That sometimes causes a hunter to possibly pass up the only shot they might have. That seems unfair, and doesn't help deer management as far as numbers go.
I just read where you are considering a restriction on buck harvest. I know it’s not up to us but I don’t like that idea. I would rather see a decrease in non-resident hunters I know where I hunt in Ripley Co they take several bucks out of the herd so I’m sure statewide it’s a significant number. I don’t think the residents who live in and support Mo should have to sacrifice something we live for when there could be other options. Thanks, E.
I support the proposed management approaches. I do not support the idea of including crossbows in the archery season. Although similar the two are not the same. Is it not enough that they are already allowed for spring turkey and alternative seasons? Furthermore I would like to express my support for the idea of limiting the total number of bucks an individual could harvest.

The states that have some of the better bucks have their gun seasons in December after the rut is over. In the past recent years I have seen a big increase in big bucks being killed because the rut is still in progress. At one time I was very opposed to cross bows during the regular archery season but feel it wouldn't matter that much. My main concern is people riding around on an ATV or in a vehicle with a cross cocked and a bolt in place. That to me should be not allowed because it would be no different than having a shell in the chamber of a gun. It could prove to be very dangerous. I live in Cedar county and we have enough people driving the roads instead of hunting like you should. I've been an archery hunter for 51 years and love it as much today as when I was 14 years old. I spend as much time in a tree as an average squirrel during the season and will continue as long as I'm able.
I support the change to allow the use of crossbows, I believe we can get more young kids started hunting and also the older hunters will be able to enjoy hunting longer as they age.
I have been deer hunting in Missouri since 1972. I have been a landowner since 1979. I would like to comment on some of the changes up for discussion. As far as crossbows go I believe approving them for all bow hunters will increase the number of bow hunters as well as the harvest. Changing the Nov. portion to the week of thanksgiving is a huge mistake. You tried this many years ago and it was very unpopular, that's why it only lasted one year. Consider this, thanksgiving falls on a Thursday so very few people will be able to hunt that day and very few have Friday off. In my case I live in St. Charles Co. and my farm is in Texas Co. I will have to leave wed morning and return Fri. morning this will result in a 2.5 day loss of hunting time for me and I'm sure others who take the week off from work to hunt. In addition it will cause me to use additional 17 gals of fuel. I already experience this with the alternative season since it was moved to the week of Christmas. Here again I don't know anyone who likes that change and I know a lot of hunters. I hunt deer with bow, modern firearms and muzzleloaders and have for many years so I have vast experience hunting deer in Mo. I often tell fellow hunters if the Dept. opens a rock season I will go out and chuck rocks at them. I believe the herd on my farm has decreased slightly but the deer look very healthy. I found no dead deer on my farm last year from disease. On a different note the turkey population also seems to be doing well as far as numbers and health go.
I'm 64 years old. I've been deer hunting in mo. for over 40 years. I hope you will do away with the antlerless portion of the deer season. It's a great idea. I think your plan to move the gun season to one week later is a good idea. The one thing I disagree with is allowing crossbows during archery season. I truly hope you will not do this. Thanks! G.
I suggest limiting deer hunters to one buck per year to include all methods of hunting and limit antlerless tags to 2 per hunter per season. Eliminate the point restrictions on bucks as too many hunters disregard it and just lie on the telecheck. Eliminate the youth hunts as too many adults just use this as the opportunity to get the first chance at the big bucks and junior never shoulders a gun. Youth developed the urge to hunt way before the youth hunt was set up to make them accomplices to violating game laws by the adults.

I think allowing crossbows is a great idea during archery season. I use to bow hunt every year but now that I'm in my 50's my shoulder gives me too much trouble to shoot my compound bow. The cost for doctor visits and an MRI on my shoulder so I could get a doctor's report for an exemption would be around $2,000.00 which I can't afford. I think moving deer season back a week so it is going on during Thanksgiving is a bad idea. There are too many family commitments at that time which would keep hunters from being able to hunt. Moving the muzzle loader season back to the week of Christmas has kept my sons and I from muzzle loader hunting since that change was made for the same reason. Thanks
As an archery hunter, I would like to express a few opinions on some of the issues regarding deer hunting. In regards to crossbows being allowed during archery season, I do not object to this. Crossbows do have a slight advantage over other bows but not to the extent that they pose an unfair advantage. I personally will not switch to one from my compound bow, but I know many people enjoy using them. As far as season changes go, I would like the gun season to be later in the month. I have to admit that as an archery hunter, this would give me a better chance to harvest a buck during the start of the rut. Archery is such a close up challenge that I don't feel this would reduce the buck population as dramatically as guns do at the start of the rut. As far as MDC changing availability of doe tags, number of bucks per season a hunter can harvest, antlerless seasons, etc. I feel these issues are best left to MDC. It has done a great job of managing our state's wildlife and I feel they always do what is best for the long term good of our wildlife. Finally, I'm not sure if this is the proper venue, but I would like to express my displeasure with "penned deer operations". I wish these types of operations were illegal and had never been allowed in our state. I see no good coming from them except for a few people to make money. I feel they do nothing but promote CWD and give legitimate hunters a bad name. I know both Mo. Houses passed legislation allowing them to come under Dept. of Ag. and I can only hope our Governor vetoes this bill. I have e-mailed him and asked him to do so. Thank you for allowing me to express my thoughts & keep up the great work that MDC has done since its inception. Yours truly, C. S.
First, thank you for all that MDC does. I think your organization does a great job balancing the diverse interests of all people that enjoy the outdoors. I fully support the suggested change to add crossbows (I do not plan to hunt with a crossbow - I have been an archery hunter in Missouri for well over 30 years, but if it opens opportunities for others, then that's great) I fully support the move of the firearms season to a week later (this is a step in the right direction) I also firearms hunt and agree with your assessment that a move later in the year will take some pressure off of breeding bucks and hopefully will keep a better balanced age structure and more does will get bred the "first time around" by the dominant buck. I would support an even later start (possibly the day of Thanksgiving or day after?? - that will still include the holiday as you mentioned in the article - it may also give residents a "head start" over non-residents in some cases as non-residents without family here may wait until the

weekend to hunt (I know you deal with that concern from some - I personally welcome the non-residents as it brings in much needed income to the state) It doesn't restrict non-residents from coming on Thanksgiving, but some may wait until the weekend unless they are celebrating with family here in MO and make an opening day hunt a part of their family tradition. I see a need to reduce the amount of antlered tags available to hunters in MO. I do not support a move to a one antlered tag system for RESIDENT hunters regardless of method. I suggest this instead; 1. For residents of Missouri - Reduce to one archery antlered tag (instead of two) and one other antlered tag available (if purchased and used during the prescribed season) for a maximum number of two antlered tags available. No more than one could be used for any prescribed method. 2. For non-residents of Missouri - In my opinion, it is rare and not the common thing for MDC to delineate between nonresidents and residents (other than tag cost) in deer regulation - HOWEVER, I believe this is the perfect opportunity to do so - only allow the harvest of one antlered deer regardless of the tag purchased for the whole season for nonresidents. As a matter of fact - raise the price of the tag proportionally and implement a one-tag system for nonresidents that is good for archery, firearms and alternative but only has one antlered tag available regardless of method of harvest. This in no way restricts access to Missouri for nonresidents, but it does show a bit of preference to our residents and will give MDC an opportunity to "test" a one antlered tag system. As you know, a lot of our neighboring states show much more preference to their residents and I think it is fine for us to do that a bit. I fully support the removal of the antlerless portion of the firearms season until the MDC sees a need for population reduction again. I fully support antlerless tag system changes for localized management. Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider my thoughts. S.P.
The one thing would consider is adding crossbows, but limiting at least a portion of the current archery season to current methods to encourage young hunters in future years to adopt either a traditional or compound bow method. I feel that separate methods are important to keep hunters engaged in the sport. I would also consider a traditional only portion starting sept 1. I think this would increase participation in both traditional methods and archery overall, and allow opportunity at velvet bucks. I am in favor of all of the other proposed changes.
AS A 70 YEAR OLD HUNTER, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE CROSSBOWS ALLOWED IN ARCHERY SEASON. Stop the antlerless portion of the season

It is critical for MDC to manage our buck population to allow them to reach maturity. No longer should people be encouraged to shoot immature bucks before they reach their prime. I live in Laclede County, am a farmer and hunter, and own land in Dallas County. Please, please, please, place the antler restriction in Laclede and Dallas County. Too many "little antlered" bucks are getting killed merely because they walk by fools who want to be able to tell their friends they "killed a buck". Many don't even eat them. If someone wants a deer for food and are not a trophy hunter, encourage them to harvest surplus does. Killing of immature bucks has to stop if you want to make Missouri a great hunting state know for good bucks like, Kansas, Illinois, and Iowa. I would like to hear from you on your thoughts on this subject.
My main concern is the one buck rule; this rule would not cause the 400,000 rifle hunters to be more selective. As you well know if they hunt rifle season only they already have one tag and probably either don't care what they put there any deer tag on or already selective. The only person this rule is going to affect are those of us that hunt archery and gun. I very much enjoy hunting from September - January, the thought of being tagged out in November archery on a good buck and not having the opportunity to continue to hunt for a buck in another phase of the season does not sit well with me nor a bunch of other hunters, especially those of us who don't hunt out of state. I'm a Missouri resident and I've made what I would consider big investments in purchasing ground to hunt on. Why not limit NR to the one buck limit if that's the direction you want to go, there should be a benefit for being a MO resident landowner, I don't need free tags but I should be able to expect to have more opportunity than a NR. I just can't see how 400,000 rifle hunters are going to be more selective than they already are and I don't think an archery hunter should be told if you tag a buck in archery season you are done buck hunting, especially the landowners who are out there doing the habitat improvement. You say crossbows are needed to provide more opportunity in one paragraph and then in another you want to take opportunity away from the bow hunter, doesn't make sense to me. I like seeing and shooting a nice buck but more than that I like having the chance to shoot a nice buck and be able to at least hunt in the hopes of taking another one. At the very least resident landowners should for damn sure being given an extra any deer tag. Thanks
We need to make the 4 point restriction state wide! We as hunters are begging you to do so. We really need it here in Laclede and Dallas county. There are way too many bucks getting killed before they reach maturity! Please consider this proposition for us avid hunters here in the great state of Missouri. Thanks!
VERY much against the use of crossbow during archery season and moving the rifle season during thanksgiving. (They did this one time before and it was not liked because a lot of people thought the hunters in family should be at home during this time.) VERY much in favor of limiting doe permits as you see a need to do so. Also Very much against allowing turkeys to be hunted after 1 pm.
Do not agree with the use of crossbow during archery season!! Strongly in favor of keeping antler restriction on bucks. DO NOT WANT TO HAVE RIFLE SEASON DURING THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING!!!! If you need to change it pick another time. Also Not in favor

of hunting turkey past 1 pm. it is too disruptive to nesting hens and only tends to chase birds out of area. I would like to say, the youth season is the best idea you have had in a long time, and the grand kids would agree!! (and every other kid my husband can find, he loves it more than hunting for himself
I think the Conservation commission should allow crossbow hunting during archery season. However, in order to not drastically affect buck harvest and overall deer harvest, I would recommend opening it to those over 65, who could benefit the most. Further restrictions could be applied like allowing the harvest of antlerless only, or even over 65 that are landowners such that the commission could monitor impact in a smaller population.
I think that the Nov. firearms season needs to be moved back a week. I do think that it will shift the harvest percentages and it would allow more young hunters more time afield during Thanksgiving break. I would also like to see a Sept. 1 opening date for archery season to allow a better chance for a velvet buck. There are only a handful of states that do open their seasons early enough for velvet to still be on. It would be an economic boost for Missouri and MDC to be one of the destination states for the rising popularity of hunting bucks in velvet.
I am for anything that protects are deer herds. I think the 4 point restriction should be state wide. As for managing the doe's us bow hunters harvest a doe before we can take a buck. the youth hunt should be the same must take a doe there first year and those that have not that already have been in the program must take a doe before they can proceed in taking a buck see a lot of pressure on are young hunters thinking they have to harvest something that scores big losing the whole tradition of hunting an just maybe dad done the harvesting taking it to another level that starts some awful habits for are future hunters. I think if we are really serious about the taking and or poaching of are trophy bucks we should follow are neighbors to the north large fines using the scoring system to state how much the fine should be if it’s good enough for their bucks it should be for ours as well I feel we really fail in this department when it comes to detouring those less honest. We need to send a strong message that we are serious about are trophy bucks. I feel all of this I have stated will make better hunters and protect our herds. Yours Truly K. J.
While I reside in Springfield I grew up in Kirksville and with the exception of my tour in the USN in the late 1960's I have hunted deer since 1962. I have to give the MDC credit for an outstanding job of deer management and can't really say I have any negative feedback. I have three items I wish to address. First, due to deteriorating shoulders I have used a cross bow to hunt deer the past 5 years. Second, I understand the thought process behind changing the 4 point rule in the 6 county containment zones due to the CWD problem. However, I would strongly urge re-instituting this policy as soon as you can. Third, I hunt on route H SW of Kirksville about 3 miles west of highway 3. In my opinion there have questionable herd management practices on the part of C & D farms that over the years led to an unbalanced herd in our area. And for years a very close neighbor was allowed to shoot large numbers of deer most of the entire year due to "crop damage." And earlier this

year I learned that perhaps another land owner on Highway 3 was given the ok to take this course of action due to crop damage. This problem is, we went from feast to famine from the 2012 to 2013 season. As I explained to one biologist in a letter earlier this year, 2012 was the best year ever in terms of deer sightings among the 5 in our party. I compared that year to a water faucet wide open. Then 2013 came along and the faucet could be compared to a drip. What is perplexing about the matter is that in talking with local hunters and landowners their experience was the same. And, there were virtually no signs of any disease hitting our herd. Thus, to sum up this point I would carefully review any requests for authorizing crop damage deer kills this and subsequent years. And in my opinion, the data supports this thought process. Thank you D.E.
Just sent comments in pertaining to deer season and as soon as I hit submit button I realized I may have omitted my position pertaining to item (1). In the event I failed to finish my thought process I want to insure you know that I support opening up cross bows for future archery seasons. Thanks
My wife and I are landowners in North Western Missouri but currently are living and working out-of-state. We have both lived, hunted and fished in Missouri since we were children. We are happy to see that MDC is finally looking at some aggressive changes to business as usual in the show me state! Here are my family's observations/wish lists for Missouri deer hunting in no particular order: 1. Make Missouri a one buck per hunter state, regardless of weapon. 2. Don't bother delaying the Nov rifle if you plan on simultaneously becoming crossbow friendly in a bow season that extends from sept to beyond Christmas. The results would be impossible to decipher and you will, in my opinion have wasted valuable years without accomplishing anything. I am not opposed to moving the date of rifle back and even shortening but I'm guessing public sentiment on this issue is strong so I'd want to be pretty sure on what I was going to get for biological bang for my buck. 3. Scaling back antlerless permits in my opinion is a no brainer and we totally agree on the county by county management approach. We farm and hunt a property in Clinton County and have watched as the deer hunting and healthy capacity has dwindled greatly over the past decade. 4. Disregard opinions 1-3 in reference to deer populations adjacent to CWD positive tests. I'm optimistic that legislation giving deer farmers Dept. of Ag oversight rather than MDC will not find any footing. I apologize for the digression but I would like to see all farm deer implanted with a chip so they can be detected and returned or destroyed. I firmly believe that deer hunters look at their sport as a heritage worth protecting and if that meant sacrificing deer

populations today for a healthier herd tomorrow we would all be on board. The canned hunting industry will cannibalize itself eventually but let's not let it destroy the legacy of deer hunting in Missouri in its massive wake. 5. Lastly for myself and my family, I would like to thank MDC for taking public input on this all important issue. Missouri has all the ingredients to be the best deer hunting state in the nation. I believe that this is a critical moment in the management of Missouri's deer herd and look forward to calculated changes that improve the health and trophy status of our herd.
I am a native of Missouri that moved out of state but return during deer season to hunt with relatives. If the firearms hunting season is moved to Thanksgiving you will have made it difficult for me to travel back to hunt. For one thing airline traffic is crowded and more expensive. Additionally, Thanksgiving is a family tradition to spend with my wife, children and grandchildren in Arizona. I hope you don't make it untenable for me participate in the MO. hunt!
After reading "Missouri Citizens are Key to Deer Management Success" in my conservation magazine I like all of the proposed ideas the conservation has in mind. I would like to add that a 2 Buck limit per yr. (no matter what weapon) would also be a nice thing to see along with a limited amount of doe. (no more as many archery tags as you want to buy) Thanks & keep up the good work.
Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed management approaches discussed in the June Missouri Conservation Magazine. I am a 68 year old lifetime resident of Franklin County living on 10 acres, 6 miles Southwest of Union on Massey Ford Road overlooking the Bourbeuse River valley. I have loved hunting and fishing since I was a young boy and still do to this day. Thanks to the MDC I have had excellent opportunities and success. My first deer came in November, 1963 and in 2013 I took my latest with many memories and deer in-between. I say again, Thanks MDC. Archery Season -I feel that crossbows should be restricted to a medical exemption. I say this even though I have 2 rotator cuffs that are "trash" according to my orthopedic doctor. I declined medical exemption last fall because I can still draw and hold 60 lbs. There is much less movement with a crossbow, giving the hunter an advantage. Seasons and Portions-I would bow to MDC concerning a later firearms start. The only thing, it might cause family conflict concerning Thanksgiving dinner. What a dilemma, eat turkey or deer hunt? Antlerless Portion-I do not participate and have no comment. Buck Harvest-I am a big fan of antler point restriction and had stopped taking 1 1/2 year old bucks several years before this was implemented. I see more 2 1/2 and older deer now. I would support reducing an individual's buck harvest. One archery, one firearms? I do take does with both bow and firearms.

Localized Management and Antlerless Permits-Once again I would support MDC recommendations. I would like a tag in my pocket so I could hunt I don't have to take a deer to have a successful hunt but I do need a tag to hunt. It might hurt the "Share the Harvest" program with too much restriction. Whatever the MDC decides I will support as I think you folks are the best in the nation and manage Missouri wildlife wonderfully. Way back in 1963, just to see a track was a big deal.
I support the changes to captive deer regulations! I also support the reduction in antlerless permits.
I strongly oppose the one buck limit as I believe it will be limiting on the archery hunters only, and as you know a VERY small percentage of hunters kill more than 1 buck per season. I would concede that we don't need 3 any deer tags, so two would be sufficient. I STRONGLY disagree with allowing crossbows in the archery season! I agree with them on a special needs basis and would support them for elderly as well, say once a hunter turns 60 years old.
I am 100% in favor of allowing crossbows to be used during archery season. I was hoping MDC would enact this regulation which other states have already. I cannot draw and hold a compound bow due to medical problem. I have been contemplating getting a medical waiver but I have a $2100 deductible and deemed it too expensive. Beyond my personal dilemma I believe allowing crossbows would motivate more hunters to hunt during bow season. I also believe they are more accurate (by design) and expand the killing zone to longer distances. (2) I would not support changing the season one week later. Where I hunt an increase in doe harvest is not needed and I have a concern about public backlash when the season interferes with Thanksgiving. This seemed to be an issue when deer season previously overlapped with Thanksgiving. (3) I am 100% in favor of eliminating the antlerless season and always questioned its validity. (4) I am also 100% in favor of limiting the # of bucks an individual could harvest. In areas without antler restrictions the limit should be 1 buck per year including all seasons with the exception of special hunts (2 bucks per year).
The goal of deer management has moved to one of less bucks harvested and more does taken. I feel the changes proposed will discourage hunters both in and outstate from participating in some or all of the seasons. Meaning a reduction in the revenues derived from permit sales (and matching federal money), sales tax, food and lodging, and a reduction in days afield a hunter is currently allowed. At a time when state and local revenues are down, this will cut back on funding for the department and other state and local entities. More importantly, I feel hunters will begin to be frustrated. Frustrated over spending time in stand and not seeing a thing, lack of hunting opportunities, confusion over season times, limits, and areas. Confidence in the Conservation department will erode even further. I believe we can meet the goals of the department. But not by the proposed changes. Tell the public what you want to do and let them give you some ideas first. If you want us to pass up on more bucks, ask us to do that. If you want more or less does harvested in areas, ask us that. Involve real hunters, not special interest groups, to give you their thoughts and ideas.
I would like to comment on the use of crossbows during archery season. I think it is great that

we allow crossbows for those who can no longer or can't use a traditional/compound bow the opportunity to hunt during the archery season. I put a crossbow in the same category as a muzzleloader/shotgun. You can put a scope on it and extend your range vs a Bow. To be successful at bow hunting you need to put more time and skill into the hunt and allowing crossbows in the archery season I believe would be a disservice to those that put the time and effort into the archery season? If anything maybe you should extend the alternative weapon season or maybe allow crossbows only after the November portion of the firearms season. But I feel that the archery season should be preserved.
I support the one buck per year rule. The states of PA, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky already have this. This would encourage more and bigger bucks.
The article by Jason Sumners in last issue of Conservationist was excellent and informative, sounds like mostly a good future plan-- I take exception to possibly allowing the crossgun in the REGULAR archery season, many neighboring states have allowed this, NONE with results hoped for. Most folks pushing for this change are not hunters but stand to make money off the change.
All of my friends and I bow and gun hunt and think that shooting smaller bucks is a waste of potential trophies and poor management. I live in Laclede County and wish we had the 4 point one side antler restriction on bucks here and adjoining counties. My friends hunt both Camden and Pulaski Counties and tell me they see bigger bucks more frequently because of the antler restriction. Please make Laclede and Dallas Counties a better buck hunting opportunity by placing the antler restriction on them this year (2014).
MAJOR CONCERNS 1. Do reduce doe harvest. 2. Reduce number of non-resident hunters. Out of state hunters flock in from Iowa, NE, and KS into Atchison County because of nearness. 3. Too many bucks are killed by gun hunters during the rut period. Need to make season away from rut period. 4. Farmers in this County are killing all wildlife by removing acre after acre of habitat to grow a few more stocks of corn. Need to chill their greediness.
We live near the Spgfld. Nature Center...and I have called the last three yrs. that the controlled hunt was in force around Lake Springfield ...and 5 deer was taken the first yr...5 the next year, and 8 was taken this past hunt...not enough...there should be a much higher limit and longer season. We have way too many deer around here. Thank you, S.
I hunt in Lafayette county on private land. I've been hunting there for about eight to ten years. In that time I've seen a lot less deer, especially over the last four or five years. At first I was in favor of the Antler Point system but in the area I hunt this system has only made hunting less desirable. There are no big deer in this area because of the pressure and as soon as a deer gets four small points it’s a dead deer. In addition there are too many antlerless permits available. Since no big deer are about everyone shoots the antlerless deer resulting in NO deer. I don't have a problem with the length of the rifle seasons, we need that time in order to get lucky enough to see a deer. I'd like to see the number of permits per hunter reduced dramatically, including the landowner permits.

Thanks!
I own a farm in Clark county mo., and have seen a steady decline in our deer herd over the past five years. Please limit the amount of tags issued for archery and gun hunters and cut the limit to one buck if necessary. Also cut out the antlerless season till we get our deer population back where it was five to ten years ago. Deer hunting is much more enjoyable when you see more deer.
I hunt as a non- resident most year in the Stockton area, I would like to applaud the proposal to push forward the Rifle season opener out of the primary rut time frame. As a bow hunter it has little short term effect on my success however long term I believe we will see benefits from the selective breeding being accomplished by the mature bucks. I wish the Ca DFW had your vision; I haven't hunted deer in Ca for years because it's such a mess. Thanks for asking L.
Have you considered allowing senior citizens to use a crossbow during archery season? Youth are allowed several advantages during deer season. Why not give seniors some help? It is very difficult to shoot a deer from the ground with a bow and most who are over 50 probably have little business trying to hunt from a tree stand. Perhaps a crossbow would help them take a deer while on the ground. Also, I think all forms of mineral licks should be strictly outlawed. I have seen how deer can be attracted to these and what a mess they can become. I personally do not want to eat venison that has been eating some of the chemicals that are in deer cocaine. Nor do I think it is fair to feed the deer an addictive mineral and hunt over it. Baiting of any kind should not be allowed. Also, I think the 8 point restriction should be amended to allow harvest of a buck that has 3 main beam points on at least one side. It is too difficult while hunting in the brush to tell if a buck has brow tines. I have passed up several deer because I could not see a brow tine or could not tell exactly what the rack looked like. I have to hunt public land and I do not get very many opportunities to harvest a buck. It is even harder when I fear shooting one because I cannot get a perfect look at its rack. Also, I am not happy with the changes in the former muzzeloading season. Allowing the use of center fire handguns during muzzle loading season seems inappropriate to me. I would rather not think that someone hunting near me may be using automatic weapon during this time. I thought the idea was to challenge the hunter to only take one shot from a primitive type firearm. I also enjoy hearing a minimum of gunfire while being in the woods. I think it is safer and provides more of a sense of solitude to restrict this season to muzzleloaders only. Perhaps you should limit the number of bonus permits to be used on all public areas. I am finding far fewer deer than in the past. These areas receive by far the most hunting pressure.
I would like to see crossbows considered archery equipment, season open the same time it does now and go to a 1 buck any method per season.

I strongly oppose restricting the number of bucks that I can harvest from the 3 that it is at the present beings I bow hunt and gun hunt. I never kill 3 bucks but like having that tag in my pocket. I own 250 acres and rent additional farms. Preventing me from taking a buck with a bow and a buck with a gun on my own land in order to attempt to have bigger bucks for the orange army that many of which don't even own land but simply buy a tag is merely subscribing to horn porn in my opinion. Can't have more bucks without the does having fawns... Also to address your concerns with landowner tags I'd have no problem with increasing the acreage needed from the 5 acres to 40 or 75 acres. Most of the 5 acre permitees don't kill their deer on that 5 acres..... I feel I don't have enough deer on my farms but I understand that the bean farmers whine about losing some beans so they demand crop damage tags to shoot deer and let rot but you all can't keep everyone happy..... .... just wish the seed companies would genetically modify a bean that was not tasty to deer.....bean farmers kill more deer in the summer than EHD and CWD ever has or ever will..... with or without the crop damage tags..... It only takes one bitter bean farmer to reduce the population a bunch in a square mile or 2. I know from experience having one for a neighbor..... can't have more bucks without having the does that have the buck fawns...
I think limiting the bucks to 1 per year is a bad idea. I would agree with limiting it to two bucks per year. 1 with a gun and 1 with a bow. Limiting to 1 penalizes the hunters that both bow and gun hunt. Greedy bean farmers should not be allowed to kill any does or bucks in the Spring time of year when the does are birthing. I have seen this first hand and it is very detrimental to the deer population as every doe killed is also killing the offspring. I have talked to a local taxidermist that had deer brought in with the fawns still not born. Most are left to rot. This is the most ignorant way of controlling deer that I have ever heard of and I can't believe MDC supports it. Plus the farmers that I have heard from gut shoot the deer so they aren't even counted in their tags they are issued. I own 100 acres in Cape county that had a thriving population until a few bean farmers took over cutting down the local herd 2 years ago. This is a disgrace to MDC and so called deer management.
Landowner Permits etc. Lessees should prove that they actually lease the land. I know of several folks who receive landowner tags who don't lease the property that they receive a landowner permit for. Also I am not certain that it is important to give multiple permits because you own more land.
Crossbows - Include crossbows in archery season Tag limits -Reduce any deer tags to - 1 archery, and 1 firearm. 2 total per person per year. Reduce additional antlerless tags to - 1 per person per year, regardless of county. Total maximum deer will be 3 per person a year, including all counties hunted, all management

hunts. Management hunts should help those who have difficulty finding hunting opportunity, not people who want to take additional deer. Antlerless season -Keep antlerless firearm season, if you must reduce, reduce length to a 4 day season. Consider different seasons for private vs public land. Antlerless season is a big opportunity for non-archery hunters to hunt more days, even if it is not as productive. Removing it will remove opportunity for many. Season timing -The impact of having firearm season over Thanksgiving weekend will take a few years to set in. At first, many will take advantage of it at the expense of other obligations currently met during this holiday. After a couple or more times of missing out on family obligations/travel, the decision to hunt that weekend will become more difficult for a lot of people. Consider hunting "late" start, 5 days prior to Thanksgiving, on years when Thanksgiving is on the 22nd thru the 25th. Stay with the "early" start, 12 days prior to Thanksgiving, on years when Thanksgiving is on the 26th thru the 28th. This will allow a cycle of 2 or 3 years hunting Thanksgiving followed by 2 or 3 years with Thanksgiving free for people to attend to other activities. Landowner permits - Charge $1 per permit, this will reduce people from asking for tags they do not intend on using and confusing your ability to count actual hunters. Include Landowner immediate offspring/children, regardless of residency. Many adult children do not live with the legal owner (parents) yet still take a very active role in managing and maintaining the property.
As a long time Bow and Gun hunter and Landowner and MDC foundation advocate I think adding crossbow to the Bow season is something that is needed and long overdue and would be a progressive step forward. I think the overall Hunter/Advocate population could be increased be greatly increased by allowing disadvantaged individual hunters (youth/seniors/ladies) to enjoy the close interaction with nature that is derived by Bow hunting's extended and varying seasons.
I believe that the buck harvest could be reduced by only allowing archery hunters to take one buck instead of two. As it stands we can take one buck during the gun season and two during the archery season. I think limiting us to one buck is too restrictive. I believe that by reducing the number of antlerless deer permits in those counties where numbers are below "normal" would help to bring numbers back to acceptable levels and it would not take many years to accomplish this. I believe that crossbows should be allowed during the archery season. We had the same discussion about the purity of bow hunting when the compounds (bows with wheels) were first

introduced. The modern compounds can actually be easier to hunt with than crossbows, arrow speed, easier to carry etc. Crossbows are bulky, noisy and you only get one shot. I have used all three and wish I could still use my old recover but age has not permitted that.
I attended the deer meeting in Rolla with my son. Thank you for making so many of your staff members available for us to ask questions and learn more about the challenges facing managing our deer herd. You haven't failed us yet. Keep up the good work.
I am for the move to the Saturday before Thanksgiving. For 1 buck during bow season 1 buck during firearm season. Remove the week of antlerless season
If rifle deer season is started later, then please treat crossbows similar to other bows.
Remove Rifle season from November to 1st week of December! Point restriction state wide. 8 year minimum age for youth season Move youth season to weekend after thanksgiving (most people have long weekend and parents won't need to rearrange work schedules and more kids can participate) Charge nonresident hunters the same price for tag as it would cost me to hunt their state. Pretty much mirror Iowa's, Illinois, and Kansas laws for deer and our herd will be healthy. Have an early muzzle loader season, late muzzle loader season and three weeks of gun season but you can only buy a tag for one of those seasons. (Safety is in Play their not all hunters in woods with guns at same time. AND lay it to poachers. First offense any hunting/fishing gone for one year. Second offense life.
I keep reading about these proposed regulations and I see nothing mentioned about nonresidents. You want to issue one buck tag which will affect a good number of hunters and yet only 1.13% of hunters even took more than one buck in 2012-13 seasons, according to your own info, yet there are close to 30,000 Nonresidents hunting in MO. How many of them took multiple bucks? How many bucks did they kill? I believe it's close to 8,000. I think it's a very dumb plan to not limit nonresidents hunting here, you want to create opportunity for hunting yet you don't do anything to stop the nonresident from taking places where a resident could hunt. Every state around us has a draw and limits buck tags to nonresidents. I will probably lose most of my faith in the MDC if all these changes are enacted and nothing is done protect residents. Crossbows, one buck limit, not limiting nonresidents, where is the benefit for the Missouri landowner?
I own 40 acres is central Callaway County. I have hunted this area since I was a kid starting in 1976. The last two years have been very poor. Not since the early 80's have I seen fewer deer. I believe the hemorrhagic disease hit our area very hard. I recommend ZERO doe tags allowed. I have only harvested larger bucks for many years now and spend many days hunting. The population is down greatly and I hope it recovers sooner than later. If it is too late to change the tag availability this year I recommend the department post information that numbers are very low in a particular area. Just trying to help. Feel free to contact me if you would like any further comment or information from my little piece of the state.

Thanks for your efforts. I believe our Conservation Department is one of the finest in the country. Keep up the good work. K. A.
I agree with the request to expand bow season to include cross-bows.
While I would not use a crossbow, I understand that if the recurve guys would have been against compounds, I would not be able to use my compound. I would be in favor of letting anyone use a crossbow during bow season for anyone who could safely use it. I am 100% opposed to moving gun season 1 week later. This will cause family conflicts during Thanksgiving. The company I work for does not allow vacations during Thanksgiving week. I have taken vacation for the 15 years during rifle season. I not only would not be able to hunt on vacation but would NOT be allowed to hunt during our family Thanksgiving get together. If anything, I would suggest moving it 1 week earlier than it is now. I also would move youth season to the 15th of October weekend when the first rut is on. Many years ago when the season was over Thanksgiving, my dad did not hunt because of the family and I know it will be the same for not only me but most Missourians.....
I am NOT in favor of crossbows but for people that can't use a normal Bow. It's nothing but a gun that fires an arrow. There is very little skill involved and isn't this supposed to be a sport? #2--The dates of firearm season is fine the way it is. I have hunted in Kansas which has its season after the rut and it stinks. I am lucky in that I have 12,000 acres to hunt on there but the season is just not good. Weather is more "iffy" the later in November you go, Bucks will be locked down with does so less will be up and moving. It will not improve the season. If it isn't broke, don't fix it. #3--as for does, I would keep a limited season bag limit but given that I do most of my hunting in Ste. Genevieve County I really do believe MDC is wrong on how many does you think there are. There are many more than you think. You get one tag for rifle season and I see them by droves.
Not in favor of crossbows for everyone- only those that need it. Modern crossbows make it abundantly clear that they are a HUGE advantage to a bow hunter. Harvest numbers seem fine during the November firearm season. We don't need to make it easier for people just for the heck of it. In favor of keeping regulations like they are with variable antlerless harvests as needed.
I am NOT in favor of moving the opening of deer season back one week. I AM in favor of doing away with the antlerless extended season, and AM in favor of crossbows in the archery season, as this would benefit me not being able to pull a bow. I AM in favor of limiting to ONE buck per season. I AM in favor of ELIMINATING the antler point restriction in the county I hunt, which is GRUNDY. Thanks, T.H.
1. I would like crossbows to be counted as archery.

2. I think we should extend the alternative methods portion of deer season. I really enjoy rifle hunting (for food) but my passion has shifted to using a high caliber revolver and/or a shotgun. Makes it much more difficult. 3A. I would like to include shotguns as part of the alternative methods or 3B. Have a separate season for alternative firearms (handgun, shotgun, black powder, maybe even include crossbow here). 4. I don't trophy hunt and often take more does than bucks. I think maybe a one or two buck limit is fine but as long as local populations can handle it I would like doe season to be unlimited. I often don't take more than two deer a year anyway.
Please move rifle season back to Thanksgiving week or later. Please keep archery season as is with no changes, and please do not include crossbows in archery season.
Open archery season to Crossbows. If it's safe then there is no reason to prevent someone from using the method. It's not the place of MDC to dictate what is a sporting or just preferred method. If someone likes hunting with a crossbow and it doesn't create a safety issue it should not be banned.
Make hunting over corn legal like the majority of states do. Make it legal to hunt with crossbow eliminate antler less portion for 3 years
I have no problems with the use of a crossbow during archery season. I do not want to see a 1 buck limit put on the entire season regardless of method. I wish the "4 point rule" would go away, at least for archery season, mixed thoughts on gun season. (My main reason for this is that I see A lot of Mature 6 point bucks out there that will seemingly never grow another point). I enjoy the antlerless season and don't wish to see it shortened as It's my fall back season when the big one doesn't come by.
There should be a lot of things done differently. Bring back check in of a harvested animal. Limit doe tags for archery and rifle. Keep the 4 point restriction. No on crossbows and move muzzle loader season up before rifle no on the one buck no matter what unless you want a lot of bucks checked in as does before rifle season. With bows
If you do not have a limiting disability that affects the drawing of a bow then you should not be able to use a crossbow. That total and utter bull crap that's lazy people that don't want to take the time and practice with a bow.
Removing the 4 point rule for full size scrub bucks that will never have antlers with 4 points. Allow crossbows because some people cannot pull a compound bow back to shoot it. I am one of those people that could use a crossbow because I cannot use a compound bow. EHD has taken a large toll on the population and we should limit the doe tags to help the population recover. Make more regulations so people are paying for their tags and not claiming someone's land to get free tags. They should live on it full time or prove ownership. Numerous people are using tags and they only work on the land. Allow people to use the crossbow without a medical visit because the country still has a large people without health insurance and cannot afford to pay for a visit.

I think that crossbows should only be used by people who are handicapped. I think the unlimited doe harvest should be removed until the population recovers from the EHD outbreak a couple summers ago. As far as the rest of the regulations and seasons I think they are fine the way they are.
1. Crossbows as a part of Archery Season: I can't stress enough how opposed I am to this idea. I have been archery hunting for the last 18-20 years, and have taken at least 1 doe and 1 buck on archery equipment most years. I have been around a lot of guys at the archery ranges the last few years and the ones that are wanting crossbows as a part of archery season are generally the ones that can't master shooting accurately with a compound or recurve bow. It's their desire to be able to hunt more days but with the aid of a stock and scope attached to the crossbow. Simply put, my opinion from being around those making the argument is that the crossbow regulations are perfect where they are, in the alternative methods section of the hunts. My proposal to allow them more time to hunt and better overall opportunity for success would be to shift the alternative hunt times to earlier in the season, such as late September/Early October allowing crossbow and muzzle loader hunters to hunt during some of the better times with increased opportunities to see deer during a period where they have not been hunted and pressured as much. Or provide a split season for them like you do for archery hunters, an early and late season. Their split or earlier season could run concurrent with the archery portion, it would simply require the separate tag to do it. Regarding Buck Limits: I am not opposed to reducing the overall buck harvest potential of a given hunter. I rarely take more than one buck in a year anyway. I would like to see the ability to still take at least 1 buck during archery season and 1 additional buck with the combination of firearms/alternative methods. The reduction from a potential 3 buck limit to a 1 buck limit is a bit restrictive at this point. I would not be at all opposed to the 2 buck overall limit on a combination of tags/permits. Moving Firearms Season Back 1 week: As an archer, I am all for this, allowing yet another week of prime rut hunting with limited pressure during the best times of the season. I am also for the idea of having the firearms season over Thanksgiving to allow for more access to the field for many people that have limited time to hunt. Limiting/Doing away with a firearms Antlerless Season: I rarely hunt this with my firearms tag and am back to archery methods. It would not bother me if this was moved or done away with. I would rather see this time frame used for the Alternative Methods hunt (although as stated above, I would prefer that hunt to be in late Sept/Early October) - at least it's still during a portion of the rut. The timing of the Alternative Methods hunt now is horrible and needs to be changed. Deer are almost exclusively nocturnal- especially bucks- and it's hard to see deer, let alone take them. Additionally, most people have used time off for other portions and it's hard to find time during those holiday periods (Christmas) to hunt. Antler Point Restrictions: I have access to property to hunt in 4 counties, and 2 of those counties (Johnson and Morgan) have antler point restrictions. The bucks I generally choose to take would generally meet the definition under the antler point restriction, so I am all for a

statewide restriction on this if needed. The other two counties I hunt in don't have them- one is Jackson and the other Laclede. I took a buck last year in Jackson that would not have met the definition, but it was due to the unique experience of the hunt, not the desire to simply take the buck. It was my first buck using a decoy with archery methods. I haven't taken a buck by firearms in several years that would not have met this requirement, choosing to pass on several that would not have met the criteria, even though hunting in a county (Jackson) that would have allowed it.
I am Totally against, the buck restriction you want to put on the bow hunters you have already flooded our season with intrusions by, youth deer, turkey, antler less, and primitive weapons, out of a long season we still get less than we have ever had. To top it all off now you want to allow crossbows during archery season, That is just wrong, only the people too lazy to become proficient with a bow will resort to a Crossbow, Leave the archery regulations alone, They are fine the way they are
I am an avid outdoorsman and spend approximately 150 days a year afield turkey, deer, and predator hunting along with bird hunting. Conservation is very important to me because I want my son to have the great hunting I've had. I personally would like to see some or all of the following done in Missouri. 1. Antler restrictions in all counties. 2. Move back rifle season until Thanksgiving. 3. Take high powered rifles away and allow shotgun and muzzleloader only. Or at least restrict rifles to single shot. 4. Restrict doe harvest to the way it was years ago and bring back the deer units. With a maximum of 2 does and 1 buck. But maintain unlimited antlerless archery tags. 5. Allow crossbows during archery season. 6. Enact a raffle for out of state hunters and limit their tags to 50,000 a year. Unless they're out of state landowners. 7. Quit allowing leasee landowner tags. 8. Bring back check stations. 9. End archery season on December 31st.
BOWHUNTERS! LISTEN UP! The Missouri Conservation Department is considering changes to the archery regulations that will affect you. They want to allow CROSSBOWS in the archery season, not just for disabled hunters, but for anyone who wants to use one. I went to a public meeting yesterday in Springfield, where they say they want your opinions, that was not what I found, when I voiced my opinion to the young lady at the table with the sign addressing the regulation change concerning CROSSBOWS, I was meet with closed minded responses supporting the change, it was like taking to a AT&T customer service rep. She could not refute any of my arguments, instead just kept repeating some memorized drivel about hunter retention, say that the crossbow would allow younger and older hunters to start and continue to hunt. BULL! ALL IT WILL DO IS ALLOW THE PEOPLE NOT WILLING TO INVEST THE TIME, LOVE AND LABOR, IT TAKES TO BECOME A BOWHUNTER, TO

HUNT DURING BOW SEASON. The handout titled Deer Management, was not much better, they state, very carefully, that success rates for crossbow hunters and conventional bow hunters were very similar, they fail to point out that the crossbow hunters (under current regulations) had some medical disability allowing them to use the crossbow, they were handicapped in some way, yet their success was similar! They also stated that a 2012 survey of 18,000 Missouri "Deer hunters" indicated that 46% approve and 33% disapprove of allowing crossbow hunting during the archery season. I have to wonder how many of that 46% take the time to scout or even sight their rifles before season begins. They state in the same paragraph, "many archers' groups and organization oppose defining the crossbow as archery equipment". We need to stand up and be counted on this issue, PLEASE SPEAK UP! HERE IS THE ADDRESS FOR THE ONLINE COMMENTS:
I wish the Dept. would consider allowing traditional black power hunters, no scopes & no inline s, to hunt the same season has archery season. The traditional hunter is low in numbers which would not increase the deer harvest in any significant number. We should be required to purchase a separate tag. We no longer have a season where we can hunt just for the pleasure of being alone with the sport. Our quietness would not interfere with the bow hunter. If numbers are a concern then restrict us to just that tag without being able to hunt during regular firearm season. The sheer numbers of other hunters, even during the alternate season, with all the weapons they can use, leaves us without a quality experience.
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One I feel the antler restriction of 4 Pts. is a benefit to the herd and we should keep I think that using cross bow is an advantage over the long bow and we should have a separate season for it just like muzzle loader. I don't think that the archery kill has that much impact on total numbers and bag limit should stay the same. However, I feel that total deer allowed should be taken in any combination between the two seasons. Two deer taken regardless of sex and both could be taken in either season or split between the two. I think muzzleloader season should require a unique lic. To buy one you have to present an unused gun tag. This would bring in extra revenue for deer mgt. I think the herd is being managed well, I LIKE THE USE OF doe tags to control pop
When I was growing up I remember the County quota when you had to buy your tag by a certain date. That system needs brought back! The old check in stations need to be brought back as well. The deer management issue is compounded by many factors ranging from natural to man made. The biggest issue is the man made components. In Audrain county where I live there is an over population of does however one person in particular only wants bucks taken off the property. Many hunting leases are the same way. Many only want 140 class and larger bucks taken. The number of tags. While 10 tags was a great opportunity to fill my freezer as well as great revenue for MDC I feel as though the approach was incorrect. There is absolutely no reason why a family of four should be allowed to take 40 deer during the rifle season. I'm very happy to see MDC limit the amount of tags, however with the economy being poor and

the lack of check stations I only see this as being an opportunity for poachers to still take however many deer they would like and will only hurt the honest hunters trying to put meat on their table. Out of state permits. The out of state permit should be turned into a drawing system with an increased price. By turning the out of state tag into a drawing you would do several things at once. First you would decrease the number of out of state hunters and allow more Missourians an opportunity to take a deer. Secondly, you would decrease the number of tall fence hunting locations as well as decrease the amount lessors are currently charging to lease land. I would also like to see the season lengths shortened! There is no reason to start bow hunting in September. There is no need to hunt for almost 30 days for rifle season. Shorten rifle season back to 2 weeks or ten days. Keep black powder season the same. Get rid of the antler less only season in the counties with a low deer population. Limit the antler less portion to 3 days with the option for MDC to add another antler less portion in January if the taken quota is lower than the management quota. Move bow season back to October 1st and close it January 15th. And last but not least change the Alternative season back to Black powder only! I do not need someone hunting around me with their large bore pistol that uses the same round as a rifle. I would hope that MDC will listen to the hunters of Missouri in determining the fate of Missouri deer population.
I am against allowing crossbows in the regular archery season. I am for limiting non-residents to 15,000 per year via drawing rather than the current policy of "unlimited" resulting in 25,000 out of state hunters. I am for reducing bonus antlerless permits for at least a couple years. I support moving the firearms season later by one week.
I cannot make a meeting but here are my thoughts: Thoughts on use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? No - I have used both and the advantage is really strong. Keep it to a medical-need-only tag. Have ideas related to moving November portion of firearms season back one week? I think that would be okay - no real thought one way or another. Have comments on elimination or reduction in length of antlerless portion of firearm season? I am for ending doe season. I feel the ten-day season is sufficient for filling whatever tags you have. Think implementing one-buck limit for archery season or one-buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? I feel a one-and-one is a good idea. One buck for bow and one buck for rifle/alternative season. Thoughts on antler point restriction in the county you hunt? Keep it in place but possibly lower it. There seems to be a strain of no-brow-tine six-point bucks in the Osage County area that are procreating generation after generation of unshootable management deer. Thx for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

From what I understand, MDC is seeking comments on moving the firearms deer season back a week. I'm totally against this the very reason that it would then interfere with family time during Thanksgiving week. A lot of families travel during this time, so it would definitely cut into their time hunting deer. I would expect most hunters would agree with me.
Allow Cross Bow for Archery season, Push Archery Season back to Sept 1st. Run Archery through Rut. APR all counties.
Crossbows should not be used during the archery season by anyone unless they have a disability. To do so takes away from true archers and will invite lazy hunters and make it more dangerous. Crossbows have a place and it's during gun season. They are not bows or any type of archery equipment. Never have been. Hope you folks don't mess this up like you did with the liberal taking of deer for all these last years.
Crossbow: I vote yes..... I say yes because it may be an easier way to get youth involved as well as older folks that can't pull a bow back anymore. A crossbow is just as old school as a bow and shoots an arrow (bolt) just the same as my bow and has virtually the same range. So I don't see the big deal. It's not like it will put that much of an impact on the herd. Rifle Season: should be left the way it is. It's more toward the end of peak rut. I usually see more activity the week before rifle season anyways. It's tradition and should stay that way. Just like September 15th is to a bow hunter. Antler Restrictions: I hate them. I have a buck that is getting old and has been a solid wide thick 6pt for 3 years and he is off limits due to the restrictions. How can a guy effectively manage and grow a herd with bad a genetic?
1. Crossbows should be used by all during archery season. 2. Deer season last year missed the rut.....would be great to move back a week! 3. Yes....need to kill does to keep in check 4. One buck per year is all I need 5.would like the antler size to matter in all counties.....I hunt in Shannon. Wish we had the big buck rule. 6. And last....wish would could use gun models made before 1899 that only fire one projectile at a time and 38 caliber or larger during muzzle loading season. i.e....model 1885 single shot breech loading rifle. PS- Keep up the great work with the elk, bear, and mtn lion. Hope to see them one day.
In light of the reduced herd I observed, as well as feedback from others all over Missouri, I would not be opposed to reduced numbers of deer taken. Bow one buck only before or after is fine. But the states Biologists probably have a better pulse on the state overall and regardless of what you do nobody will be happy. My biggest concern is the captive herds and the management of those. We didn’t have CWD till they showed up---double fencing 200 yards apart and impossible for a deer to jump it.

Moving the deer season back would be OK. One Buck per year would be OK (not one per archer & gun too) Reducing number of antlerless permits OK Whatever it takes to build her back up. Change 5 acres to 50 acres for free permits. Owner only, not complete family.
There are too many deer on my property. I live on 33 acres, mostly hilly and wooded, but surrounded by many homes and several subdivisions. The deer eat much of my garden, shrubs, flowers, and even English ivy growing close to my house. I have gone to great effort to control them, short of killing them....repellents, noise, dog, six-foot high fence around part of garden, wire basket over plants, etc.
First, thank you for the thorough preview of the proposed/potential regulation changes. I recognize that management of our state's deer herd is a challenging and complex task, and I thoroughly appreciate the efforts that go into making MO deer hunting what it is. I would say that the one proposed regulation change that I feel VERY strongly about is introducing crossbows during the regular archery season. I am strongly OPPOSED to this measure. As an avid bow hunter, I view the early archery season as a pleasant escape from the hoards of orange-clad hunters that fill the woods in November. Honestly, I would not dream of hunting any of my local conservation areas during gun season. Reason? Too many other hunters. Bow hunting the local conservation areas, however, completely different. I still see trucks in the parking lots and occasionally see one on the trail, but obviously this is nothing in comparison to gun season. I see deer moving naturally and relatively undisturbed due to the low number of hunters in the woods. Similarly, on my dad's farm in Lawrence County I enjoy good success during the early archery season, but (due to the geographic layout of the property) have almost no chance of success with a gun once the rifles start ringing. Again, too much competition from other hunters. To listen to the justification for crossbows one would think (A) there are too many deer in MO and we need more hunters in the woods to control the population, and/or (B) deer hunting is waning in popularity and MO is in desperate need of recruiting more hunters. I do not see other justification as holding water. Almost without exception, MO hunters report not seeing enough deer. Regarding hunter recruitment, already MO does a fantastic job recruiting young hunters through its youth days. Additionally, many youth themselves hunt with regular archery equipment. We simply are not seeing a lack of hunters because they were not afforded the opportunity to start out with a crossbow. Already the popularity of bow hunting in sky-rocketing in MO. Why not reward these individuals by keeping the season as is. In other words, don't mess with success. Crossbow, while fun, are not near as challenging and do not require the patient practice and dedication that real archery requires. It will simply be too easy for many hunters to simply purchase the crossbow, sight it in, and flood the deer woods from Sept to Nov. I have heard the Conservation Dept.'s argument that the total number of deer harvested probably won't change. Even so, the undeniable fact is that the number of hunters

present will increase, which will have a negative effect on deer movements prior to the November rifle season. Also, have we considered that all of the “support"/clamoring for crossbows perhaps comes from crossbow manufacturers whose motivations are monetary? If the protests of me and other bow hunters are in vain and crossbow introduction inevitable, can we at least limit the introduction? For example, make the second half of archery season (post gun season) open to crossbow. And/or set an age limit (15 and under) to cross bows during the early archery season? Thank you for allowing comments on this matter.
Just a quick note, Yes I think the point restriction should be thought the state. I'd say yes to Crossbows during archery season, many states already have this provision including Kansas. As for the seasons I think waiting and seeing how the new doe restrictions workout would be best.
Crossbows for archery for anyone that way the young, not so strong, and older people. Remove point restriction, limit doe tags if needed, I see plenty of deer it needs to be about the hunt not how much or what I get. Great job keep it up you all have my support
After lengthy discussions on the Missouri Whitetail site and reading your proposals, I am in favor of all of them. I am a bow hunter and will gladly let a crossbow hunter sit at the table with me while we discuss on how to go about shooting that one buck. I think you all do a tremendous job in managing our deer herd
I see nothing wrong with using crossbows during archery season. For a lot of us older hunters a crossbow is a lot easier on the shoulders. I know I could probably get a pass from the DR. but it shouldn't be necessary when you reach say 55. We do a lot for the younger hunters how about something for us old guys.
I'm all for allowing crossbows during the regular archery season, I think there would be far less wounded deer in the woods that may or may not recover from their wounds, I can't count the number of times I have help friends look for wounded deer and never found them, the deer harvest may go up a bit but I think it will because there are more deer recovered and not lost, that's just my 2 cents on the subject.
I've hunted all of my life I have seen our deer herd grow in this state with great pride and what I see now makes me sick!! The department was too slow in lowering the doe numbers and disease took care of it with blue tongue and then u start an antler point bullshit let protect the inferior bucks that will never be anything and continue. To breed to only make more little bucks with do nothing racks that can't be shot point plank this antler point is a joke! Know u want to let crossbow in archery season a flat out no. On this endless u are handicapped. Oh and let's move season back a week into thanksgiving no I will not be able to hunt all week because of the holiday season used to be then and it got moved to the dates it is know because of this problem leave the dates alone. Drop the antlerless season altogether the numbers are way way way way down from blue tongue. This is what I would like to see leave firearm and bow season dates alone drop the antlerless season and in area where doe numbers are high start earn a buck where u have to shoot a doe first. Most of all stop these high fence hunting in our state before they destroy are hunting this is all money motive with these people and they could

care less about are wildlife it's all about money to them. Landowners can buy a deer tag just like everyone else in this state because they own ground they think they're special they cry about the deer eating their crops u ask to hunt and get told no are they want money wildlife is not for sale they can buy a tag just like me. Make a long story short leave dates alone drop the doe season and the point restriction on bucks no to crossbows and start a earn a buck program in areas where doe numbers are high and stop the deer farms before CWD gets worse do ur homework CWD comes from too many deer in to small of an area. I do think the department does a good job overall with game management in our state our deer need our help so let's help them. R. H.
Couple of things. Crossbows yes, definitely. Some of us are getting to the point where drawing a bow is fading. I do not equate hunting with a crossbow as a rifle. Still limited range, still all about shot placement & getting close. Antler restrictions, hate them. I hunt in Vernon county extensively & I can tell you that as an experienced hunter, I have passed up on a deer that was at least 8, but was a 4 point, also a 6 point that would have easily went 130". (no brow tines). I also believe that the antler restrictions will spread the CWD problem as it is the bucks that roam extensively during the rut. I was not able to attend the meeting in Springfield, & I do like that format. I attended the CWD meeting at the Nature Center earlier this year & found it enjoyable & constructive.
I would agree with lowering the doe permits available. I saw 19 deer during the 2013 firearm season and only two of those were does. I think the point restriction is a valuable tool to boost the quality bucks. I would like to see the use of crossbows during bow season. I personally do not have the strength in my shoulders to pull a compound bow but would love to hunt bow season with a crossbow. Thank you for your time.
Thank you for having these deer management get togethers around the state. I recently shared my views on issues with Jason Sumners and Tim Ripperger when they (and others) were in Rolla. It is good public relations to have state level conservation people listen to what the public has to say. J. F.
If MDC would amend its rules to allow cross bows during archery season, I'd start bow hunting. I am almost 60 years old. My shoulders and elbows won't allow me to pull a bow. I don't qualify as a handicapped hunter but I am not going to participate in a sport that hurts when I try to participate. Cross bows do not extend an archer's range, they just eliminate the need to hold at full draw. I think MDC should propose regulations allowing cross bows during archery season. I am not about to handicap myself by using a cross bow during gun season but I would buy a cross bow and extend my time in the woods if I could use a cross bow during archery season.
I applaud MDC's decision to restrict the number of antlerless deer hunters can harvest during gun season in Macon County, Missouri. I have been hunting the same farm in Macon County since 1994. Twenty years ago the deer population was out of control. We used to see deer runs where the whitetails had beat the foliage to the ground. The runs looked like cattle paths.

It was not unusual to see 20 to 30 deer in the course of a day's hunt. In the past two years the number if deer and deer sign have decreased dramatically. Restricting the number of slick heads we can take should help restore the herd. Your new regulations impose reasonable restrictions on hunters and I appreciate your efforts.
I have quit deer hunting because it have only 40 acres to hunt and the neighbors have bow hunted until the deer have quit their habits by firearms season. I would encourage you to move the firearms season back one week because most generally the current deer season falls upon a full moon and the deer feed at night and are gone in the daytime. Maybe it would throw off the friggin neighbors too!
• What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? I think crossbows should be allowed the entire archery season. • Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week? Do not like it conflicting with Thanksgiving and family time. • Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season? Having only one weekend seems long enough • Do you think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? I think it should be one buck for archery and one for gun • What are your thoughts on continuing or implementing the antler point restriction in the county you hunt? I think it is a good idea.
I have been bow hunting deer, rabbits, and squirrels for 26 years in Missouri. If we are trying to maintain our deer population as it states in your information, ("The deer population in most of Missouri is currently at or below the population goal") Adding more hunters to the woods during archery season will be counterproductive. We as bow hunters have continually seen our time in the woods encroached upon by four-wheeler riding "shooters" more and more each year. Then number of weekends we have to hunt deer that are not removed from their normal pattern by gun hunters is dwindling annually. Allowing crossbow usage for those who cannot physically use a bow has long been accepted and understood. Allowing crossbow hunting for those who choose not to put in the time and effort required to use a "bow" is where most bow hunters have the issue. If it is already in consideration to take 2 buck tags away from archery hunters to reduce the number of antlered deer taken annually, what will be the result of adding

yet more hunters to the woods during archery season? By your own standards it will send our buck numbers into a tail spin and end up with a quota/lottery system for antlered deer tags.
Allow crossbows during archery season. One buck w/ bow, one buck w/ rifle; Limit antlerless permits until deer harvest numbers recover; keep 4 pt. restriction forever; leave rifle season dates as is. Thank you. Will be on vacation during meeting in Lee's Summit.
As I read the Deer Management literature that linked me to this comment page I saw the following "The crossbow has never been allowed during the archery deer hunting season in Missouri, except where physical disability—confirmed by a physician—prevented use of a “regular” (i.e., long, recurve, or compound) bow." Then 3 or 4 paragraphs later it is stated "If, as suspected, physical limitations further the decline in participation of middle-aged archery hunters, allowing the use of alternative methods of harvest, such as crossbows, could prolong participation for several years for those that still retain a desire to hunt." If there truly is a physical limitation causing the decline of bow hunters then we currently have in place regulations to handle that. It is also stated "The deer population in most of Missouri is currently at or below the population goal," That being said adding more "hunters" to the field would be counterproductive. Consider reducing the number of bucks allowed by bow hunters to 1 total all seasons combined is another topic. If we add more hunters we can expect to soon go to a quota/lottery system for antlered deer as we once experienced for does in the 90's and early 2000's. The department needs to be reminded of their own statistics and words. When surveying a group to get their feeling and input on a subject is truly what is desired then asking "18000 hunters" instead of 18000 Archery hunters does not qualify. One who strictly duck hunts is not interested or qualified to speak on behalf of archery hunters. In addition to what I quoted from your management literature above, my personal experience says that we lose middle-aged hunters due more to busy life schedules and laziness than physical limitations. I hunt with 3 other hunters under the age of 45 and 5 over the age of 60. One of those 5 being 86 years old. We are all archers. And only the 86 year old using a compound bow. (he was also a recurve hunter up until this coming season)
I am a non-resident Landowner. My only suggestion is to leave gun season alone. Where gun season is now is the PERFECT combination of: catching the edge of the rut, catching the weather turning cooler without freezing to death and it doesn't interfere with Thanksgiving. The only other suggestion would be to eliminate the Firearm doe season... but please leave general rifle season alone.
Moving the season back a week would be ok with me. Restricting the buck harvest further to a one buck all methods I would be strongly opposed to. It would deprive me of hunting either bow season or gun season on my own land as I restrict harvest of does since population on my land is low for my desire and my family already is very selective of the size of bucks we choose to harvest. I live and own farms in Bollinger County and if you want to increase the age of bucks putting the point restriction on bucks would accomplish much more than forcing me to choose between

bow hunting or gun season for a buck on my own land at that...
LEAVE GUN SEASON WHERE IT IS PLEASE.
I would like to attend a session in person, but the distance from Farmington and work schedule will not allow me to do so. Please do not move the gun season to Thanksgiving week. Thanksgiving weekend is the biggest travel weekend around the country and will reduce opportunity to hunt, not increase it. Also, please eliminate the point restriction in Ste. Genevieve County. Beyond only satisfying the segment of hunters who no longer consider the harvest of any animal a "trophy", from a management perspective the regulation only intensifies the drastic drop in deer population experienced in that area.
I will leave management of health and numbers of deer etc. up to you, as from experience, you folks do a tremendous job. My concern is directed toward land ownership and benefits. Although I am a legal resident of Florida, I own land in Mo., pay taxes on that land and do what I can to further the wellbeing of the white tail population. At 75 yrs. old, a landowner, former resident and contributor to Mo's economy, it irks me to not enjoy any benefits. I would like to see a reduction in the cost of my non-res license or increase in possible perks due to my age, fixed income, land ownership and travel expenses.
I'm not sure if I will be able to attend the meeting in Saint Louis on the 23rd, so I wanted to give you my opinion on the questions you are asking. I am against using crossbows by all hunters during the archery season. I feel with how easy the new compound bows are to pull back and shoot, there is not a need for crossbows. Crossbows are not much different than a rifle. They are very accurate and have a longer range than a regular bow. I am not in favor of moving the November season back a week. As I've aged, I've become more of an antler hunter and enjoy just seeing deer when I hunt. Moving the season back a week will put the season farther away from rut and put the larger bucks back to becoming even more nocturnal then they are at the current opening of the season. I would be in favor of eliminating the antlerless season, or reducing the # of days and moving it to later in December. Right now, after the Hemorrhagic disease outbreak of two years ago, I think that we need to be killing fewer does. I think the one buck limit for archery and one buck limit for firearms would be a great idea. Since I'm more of a trophy hunter, I'm in favor of continuing the antler point restriction. I have a farm in Monroe county and it has helped us with seeing bigger bucks
At 68 years of age I and a number of my friends are 100 percent in favor of the regulation change to allow crossbows during the archery season. I have been deer hunting since I was 19 years old. This change would keep me hunting for a number of years to come. Thank You.
Yes to crossbows for archery season and alternative weapons season. YES, to a limited amount of antlerless/doe tags of one per hunter, except for landowners. The deer herd needs to grow in the area I hunt in Putnam County. Predators and disease along with automobiles have reduced the herd. As for the multiple 'Buck' tags, a hunter should be able to harvest ONE BUCK during archery and ONE BUCK during rifle season. Any others would be from controlled hunts. I am in favor of moving the opener of rifle season to around the 20ith of November each year. A later season opener would be in my favor. I would also like to thank the MDC for these open

forums and educational meetings. Thank You MDC for the 'excellent' job you are doing and your visions for the future. PS/ If I may comment on the Deer Farming and High Fence Operations in the state of Missouri ... enough already!!! Too many of these operations are poorly managed and I am "NOT" in favor of the "FREAKS of NATURE" they are creating. As a sportsman, hunter, conservationist and one who truly enjoys the gifts of nature GOD has provided us, I DO NOT want to see these beautiful animals made into freak show entertainment.
I think crossbow hunting should be allowed during the general archery season for those 65 and over. I think it is not a significant advantage for senior vs younger folks using compound bows that can spend a lot of time practicing and can easily climb into tall stands or comfortably use climbing stands. If crossbow hunting were to be allowed for all hunters during archery season, I think it should be limited to antlerless only. I hunt in Montgomery county, and I have not noticed any increase in trophy bucks. In fact, we see the same mix of small bucks and does we have always seen. Lifting the antler restriction would only help the two of us that hunt our 120 acres. One buck per season is fine if archery season is open to crossbow hunting for all. If not allowed at all, or if open to only those 65 and older, I think it is reasonable to keep the buck limits the way they are.
* I would continue to limit the use of crossbows as its presently defined. * I agree with this and would ask that you consider moving the youth season to the Firearms season date of November 16-19th! This would give the youths of today a better hunter retention and recruitment; * I would suspend the antlerless portion of the firearms season until a point that science fact can show a need to reinstate. * I would agree to a one buck limit regardless of method. As a devoted deer hunter I recognize that science based fact is recognized and all efforts must be made to insure that our future of our young hunters have every opportunity to enjoy the whitetail as I have. I would ask you to evaluate this data and make necessary changes yearly. * I believe that the implementing of the antler point restriction is a good thing as I hunt in ADAIR COUNTY!
I agree with all proposed reg. changes. We need to move our firearms season back at least one week, if not two. Our does aren't getting bred and our fawn numbers are showing it. Also, it's pretty warm during opening weekend (usually). For us that hunt for meat first, that's not very good for the animal. I much prefer shooting deer in the low 40s, not the 60s. As far as crossbows, let people shoot them. They're no more accurate or reliable than a compound. I know people shooting crossbows that would love to go back to compounds but can't. This could also bring in revenue lost from the decline in doe tags. Speaking of doe tags, limit the archery number as well. Limiting firearms was a good move, if not a little late in coming. But archery needs a limit too. I'm not saying 1, but 3-5 is fair. And remove the other doe seasons. Limit urban to archery only, and get rid of the doe only seasons. We don't need them if you've

already restricted the number to 1. As far as the 4 point, I know it's used to manage age of bucks harvested. But it's not working. I see more basket rack, 2.5 year olds killed now than ever. Because people only see "legal" not "mature". Teach people to recognize a mature buck, 3.5 yrs. or older, and our age structure will improve drastically. I know that's hard, but it's possible. I also know the 4 point rule was implemented to increase doe harvest. Not necessary anymore. One buck limit is fine, most people never kill more than 1 anyways. And there's no need to take 2 out of the brood stock if you live on 100 acres, or hunt where more deer will be killed. That's bad management, but since it's "legal" it must be ok. As a Fisheries and Wildlife student at MU and an avid deer hunter, I hope you continue with these changes. People may not like it for a while, but that's ok. Do what's best for the deer. That's your job. Keep the population healthy and stable, and then worry about Joe Bob that wants to kill 10 deer a year because he can. Thank you for your efforts!
Why would we consider moving firearms season back 1 week. I haven't missed a Thanksgiving with the family in many, many years. I will sure miss them. I've never taken 2 archery bucks and expect that not too many hunters have. But would like the opportunity sometime. Crossbow hunting allowed for all archery season. I'd vote no on that. Set up a week or 2 during archery season when crossbows are allowed, maybe last 2 weeks of October. Thanks,
I would be very much against modern crossbow being included in Archery season. The inclusion of the compound bow in archery was, in my view, a mistake. Sights, very low % hold weights, range finding optics, and release aids have already made the compound basically a crossbow. Neither the crossbow nor compound differ that much from gun hunting and tempt archers to stretch range and attempt too distant shots. Both put too much emphasis on shooting and not enough on hunting skills.
I vote for crossbows all archery season, 1 buck with bow, 1 buck with gun, limit or do away with out of state hunting, leave gun season where it is. Keep the 4 point restriction.
I recognize the need to change the management of the herd in certain parts of the state. However Mercer county has plenty of does and I'd argue too many. Why can't the regulations be more localized? Our state is very diverse even county to county and these blanket regulations just seem too broad to be in place in all areas. It is nothing for me to see a dozen different antlerless deer during an average hunt. Secondly I don't care for the proposed season change. My family has held deer camp that weekend many years now and 9 times out of 10 the chase phase of the rut is well past. Moving the opener even further back will only make it that much less fun and productive.
I would like to see a later gun season. No crossbows during archery season.
I experienced a flurry of chasing activity before the regular firearms season this year, over a dozen different bucks and none of them were seen during firearms season (I believe they were resting and healing). I expect all of those bucks to be alive and well this year. Lowering the archery limit to one buck will cut my ability to hunt in half, even though I never

shoot a second buck I can trophy hunt and spend time in the woods. Scoped crossbows nearly the same as a rifle or pistol-no new season is needed.
I find it disturbing at the "bull headedness" of archers who want only traditional methods allowed. If that is the case then we need to dis allow compound vertical bows as they offer too much advantages over recurve bows!! Crossbows SHOULD be legal for ALL archers! PERIOD. Leave the firearms season be. No solid reasoning in moving it. While I am no fan of the 4 pt. restriction, I have mixed feelings. Yes, it does give some younger deer the opportunity to mature. But, if a guy wants to take a spike or otherwise "illegal" deer and lawfully tag it (proper buck tag)... why is it up to anyone else what he chooses to harvest? Buck limitations are ridiculous. I don't know very many people who "tag out" on bucks in a season. If an archer follows current rules and regs. and has the opportunity to harvest the animal then so be it. I hunt in a couple different counties. Since the restriction I have seen more mature bucks. I also see lots of mature deer who will never be a legal animal. Also, the current limitations on antlerless firearm tags, is, as far as I'm concerned, silly and misguided. Placing blame on the lack of numbers on doe tags when you should be looking at the disease that killed so many a couple seasons ago.
Land owner permits: not sure where you are headed with this BUT as an owner of 215AC in Cape county ...that is managed very much for wildlife ...PLEASE remember that we owners decide what we leave for the wildlife and what we put in the bank! We can leave fence rows or farm it ...we can leave crop residuals and even standing crops for winter survival...OR... we can prep the ground to bare dirt for next year's crop ...we can walk away from our CP33,CP38, filter strips, prescribed burns, TSI, wildlife ponds and covey headquarters ... Plus we use the quantity of permits we receive for deer FOR deer management ... we have had years we have self- imposed no buck harvests ...years of heavy doe harvest...and for years we have had a stronger antler requirement on our property greater than MDC mandates in the restricted counties ...so are you after bogus permit recipients? ..Go for it...are you reacting to an uninformed public outcry to free landowner permits ...then educate the public to the farmer's roll in wildlife ...you can still knock on a farmers door around here and get a place to hunt ..not every time but enough to make the effort worthwhile...for goodness sakes please do not get farmers closing the door in the hunter's face...good luck to a great department ...MDC!
One hunter one buck per year no matter the method ...YES Crossbows for all ...YES...as a medical bow permit holder I can promise far better recovery of targeted deer simply because of FAR better arrow placement .
Would like to see rifle season moved to December.
NO CROSSBOWS IN ARCHERY SEASON-2nd dumbest thing I've ever heard...most crossbow users do so because it's easier or looks cool.....you seriously want them representing archers??

DO NOT MOVE THE FIREARMS SEASON BACK-this movement to get seasons on holidays will reduce hunting time. Family first.. ADD POINT RESTRICTION STATE-WIDE...KS vs. MO? Kansas wins the big buck... DO NOT MAKE 1 BUCK LIMIT ARCHERY/FIREARM-dumbest thing I've ever heard! Seriously! Who is whining to get this changed? Apparently no one that ever bow hunted!
If we could limit the number of doe permits and have a four point restriction for all bucks state wide would increase the number of deer. I don't think everyone should be able to hunt with a crossbow during archery season. That should be reserved for those who need it. What about making this a shotgun slug only state? This would make it safer because you would need to be closer to your target and less deer would be wounded and not found which in turn would have a more accurate count on year end.
Would like to see the firearm season moved back to get it out of the middle of the rut. Maybe 1 week later. The places I hunt I am seeing about a 6:1doe buck ratio. This might increase the number of bucks that make it & get some more does killed by the meat hunters. Also on the cross bow, maybe open the urban areas up to the cross bows. That would give the crossbow hunters a place & help the urban population. Just a couple thoughts I had. Thanks
I think allowing one buck in each seasons could work. I am in Favor of this as it allows me the flexibility to "Wait for that Trophy". Whether it's during either season. Otherwise I could be pressured to take a smaller buck. I also am in favor of antler restrictions. Because of these restrictions I'm seeing more bucks each year. I don't mind waiting for that bigger buck. I am a landowner and I try to do what I can to have a safe and successful Deer Season. I work some pretty weird schedules, and am forced to hunt when I can. Whether it's archery or gun. Please allow me the opportunity to take a quality buck when I can. Thank you
There should be strong consideration for opening the main firearms season at least a week later. KS, IA, IL all have firearms outside of main rut and I believe MO has just as much potential for consistent, mature bucks and this will help put more age on the bucks; plus allow the rut cycle to occur without much disturbance of breeding. I believe there will still be good hunting opportunities for people with the later date. I prefer compound but crossbow would allow more opportunities. There's enough opportunities to harvest does with firearms I don't believe the antlerless portion is necessary. I'd be ok with 2 bucks annual "this could be 2 archery or 1 firearm/ 1 archery"; I don't believe enough people shoot all 3 bucks for it to matter much. The antler restriction should be permanent in Henry/St Clair counties. Thank you.
1. Use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? NO 2. Move November portion of firearms season back 1 week? YES 3. Reduction or elimination in the length of antlerless firearm season? ANTERLESS SEASON SHOULD BE BEFORE NOVEMBER FIREARMS SEASON ONLY. NO LATE SEASON ANTLERLESS SEASON.

4. one buck limit for archery season or a 1 buck annual limit is a good idea? YES, I AGREE WITH 1 BUCK LIMIT FOR ARCHERY AND 1 FOR FIREARMS. 5. Continuing antler point restriction? YES I am not about how many deer I kill. I am about the most enjoyable time spent afield chasing mature bucks. I like to see deer in general with a calm demeanor and mature bucks. I like an aggressive, fast action rut. This seems to be a thing of the past. Thanks
I would be in great favor of thinning the "in city" deer population. My neighborhood is adjacent to Lake Springfield and we have excess deer all year round. They believe our entire yard is theirs and all of our vegetation is theirs. Most of all they walk right in front of cars daily - we are all very in tune to them so they do not get hit often, but if we have visitors we always have to warn to be aware of deer. I really do not like to walk in my yard much because of the ticks the deer carry. One year I got very ill from a tick bite and I have been highly fearful of tick bites since then. (we do not have a dog) I would be very much in favor of a controlled bow hunt. Let's get it going. Thanks
What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? I am totally against this. Archery should not include crossbows. Crossbows should be limited to only those who are handicapped. Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week? Please leave the firearm season where it is at. Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antler less portion of the firearm season? I would be OK with reducing the length of this. Do you think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? I am an avid archery hunter, and I am OK with limiting one buck for archery. What are your thoughts on continuing or implementing the antler point restriction in the county you hunt? I believe that the antler restriction is a good thing for all counties. I have to ask why we are allowing deer farms in the state of Missouri. The CWD cases in Macon County are directly related to this, and they should be eliminated. Why is the State of Missouri allowing such a precious resource to be jeopardized? It is a complete joke to think that we are going to be able to control these types of facilities either by the Dept. of Agriculture or Conservation. We are just playing Russian roulette with this issue and eventually, we are going to fire our bullet which will completely jeopardize our deer hunting resources. It makes no sense to me why a few are allowed to jeopardize the many. Democracy should not

work that way!!! If the Governor is such an advocate of hunting, he would be more engaged and would eliminate these operations, period!!
Please enforce High Fence regulations! I love the new regulations, but agents have not been allowed to enforce old regulations until last year. These areas are not only responsible for CWD, but also Feral Hogs across the Ozarks! Phelps/Crawford County will be the next CWD hotspot due to past high fence violations not enforced. New Regulations are great, but allow the agents to do their jobs.
Please enact and Enforce High Fence Regulations! These areas should have been shut down after one brought in CWD! Also, please do not issue depredation permits for crops. I try to manage for Deer on my land and my neighbor's farmer get to shoot the deer at will because he has a depredation permit. They feel that it makes it open season on deer in their fields, but it hurts the neighbor trying to manage for deer. And if you think they are following the rules of the depredation permits, you're crazy. Couple depredation permits with EHD of 2012 and there are very few der left on my 300 acres, add possibility of CWD and future is dark.
I do not like the antler point restriction. I love to hunt whitetails and am a lifetime Missouri resident. I believe too much value has been placed on an animal's "score". I think it is a good idea to limit to one buck per season...
November firearms and antlerless In my opinion the regular firearms and antlerless seasons should be combined into one season. Many of the hunters I know, because of work or school, primarily hunt on the weekends. Extending the regular season would extend their opportunity to kill a buck. I love to be in the woods in the fall, but find it hard to hunt during the antlerless season, when I have farm work to do and can only take a doe. November 7th through November 29th 2015 would be just about perfect! One buck limit. A one buck annual limit would be an outstanding idea. Antler point restrictions As a livestock producer, I cannot see how antler point restrictions make good genetic sense. The best bucks will be killed earlier in life and the poorest ones will continue to reproduce. If I kept my poorest calves as breeding stock, eventually the quality of the herd would decline.
I agree with the movement of the firearms season. A season over Thanksgiving will allow me more time to hunt with my family and children, as they will be off school! I am an avid hunter and bow hunter at that. I cannot support the one buck limit as I believe the sheer number of firearms hunters the state of MO has the OBR would only save a few buck that bow hunters might kill. Not many hunters kill multiple bucks, especially if you eliminate Managed Hunt contributions. As a bow hunter I would gladly make the concession of my 3rd any deer tag. Also, I would be willing to pay for the 2nd archery tag. With that said, I believe 2 buck max with only one by gun, but two any deer tags could be filled by archery means.

I am not a fan of allowing crossbows in during archery season. I know the MDC wants to recruit new hunters, but possibly allowing them for the later portion of archery would be an acceptable compromise. Crossbows for 60+ old hunters may be acceptable for all archery season as well as kids under 15-16 years old. Thanks for your time. B.
I'd like to see the Deer Firearms season moved into December, It's hard for some hunters to get off work the week of Thanksgiving. I would not like to see any changes in the Archery season, unless it would open earlier. I hunt from Sept. 15th till the end of all the deer seasons, but archery is my thing. Only being able to take one buck a season would not be to my liking.
Seeing that you are having an open house with a few topics that I need to state my opinion on...crossbows SHOULD be used during archery season if not a season of its own...big yes...I like the antler restriction in Callaway co , never seen so many. Bucks large and small on the land I have hunted since 1977. I would be in favor of having the rifle season start a week early. better hunting....always have been
Like the restriction limits keep them.....want to be able to shoot a buck and bow a buck...would also LIKE TO SHOOT A THIRD BUCK WITH A BLACK POWDER. If you need more does shot them make the hunter shoot one to get a second buck tag
Why have season a week later? You say 75% of the does would breed before season. In the past when you said we had too many does they all seemed to breed just fine. When the muzzleloader season was right after firearms season it ran through the thanksgiving holiday. It seems like that would increase the number of days hunted. Archery hunters get to hunt 112 days a year and can kill two bucks, do we have to give them the rut too!! AS for small game in the three different areas that I hunt there is no conflict because there are no quail or rabbits. Please do not change the November portion of firearms season! Thank You T. M.
First of all I would like to thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion on numerous things that have to deal with Missouri's deer population. I consider myself a big outdoorsman. My main hobby is Bow Hunting. I am 27 years old and live in Osage county. This is where I do majority of my hunting. Over the past ten years I have noticed a major incline in the mature buck population due to the antler restriction rule that has been enforced. I'm a big advocate of this rule and believe it is providing a better trophy class animal for more hunters. If I could make one proposal to modify the rule it would be to somehow word instead of 4 points on one side to be legal, it would be nice to be able to shoot mature bucks with tiny or no brow tines. There is a genetic of little or no brows that is becoming more predominant in the area I hunt because a mature buck isn't harvested due to lack of brow tines, which in my opinion is very undesirable. My next point would be to enforce a point restriction during youth season as well. Hunting is a

learning process. Passing young bucks can be a great habit to learn as a youngster, and a doe is just as good of a trophy to a kid as anything else. I would also like to talk about nonresident tags. These should not be universally available to the public. A small fee should be charged to apply for a tag and only a certain amount should be available per county. Another subject is the case of one buck annually for harvest. I think this is a great idea no matter the method. Alternating years could be a great plan as well. One buck allowed one year, two the next year and then back to one buck the following in alternating fashion. In closing one other point needs to be addressed, you need does to maintain the population. Unlimited antlerless tags are hurting the population numbers and a limit should be enforced no matter the location unless disease is a problem. Thank you for your time and I hope my opinion will be considered and I will be more than happy to elaborate in greater detail on any of my opinions if needed. Thanks and God bless R. S.
Cut back on the number of doe tags, deer are scarce here even though we have food plots. Move the rifle season out of the rut. Thanks
First I wish the MDC would make a hunter qualify with their archery equipment before they can get an archery permit. By this I mean using there hunting setup with broadheads. I would also like for the MDC to ban expandable broadheads because in every advertisement they say "fly like field points" and that is so far from the truth. I have done my own comparison of 6 or 7 expandable broadheads and all but one hunt anywhere close to the field point and the other was 3" off. When I shot compounds I tuned them to where I felt it was the best I could get it and not less would due. Even though I have a crossbow exception due to a physical disability, I do not support crossbows being used by any archery hunter. Most hunter will only take their crossbow out and shot it a few times with only field points and if it hits good they will then put it up and install broadheads and then go hunting without properly testing there equipment. Having a crossbow makes most feel like it is just like shooting a gun and that is far from the case. Yes people do the same with compound bows but there will be an increased amount of hunters of crossbows are used by everyone and that will lead to more wounded animals. When I was able to shoot a compound bow I put so much work into my setup, cam timing, adjusting tiler, brace height, ATA length, draw length, built my own bow press and the list goes on. I knew the bow would do it job every time the only question was will I do mine and

that only got better through practice. I took that same approach to the crossbow and it has worked out almost as good as when I was using compounds. Crossbows have their own limitations as do compounds and if I could choose right now I would take a compound over a crossbow any day!!!!! But that isn't possible. I am just afraid hunters are not educated enough about crossbows and take the mentally of a gun hunter on an archery hunt with crossbow and nothing good can come from that, they may get lucky from time to time but what about the deer? They were not so lucky and suffer a long illness or death because the hunter did know there equipment.
In regards to the antlerless portion I think it should be suspended for at least 3 years and reevaluated at the time to see if the need is there for it. In urban areas where there is a problem with too many due I think the MDC and hunters should work with landowners and have archery only hunt for these areas and in 3 years see if it need to be modified one way or the other. Thanks
I have never liked antler point restrictions the way they are and believe the MDC should modify the restrictions. 3 Points on one side is where it should be IMHO. Thanks
I think for bow season you should be able to take 2 bucks if you choose to. I will say I agree that only 1 should be taken before the main firearms season. Any as far as one buck for all seasons, I STRONGLY DISAGREE!!!! Thanks
I do not support antler point restrictions at all!!!!! I may county the deer population is small and point restrictions would not help. If you are going to keep it how it is then in the counties that have the antler point restriction reduce the number of points from 4 to 3 on one side. Thanks
If the MDC plans to move the main firearms season one week earlier in NOV I support that change. But if it is being moved to later in NOV. NO I don't support that.
I am very much in favor of keeping gun season at its traditional dates. I would also be in favor of Texas county having an antler point restriction. You are doing a very good job managing wildlife
No crossbows in archery season except handicapped!!!!!!! Leave archery regs as is and decrease the doe tags due to blue tongue kill off.
Concerning the use of cross bows for archery season. My concern is the increase of hunters during the archery season. I am new to archery and have enjoyed the lack of pressure and work involved in planning and preparing for archery hunting. I have spent many hours letting arrows fly at targets and scouting so I can be close enough to make an ethical shot with a compound bow. My fear is that the use of cross bows will increase the number of hunters that just want to shoot a deer and could result in decreased opportunities for "traditional archers" as well as less than ethical shots. I hear a lot of concerns from hunters about the herd population and think this

would lead to more deer harvested, especially does. I guess the alarmist in me sees a bunch more people running around letting the bolts fly. One suggestion I have is to allow our younger hunters to use crossbows during archery season. For example, my kids are 12 & 10 and want to hunt archery, but cannot yet draw a bow that would harvest a deer. Possibly allow hunters under the age of 13 to use crossbows and of course those with disabilities that will not allow them to use compound bows. Or have a week during archery season that would allow cross bows as well as the alternative methods season. I think cross bows are cool and have considered using one during the alternative methods season, but would like to see the archery season regulations left to the use of compound or traditional bow's. P.
I would like to reinforce my comments about expandable broadheads and why they are the poorest choice an archery hunter can use when it comes to broadheads. 1. You need a setup that is properly tuned first and foremost. The expandable broadhead manufacturers advertise the fly just like field points and they also have this on their packaging and most hunters don't even bother to shoot the expendables because of this false advertising. 2. Ever with a properly tuned bow they are so many things that can go wrong with an expandable when compared to fix blade broadheads. If the blades open in flight it will lead to erratic arrow flight and very poor penetration if the deer is hit. Same will happen with a bone hit. Blades fail to open and I could go on but with a fix blade broadhead you take a lot of the variables out of the equation that the expendables have. 3. Again even with a tuned bow you still have to have enough Kinetic energy and even more importantly momentum to get enough penetration to get a lethal hit and a hit that will produce a good blood trail. Most expendables make very small entrance wounds and if they exit they will give a good exit hole but with most the expendables they will not get good penetration leading to no exit hole and poor blood trail. The amount of Kinetic energy needed for the head work correctly various from expandable to expandable. But KE is not the most important factor, I will explain next. KE is the amount energy the arrow has on impact and KE is reduced drastically when and expandable head hits it's target because the opening of the blades take a lot of that away and poor penetration is what happens a lot of the time Momentum is the most important factor, If you shoot a bow that is close to IBO specs 350FPS with 30" draw 350gr total arrow weight and 70# draw weight your KE will be very high but your momentum which is what keeps the arrow going is low but if you change the arrow weight to 450gr your arrow speed with be around 310fps KE will drop very little but you Momentum with increase by leaps and bounds. My son had a bow that by IBO standards what shooting in the 355FPS range. I took his base setup and had him shooting a 497GR arrow and his speed was 294FPS . These are the results setup one 350GR arrow 354FPS and the arrow did not make it through the target. Setup 2 497GR arrow 294 PFS it passed all the way through the target so you put another in behind it and it went through both targets and hit my wood fence and broke the wooden plank and was stuck in the ground in the ditch 20 feet away from

the fence with a fix blade head and then we tried an expandable just to show him the difference and it went almost all the way through the first target and stopped in the 2nd and those results where repeated over and over. I just wanted to add this information because I felt it would show how much work it takes to properly setup and hunting setup and will result in the cleanest kill possible. I know most archery hunters don't take things nowhere near as far as I do but I want every advantage possible, I owe this to the game I am hunting and I think that message and respect for the animal being hunted is not there for most hunters. If MDC would require hunters to qualify with their hunting setups before than can archery hunt would be a great step, I don't think a yearly qualification is needed, something in the 5 year range would be ideal.Making crossbows legal for everyone would also have the same issue as above I have talked about with the expandable broadheads. I really think most hunters would take a gun hunting mentality to hunting with crossbows and that just doesn't usually work out to good for the deer or turkey by that I mean Most will take their crossbow out and if it hits good they will just put on expendables or fix blades and not recheck there setup when it is ready to hunt. This would lead to poor shots leading to more wounded animals or unrecovered game. I have just hit on some high points I didn't want to get to technical because this message is already too long but if you would like to discuss this more in depth I would be glad to contact someone there at the MDC. I am very passionate about hunters taking the time to make sure things are right and that they respect the animal they are pursuing. I also understand things happen and for whatever reason a bad shot can be made by anyone but if you make sure your equipment is setup right that will reduce what can go wrong by leaps and bounds. Thanks S.F.
Eliminate antlerless only firearms season. Expand alternative methods by a week. Impose antler point restriction statewide. Be cautious about including crossbows in archery season--this will effectively triple the range of hunters during archery season, and could really impact the harvest numbers.
I'm in favor of making crossbows legal for use during the archery season. I think 1 buck should be allowed for everyone or at the most 1 buck for archery and 1 for firearms. I think the antlerless season should be in late Oct, limited to 4 days. I think deer should be managed for # of does and mature bucks. I'm OK with moving the firearms season back 1 week so it would include the Thanksgiving weekend.
I think the season should be moved back one week. Also the antler restriction is working, but the whole state needs to be included except for CWD areas. We have farms both in Franklin county and Washington county. It is too easy for a person to kill an illegal buck in franklin county and just call it in saying they killed it in Washington county. Most people will get used

to the idea of killing a buck with 4 on one side after they start seeing the results.
I agree you should put point restrictions in all counties... no crossbows should not be used by everyone.
I agree you should put point restrictions in all counties... no crossbows should not be used by everyone.
I think 1 antlered deer during archery season is enough till numbers in franklin county grow. I also feel that during youth hunts a lot of big bucks are being taken. The youths fathers bow hunt and find a big buck then let their child shoot it before the rest of us have a chance at it.
I have emailed and written letters to mdc now for the past 4 to 5 years telling them that there was going to be less deer to hunt because of all the doe tags sold. They didn't want to hear from me anymore. We need less days of hunting and less doe tags sold. You need to manage counties better. Bring back the check stations. Only one youth season. On and on and on!
Non-resident landowners: I feel the regulation of not allowing non -resident landowners and their families to hunt and fish free on their properties is a huge mistake by the conservation commission. These non-resident landowners provide much needed habitat on their properties. They should not be penalized for that. Antlerless Permits-Point Restrictions: I feel that you should not allow more than one antlerless permit for firearms and one antlerless permit for archery. Unlimited permits along with antler restrictions has caused a decrease in deer in the areas that I hunt (Ste. Genevieve and Perry Co.) Areas where we used to see herds of 10-20 deer we now see 2-3 if we are lucky.it appears we are killing to many deer during the seasons we have. The habitat is still there for a much larger population than now exists. Check stations: I feel that we should go back to the old check in stations we had in the past. This would cost a little more to implement. The department has the money to do this. I also think it keeps everyone more honest.
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I support the recommended regulation changes by MDC regarding captive cervids. Captive facilities should not be allowed to threaten our state's wildlife resources.
I think allowing crossbows at the same time of normal bow season should be allowed. I would like to see the rifle deer season be held the 3rd week in November. I would like to see the doe only season be held in December.
1) CROSSBOWS- DANGEROUS BUT OK TO ALLOW 2) NOV. PORTION - YES, MOVE IT BACK AND SHORTEN IT 3) ANTLERLESS- REMOVE IT 4) ONE BUCK LIMIT? NO, ONE BUCK ARCHERY - YES - STATEWIDE EXCEPT FOR URBAN, NUISANCE AREAS. WHY? You already threw us archery hunters under the bus in Town & Country so your biologist friend could land a huge contract there. Furthermore, you have authorized him to destroy the entire bachelor groups over the last 5 years. i.e., 1-19-14 on Weidman 8 deer killed, 7 were bucks, 4 were 3.5 years or older. These deer don't belong to you or Town & Country. They belong to us and we may seek restitution if you continue this.
No Crossbow during Archery Seasons unless physical issues with doctor proof. Reduction in antlerless season is a good Idea, and also need to reduce the amount of antlerless tags that can be purchased. Knox county deer numbers are less than they should be based on previous 6 years. Some landowners and club leases are shooting way more than the numbers can sustain. We have around 800 leased for the last 24 years under QDMA guidelines to increase over all mature buck numbers. For the last 4 years we have reduced our doe harvest per year to less than 3 to increase our deer numbers on our lease. We were see way less does overall , yet groups around us are out of control and killing 20 plus does off their 120 acres each firearms season and this does not include archery kills. Need to limit hunters to a couple of does a year during firearms. One buck per season (Firearms and Archery would equal 2 yearly) would be good. Don't agree with one buck yearly limit -Bad Idea. Keep antler restrictions in Knox County
Since I am primarily an archery hunter, I don't believe we need any changes to the limits on archery tags. If any changes are made statewide I would support a change to reduce the number of antlerless permits. Frankly, I think this privilege has been abused. These need to be reduced. IF any change is made to the archery deer season it could be started earlier, 9/1 and ended later, 2/1 of the following year.

Landowner permits need to be reduced because it is too easy to abuse these permit especially with the tele-check system. Unless a landowner can prove that deer are damaging their crops the permits need to be reduced. Also, crossbows should be limited during the archery season to those who have disabilities that restrict the use of a conventional bow, either compound or traditional. And finally, atlatl should not be permitted as a legal mean of harvesting any animal.
I really wanted to attend your meeting in St Louis tonight. Accident on I-44, working till 5:30 pm and limited meeting hours prevented me from attending. I don't understand only one meeting time for the entire St Louis Metro area. I also don't understand the hours of 3 pm till 8 pm? If you really wanted the feedback, your meeting would be on a Saturday, Sunday or two nights at least! I am a landowner in Reynolds co Missouri. I have used the MDC private landowner assistance and I have worked with Ken West in the SE region to reduce poaching and road hunting in my area. Our hunting has improved by 100 percent. I do not want the season pushed back a week. We have had outstanding success due to the timing of the rut the past three seasons. The date change will not increase hunting (in my opinion). It will force hunters to choose between thanksgiving dinners with the family or hunting!!!!! This will create many family conflicts in hunting families and lead to "less" hunting. If your desire is to greatly reduce the deer harvest, then push the date back a week or two. No rut hunting and hunters having to choose to attend thanksgiving or to hunt! I am also not in favor of antler point restrictions in the SE region. This is a tool of Trophy hunters that hunt for the 140 inch or 160 inch bucks. I think it should be a personal decision of the hunter to wait for an "older" buck. I do not understand antler point restrictions and the use of them as a deer management tool. I have seen data prove that it leads to greater doe kills as fewer "legal" bucks are seen while hunting. Again, I really wanted to address these and other issues face to face at the MDC meeting in St Louis. I am very upset that the hours were short and the traffic (for me and others) was horrible. I might have made it to the event by 7 pm or so. While discussing this meeting at work today, my co-workers wanted to know if these meetings really have any impact on management decisions. In my part of Missouri, the MDC has done an excellent job of deer management. They have had a dramatic impact on deer dogging and poaching in my area. Road hunting is another issue and is still a problem I will address with my local agent. My son and I are seeing more deer, bigger deer AND more tom turkeys. I saw 5 does before taking a very nice 8 pt. buck. My son could only hunt the first two days and he saw 11 does and two very nice bucks that he couldn't get a shot at. My opinion is based on the old logic....."if it ain't broke, don't fix it". B. M., Fenton, MO
If you are truly worried about the pressure on bucks during the rut, move the rifle season to the first full week of December. The deer will be out of rut and you are screwing most of the rifle hunters out of at least one due to family obligations during thanksgiving if not more than one day. I don't disagree with the rest of your proposals but strongly disagree with moving rifle season to the week of thanksgiving. You are also knocking guys out of vacation during season due to other employees taking off holidays.

I would like to see the use of crossbows during archery season, I would like to see the November portion of gun season pushed back one week and do away with the antlerless only season and make the antler restriction state wide. I would like to see muzzle loader hunters have their own season, but I would like to be able to take a buck with a bow and a gun. I think that nonresident hunters should not be allowed to buy tags over the counter for just any of our seasons I think it should be a lottery for either gun, bow or muzzleloader just like Kansas, Nebraska. Iowa and Illinois do for the nonresidents of their states.
We've been trying to get the numbers down for 10 years and couldn't get the job done, mother nature steps in and puts the numbers down to where they should be and then you cut the tags. We're going to be right back where we were. Numbers may not be as high as they were but there's still plenty of deer. Last season the weather and the moon had more to do with people not seeing as many as they were used to seeing set where I can cover 40 Acers of bottom ground on flat creek just south of potters ford in Morgan county and this year instead of having 40-60 deer in my field in the AM and that many again in the PM, we just had 20-30.We normally take 20-30 deer a year off this 250 acre farm. This year we only took 12 plus the 8 we found dead in the summer. Keep the point restriction, open public ground to does ALL SAEASON (we have a deer and an otter problem I have lost 1k$ worth of fish plus the 6k I spent on building the pond MDC should be responsible for the damage of these bastards, they were killed off for a reason!!)As far as the deer go we will never be able to kill enough to really manage the heard because everyone wants a buck (even if it's a forker) Don't loose the ground the good Lord blessed you with by sending the blue tongue.
Using a cross bow during archery season is a horrible idea! That would be like having a 4 month long rifle season! Deer numbers are already down due to diseases, unlimited antlerless tags, road kills, poaching, etc. The regulation changes should be to protect and increase the herd not to further decimate it. Please make changes to protect our herd!
-I do not support crossbow use for all of the traditional archery season. I do support crossbow use for all firearms and alternative method seasons. -I have read that moving the November firearms season back 1 week would reduce buck harvest and possibly
I know this will hurt your feelings but what you need to do is take note of how other states operate. Say like Kansas, Ohio, and Ill. Iowa and so on. Make mo. a draw state for outsiders. Seems to me that Mo. Dept. of Conservation got out of control with too many days of season and selling too many tags! It used to be fun to deer hunt now we have none! Not much fun sitting on a stand and seeing nothing.
The advantage of the archery tag has been the ability to harvest additional bucks. Limiting this to one buck per season would keep many hunters from the woods.
I was unable to attend the local meeting here in St. Louis, but would like to take an opportunity to voice my opinion and support for proposed deer hunting regulations changes. I am likely a minority in the population of Missouri deer hunters. I'm 38 years old. I'm an

archery hunter first, but will also participate in the November firearm and late muzzleloader seasons as well. I have been a selective buck hunter almost from the time I started hunting late in my high school years. Me and my family are private landowner in Ste. Gen county. I have also owned hunting properties in Clark and Macon counties, and spent considerable time hunting various places in the NE corner of the state. I am very interested in and supportive of the suggested changes discussed in the May/June Conservationist magazine and also posted on the website. I have spent the past 20 years working with MDC private land assistance and on my own to improve the habitat on our Ste. Gen. farm for all aspects of wildlife, but particularly deer. During this time I have spent countless dollars and hours on various projects. Having also spent considerable time hunting in other mid-western states (mostly Iowa and Illinois) I have often thought that my home state was at a disadvantage relative to our neighbors who have far less liberal deer hunting regulations with respect to antlered deer harvests. It is my uneducated observation that Missouri has not been meeting it's full potential for the state's deer herd. It's always somewhat disheartening to know that the rifle season sits smack dab in the middle of the peak breading season. I strongly support moving the firearms season away from peak rut AND reducing the # of buck harvests per hunter. It seems logical that the suggested regulation changes will tap into the true potential of our states great resources. It would seem this can be accomplished without causing significant disruption to the other end of the spectrum of recreational hunters as well. I very much hope to hear that the proposed regulations will be enacted soon. Should you want any additional feedback or information, please contact me at the e-mail address I have listed as this is a topic of great interest and passion for me. Regards M. P.
1) I am adamantly opposed to crossbows in archery season. They are not bows, they are not drawn & held by the shooter, & they will compromise all that archery season has been & is meant to be. Crossbow companies continue to pour money into promoting them as bows. I do not have a problem with them being used in gun season, or when a person has legitimate health issues that prevents them from pulling a regular bow. They should not be allowed in archery season though. 2) I would not be opposed to pushing the rifle season back one week. 3) I do not have a problem with the length of the antlerless season, if that is what is needed to manage the population. 4) I could work with the one buck per year limit, if that is what is needed to manage the population. Or two total, gun & bow. 5) I like the 4-point restrictions.
What about Jefferson Barracks?
In general, I prefer the management plan consider quality of deer over quantity. I am both an archery and firearms hunter with a priority on archery. I would like to see bucks in an older age class with some opportunity to harvest does. I would support moving firearms season out of the rut.
If there is thought about a one buck per hunter then the antler restriction needs to take place in every county state wide. As far as the crossbow discussion I believe they should have to be of

certain age or only used after gun season.
I am opposed to the change in timing of the firearms season. I along will all other retail employees will be in able to hunt if the season is moved back a week. The week of thanksgiving is the busiest time of year for the approx. 240000 retail workers! Getting any time off to hunt that week is impossible. Also a big part of my enjoyment of hunting comes from seeing all the deer movement during the rut, it increases the chance of taking that buck of a lifetime. G.
Comments on the prosed regs/ideas for future deer hunting changes. I am FOR the following: 1. Move RIFLE season back AT LEAST a week. I enjoy archery hunting and would prefer to hunt more of the rut with a bow and this would keep the "orange army" away another week. It also would increase deer herd because fewer deer would be killed by orange army the further away from the rut we push them. 2. Allow crossbows for all archers IF THEY SO CHOOSE. I would not use one, but the people that already use one could continue to do so without Dr.'s note. I am AGAINST: 1. Lowering the deer herd through additional doe kills. Let's limit doe harvest (which you are starting to do this year already). 2. Allowing the captive cervid industry inside this State. I wish these "high fenced" places were illegal in MO. I am not a fan. Thanks so much and please let me know if any of these ideas are gaining traction for future regulation changes. -R.M.
1. I am opposed to allow crossbows to be part of the archery season. 2. I am not opposed to the shift of one week later for the November portion of the firearms season. 3. I am not opposed to a modification of the antlerless portion of the firearm season, as long as it does not radically reduce or eliminate this firearm season. I like to partake in the most days of firearm hunting that is available. I feel the small game hunters have ample time the rest of the year to partake in their activity. 4. I would like to at least maintain one buck limit for archery and one buck limit for all other modes of deer hunting. I do not want to see this limit go below two. 5. I would like to modify the antler point restriction to 3 points on one side down from 4 points on one side. This would give hunters more of an opportunity to harvest a decent buck. 6. I am not opposed to adding shotgun to the alternative hunting method.
I don't want antler point restrictions in the southeast region. I believe the MDC is catering to the QDMA "minority" when it discusses "trophy" buck management. I think much more polling needs to be done statewide on this issue. I have no opinion on crossbows during

archery season. I am firmly against pushing the deer season back into Thanksgiving. I cannot believe research that says a large percentage of does are not getting bred due to buck harvest. The breeding season last over a month and research has proven the existence of a 2nd rut or breeding period. If the MDC is honest, then just tell us hunters that you want to reduce buck harvest and that is why you are pushing the season back a week. Taking the peak of the hunt away from Missouri hunters will greatly reduce the quality of the hunt and the chance to harvest a buck. I think pushing the date back will create family problems/issues for hunters state wide. Hunters will have to choose between hunting and spending thanksgiving with the family! I have been hunting deer in Missouri since the late 60's and deer hunting was VERY different in the 70s when the season times were changed. Deer were just starting to rebound statewide and I remember "bucks only" seasons in order to increase the doe populations. Hunters may have spent "more days hunting" but it was due to not seeing ANY deer at all and the desperation to fill a tag. Now I am seeing more deer than ever before in Reynolds county. We have had three very exciting hunts during the peak of the rut (2011, 2012 and 2013) and I cannot believe our hunting will 'improve' by taking it out of the rut. I also cannot imagine having to choose between my Moms for Thanksgiving dinner or being gone hunting for three days! The MDC changed the date of the youth season to avoid Halloween!!!! I will be very vocal on this issue. Our hunting has improved 100 percent in our area. We have waited many years for this positive change. If it ain't broke.....don't fix it! B. M., Fenton, Missouri Age 56
I think having the starting date for November firearms moved back a week would be smart. It would allow more does to be breed before the bucks get harvested. It would also allow more time in woods during Thanksgiving. Most of us are off Thursday and Friday.
I recommend that there should be additional antlerless permits available for Bollinger County. The deer numbers have increased to a point of being a problem. Farmers are shooting deer in the summer because of crop damage. That is not right. Let the hunters help reduce the populations during the season with extra permits.
I hunt in Bollinger County. I have seen an increase of the deer population over the last several years. I enjoy seeing and hunting deer but it seems too much of a good thing could be a bad thing. I would like to have more management options on the land that I hunt to even out the deer herd. I would recommend another firearms antlerless permit for everyone. This permit would allow me to have options to kill more does. I don't have that option now. Thanks for your time.
I would like to see crossbows included in archery season
Please do not limit hunters to only one buck (all methods). This would make selective harvest almost impossible. On my property, I routinely take out smaller bucks with my bow knowing that I can hunt for a larger buck later during firearms seasons. Populations are low in Madison county so taking does (as this point) is really not the way to go either. Let us have the ability to manage our own property by NOT limiting us to one buck.
I don't want to see deer season during thanksgiving.

Would like to see cross bows allowed during archery season
I like the 4 point rule in areas where there are plenty of deer, such as northern and western counties. In the southeastern part of the state there are just not enough deer to see. Timing of firearms season should stay the same closest Sat. to the 15th of Nov. Antlerless only should just be 4 days around a weekend at end of Dec. Bow season should be limited to bows not crossbows, crossbows fit into primitive weapons. Youth seasons are just right. Need to allow salt and mineral licks in the CWD containment zone again, it's time. At least in Linn, Sullivan, Chariton, Adair, and Randolph, the outlying counties.
Please do not move the firearms season out one week. The season already misses most of the rut in our area. Also, It would make the firearms and alternative methods seasons too close together.
As both a hunter and published author of Whitetail deer hunting I would first like to commend the MDC in its protection of the Whitetail deer herd and other wildlife resources. As one who is in the field a good portion of my day, I have noticed a significant change in the ratio between trophy whitetail deer and 2-3 year olds. Coming from New York State, I saw firsthand the damage that happens when Environmental Conservation moves at a slower pace than that which is needed. Where juvenile bucks are harvested in numbers, trophy bucks decline. With that being said, I for one would be in favor of antler restriction in Ripley County, for both youth and adult hunters. I feel it would be a valuable asset to increase trophy whitetails at this time, as well as insuring a healthy deer population in this region. Thank you.
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION: Small game hunting especially rabbits and squirrels is the traditional starting point for youth to begin hunting. The ultra-long firearms deer seasons make it impossible to provide youth the quality uninterrupted experiences necessary for them to learn to hunt and enjoy the total outdoor experience.
Yes I think crossbows in archery is an excellent idea. Bring more handicapped and older hunters back who maybe can't use or hold a regular bow. You still need to have the deer in close for a shot. Better to see the actual animal you are shooting at and determine if it is a legal deer from an antler point restriction. Potentially better and more efficient kills than just wounding an animal. Compound bows today are shooting at 200 to 300 plus feet a second so what's the difference please add it to the archery season
I farm in Bollinger county and have extensive crop damage every year. I recommend that there should be more for tags issued to help control the population.
Could you allow crossbows for regular archery season? This would allow me to bow hunt once again. I have an arm injury that isn't severe enough for a crossbow waiver but will not let me pull a bow back.
I am in favor of allowing the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season.
I would like to see Cross Bows legal for all here in MO. Thanks

Sirs, I bow hunted for 10 or12 years and lost time to do so as my children grew and my business concerns required more and more of my already stretched schedule. Finally in retirement I have the time to devote to past forms of recreation but time was not as kind to some of my physical abilities. This year I was finally able to meet the medical requirement for crossbow during bow season and am finally going to enjoy days afield that I would miss.....S. C.
My comment is on Deer Archery Hunting, I would be favor of using crossbows during the regular archery season. I have a permit because of a shoulder injury. I think the crossbow will allow more hunters to get into the woods more often to take advantage of our great Missouri outdoors.
I strongly support the use of crossbows during archery season. I think there will be less wounded deer and take home kills should be a bit higher and more hunters should participate in the archery season.
I am very much in favor of using a cross bow during general archery season. Please give this matter serious attention. Thank you for doing the great job you're doing in managing our wild life. I feel very confident in knowing there will be some game around for my grandchildren to hunt and enjoy. Thanks Again J.S.
Crossbows should be included in archery seasons. Most compound bows are able to shoot as far or farther, accurately than the crossbows. It would allow women and children to participate that are unable to draw a weight that gives an ethical, quick, clean kill. Thank you for inviting public opinions and for doing a great job with conservation!
Would like to see date changed
As an avid hunter, with a disability, (irreparable torn rotor cuff) I would like to see the archery season to include the crossbow as a weapon of choice. I have the special permit for a crossbow. Many hunters have disabilities, but cannot afford to medical repair and cannot have a physician sign off on the form.
Crossbows should be legal for all hunters. It increases the amount of time we are able to spend in the field hunting. Not everyone is agile or strong.
Regarding thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season: I appreciate the opportunity to write you regarding potential crossbow legislation/regulation that is being considered in Missouri. I am writing you today on behalf of the United Bow hunters of Illinois, a non for profit organization established in 1995 to represent the interests of Illinois bow hunters while promoting outdoor ethics and traditional values. Our organization, along with all other prominent bow hunting organizations in IL and in the U.S. (North American Bow hunting Coalition, Compton's Traditional Bow hunters, Pope and Young Club) all oppose the use of a crossbow as a devise for bow hunting.

This opposition is founded on many reasons, but fundamentally based upon the fact that crossbows are a high impact weapon. The inclusion of a high impact weapon in archery season would create unpredictable harvest data. Additionally, the regulation of high impact weapons (such as crossbows) with low impact weapons (such as traditional bows) could ultimately shorten a deserved longer season for traditional bowhunters. One final item to consider, and most important to our organization, is the traditions of bowhunting. Crossbows are a tool useful to increase harvest rates, increase effective hunting ranges and decrease the amount of commitment needed to harvest an animal. Crossbow harvesting is not bowhunting. Bowhunting requires commitment, time and patience and as a result, the number of recreation hours per resource is significantly higher than of other weapons. Bowhunting heritage is important and needs to be protected for future generations. If the Missouri hunting community collectively wants more crossbow hunting opportunities, I would suggest creating a separate season for the weapon. This way, these high impact weapons can be regulated separately, which will allow more opportunity for game management while protecting the recreation hours established by low impact weapons such as traditional bows. Thank you for taking the time to read this communication. I sincerely appreciate your time and I hope you will consider the negative impacts that an open crossbow season would have to bowhunting. Sincerely, B.J., United Bowhunters of Illinois
I think crossbows should be legal for archery season. I would also agree to 1 antlered deer per year
I'm against the proposed regulation changes. The MDC nearly wiped out the deer herd up north, and the new regs. will only make it hard on the citizens who actually maintain our state's deer. No one knows why or where deer get CWD, and over-regulating or putting deer farmers out of business isn't going to solve anything.
new archery hunters seem to injure deer with crossbow seem like better kill shot
I am adamantly against allowing crossbow during archery season. They are not a piece of archery equipment, no matter what the NRA says. You hold no weight, you put it to your shoulder, pull a trigger, sight through a scope just like a rifle. Quit listening to special interest groups and listen to archers for a change.
Please allow crossbows during archery season. It still requires hunters to get close to the deer. Other states are doing it, and it has not had an adverse effect on this resource. Thank You
First I will say I am totally against crossbows being included in archery season. I don't believe they are archery equipment with a stock, trigger and a scope. If this does come to pass I would hope that the crossbows would have their own season so that some true statistics can be gathered on who uses them. I am in favor on the rifle season being moved back farther from the rut. I think 2 weeks later

would be better than one week if we are truly interested in managing the buck herd. I would like to see us raise the non-resident fees more in line with the surrounding states.
I broke my neck in a car wreck and cannot hold a compound bow in the drawn position! I am 6o years old now and hunt with a crossbow during firearms season, for the last 3o years because I cannot stand the recoil of a deer rifle, I don't see a problem for a crossbow to be used during archery season by anyone because they are safe and not as dangerous as a firearm, plus they kill the animal fast for a clean quick kill! And help control the deer herd, so yes I agree we should be able to use crossbow's during archery season, Thanks D. T.
I would be like to see the use of crossbows be made legal for archery season for all hunters not just hunters with a disability.
I use a cross bow because of shoulder injury, otherwise I would have to give up hunting, thanks, H.
I believe crossbows should be legalized for all of archery season. It helps to get young and old into the sport and sometimes keep people in the sport who would otherwise drop out due to injury or disability. I myself injured my shoulder this year and am unable to hold up a bow. I got a permit from my doctor for a crossbow or would not be archery hunting anymore. Also a crossbow, I believe is a good management tool as it is much steadier to aim and will result in fewer wounded and unrecovered deer.
I am totally in favor of allowing crossbows during archery season. They allow you to make a more accurate shot, decreasing the odds of injuring but not killing an animal.
1. I am in favor of crossbows being allowed for archery hunting. I follow bowsite.com and there is plenty of valid discussion surrounding the topic. The main point against is always from a selfish point of view of the true archery hunter. That same hunter uses all kinds of technology, but crossbows are out. Why are cars, trucks, gps, compound bows, lighted nocks, and other technologies allowed, but crossbows are out. It does not make sense. 2. Please move the gun season anywhere but the rut. In addition to that, make non-resident tags an application only affair. IA seems to have it right.
I support making crossbows legal for all hunters during archery season. Thank you
I strongly support crossbow hunting thru the archery season in Missouri. It allows me to enjoy the hunting season many more days and occasionally get a nice shot off even with my weak shoulder.
I think due to their limited range crossbows should be legal for all to use. Firearms season should be a week earlier not a week later for maximum harvest. One buck annually would be a travesty for herd management, the current buck limit should be left alone. The average hunter doesn't kill 3 bucks a year anyways. Antler restrictions seem to be doing good, but my question is, how to you eliminate undesirable bucks from your gene pool in these areas if they don't meet the point restriction in place?
The idea of a one buck annually limit is a great idea to impose bigger bucks. The idea to move up the November portion is nice also, but I think they should have an early doe season instead

of making the hunt at the end of the November hunt into December or maybe of the 11 day firearms season make a doe only kill for the first 5 days then go for bucks the last 6 days of the 11 day season.
Have no problem with crossbows being allowed.
I would like to see crossbows legal during the archery season. You could start by making them legal for hunters over 50 to see what kind of impact it has. Also, moving the regular firearms season back at LEAST 1 week would be a good idea. Too hot lately opening weekends.
MDC, I am writing this response because I will not be able to attend the meeting in Lee's Summit for the open house. In my opinion concerning addition of crossbow into archery season would not show much benefit the urban areas. With this addition into urban archery there would be an increased amount of injuries and complaints. The crossbow would allow and increased amount of hunters with less practice and training into the woods that would be able to shoot further. Also the addition of a fixed weapon (ready to fire) in urban areas would be very close to allowing small caliber rifles to be used in urban areas which in my opinion we would see less ethical hunting methods. That being said I am for having crossbows added to rural hunting archery season. With the different environment this would allow those who hunt and maintain their own land to better manage their deer populations. Concerning the issue of limiting the amount of deer tags (antlered and non-antlered) in my opinion I believe we should adjust per county/area to best match the current trend of deer populations. I think if we limited the amount of tags we offer hunters we could see a rise in illegal hunting practices, but we could offer a better hunting experience for the younger generations. Maybe allow those you hunt to feed their families an extra tag. On the topic of changing the rifle season to the week of Thanksgiving I am completely for. It seems to me the last couple of years have really have not been good hunting at my family farm in Calhoun Mo. It would give hunters more time in the woods with the holiday time off and according to the June edition of the Conservationist would give better reproduction and breeding. I only offer one new idea of adding or lengthening the amount of managed hunts MDC offer. I had the pleasure of hunting Blue River 4 just south of Swope Park and really wish I had another week there. But thanks for offering the public the chance to hunt these local parks. Thanks for your time. J. P. B. Bowhunter
Make crossbows legal for everyone during archery season.
I read you are considering letting seniors use a crossbow during the bow season. I support that

proposal based on my own experiences. I'm now 77 and have a hard time getting it pulled back and holding it for any length of time. Hope you approve the measure.
In reference to the total #of bucks a person can harvest I am opposed to a 1 buck only per season harvest. The statistics that I have read from the MDC shows that a very low % of hunters kill more than 1 buck and even lower for 2 or more so I don't see that much gain in keeping more bucks alive. I enjoy being out in the woods all season long and not having a buck tag after rifle season would probably keep me from hunting later in the season. At the very least keep it at a 2 buck harvest in any combination of archery or firearms. If a 1 buck rule is implemented I would like to see the out of state tag purchase changed to a point or draw system and a price to reflect our neighboring states and omit the "no archery antlerless only tags" on MDC land, for that is all I hunt ,public land. Yes I would like to see more mature bucks but not at a compromise to archery hunters. As far as the date change for firearm season, I am neutral but do lean a little to the later date. When doing future surveys I would like to see "deer" broke down into doe & Bucks classes, and not an overall deer herd survey. I know changes need to be made, but smaller steps at a time may be a better approach. If changes are made, it needs to be all aspects of deer hunting, including a change in "out of state tags" purchase system. Once again we are at a crossroad in hunting. I hope the MDC puts hunters and the deer herd before financial gains. Thank you.
Stop the extra antlerless season. Keep the 4 point rule state wide. I would like to be able to kill a buck with my bow and a buck with my rifle or muzzleloader...
I think by allowing the one buck rule is a huge disadvantage to archery hunters. Archery and rifle season are two separate seasons and should be treated as such. Those who choose to archery hunt have a longer season and you would be cutting it much shorter, with no opportunity to even rifle hunt. If you want to regulate bucks more why not put a draw on nonresident hunting tags. For a Missouri land owner this would be a huge mistake. If you want more people involved in true conservation I think this is the wrong way to do it. Why not enforce the 4 point rule state wide and give the deer time to mature then you would also up the numbers. Just my opinion, but there are definitely better ways to do this.
Use of crossbows – I'm a vertical compound bow shooter myself. I am not a crossbow fan except for disabled adults or kids and have no problem with the current regs regarding use of crossbows. That said, I also realize crossbows are being more widely accepted and implemented into standard archery seasons by more and more states. With dwindling numbers of hunters, it may be wise to recruit more hunters into the sport by relaxing the current crossbow rules. Moving November firearms season back one week – By that, do you mean start a week later as in the weekend before Thanksgiving? I'm all for that. Although I firearm hunt with rifle and muzzleloader, I'm primarily a bow hunter. I would love nothing more than to see the prime of the rut being bow hunted only. Maybe a change on the use of crossbows during archery season will still encourage the rifle hunters into the field for the rut with a crossbow instead of a rifle. Elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season – I really

don't firearm hunt the antlerless season. I'm back into the bow hunting mode again. I think this answer should be based on the health and numbers of the antlerless deer. The deer biologists need to weigh in on this before I form a real opinion, but I tend to go along with their recommendations. One buck limit for archery season – I've never taken two bucks during archery season so I compelled to say I wouldn't mind. The downside is people who take a buck early in the season may stop hunting and curtail or stop bow hunting the rest of the season. That would result in more does and an increased population. It may also increase the size and maturity of the bucks too which would be a good albeit unintentional consequence. I'd like to know what the deer biologists have to say first before saying it's good or bad. I think science must rule first. Continuing/implementing the antler point restriction in the county you hunt – Generally speaking, I'm ok with the point restrictions. I think it helps with the aging and maturity of bucks. The downside is you have to be very careful about shooting a deer in low light because it may be difficult to see all the answers. The other down side to point restrictions is a mature 6 point that should be taken walks free. That's unfortunate.
I have been very critical of our states vision of growing quality trophy deer. I do want to commend something that you did was get an antler restriction. That was huge. The next step we need is no more bonus tags. You get one any deer and one bonus. I would like to see only 1 buck for bow season. I hunt in MO and IL and between both farms we lost 16 deer in one year and who knows how many others. Two 160 class bucks and some smaller ones. We also lost bucks on cam that were regulars and are just, missing. I have close to 20 deer heads in my basement and know what management is. It isn't shooting everything in sight like are unlimited tags allow. If we need more money raise the price but don't keep offering more tags and more seasons. Out of staters it is too cheap. I pay a lot more in other states and own ground and think are out of staters should too. We have a serious deer decline and you need to wake up and take control of it. We have managed our land for over 15 years but we don't have the deer we used to have. I feel sorry for the guys that don't manage because they have no chance with all the does shot each year. I would love to see higher price tags to eliminate some of the knuckleheads we have out in the woods that have no clue what they are doing. If you really want to control herd, go to shotgun. Also, shorten the seasons. We go from season to season and the deer get no break. Youth season is a joke too, it should be does only and after the normal gun season. Thanks again for listening!
In order... Please leave November gun season as is. Change to only one buck with a bow. And I do not care either way about allowing crossbow. Reduce the number of doe tags.
In order... Please leave November gun season as is. Change to only one buck with a bow. And I do not care either way about allowing crossbow. Reduce the number of doe tags.

Lastly, please stop allowing button bucks to be taken on an antlerless tag. That is a horrible practice.
I think it would be a good thing to hunt with crossbows during bow season.
Crossbows would be great for older shooters. More would keep on hunting. Also to help younger shooters get in the sport. Thanks.
The deer overpopulation in my subdivision and the surrounding subdivisions has increased exponentially over the past five years, to the point where it has become a health and safety issue for residents. Deer have taken up residence in our yards; they use our gardens and landscape as their own personal salad bar, they come up onto our patios and within a foot or so of doors and windows. On a daily basis I am apt to be startled by an encounter (up close and personal) with a deer as I come around the side of my house, to have a deer or two dart across the sidewalk in front of me from between homes when I am walking my dog, to observe residents stop in traffic on subdivision roads as small herds (13 or so) cross the road (or get hit by a car when the driver didn't see them coming), and to have families of deer (doe, buck, and fawns) bed down in our backyards out in the open (no doubt just digesting their latest meal from the garden). Residents are unable to let their children, grandchildren, and pets play on the lawns for fear of acquiring a tic-borne illness. Yes, deer are beautiful, gentle creatures and we should focus on their conservation; but when the population is so out of control that urban/suburban residents have lost the ability to enjoy their property something MUST be done to reduce the population. I, personally, am at my wits end as to how I can deter them from my property. I go through gallons of costly Liquid Fence (deer repellent spray) every year and plant deer-resistant plantings whenever possible, yet I constantly must battle this problem. I am thinking of investing in an air horn or air-rifle, but that would mean I would have to sit on a vigil every morning and afternoon -- and I am a 72-year old woman! Any suggestions for those of us whose neighborhoods have, quite literally, been taken over by deer? Hopefully, as you consider what to do about the hunters and hunting laws, you will also consider how to help the non-hunting suburbanites in the state who just want to ensure the health and safety of their families and pets ON THEIR OWN PROPERTY!
I am in support of the crossbow being allowed for use by everyone.
I have a huge concern about the use of Hunting Blinds on Public Land. Last year I got to my stand real early in the morning. I was sitting there. Was probably the first person in the woods it was so early. About 0700 hours I stood up to stretch and observed 20 yards in front of me, at the top of a valley that was heading down there was a hunter sitting in a blind overlooking the valley. I had no idea he was there, and if a deer had passed between us, I could have shot in his direction without even knowing he was there. Scared me horribly, and I left for the day. Would like for the use of Hunting Blinds to be illegal on public land. I think they are great for private land, but too dangerous for public land. Another topic I would like to request to be discussed is the subject of baiting deer. I would like to see baiting become a legal practice. I hear critics saying it takes the sport out of hunting,

and I would say if you feel that way, then don't bait. But not everyone is in it for the sport, some are in it to manage the herd, others are in it to put meat on the table. You could even go so far as to sale a permit to bait. Thank you for reading this.
I strongly oppose restricting archers to one buck for the entire season. I also oppose allowing crossbows during archery season. I am not a deer gun hunter, but I feel moving rifle season back one week would hurt their success rate.
I participate a lot on your Facebook page on the posts given by other hunters voicing opinions and views on deer hunting. There are a lot of different views out there. Some are hunting for meat while others are more interested in horns. I hunt for both. I use my antlerless tags for meat and save my anydeer tag for that big buck. I understand the MDC can never please everyone. One change I feel could possible help both. The antler point restriction was initially set to encourage doe harvest, bringing numbers down and possibly allow more young bucks to live to older ages. Dry conditions, EHD, and CWD have taken a toll on the herd and judging by what I've been reading, these past two years numbers are down and increased doe harvest isn't necessary at this time. So it would seem the antler point restriction isn't necessary now either. Many would like to see it go because they feel it keeps them from filling their freezer when they couldn't shoot the only deer they saw because of the restriction. Others like the rule because they feel they are seeing more big bucks because of it. To me, eliminating the antler point restriction and moving the gun season later in the year could benefit both types of hunters. I feel now that having the gun season right during the rut allows more bucks to be killed while their guard is down chasing the does. Pushing the season back would allow more of these bucks to survive and grow to bigger, mature bucks which would then benefit the trophy hunters in the years to come. On the flip side, hunters who don't care about the horns and just want the meat would also benefit because now they won't be restricted on what they can shoot. To me it seems like a win/win situation for both.
My issue is with crossbows. I do not want to see them allowed to everyone during the archery season. I'm fine with someone being allowed to use one because of an injury or disability but let’s end it there. Those who favor them will argue that there's not much difference between them and compounds but to me there is. Sure they shoot an arrow too but the main difference is the whole technique of shooting them. One of the hardest parts to using a compound is trying to get your bow drawn on the animal without being seen and then holding the weight of it while waiting for the perfect shot. You don't have that with a crossbow. You have them cocked back and ready to shoot when that deer comes in. You simply ease your crossbow up, aim through a scope and pull the trigger. To me, that's not much different that shooting a gun. Crossbow enthusiasts can use them during gun season already. I'm not for sure if they're allowed during the alternative season but if not, maybe allow them during that season as well to suit their desires. Deer hunting and the seasons have already, in my opinion, been extended too much and adjusted to the point where we keep making it easier and easier to kill a deer.

It’s becoming more like deer killing not hunting. It’s supposed to be a challenge, that's what makes it fun. I think we need to quit trying to make it easier and leave well enough alone. Thanks.
I would like to see antler restrictions in all county's allow the use if crossbow for youth and persons over 55 without a permit. Rifle season should stay the same. One buck limit during bow season would be ok,
I would like to see the use of crossbows allowed during the archery season I believe this would allow older hunters like myself to continue to hunt will into are later years and also maybe bring some new hunters into the sport I see the loss of younger people in all sports and I think this regulation would if changed help bring younger people into our sport
We need more opportunities for hunting in urban and suburban areas. The growth of the deer population in these areas creates a higher deer-to-human contact ratio which can be good for some but I feel is not good most instances. A high population of deer in urban and suburban areas leads to them being killed by wild dogs, hit by cars, or disease from over population. That being said I would like to see more opportunities for hunters to hunt deer in urban and suburban areas, particularly bowhunting.
I strongly encourage the use of crossbows for the archery season for all hunters. The use of crossbows will allow hunters of all ages to enjoy the bow season more, increase hunter interest in the season now exclusive to bow hunters. With hunter numbers declining we need to spur interest in any way we can. Use of crossbows will ensure more humane kills by hunters who may not be comfortable shooting a regular longbow, recurve bow or compound bow.
I feel the buck limit is fine the way it is. Bow hunting is more challenging so the two buck limit is seldom met anyway.
Jason and Crew, First off, thanks for listening and trying to implement a new plan. I have been very critical of you all, but I hate seeing wasted potential. I know not everyone wants the same thing, but times have changed and I feel that we are lagging. So, kudos for trying. Everyone knows the timing of firearms is awful. Move it back at LEAST a week. Has anyone thought of having opening day on a week day? The reason I say this is just to reduce pressure on the herd, but I believe a safer deer season would also be a result. The thing I hate about the current season setup is that there is so much pressure on our deer herd from the end of October till mid-January. In that time frame there is almost a continuous firearms season. That's not a great thing as far as stress goes, on the animals. Open it up the Friday or Wednesday closest to Thanksgiving and run it a week. That's more than enough time. Most would get to hunt more with the holiday in there. And, yes it may give farmers and a lot of landowners a more enjoyable season. Nonresident situation is kinda messy. We are a dumping ground for unsuccessful Iowa hunters. People will pay the $560 it cost to hunt Iowa to hunt Missouri, if we give them a reason. Less antlered permits, 3X the money. I don't like being the stepchild of the Midwest whitetail world. We own a large farm and I live

on it. It is not a once a year thought for me, like it is for some. I'm asking you to please, make a damn big foot print when you take this next step. Turn some heads. Best regards and thanks, A. P.
I'm not really sure what the goal of the department is. In one breath you talk about letting archers use a crossbow. This would create more kills by archers. In another breath, you want to limit the number of deer killed by bowhunters. Make up your mind just what your goals are. If the goal is to sell more tags, then continue letting folks use a crossbow during the alternate weapon s season. This lets the stores sell more crossbows and provides another opportunity for those who are not successful or cannot use a standard archery set-up. If the goal is to kill less deer then why add crossbows to the mix? Personally I think that a youth hunter should be able to kill a small buck no matter what season is in effect. It doesn't make sense that during one weekend a 15 yr. old can shoot a six point but two weeks later he/she has to pass on the same deer. With that in mind, a first time hunter should be able to do the same. With today's computers it would be easy to generate a tag that states “Novice Hunter". This tag would be good for any buck. This would encourage hunters who are just getting started or have yet to harvest a buck. As I stated before, first the MDC needs to figure out just what the goals are and state them clearly.
A thought... Since the MDC has seen a reduction in fall turkey tag sales, a way to increase interest might be to either offer a fall turkey crossbow season or small caliber rifle season similar to what some eastern states offer. There could be a separate tag sold that would be good for a week or two in October. This would be supported by equipment retailers who could continue to sell crossbows as well as .177 and 22 mag type rifles and would help offset the expected reduction is deer tag sales.
Stopping the mass slaughter of does and encouragement of out-of-staters to take home half our deer herd for a nickel on the dollar wasn't too smart since they took a quarter of our herd in the form of button bucks. The new regulation of no more doe genocide will prevent so many button bucks from getting whacked. So limiting bucks by archers is not necessary and is a reaction to neglecting regulation changes that should have happened two years ago. Stop doing the bidding of the agriculture industry and listen to your biologists. Do the math, people have been shooting 1-3 button bucks a year for several years and you haven't seemed to care and now all of a sudden you want to limit bucks when they are 10 points. WTF. Don't blame us blame yourselves for bad management and politics of bowing to the insurance and farm industry accept that you can't get it all back in one year. I know very few bow hunters that get two bucks in a year anyway, in most cases we wait for a big one in the rut and most are done bow hunting by winter anyway. Bow hunters aren't your problem, corn growers and

politicians are.
My husband and I farm 500 acres and row crop 300acres of soybeans. We constantly are having problems with deer damage in the crops. I don't hunt but he does and every fall we invite the entire family to join us in trying to control the herd. The last two seasons we have killed on average 16 deer per year on the property I control. However the crop damage continues. I would like to propose that you issue another firearm tag for Bollinger co. I'm not alone on this thinking, my neighbors are all in agreement with this. Thanks for your concern and good work.
Hello! I believe that MO should go to a one buck limit per year and also move the firearm season forward one week. In my opinion, the MDC should limit a person to a buck and ONE doe permit per year. Too many does are being killed by some hunters. I have hunted in MO for many years, by the way. Thank you! W. S.
I don't like moving Firearms season back a week into Thanksgiving. I would be unable to hunt the whole week due to family constraints during the holiday. I would prefer to leave the seasons the way they are. This is one think I look forward to every year and love spending time taking my children deer hunting. It would terrible to tell them I can't take them during the second week. I think the point restrictions are providing quality deer hunting in Missouri. I hunt in Nodaway County which has had the restrictions for some time and it has improved the quality of deer. Myself and two of my children bow hunt and would not object having crossbows used during the archery season.
I have been a bowhunter for 25 years and have found it to be more of a way of life then a hobby. I have taken deer with recurves, longbows, and compound bows and have been proud of the fact that my state does not consider a crossbow as a tool for archery hunting. Crossbows have no place in the bowhunting world. They are an unfair advantage and will only increase the number of accidents we see in bow season as well as an increase in wounded animals. This is a weapon that is fixed to a stock, has a trigger, is always fixed in a drawn position while hunting, and many of today's crossbows can shoot out to 100 yards, not to mention the scopes, slings and hundreds of pounds of pull that these silent rifles possess. They should in no way be allowed to be used in the entire bow season. If a two or three week portion was designated as a "crossbow season" then that would be fine. It is a shame that any hunter would even consider this weapon as an archery tool. PLEASE, let Missouri continue to be one of the states that sees the unfair advantage that these weapons have. I know there are a lot of crossbow manufactures out there pushing this regulation so they can profit but please listen to the hunters that enjoy this sport for the challenge and experience it provides. Keep crossbows out of bow season! I do like the idea of limiting the total number bucks that a hunter can kill in one season,

regardless of how many points it has. While in college learning wildlife conservation and management I found that a point restriction, even though touted as being a tool to balance the age structure and swing hunters to take does, is essentially a tool to produce trophy animals. Unfortunately in my 30 years of deer hunting it has become a game of who can get the biggest number next to their name. Hunting is not a game of numbers or record books, it is not about a score. A Point restriction is not sound management without a mandatory harvest of does. Although I am not a fan of them, you can look at any big hunting ranch that manages for trophy bucks and they all take a set number of does each year and many require hunters to take a doe first before they take a buck. Point restrictions must come with a mandatory doe harvest to complete a sound management plan. By allowing only one buck a year regardless of a point number truly allows for a multitude of hunter attitudes, while coming as close to a sound management plan as possible. If a hunter is after a trophy he can hold his tag until that animal comes along, if he just wants to fill his tag and put meat in the freezer he can do this without having to wait on a doe or a buck with enough points. This also plays into the idea of swaying hunters to harvest more does, although it appears that Missouri's deer population isn't as large as it once was so doe harvest may not be an issue. The trophy hunter will pass on young bucks and the meat hunter may take a few young bucks but he will also take a doe if the opportunity arises. I hate to sound anti-trophy hunter but they are not easy to cater to when trying to manage a population of deer, they're too picky. A meat hunter will keep numbers in check without persuasion. One last thing PLEASE rethink muzzleloader season or I guess alternative methods season as it is called today. It would serve as a much better management tool if it was pushed forward into early fall instead of being kept in the winter months when most hunters are done for the year and deer have totally changed their habits, both due to hunter pressure and natural late winter habits. That and my feet would stay a lot warmer. :) Thanks so much for taking the time to listen to public input before implementing these changes. I also work for a state agency and they would benefit from taking a lesson from you folks and getting more public input before making changes. Thanks again for the good work!!
it would be good to include crossbow as legal during archery season
I don't hunt much at all, but I do travel the highways in Bollinger and Cape Girardeau Counties often. I am seeing more and more deer along the roads dead and alive throughout the year. I have two children and I am concerned about hitting a deer and having a wreck especially with my kids in the vehicle. I have had some close calls in the past two years. If you are asking for input then issue more permits for the deer hunters in these counties. I know a lot of people who would be happy to shoot another deer. I hear no complaints in the area of not having enough deer it is actually the opposite. Thanks for bringing back a healthy deer population, now it's time to shoot some.
Very disappointed with moving the season back a week I work in the grocery business that is the worst week for me to get off because of thanksgiving I will have to find a new place for me and my 2 boys somewhere else to hunt we hunt in northern Missouri and will no longer be able

to because of my work schedule very disappointed
Hi, thank you very much for being the best conservation department in America! I wanted to request that you please do NOT move the firearms deer season back a week. I work in retail (and so do thousands of more Missouri hunters as the retail industry is one of the largest employers in Missouri.) and if the deer season were move back a week it would essentially eliminate my hunting season. I love to hunt and I have always been a huge supporter of the conservation department so I hope that you please respect this request. I would also like to ad that I think that allowing the use of crossbows during archery season is an excellent idea. Thousands more Missourians would be able to hunt and hunters like me that have trouble using a bow would be able to enjoy the long archery deer season that we have. This would make it much easier for working class people (especially those that can't take off work when they want) and people that have physical ailments or disabilities to hunt. I also favor the one buck rule. I think our deer population (especially the mature buck population) took a major hit with the disease outbreak of last summer and this would let the buck population recover. The 4 point antler restriction is also a good idea that is helping the buck population in Dekalb county where I hunt. Thank you very much for reading my comments and please do not eliminate my firearms deer season by moving the season back a week.
I apologize for sending another statement but I hit submit before I was done but we hunt in Salisbury Mo. it takes 5 hours to get there from Perryville so by moving the season back there would be no way to get off enough days to drive that for I am all for bigger bucks but it would essentially take rifle hunting away from me and my boys and I know that it's my fault that I have a job that doesn't allow me to take off at that time of year but I hope it doesn't change Thanks D.
Crossbows - yes Push the season out - yes Reduce or eliminate doe season - Yes One buck limit - Yes Putnam has antler restrictions now and there a good idea.
I would like to see crossbows legalized for archery deer season. I would agree with moving deer season back one week. I would like to see the point restriction eliminated. I don't want to see a one buck limit for archery season or combined seasons. I would like to see the continuation of the antlerless season. We have to many does in Maries County
I think that your proposal to move the Firearms Deer Season back to include the week of Thanksgiving is a mistake. First, I believe that the peak of the rut will occur prior to that week and that period of time allows the best hunting opportunity to see and harvest a buck, which is most hunters' primary focus. Secondly, if the week of Firearms season is moved to Thanksgiving week, which includes Black Friday, hunters now have 2 events that will conflict with their Deer Season. I oppose the changing of the Firearm's Season to the week that includes Thanksgiving.

I am all for moving the firearms season back a week, I believe that it will take some pressure off of the bucks, plus hopefully weather will be a little colder than it has been for the past several years. Also, I am not opposed to the 1 buck limit, but I do not think that this will sway numbers one way or the other, I usually only take 1 buck anyway. Thanks.
Dear Sir/Madam, I would say that generally the deer population in the area that I hunt in Franklin county has been steady over the past 10 years. I have noticed an increase in the number of bucks with larger antlers due to antler point restrictions and the overall number of does appears to be steady. My wife and I lived on a piece of land that was right at the Jefferson/Franklin county line off of Highway O and there were several times when we saw large groups of does right before the rifle season but then noticed a marked decrease in sightings as the rifle season progressed. Once December arrived, the numbers of does started to return to the levels we were seeing before the rifle season. We did also notice an increase in the number of deer, particularly does, killed on Highway O during the rifle season. This past rifle season was the most successful I have ever had on this piece of property and the hunting pressure has remained constant over the last 10 years that I've hunted it. During muzzleloader season, my father and I hunt with a friend in Callaway County and have not had any success there, but this particular farm we hunt does get a lot of pressure during the rifle season. We have noticed large groups of does numbering over 10 on this farm on several occasions during the muzzleloader season, so there are deer there. In general, I would say the quality of deer hunting is very good and we are very fortunate to have the opportunities that we do have. Thank you.
When will Missouri approve crossbow hunting as archery? I own a compound Mathews and a Barnhardt crossbow and find the restrictions to use a crossbow unfounded especially when the same discussions about technology were used when the compound bows were invented. The reality is that crossbows have been in existence longer than compound. If the concern is using a scope, the last 3-D shoot that I was at had scopes on the compounds. As an aging hunter, (62) I find the crossbow easier and more useful for hunting. The only real complaint I had was how ungainly the bow seemed versus the compound, especially in a tree stand. I have hunted in Indiana with my crossbow during archery season and really do not see why there is a restriction. Each style has its place. Thank you for an opportunity to express my opinion.
I am in agreement with your idea to move season back and would like to see it moved back even later to the first part of December. Antler point restrictions wouldn't be necessary if we could stop exposing bucks when they are most vulnerable. I am also in agreement with the possibility of reducing, moving or even eliminating the antlerless season. People don't seem to participate as much during this portion and I feel by the time antlerless season arrives a lot of people including myself have had their fill of deer season after archery hunting, youth season and firearm season. Let’s not forget that there are other

outdoor opportunities to take advantage of. Many landowners don't mind giving permission for other activities but want to wait until the deer seasons are completed. Another topic that I know wasn't addressed in the proposed regulations is that of youth season. As of father of two children, I would like to see youth season earlier. By putting kids out there at the most opportune time to harvest deer including large bucks, I feel we are setting them up for disappointment. Most kids, mine included, are thrilled to harvest any deer including does. My son harvested a 139 inch buck when was is seven and now thinks they need to be at least 140" to shoot. I know of other kids that have shot bigger deer than most adults before they are 10 years old and probably will never have an opportunity at a bigger one in their lifetime. I know hunter recruitment is a big issue but I feel by having season in October when the weather is more mild and still plenty of opportunities to harvest deer, that goal is still being achieved without giving them unrealistic expectations.
I am in favor of the following regulations: *Move the general firearms portion of the deer season to late November so it occurs after the rut *Establish a 1 Buck limit statewide, regardless of the method taken. *Allow crossbows to be used during the archery season
Crossbows YES. I don't see the need for doe season. 1 buck per season archery or gun is fine. I don't like the 1 doe per county. I would like to see a 5 or 6 deer limit any method per year.
my concern is with legal buck antler sizes of 3 1/2 inch rule I am 54 and handicapped I attend several handicap manage hunts throughout the state with quotas of 1 to 3 deer per hunt which are great opportunities I might add for people like myself but in the past couple of years I have had issues with doe impersonating scrub bucks with antlers 4 to 41/2 inches long I might add I have 20/20 vision and am talking deer within 30 to 40 yards open area being looked over carefully thru 3x9 by 40 Leopold or Nikon scope accompanied by a helper looking thru 10x32 Burris binos dropping what we believe is a doe only to find out after watching the deer up to 30 mins. its antlers were covered by the ears or possibly blended with the color of the hide my question being this is it possible to change the ruling to something like to be considered a legal buck the antlers have to be longer than the ears as I have stated these are deer I observed at 30 to 40 yards I cringe every time I have to drop a deer between 100 to 300 yards which I'm perfectly capable of doing with a clean ethical shot thanks for your consideration on this matter and I would eagerly entertain any responses my e-mail address is whitetailwally@yahoo.com or you can reach me at 314 429 3149 I now this may seem trivial to some but when you can only hunt 2 day hunts if your drawn for them via inclimate weather or gov. shut downs it can be critical to a successful hunt or ruining a hunt with a ticket again THANKS avid hunter USMC Sgt P.
Hello, Thank you for asking for suggestions/opinions concerning deer hunting. Mine are as follows: 1. Shorten the season. For the sake of the deer and us land owners who are afraid whenever we

go into the woods during the hunting season. 2. Eliminate the youth season. It encourages cheating. During the youth season there are many more shots heard than during the regular season. In my opinion, there are too many people using the youth season to get a head start on hunting. Also, it bothers me that children, even as young as 6 , have the first shot at the deer while I'm the one who pays for the land, the taxes and feed the deer with my crops. 3. Eliminate the buck point system. 4. Educate deer hunters concerning trespassing. It's not just the walking and hunting on private land, but it those hunters that shoot across our fence line at whatever moves that makes a long and dangerous deer season unpleasant. I love to deer hunt, it's something I look forward to every year and the meat is enjoyed by my family. I hope that the opportunity for deer hunting will always be available to Missourians. S. H.
I am strongly opposed to allowing crossbows during archery season. I am strongly opposed to reducing the number of bucks for archers. I believe moving gun season back will reduce the number of hunters for that season.
I don't like the point restrictions. I feel I am a hunter but not a trophy hunter. I would like to see a limit on bonus tags sold and limit hunters to one buck per season regardless of points.
The MDC is best known for its science based management. That stated, perhaps our best strategy comes from data interpretations and not popularity. Personally myself, and our hunting group, have observed less does and legal bucks in our Cole county area. Although Blue tongue may have been part of the reason we also feel there may have been an overharvest of overall legal deer (e.g.) 7-8 point bucks and does. We have observed numerous large 6 point bucks remaining in population for the past 3 years (not sure if a genetic carryover occurs). Reviewing the possible regulation changes as proposed may help our herd and should as usual be re-evaluated after this years (and maybe next) data is evaluated. Our Missouri hunters need to trust the outcomes of the data and the recommendations of our deer biologists and research teams. MDC should stand in support of their work even though it may not be popular.
I support the antler restrictions currently in place. We have seen a big improvement in the quality of deer on our northern Missouri farm since the regulation went into effect. I prefer the season stay at the current time rather than move back a week. Moving back would put the season into Thanksgiving week and make hunting time more difficult. I would support eliminating the antlerless portion of the season after the main firearms season.
Since I own 850 acres and farm another 1050 acres, and since I feed a lot of YOUR deer, I would like as a land owner to be allowed to take 1 out of state hunter hunting on my land, with no out of state "penalty" for the cost of their deer tags. Not free, but allowed to purchase some kind of reduced cost tag for one out of state person. I think first, I have earned it from all the deer damage to my crops, and second, that the hunter would bring more hunters from out of state with him or her.
I would vote to move the rifle portion of the season back one week.

I am for removal of the doe seasons. I believe that using crossbows during archery season only gets more people involved in hunting. I was not able to go to any of the public meeting is there any way to get an overview of how the meetings went?
Non-resident landowners should not be paying full non-resident prices for tags just to hunt on their own property. If all they want to do is hunt their own property they should be able to pay resident prices. Also, resident landowners should not receive free tags.
Push back firearm season a week or two. This would allow larger racked bucks. Then increase the out of state tag. MO needs to get back to growing big bucks. We have fallen off the past 20 years.
Will attend Columbia session. How will this 3-8 PM session be organized: group "hearing" style or other? Need to decide best time to attend. Thanks
Dear conservation people, I feel that the youth season is counterproductive for the following reasons: (1) The youth season causes drives the deer into hiding and nocturnal before the regular gun season. This is bad for revenue. From my personal experience, I have noticed that there has been a huge decline in the number of shots fired on opening day of regular gun season. (2) The youth season encourages people to cheat. It is common knowledge that there is rampant cheating. This has a secondary effect in that it teaches our youth that it is ok to cheat concerning hunting. I suspect that youth season is very popular, but many of those who like it are essentially poaching. I do appreciate all you have done to preserve good hunting in Missouri and I will support whatever you come up with. J.
First of all, thank you mdc for taking the time to educate and allow landowners across the state to give feedback on getting healthier and better quality deer herds here in Missouri. Some suggestions I have that would help this issue would be: take rifle season out of rut. Move it back to late November. Move youth season out of rut. Move it to mid-October and allow them to harvest doe only. The youth season is a great opportunity to educate and get youngsters interested in hunting and the outdoors. However, from late October thru mid-November is a critical time for our deer herd to breed and pass on the good old Missouri genetics. Moving youth season and rifle season would still give your avid archery hunters a chance to skillfully harvest mature whitetails during the rut phase. I truly believe that the youth and rifle season is devastating our potential to grow mature healthy herds! Please consider my feedback. Thanks again! K.
I am adamantly opposed to a one buck by any method regulation. Also equally opposed to moving firearms season back a week to Thanksgiving week as this would force tens of

thousands of hunters to choose between spending the holiday with family or hunting. Both of these suggestions seem to be greatly desired by people who are strictly bowhunters who would reap the benefit of having the woods all to themselves for an extra week of the rut. Crossbows should be legalized for all hunters. Eliminate extended doe seasons.
Glad to see MDC taking action on many of these important topics and issues.
NO HIGH FENCEING AT ALL FOR ANYTHING.
Absolutely against crossbows being used during bow season. Allow their use during firearms season if you want, because they are essentially bow-guns. They have no part of archery season except for the existing policy regarding disabled hunters. Archery season is about doing it the hard way. Archers choose to handicap ourselves with a tool that has limitations. This policy would essentially remove that restriction and allow someone with minimal skills, practice, and woodsmanship into a season that has historically been reserved for your very best, most skilled, and most conservation minded hunters. Please don't wreck archery season like this.
Gun season should be moved back one to two weeks to allow better survival of bucks. Only one antlered buck should be allowed total per year for all methods.
I am against including crossbows in the general archery season.
Would more Predation (Coyotes) Reduce Blue Tongue and Other Disease Problems?
1. I am strongly in favor of allowing the crossbow during the archery deer season. 2. I understand why there is the recommendation to move back the start of the gun season by one week but I am not in favor of it. I prefer to be able to hunt when the deer are most active during the rut. 3. I consider myself a deer hunter and I would like the antlerless portion of the firearm season to continue as it currently is. 4. I do concur with the antler-point restriction. I also support the current one buck limit per gun hunter and 2 buck limit per archery hunter.
As a now Lifetime Licensee, and having spent 2/3 of my adult and childhood hunting in my home state of MO, I have to say that the vast majority of the changes being considered are way, way, "overdue." Having such overly generous regulations that allow multiple, mature bucks, in addition to multiple does, has been simply ridiculous. There are a group of MO hunters who have it in them to kill everything they can get their sights (bow or rifle)on, otherwise, they do not consider themselves to have had a successful hunt/season. I enjoy good venison as much as anyone, but in all my 50 years of hunting, I have only four times been able to punch more than one tag in a season; it also seems that by all records I have kept I have had 18 seasons, in two States that I have lived, where I did not fill a deer tag at all. In spite of this, and even with the onerous policies of CA Fish and Game, I do not consider myself a failure as a hunter. Of a safety concern for myself personally is that I know the typical blind hunting habits of most firearms hunters, and by changing the time ahead that they can be afield, will result in their having to change their methods and approach, likely to still hunting on foot, and for an archer in a tree stand, this is an unnerving prospect. I do believe, however, that as I have

stated initially, the Commission needs to implement what will seem to be some very restrictive changes in order for the overall quality of animals taken to improve, which will go the furthest in supporting hunter retention, satisfaction, etc. over the long term, while this may seem selfish, I would also support and request consideration of even further restriction in price and availability on the number of tags sold to out of State hunters. When half the people you meet at the restaurant for breakfast year after year in season are from KS, I am inclined to think our resources are being taken advantage of. As a member of P&Y and the IBO, as well as our State organization, Missouri Bowhunters, I heartily discourage the Commission from any further consideration of including crossbow usage during the established archery-only seasons/hunts. I have always felt the allowed use with a medical exemption was very generous, but frankly, much of the personal satisfaction that is derived from an archery kill is diminished or not even present with a device which is neither gun nor bow, but closer to the former in its lethality, range, etc. I and a number of other lifetime archers in this State will likely not support the inclusion of such a method, nor even consider animals for "book status" taken in such a way. I need rotator cuff surgery on my left shoulder because of a 25yr. old injury that has now come back to haunt me as a senior. I have one bow set up for 60lbs draw weight, and another for 50lbs. When I can draw neither comfortably and hold to shoot accurately, I will not go afield; neither have I asked for a medical exemption, or will I do so at a later time. If I remember correctly, members of P&Y and some of the best boyers of traditional archery equipment were among the proponents of working with the MO Commission to establish the first archery-only deer season in any State, a very long time ago. Let us jointly offer and ensure the respect and integrity to those who forged this path and established this tradition, and not diminish that. Crossbow hunting is NOT archery, period.
I'm curious why limiting the number (or increasing the price) of tags available to out-of-state hunters was not an option. Other states are far more restrictive to out-of-state hunters than Missouri.
I would like to start by thanking the mdc for their hard work to improve the deer herd in Missouri and the continued improvement to produce trophy white tails in Missouri. I agree with most hunters that the deer numbers are down in parts of Missouri, especially in northeast Missouri. I would like to see more deer on my outings and an increase in trophy potential. I would like an opportunity at a decent buck every year. I want our state to rank higher in p&y and b&c. I strongly support moving rifle season back a week. This should take some pressure off of antlered deer and at the same time give hunters a chance to hunt the end of the rut. This follows other great states like Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois. These states all have a late firearm season and produce several more trophies than Missouri. I support a reduction in the antler less season. I think a weekend would be plenty. This gives meat hunters a chance to fill a tag and keep the herd in check. Being a bow hunter and gun hunter I want to continue to have an opportunity to harvest a buck

with each. I would strongly support a one buck limit with a bow. Antler restriction is a program I can take or leave. I don't believe this is the best management tool. It does save some 1 1/2 deer but a large number of young bucks are shooters under this rules. If MDC doesn't use any of the other ideas then I would keep the antler restriction program in place. It has slightly improved the size of bucks. As a bow hunter I believe hunters shouldn't be able to use a crossbow in archery season. Crossbows are fine if you have disabilities. Keep it the same. Thank you for the chance to express my opinion. I look forward to new regulations and improvement to deer season.
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1- Limiting all hunters to a single buck per season would not be good for me anyway because I love that chance to get a nice buck with my bow while I wait through all the smaller bucks. If the rifle season is moved back a week, buck harvest will go down anyway because the rut will

be over. 2- I have hunted with a crossbow for a short time because of a back surgery. It DID NOT make thing easier! Allowing crossbows as legal archery is okay with me. It took experience with both for me to see the light, but it is a myth that it makes archery hunting EASY.
I am an avid hunter with 3 sons who also all love to hunt. My wife loves to hunt as well. We have heard that the deer herd in Putnam County was decimated for the past 2 years, but that has not been our experience on the extreme west end of the county where we hunt. First, thank you for listening to our input. We appreciate what you do, and understand that you can't make everyone happy. We will live by whatever plan you develop, even if there are parts of it we don't like or we disagree with. Here are a few thoughts regarding the article by Jason Sumners in the Conservationist magazine. Unfortunately, we were unable to attend any of the regional meetings you hosted. Seasons and portions: If your goal is to increase the harvest of does over bucks, move it later. The opportunity will still exist for bowhunters to harvest a buck during the rut. Our guess is that this will be a highly unpopular change, but if it is for the better of the herd, then do it. Iowa has long had their opener later than ours, and their herd seems to sport more mature bucks. A change will not likely result in more days hunted by our family, as we often travel over the Thanksgiving holiday. Antlerless portion: We really fill our freezer during this time, so we hate to see this go. My wife commented "if you owned a body shop, you'd have to love this!" As a grandson/nephew of farmers, it would seem that this will cause our deer population to skyrocket. Buck harvest: Limiting the harvest of bucks to one or two per individual per year would be a favorable change. It seems in our area that many of the out-of-state hunters take more than one buck, and frequently those bucks are not very mature. Nobody in our family has ever taken more than one antlered buck in a year even though we take advantage of archery and muzzleloading seasons. Our standard is high, and we try to only harvest bucks if they are worth hanging on the wall, although we too have been guilty of buck fever on occasion.
I favor moving the firearm season to first weekend in December. I am for 1 buck limit regardless of weapon and I feel too many does are being harvested. I also support the current antler restriction system.
I have reviewed the proposed regulations and strongly oppose allowing use of a crossbow during the archery season. MDC has traditionally taken a lead role in the proper assessment of weapons and appropriate seasons for the various methods allowed. The crossbow is far from the challenge of a bow that is drawn and hand held at the moment game is within range. MDC has recognized this for years so I am concerned about what is driving this fundamental change. It is currently in the appropriate season of alternative methods and/or firearms season. Certainly the pressure, advertising and lobbying of large manufacturing companies and the potential for additional revenue make Missouri a target like other recent states for getting this classified as a bow and arrow, however, I have always appreciated MDC's clear and common sense approach to setting seasons, methods and limits while considering the impact on the

resource. It is my hope that Archery season will remain Archery season. Understanding the older hunter retention goal that is discussed we should also consider other reasons hunters drop out. Perhaps there are other elements besides drawing a bow that make it difficult for folks to continue. As I age it does become more of a challenge each year to maintain the physical fitness needed to do all the things necessary when afield. Drawing a bow is just one of those growing challenges, but hunting should involve a challenge. There are other seasons available and methods allowed to increase the chance for success. Current regulations allow for medical exemptions that enable hunters to utilize a crossbow during archery season. As a father of 3, I have passed along the tradition of archery and gun season and for years explained and supported MDC's reasoning for not allowing crossbows during the archery season. As teens and young adults they have always understood. They would say Dad, that makes sense.... "It's really not the same" MDC's wisdom passed along to another generation. We should be proud! Let's not have to rename Missouri's Archery Season. My sincere appreciation for MDC and its heritage! Respectfully Submitted, K. O.
The practice of keeping captive deer herds should be outlawed. Why do we put the entire deer herd and the deer hunting industry (500,000+ hunters) at risk because a couple hundred people want to raise whitetails? Outlaw the practice before it's too late!
No crossbows in the general archery season. They should be allowed in the urban units. Move the firearms season out of the rut. Everyone should pay for their deer tags, including landowners. One buck only for the archery tag.
Non-resident LANDOWNERS should not be paying non-resident prices for their tags. They are the stewards of the land and provide others (including residents) a place to hunt. If they are only hunting on their property charge them resident prices.
Have hunted firearms season in Howard County for 25 years. Always saw very many deer, but has quickly declined in recent years, I only saw one deer in 2013 season even though hunted 6 whole days. I have been told by my landowner that a significant number of deer have been killed over last several years by landowners with "nuisance tags;" in fact he said that as many as 50 deer were taken on nearby properties several years ago, so I suppose this contributes to lower deer numbers. I think this is wrong and needs to be better regulated. Also, I am opposed to moving firearms deer season back one week (later).
Please put your selfish desires aside for a change and consider the impact to our fellow earthlings that you 'manage' and consider resources. I'm convinced you idiots would like to see the deer stoned to death if that were feasible. This is evident by the fact you are continually expanding the use of less efficient lethal force such as archery and black-powder, and even an atlatl! You people sicken me with your foolish, juvenile notion of sport. You truly represent the basest of people: those that enjoy killing and cruelty. If you disagree with that statement, then you will promote more efficient killing with less suffering; otherwise you are just as I say you are.

I am curious as to the buck only (with a 4 point restriction) restriction on many of the public lands in Montgomery, Warren, Lincoln, and Pike Counties. The forest I primarily hunt is the Daniel Boone forest. This particular piece of land has been buck only since 1992. I have also tried going to Danville conservation area, little lost creek, and others in the area. If we are able to purchase an antlerless tag along with an anydeer tag, why the restrictions. It feels like that if you do not own or hunt on private land, we are being penalized. If there is a problem with the herd numbers I understand, but the ability to purchase additional licenses leads one to believe that this is not the case. I have personally seen more does while hunting in this forest, and seeing more deer is great, but if we allow the forest to overpopulate, do we not run the risk of many diseases disrupting the herds. I for one do not mind the point restriction on bucks, but to see a doe and put some meet in the freezer is not possible with these restrictions. If the commission has some insight as to the restricted regulations I would love to know. I have asked my local agents and the best response I have received is that people have built houses on the property lines of the forest and they like to see deer. I also like to see deer, but I also like to eat them given the opportunity. Thank you
Keep the antler restriction for Nodaway county! Like that for sure. Also move gun season out a week!!!
1. I'm in favor of moving opening of deer season 1 week later. 2. Shorten or eliminate antlerless season. Deer numbers appear to be down in my area (southern Clinton Cty). 3. Allow crossbows during archery season but add 'weapon used' to telecheck info required for archery season and maybe all seasons. Don't see the need for such a long archery season. Why not shorten it by 2 weeks or a month? 4. Change deer limit to one antlered deer and no more than one antlerless per hunter, per season, regardless of method used. 5. Consider removing the point restriction in some areas. I see lots of long spikes and unsymmetrical racks here. Would rather take one of those than a good buck. Leave them for the breeding stock. Cattlemen don't sell their best bulls!
I believe the landowner permits are a good way to repay, in a small way, the landowners providing habitat and, in many cases, forage and feed for wildlife. I would not have a problem with removing the lessee portion, but I don't know how many people this would affect. Whether owning a minimum of five acres as the cut point for receiving permits is reasonable could be debated. I do believe, though, that whatever is the right cut point all direct family members 8 and over residing at the owner's home should receive the same benefits.
All for moving rifle season off rut and eliminating antler restriction. Really hope moving the season happens. Antler restriction is a mixer bag but feel we are keeping lots of small bucks which are passing on poor genetics. Hope you try something as our quality and quantity are in trouble. Turkeys need help too.
I would like to see the unlimited for tags go away for our county as populations seem to be extremely low. Also I would like to see the point restriction return since blue tongue wiped out

so many of the larger bucks in the last few years.
I am all for removing the antlerless portion rifle seasons based on the decline in the deer herds seen in SE Missouri (Perry County) private land and also in the Logan CA and Whiteside Area hunted in the past few years. I continue to see less deer (does, fawns and bucks) each year. Also unlimited antlerless tags need to be removed. I am also in favor of reducing buck allowance two just one buck by Bow and one by Rifle/Muzzleloader instead of the two bucks by Bow and one by Rifle/Muzzleloader. I believe that if you moved Rifle back to later in November it will also help Missouri with the age structure problem of bucks. We continue try to raise on our private farm the age structure of bucks but we continue to see more 3 year old harvested in and around our farm by our neighbors it is hard to grow a buck when rifle season is packed in the middle of the rut. This causes to many good genetic bucks the greater roam issue and as a result bucks are taken before they reach their prime age regardless of management practices put in place on our private land. Other states have larger bucks populations based on later seasons to allow for less pressure on bucks.
Most kids should learn to hunt small game first and grow into bowhunting. Bowhunting is tough and is boring at times. There should be a level of maturity that goes with learning to bow hunt. Start a kid to soon you most likely will lose him later. Crossbow hunting is not bowhunting. Crossbows with a stock and a trigger should belong in the rifle season. Trying to push kids and other hunters into the bow season with the use of the crossbow you are hurting the dedicated bowhunter. What do I know? 30 years of bowhunting a dozen states, Africa, Canada etc... I belong to PBS, Compton, UBM. If you want to control the deer herd, do it through the rifle season. Bowhunting is a challenge one matures into. Please keep it that way. Do the right thing here. Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of services. S. S.
ID LIKE TO SEE CROSSBOWS LEGAL TO USE FOR ARCHERY.
ID LIKE TO SEE CROSSBOWS LEGAL TO USE FOR ARCHERY.
Moving the Nov deer season one week is a good idea. Doing away with doe season is a good idea. One buck only is a bad idea.
I like the idea of adding crossbows to archery season, yet recognize it as part of a larger concern I have. I sense a prejudice against firearm deer hunting. Removing antlerless season, delaying firearm season, and adding crossbows to the archery season all lead me to this feeling that you want the guns out of the woods. I don't like that idea at all. Concern for retention of aging archery hunters is more prominently mentioned than retention of hunters in general, which is mostly made up of firearm hunters. Why the concern about weeklong antlerless firearm season conflicting with small game hunters yet the 4 month long archery season is not in conflict and regulation alterations are being considered to increase participation in the archery season. Considering cycling the firearm deer season on and off of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, roughly 3 year cycles depending on whether the holiday is early or late in the month. This will

allow people to avoid continual conflicts with other non-hunting related commitments associated with the Thanksgiving holiday.
Please consider moving firearms season out of (and after) the white-tailed deer rut.
•What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? Bad idea, likely to increase hunter numbers in the field, thus decrease quality of the hunt and desire to go. •Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week? Yes, please do or move it even later (like other neighboring states!). •Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season? Yes, please eliminate the portion all together as this is not needed currently. If a hunter wants to harvest an antlerless deer, they have the opportunity during regular firearms season. •Do you think implementing a one buck limit for archery season or a one buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? Bad idea, as there are very few hunters who ever harvest 3 bucks within a season and the idea of doing so, gets hunters to spend time within the field! If a limit is set, I do not think it should affect landowners, as they try to manage their land. •What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler point restriction in the county you hunt? Please continue, as this has helped many young bucks survive into older age classes, with hopes of producing more mature bucks in the future.
No specific comments, but I'm interested in deer management on conservation areas along the Missouri River north of Kansas City to the Iowa border.
I support the department's Deer Management Plan and those changes in regulations proposed.
I have been hunting the same general area for 35 years which is part of the Graves Mtn. CA along N highway. The last few years, each year I see fewer & fewer deer & get less pics on my deer cams. I would like to see you tighten the doe permits for starters. Also I think you should raise the acreage limit for land owners of 5 acres which is a joke to at least 40 acres for a landowner permit. I understand that a few years ago you wanted to reduce the herd, but after record kills & ehd the past few years our herd is down dramatically especially on the public areas. I would also hate to see you move the firearms season back 1 week later because in a lot of the areas around here in the big tracts of timber other than the rut it is hard to see a mature buck. thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion
I would like to see MDC keep the two buck tag for the bow, I know in the past I have never shot two bucks with the bow, since Bowhunters can only get one before the rife hunt, but I don't want to end the potential two buck tag, because bowhunting is not as easy to kill two bucks like it would be with any gun, and I don't kill any young bucks, if I don't see any mature

bucks in the second half of bow season, I will try to fill my tag with a doe instead of a young buck even if it's a legal buck to kill. I typically hunt public land and it's pretty hard to get a mature buck after the rife hunt, but I like the fact that I have the opportunity to harvest a second buck if I see one in the second portion of the bow season.
I think Crossbows should be used by everyone during the regular Archery season. Other states have allowed them with no negative impact to their deer harvests or populations. I am in favor of a one buck for archery, and one buck during modern gun. I am opposed to moving the modern gun season up one week. Keep it where it scheduled now. I am opposed to the unlimited availability of antlerless permits. It should be restricted, regardless of the method of take.
I am still in somewhat opposition to antler restrictions but feel maybe it should be included only during the modern gun and alternative methods hunting. I am opposed to killing more does, we already kill enough of them.
I support reducing the Doe harvest substantially in Central and Northern parts of the state. I think a two buck limit with only one being rifle is the right limit on bucks and that the 4 points on a side antler restriction should continue and expand to other counties. Cross bows should only be allowed during archery season for those with legitimate disabilities.
I am in favor of allowing crossbows during the archery seasons especially for anyone over 65 years old. I am opposed to moving the firearms season to a later date. Watching bucks chase does adds to the excitement of the hunt & some of us would actually get to hunt less as we are expected to be at several Thanksgiving dinners. I am in favor of limiting all hunters to a total of 2 bucks during all combined seasons instead of the three now allowed. (one for archery & one for firearms) I am in favor of eliminating the antlerless portion altogether and moving the alternative portion to mid. December. Thanks for letting me express my opinions, T.T.
I think that Missouri needs to take an active role in helping restore the herd and to help build the trophy class deer that more and more hunters are wanting. One way would be to limit all hunters to only 2 bucks, 1 with archery and 1 with firearms. Also to limit the doe harvest in the areas hit hardest by disease. Another way that I am in favor of is to push firearms season back a week, to allow for a higher percentage of breeding to be done before the firearms harvest.
I couldn't kill a deer except out of severe necessity. I understand that in some cases deer would suffer needlessly if they weren't hunted, but I find it disgusting that anyone would take efforts to increase the deer population so people can enjoy killing them. It seems to me that many of these plans, efforts, regulation, and enforcement would be less necessary if we weren't unnaturally increasing the deer population in the first place. Not every Missouri citizen appreciates their tax money going to such activities. Thank you for listening.
I attended the Columbia Open House and found it a great source of information. I left a

comment card there, but did not make the following comments that I would like to add after reading the handouts that were available at the open house: 1.Crossbows - allowing crossbows makes no difference to me either way. 2. Moving the November Firearms season back a week - I am in favor of this, it sounds like a good management strategy to increase the quality of the deer herd. 3. Antlerless portion - I am in favor of completely eliminating this portion. I hunt in Sullivan county and have noticed a drastic reduction in the local deer herd there. So much that the farm I manage for deer hunting there (I own 300 acres near Locust Creek Conservation area) will not be taking any does for the next season or two. I don't believe reducing the number of antlerless firearms tags will have any significant effect on the population since so few hunters take more than 2 deer. 4. One buck limit. I favor a one buck total limit (firearms + archery) until we see a significant increase in the number and quality of bucks. 5. Antler point restrictions were removed in Sullivan county due to CWD containment zone. However, before the restrictions were removed I did notice an increase in 2.5 yr. old bucks (and older). I am in favor of continuing this practice. 6. Other comments - This is the first time I have attended a MDC open house and would love to see this sort of interface with the public continue. I understand we are on the verge of major changes in the deer regulations and input is desired. I would like to see more of this even when sweeping changes aren't in the wind. 7. Senate Bill SB506, HB 1326. - There was good information at the open house regarding the proposed CWD controls, but the referenced bills could do away with such controls. I would like to see more education of the public (radio, TV, print) regarding this legislation. I understand MDC can't take an official position, but just letting the public know this is out there and is jeopardy with the upcoming veto session. Captive Deer farmers have a trade organization to fund and organize their position, the other side of the argument (which I believe has greater support) has no such organization or funding. We rely upon MDC to guard those interests, but I understand your hands are somewhat tied with taking sides on legislation. The more people are aware of such legislation, the more pressure can be brought to bear on our representatives. Unfortunately in this case, we have little time to swing the general assembly's position on this issue.
Please move Rifle Season to Closet Weekend to Dec 1st. Then all antler restriction can be removed, because you will get the same result in my opinion.
MDC does a spectacular job! The below comments are items I have noticed where improvements to operations and perceptions can be made. 1. Regulations favor landowners, youth, archery and horn hunters over traditional hunters. Statistically there are more gun hunters. 2. Managed hunt pre-hunt check-ins/stands erection days should be the same day or the weekend prior to better accommodate those traveling to and from the location. 3. Raise out-of-state antlerless and youth fees to a higher percentage of the out of state antlered

adult fees. We want them to come but this acknowledges that they have not supported MDC at the same level as in state residents. 4. Landowner fees the same as youth. May encourage some to allow others to hunt on large properties with high populations and light hunting pressure. Limiting the number of permits to 4-6 could have the same effect. 5. Limit total individual permits to 4-6 for gun, alternative, and archery combined possibly exempting urban and managed hunts. 6. Allow muzzleloaders in firearms managed hunts. 7. Allow crossbows during archery season. 8. Find a mechanism to give deer meat to unsuccessful hunters instead of all going to food banks (much of this is wasted because recipients do not know how to prepare the meat properly). Maybe they pay the fee for half the meat. 9. Create a deer tracker app that allows daily input from hunters (and a fishing app for fishermen) and reports the results in "real time". 10. Shorten the archery season and lengthen the youth season. 11. Reporting of pounds of meat in share the harvest totals each year seems to be hanging weight not what the participants take home for the number of deer reported. One of these days the press is going to catch the disparity. 12. College students attending schools out of state should be considered residents. They are for voting, driver's licenses, car registrations, taxes... Once they change these to a different state, then, and only then, should it change their residency. Same for service members and their families too. 13. Get staff directly involve in 4H hunting skills and NRA YHEC programs. Last year there were less than 200 students involved in both of these programs statewide. This could even be mentioned in the hunter education training. 14. Develop better system to use fresh poached (and struck) deer. Landowners who run off a poacher are already angry. They just get madder when agents aren't able to check or clear the carcass until it has spoiled. May be as simple as keeping a list of locals to call. 15. Address shortage of locker availability, particularly on opening weekends when it is too warm to hang your deer.
I agree with the point restriction and hope that it continues on as part of the plan. We all want a "Booner" on a wall. Hunters continue to shoot bucks that have not reached their prime age. We are only hurting our chances to shoot bigger and more mature deer. I do not bow hunt. So the idea of having a buck tag for both archery and rifle leaves me with mixed emotions. I can see an argument, should I choose to bow and rifle hunt I should have to chance to take 2 bucks. Yet on the other hand I do not agree with the over harvesting of bucks. I am a very conservative hunter in this area. I will not shoot a buck unless I know without a doubt that I'd spend the money to have it mounted on the wall. Hence why I have not taken a buck in many years. I do not see that it will hurt anyone to have the limit of bucks AND does reduced for a few

years. Let the population rebound from the drought and disease that struck the deer in the state. "Let the complainers complain, cause they will not matter what" unknown
Q1 - thoughts on crossbows. I think they should do a special tag and see how many are really interested in using a crossbow. I also believe it should not be used the same time as archery season. Maybe carve out a small window for a week for crossbow. Q2 - moving Nov firearm season back. I totally believe firearms season should be moved back. I am an archery hunter more than firearm and would love to have a better chance at a larger buck. Usually once firearm season starts you notice less deer movement. I love how KS does the firearm season way late. Q3 - antlerless portion. For firearms season the antlerless portion is fine. I even liked the extended time in (maybe it was) Jan. Q4 - limit buck. One buck for archery is difficult as many archery people don't get to be lucky enough to have a good shot at a decent buck. I'd be okay, myself, w/only one. Now for full season it is nice I can take one in archery and firearm, however, I am pretty picky w/my bucks. Usually by firearm season I am only taking a doe/yearling for meat (not a buck). Q5 - antler point restriction. I love this rule. Let the little guys go and get larger. 4pts on one side is just fine (so 7 pt. buck or larger). Why would you really take one smaller anyway...esp. for meat. Now I totally understand if it is a youth's first buck but how to regulate that I'm not sure. My 1st buck was an 8pt and probably won't take anything smaller unless it is way, way large or unusual. Other issue is the youth season. I agree with it but need to figure a way to regulate it. I See too many hunters (sorry mostly men) that take their kid that doesn't even like to hunt and hunts for their kid. Or someone who is buying their 2 yr. old a tag...really. I'm not sure how you would/could regulate it but something needs changed. The youth really need a chance and the adults shouldn't take advantage of it. Thanks for listening to my comments.
No on moving the deer season dates. Yes on crossbow. 1 buck limit on archery tag. Yes on antler point restriction.
I own 450 acres in the Ozarks that I manage for wildlife with the help of the USDA and MO DEPT OF CONSERVATION. I recently moved to Florida, still own the land in Mo., and was disappointed to find there was no nonresident landowner tag available for MO. With all the money and time we put into our land for the benefit of wildlife we should get a break on the price of the permit- just as we do as residents. Even Illinois gives nonresident landowners a reduced price license. I would appreciate you taking this into consideration at your upcoming meetings. Thank you
Deer populations remain high in SEMO and I would like to know that the agency is continuing to look at expanding deer hunting/harvest opportunities wherever possible. I.e. expand antlerless permits to more counties with high deer numbers. I have friends who farm in Bollinger County and suffer extreme crop damage. I believe they need a firearms antlerless permit in Bollinger County.

I believe MO should do away with high powered rifles and go to shotgun/muzzleloader only during rifle season. I also believe crossbows should be legalized for all archery hunters. I believe doing these two things will allow for the deer population to more effectively stabilize and allow hunters better opportunities to have more successful archery season.
I believe that the deer season should not be moved to a week later. That would run it through thanksgiving. No rifle portion should be on thanksgiving day, that is a day when families gather and go out and small game hunting. The rifle season and muzzle loader seasons should swap time frames. I think point restriction is bad for the quality of our deer herd. The good deer have the four points on a side at a year and a half. We are just making older deer with smaller racks. Bow and rifle are to different hunting seasons one should not decide on what you can harvest during the other, you should be able to take a buck during both.
Would like to see use of crossbows during archery season I'm a 54 year old working man. I am not disabled officially but cannot handle shooting my bow to proficiency do to pain in my hands and shoulder. I love the sport! The dept. does a great job. Keep an eye on your legacy of sound management of the state's outdoor resources and its availability to the common man. Thank you
As a bowhunter who also hunts firearms seasons, I oppose the one buck limit. This regulation will result in postponing purchase of a firearms permit in event a buck is harvested in the early archery season. If successful during archery, will not participate in any firearms seasons.
As a bowhunter for 35 years I am adamantly opposed to the crossbow in the archery season. Reading the articles and advertisements by the crossbow industry they promote how easy it is to become proficient, proclaiming shot accuracy out to distances beyond even the compounds. Articles promoting them say how much it is like shooting a gun. That should tell us where they belong. Besides that, I think it is an affront to the guys like Earl Hoyt Jr. and other Missourians who devoted their time and great efforts to secure the archery season. I hunt an average of 100 days during the season, and until 4 years ago 99.9% on MDC land. The crossbow hunters I came in contact with (most from out of state) had a definite code of ethical behavior in the woods than this old longbow/wood arrow flinger.
I support moving the rifle season into the early part of December similar to the rifle season in KS. The trophy buck hunting would improve dramatically. I think landowners should be able to take two bucks a year, one in archery and another in either archery or rifle season for properties exceeding 200 acres. Landowners should have more rights than the general public to reflect the reality they are the ones physically and financially responsible for our deer herd. If landowner tags were issued then the landowner could either use them or sell them. This system has worked very well for trophy deer and elk management in numerous states out west.
Urban area I drive the roads around kc all the time [435,29,470,291,36,i35] and see deer hit by vehicles all the time. Some days as high as 4 or 5 deer. Will the new regulations affect the urban area??

I would like to have the gun season moved back and allow one buck per year bow or gun with antler restrictions for the time being. Also the antlerless deer limit to on per season bow or gun.
Moving the regular Firearms season back a week would be a mistake. Many people would go home for Thanksgiving and would not hunt the second weekend. You would have a net loss of hunting instead of a gain. Moving the season later would also increase the odds of having lousy weather as Thanksgiving is often the point when the weather gets cold for the year. Deer season is for hunting and Thanksgiving is for spending time with family.
I highly disagree with crossbows being allowed to hunt during archery season. I also would like to see Muzzleloading season go back to November.
Interesting proposals. I am opposed to seeing the firearms season moved back one week. In contrast, I support reducing or eliminating the antlerless season until the herd rebounds, limiting harvest to only 1 buck, continuing the antler point restriction, and the use of crossbows by all hunters.
WHY HAVE DEER SEASON A WEEK LATER? ARCHERY HUNTERS GET TO HUNT 1112 DAYS A YEAR AND KILL 2 BUCKS. WE WOULD BE GIVING THEM THE RUT TO! PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE NOV PORTION OF THE FIREARMS!!!
Dear Missouri Department of Conservation: I am writing to provide my comments regarding deer management and possible changes to the deer hunting regulations. I am an owner of approximately 170 acres in St. Clair County which I manage for the benefit of wildlife, particularly deer and turkey. I am an avid 53 year old hunter and participate in the archery, modern firearm, and alternative weapons hunts every year. I have deer hunted in Missouri for over 30 years. I am opposed to allowing the use of crossbows during the archery season. I believe a crossbow is not archery equipment and that a crossbow is more similar to a firearm than a bow. Archers are typically dedicated hunters that spend a considerable amount of time practicing and preparing for the hunting season. Archers typically do not just pick up a bow and head to the woods to hunt. If crossbows are allowed, there will be an influx of hunters during the archery season that are not dedicated to practicing with their equipment. The harvest of deer will increase as well as the number of wounded deer. The peace and solitude of archery season is likely to change for the worse. I believe it is more appropriate to keep the regulations as they currently exist which allows the use of crossbows during the modern firearm and alternative weapons seasons. I am opposed to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week. This would place the season during the week of Thanksgiving which I am opposed to. I believe there will actually be less hunting opportunity for most hunters if the season is moved back one week. Many hunters have family obligations related to the Thanksgiving holiday which do not allow them to hunt. Many families travel on the day prior to the holiday and many travel a second day during the weekend to return home. Many years ago, more people lived in rural areas or had relatives that lived in rural areas. Many years ago, grandparents or parents were more likely to live on a farm. Back then, visiting the grandparents or parents for the

Thanksgiving holiday would have given hunters more opportunity to deer hunt during the holiday. That is not the case anymore as grandparents and parents are much more likely to live in the city or suburbs. In addition, Black Friday is now a significant shopping event the day after Thanksgiving. Participation in this day-long event cuts into the time hunters would have available to them on the day after Thanksgiving. So, I would think there would actually be less hunting opportunity for deer hunters by moving the season back one week.

I did some research on other states surrounding Missouri. Of the ten nearby states I researched, only four states had a firearm season during Thanksgiving. And of the four that did, two or three of those states had muzzleloader or modern firearm hunting as well during their rutting period. My point is that people like to hunt during the peak of the chasing and rutting activity because deer sightings are increased and the mature bucks are more visible. By moving the Missouri firearm season one week later, the peak of the rut will have passed and the quality of deer observed will be significantly reduced. Of the four states that have a later season (similar to what is being discussed for Missouri) two or three still allow hunting during the peak of the rut with either modern firearms or muzzleloaders.

The literature I have read from the MDC indicates that moving the November portion of the firearm season one week later will ultimately improve our deer herds because the desirable mature bucks will be protected from harvest and allowed to breed. If the modern firearm season is moved back one week, there will still be mature bucks hunted and harvested which is going against the reason for moving the season. Mature bucks will now be hunted exclusively by archers during the entire pre-rut and rut periods. Archers already have four months of deer hunting season. Why should the prime time to hunt bucks now be taken from firearm hunters and given solely to bowhunters?

If the season is being moved one week to lessen the harvest during the rutting period, then why is the youth season always held during the peak of the pre-rut (chasing period) when mature bucks are very active. I would recommend moving the youth season to mid-October. The vast majority of nearby states conduct their youth seasons during September or October.

The November portion of the firearm season currently has two extremes. There is the mass of eager hunters during the first and second weekends. During the five weekdays between the two weekends, hunting is more peaceful and relaxing. I enjoy the hunting on the weekdays more than I do on the weekends. If the season is moved back one week, the second weekend will now be an extended 4-day weekend. In effect, the five weekdays between the two weekends will now be reduced to three. In my opinion, the quality of the hunt will be decreased by reducing the number of typical week days to hunts.

I am in favor of regulations that will improve the quality of our deer herds. I spend a considerable amount of time working on my land to improve the deer habitat so that my land is more attractive to deer and to hopefully produce bigger deer. The antlerless portion of the firearm season is an important and needed opportunity for me to manage my deer herd. Currently, I concentrate on hunting mature bucks during the November portion of the firearm season. I try to disturb the environment as little as possible during my buck hunting. I do not

shoot does at this time. I hunt does later during the antlerless portion. To manage my deer herd, I typically need to remove does. The antlerless portion provides the best opportunity for me to hunt does. In addition, it provides additional hunting opportunity for me and friends on my property.
I am in favor of reducing the number of bucks that can be harvested by a hunter during the year. Currently, a hunter has the opportunity to harvest up to three bucks (one with a firearm and two with archery). I believe it would be best for our deer herds if the number of bucks was limited to no more than two per year. One buck should be allowed with archery equipment and one buck allowed with a firearm. I am told that not many hunters actually harvest three bucks in a year. I do not know the statistics on that, but my position is that no one should even be allowed to harvest as many as three bucks in one year.
The 4-point rule for bucks was implemented in St. Clair county several years ago. I am strongly in favor of keeping the 4-point rule. Since this regulation was implemented, the quality of bucks in my area has increased significantly. Please keep this regulation in effect as it improves the quality of the deer herd and improves the quality of the hunting experience.
Finally, I believe some consideration needs to be given to private property owners in regards to the scheduling of deer hunting seasons. Property owners, such as myself, spend a considerable amount of time and money on the management of their land. I have expenses in operating and maintaining equipment, seeds and fertilizer for food plots, mowing, spraying, etc. I do not produce a cash crop. My land is totally devoted to wildlife. Similar to the opening of spring turkey season, I would like for the November portion of the firearm season to open on a weekday (similar to Kansas). Or perhaps, allow property owners to have a short 2-day firearm season in early November. Since the majority of land in Missouri is in private ownership, it would be a good way to recognize the contribution that landowners make to the management of deer herds by allowing them some additional privileges.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on deer management in Missouri.
Sincerely, J.S.

1) I am 66 years old and have hunted since age 15. I own 55 acres in Cole and 100 in Osage. I agree with your proposal to limit the number of doe permits and eliminate the extra week of doe season.
2) I disagree with the proposal to make the regular Nov season a week later. You are messing up a major holiday for many people who travel great distances to visit their families. Many women will be upset. The opportunity to kill a buck will be greatly reduced and again, more does will be killed. Frankly, I'm really very tired of your efforts to protect the good bucks from the regular hunters and save them for the kids and bowhunters. Also, the weather is not as desirable Thanksgiving week.
3) The antler point restriction has reduced the quality of bucks in my area. All the quality little 8 pointers are being taken out and many big 6 pointers and other misfits are left for breeding stock.
4) Move the youth season to after the regular firearms season so these kids can learn what it's

like to hunt deer rather than just shoot them when they are most vulnerable. Also the age for youth hunters should range from 8 to 13 years. 5) Move the muzzleloading season up a little bit. You're lucky if you even see a deer during daylight hours that late in the season. 6) This last comment is in regards to squirrel season. You raised the limit to 10 several years ago when the squirrels were really thick. For the last 3 years you're lucky to see 10 squirrels on a hunt much less kill that many. You need to learn to reduce limits when the populations are down. That applies to all wildlife you regulate. Also, the squirrel season should not have ever been extended to Feb 15 when they are starting to have young. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
- Crossbows - I think allowing crossbows overall is a good idea, I would like to see it allowed for hunters over age 50, but would also support allowing crossbows for all archery hunters. - Nov Rifle Season being pushed back 1 week - I am in support of
I am an archery hunter and gun hunter. I am in favor of moving the gun season back one week for several reasons. 1.) Season ends right before most of my family arrives for Thanksgiving weekend. We would love to hunt (for more than just antlerless) together. 2.) I love to archery hunt - right when the archery hunting gets good, then November portion opens. I think the youth weekend is great, but it does affect us archery hunters already during prime time. I have had some of the nicest deer I have been hunting get killed by youth hunters. I am happy for them, but it deflates me after a long season of pursuit. 3.) Bucks would be less vulnerable and promote an older age-class. This is what most hunters want, right? I am not sure why it has taken us this long to get to this point. I would also float the idea to eliminate antlerless and extend rifle season to 2 weeks instead of 10 days.
First I'd like to preface my comments pertaining to the new proposed changes in the Missouri deer hunting regulations with a complement to the Missouri Department of Conservation. My family and I live on a 300 acre farm in Pulaski county and have always enjoyed the natural beauty of the Ozarks and all of the diverse and abundant wildlife and natural resources that abound here. I am 48 years old and have enjoyed all of the hunting possibilities, esp. deer and turkey hunting, throughout my life. Whenever the opportunity arises, I always try to explain to my two sons, and to anyone interested, the important role the Missouri Department of Conservation has played in creating, in my opinion" close to world class" deer and turkey hunting opportunities. Through the department's management, rules and regulations we ALL have the wonderful opportunity to enjoy the produced abundance in our own individual way. A" Thank You" from my whole family. A) Should Crossbows be allowed to be used during archery season? Myself, and my family, strongly oppose this idea. We feel a crossbow is the equivalent to a gun, in light of its greatly improved accuracy and lethalness and should not be allowed. My family and many friends who bow hunt along with us feel if this proposal is allowed the dynamics of the archery season will be greatly changed. We feel the "traditional" archery hunt/season will be lost/changed which would be regrettable. We would like to add that we do not oppose the current use of

crossbows by legitimate physical handicapped individuals. Would the fairly positive view archery hunters hold in the public's opinion now remain if crossbows are allowed? I'm not sure. B) The proposed change in the season by moving the rife season back a week, including the Thanksgiving holiday. My Family also opposes this proposed change. We do understand and appreciate the science and positive effects this change will have on the deer population. But we have stronger feelings towards the possible detrimental effects that this proposed regulation change could have on the greatly needed "family holiday traditions". We have discussed this issue and feel that the influence of the deer rifle season on many hunters may pull or create conflict with many of these individual and their families and their family time during the holiday. We hold strong convictions to family and family time especially during the holidays, and don't think this special time should be disrupted. C) The proposed implementation of a limiting the number of bucks a hunter can take. We agree and feel it would be best if a hunter would be limited to 1 buck in archery season and 1 buck in rifle season (max of 2 bucks per season). D) Our feelings on the 4 point restriction in our (Pulaski) county. We believe we have greatly benefited from its implementation years ago and would like to see it continued (except during youth season which our family and our many friends and their youth have enjoyed). Thank you for giving our family the opportunity to share our thoughts and views. The R Family
Crossbow during archery season. I am for it. As an aging hunter (58) I love being in the field, but the body does not always love the hunt. I have learned to hunt smarter, or just not hunt at all. Archery season has pasted me by since it is very painful to pull a bow anymore, and have yet to ask the doctor to fill out a form so that I can use the crossbow.
From what I have seen on property I hunt, the deer numbers are down. These farms are located in Lincoln, Pike, and Montgomery Counties. I wonder if the recent Hemorrhagic Fever has not hit harder than originally thought, also there are too many does being taken. I think the doe harvest is to liberal, maybe consider going back to drawing a doe tag for a couple years, at least not letting hunters buy as many doe tags as they want. Maybe limit hunters to one antlerless tag for both archery and firearms seasons. After all Deer Management is about herd management not big antler management. I think MDC should also increase non-resident license fees to reflect what non-residents pay in IA, KS, IL, and make non-residents draw a tag.
1. Crossbows. Should be used by any and all archery hunters. Gives no special benefit to user. First shot, a bit of an advantage. Second shot not at all...much slower to reload and certainly not easy (if not impossible) in a frosty tree stand. 2. Moving the November season back a week. Sure if it gives more hunters opportunity to get in the field. I am happy either way...but how does it impact the other deer seasons? 3. Elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearms season. Keep the same unless scientific analysis suggests we should. Maybe instead of the length of the

season, it would make more sense, if required, to limit the number of antlerless tags available in each county. 4. Buck harvesting. If one is limited to only one buck tag total, there will be fewer dual season hunters in the field. Were I king, I would have one buck for archery and one buck for gun seasons. One buck only is a bad idea. We already manage bucks via antler points per side. 5. Antler point restrictions make hunting harder, probably safer, because more time is required to see if it is a legal deer. The upside is that there are more "larger" bucks available these days. I support continuing the antler point restriction program. 6. Adult spike bucks. Antler point restrictions allow them to continue to breed and weak genes continue to be transmitted. I would like to have the ability to shoot the ADULT spike bucks to limit their impact to the gene pool. That having been said, I also believe that it is impossible to write the regulations in a clear way that would allow this to happen in practice for all hunters across the state and for the agents to enforce. So I am willing to live with adult spikes. 7. I am not sure that fawns are ready to be separated from does as early as 15 September. I would restrict archery to bucks with 4 points on a side only until 15 October. Give the youngsters a little more growth before they are set loose to fend for themselves.
I am strongly against moving the firearm deer season to the week of thanksgiving. The herd is still healthy and growing despite a severe outbreak of EHD in my county (Osage). The herd has grown to 1.4 million deer up from 600000 in 1980. This growth occurred while the deer season was in its current status.
Antler point restrictions are a loss of freedom. Antler point restrictions are detrimental to hunter recruitment. No biological basis for them.
You guys do a great job in the deer herd management. I like the antler point restriction and think it should be state wide. I think the population should always be kept plentiful so that your 1st deer tag should always be an optional any deer.
Give landowners more flexibility to manage deer on their land.
There are too many different regulations pertaining to deer hunting. I don't like the antler point restrictions. Trophy hunters and big money is controlling deer hunting in US, and it is now hurting the common hunter in Missouri.
Expand four point rule. As a Texas county landowner I would support this.
Expand four point rule. As a Texas county landowner I would support this.
I agree with the proposed regulations with the exception of the crossbow issue. I feel that there should be a crossbow season separate for regular bow season, especially now with the lower deer herd numbers. I know that the youth season was not part of the public meetings but, I think that it is not necessary to bring the kids to hunting. I as well as many others started hunting at the age of 7 and am still hunting at 60. If you ever get a chance, go stand around the hunting department at Walmart and listen to how many times the during the youth season the kids don't do the shooting. Thanks for all you do to make Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.
We need to reduce the any deer permits, eliminate the special end of year antler less season for

To many years we have allowed to many does to be killed now that has come home to hurt the population. I would be in favor of a one buck limit either rifle or now but not both.
We need to reduce the any deer permits, eliminate the special end of year antler less season for To many years we have allowed to many does to be killed now that has come home to hurt the population. I would be in favor of a one buck limit either rifle or now but not both.
Crossbows- I don't believe they should be included in archery deer season for the following reasons. 1. They can be cocked in advance and left at full draw, then shot with very little movement. 2. They can already be used with a Doctor's slip. 3. They reduce the skill needed and preparation for the hunt which is very important in my opinion. 4. They will arguably cause hunters to shoot farther with light arrows (bolts) which may arguably cause more wounding due to less energy at target. What happened to woodsmanship and getting close with a bow? Respectfully, K.
Here are a few things I would like to see incorporated into the MDC Deer Management Plan. -Increased Youth Season length for both the early portion & late portion -Attempt to schedule the firearms portion of deer season so it does not coincide with the rut. Maybe split it up with a week in late October & a week in December or start it the day after Thanksgiving & run it into December. But please set it outside of the rut. -More competitive out-of-state deer tag pricing. Our out-of-state hunting tag licenses cost too little. Increasing price of these tags to a competitive level will help generate more funds to offset management costs.
I would like to see additional counties added to the 4 point restriction. I am not sure how the 4 point restriction is put into place (I.E. the data that is used to determine why the rule is applied and not) in some counties. I do hunt the Ozarks and some of the Southern counties and it seems that some of those counties could have the 4 point rule as well. I would like to see more of the 4 point rule put into place in additional counties. Thanks for you work!
People need to show proof before getting land owner permits at venders. Also, need to improve deer check in. Too much cheating. Otherwise doing great job.
Please do NOT move general gun season. It is perfect where it is. B.
I do not favor the one buck limit. I do favor limiting the number of does taken during gun season and moving gun season to later in the year. I also do not care for adding cross bows to bow season.
Too many non-residents leasing prime hunting ground. The non-resident permits are priced to low. There needs to be a lottery for non-residents
No crossbows during archery season. Yes move November portion out of the rut. Delete antlerless portion
Remember who your audience is and keep the regulations simple. Season dates are pretty

straight forward and should remain as is. It wouldn't hurt my feelings to move the start date of bow season to 10/1. From a "quality of meat" perspective, September is a pretty warm month to harvest a deer. Beyond that, my simple plan would be, North of Hwy 70 your two does and one buck with at least four points on one side, South of 70 it's the same thing, but only one doe, regardless of methods used. I would reevaluate this plan after two years based on harvest data. This should improve both numbers and quality of the herd, especially with an older class of bucks. I hunt in Lincoln county and I've never seen more mature bucks since the antler restriction went into effect. Good job! Of course, during youth season it's carte blanche on bucks. Hook 'em while they're young! Also, special seasons and limits in urban areas, wildlife management areas, and parks should remain unchanged. You guys do a darn good job and our world class herd s evidence of that. I think my suggestion on limiting doe and buck harvests regardless of method will not be popular, but I see this as a temporary sacrifice for the greater good...plus, exercising discipline and learning to pass are qualities that make my seasons more special...just wish it didn't take me 25 years and countless 110-120" bucks to develop that. Now I get a ridiculous amount of joy observing and passing on those beautiful bucks, while I wait on the right deer on a cool day, so the deer stays cold while I butcher it in my horse barn. If you have made it this far then hanks for taking the time to read my comments and keep up the great work.
I feel the most Bucks you should be able to harvest is two. one with a firearm and one with a bow. I think the rule of being able to harvest two bucks with a bow is to many. I feel if you can only harvest two over the season, it would make hunters more selective and there would be more bucks for the other hunters.
Crossbows should be allowed. I own a bow but do not hunt the archery season due to a vision problem that I cannot zero by bow in to a bulls eye due to one eye over powering the other. I should haven’t have to go pay a doctor to tell you this so I can hunt the archery season. Season change by backing up the date should be changed if the population is what you want to control. More hunters will have a few extra days of hunting over the Thanksgiving weekend. The price for out of state hunter should go down to bring in more hunters to help control the population. The antler 4 point restriction should be removed and not implemented in any areas I feel that does nothing to control the population for make bigger bucks because as soon as they get 4 points on a side they will be shot and will not have a chance to be bigger. Hunters who want the trophy bucks need to make agreement with buddies on the land they hunt not to take the smaller bucks. As for me and the area I hunt, if you even see a deer you are lucky. I don’t need a point restriction to further my grief in Southern Mo. Antlerless portion may as well be cancelled due to Jasper County and to my South not in this hunt anyway. I hunt in these areas and I cannot participate in this hunt anyway. They have the alternative portion to hunt if they want to hunt. If you keep it, open it state wide.
I would like to know why crossbows are not allowed as an acceptable method during deer archery season except for medical exceptions.
I would like to request the MDC limit the harvest of Buck deer to one a year, per hunter by

whatever means they choose, firearm, alternative, or archery. This would allow fewer bucks to be harvested a year and allow more buck deer to reach prime potential for harvest. Thank you for being opening to change and to allow the public to comment. I am also a landowner that works hard to create habitat for different wildlife and I have noticed a decline in the deer population in western Pike County (the Pike/Audrain/Ralls counties line area off of Highway 54) in the past few years. I would like to see the number of antlerless tags be reduced to one or to none for the next few years. To allow the population to slightly increase. Thank you again.
There are many deer shot each year during all seasons which are not recovered. Many hunters, after not finding a deer shot, will resume hunting with the desire to fill their tags. Perhaps the conservation department could organize volunteers for each county willing to assist hunters recover lost deer. Certificates of recognitions for lost deer located could be awarded. Friendly competition between volunteers for each county to find the most lost deer ect. Using dogs to help locate deer is becoming more popular merited by dogs effectiveness. I support only one buck per season for each hunter much like Kansas does. I support each county having 2 conservation agents. There is a ton of poaching going on and people filling tags that are not their own. Perhaps during the season the conservation department could hire trained deputy agents to help with check stations along major roads. You might consider having all bucks checked in, in person, like the old days, to track the resource better.
Some reduction in antlerless harvest may be required in the future, especially on the firearms portion. Antlerless season itself might be moved back to January where the MDC could better determine the harvest and allocation of tags according to that indicator. If the harvest is high in areas then reduce or eliminate that season in that county. Therefore, eliminate the October season completely. Reduction of buck harvest should NOT occur. If the firearms population feel it is unfair they could only get one buck, then they should pick up a bow and join those of us that do both. This is one incentive for bow hunters that should remain in-tact. Especially looking at your statistics where bow hunters have such a small impact on total numbers harvested.
I do not believe you should allow cross bows during the archery portion of the season. It is meant to be a challenge to hunt with a bow. Now I agree with allowing those that are handicapped and unable to shoot a regular bow, they should be authorized to use the cross bow. I feel allowing cross bows would only increase the number of wounded deer. Firearms population would attempt to bow hunt like they gun hunt. And a cross bow is not effective at those ranges. Keep the challenge in the Archery season. Cross bow hunters have opportunities in both the firearms portion and the alternative portion. I am in favor of not mandating the 4 point antler restrictions. As a seasoned hunter I would typically not take a buck unless it was mature, which has mostly meant I would only shoot an 8 point or more. However, I like the idea my children, which are not as likely to stay out in the woods for extended periods, to have the opportunity to shoot. This would allow them greater opportunities during regular season to harvest an animal. Which in turn, increases their desire to go hunting.

Reduction of only one buck should NOT be allowed. The current regulation gives great incentives to those of us that enjoy archery season to hunt more often. I often stop hunting after I have filled my buck tags for the year.
We have the best state conservation dept. in the nation. Why would we cede control of such a dangerous group of operators (captive cervids) to any other agent, state federal or otherwise? Talk about the tail wagging the dog...The 10 operators in the state put $1B industry and hundreds of thousands of family traditions at risk. If we are debating anything, we should be debating whether we should even let these genetic manipulators even operate in the state. Stand proud, MDC and keep up the good fight. JW
I'm much in favor of tightening the regulations on deer farms. The CWD outbreak is a good example of why this must be done. Also, I totally against moving the rifle season back one week, as the season would conflict with Thanksgiving week when many hunters are tied up with family time activities associated with the holiday. I also believe the 4 pt. rule should be adopted across the entire state to improve the buck to doe ratio.
I made a few comments at the Hannibal open house but have one more. I don't like the idea of moving gun season back a week because it would pretty much always include Thanksgiving then and that would be a burden to a lot more families than deer season is now.
I am a resident of Ralls County. Based on the number of deer I see in the mornings on rural roads, I find it hard to believe the population is down enough to warrant limiting the antlerless harvest for 2014. I think rather than limit the number of antlerless permits, there should have been changes to counties where the numbers are down. I like being able to have venison in my freezer through the winter. Was this based on statewide numbers or done by county. I feel landowners should have opportunities to qualify for more antlerless tags.
Deer are not livestock, and crossbows are not archery. Crossbows should be allowed during the gun portion of the season. Move the Nov. gun season to the Sat. before Thanksgiving. I support more restrictive deer regulations, including restricting the number of bucks that can be harvested.
I feel like the MDC does a great job at preserving wildlife in the state of Missouri but really hope that they are able to get a hand on the CWD problem. I understand the need for deer farms in the state for testing and greater understanding of deer but I don't see the need for commercial hunting inside a fence. The state of Missouri offers some of the best whitetail hunting in the country so why do we allow farms to bring deer into the state that could potentially ruin that. I feel that many of these establishments are money driven and don't have the interest of Missouri's overall deer health in mind. I also don't understand how putting up a fence around large parcels of ground and trapping existing deer should be allowed either, because when you buy the ground it shouldn't mean you have the right to shut the free travel of wildlife that is occupying the land when it is purchased.
I am not really in favor of the point restrictions in the southern part of the state, but I think through more hunter training/marketing methods, hunters can voluntarily choose to pass on

immature bucks, and that will help the overall age/gender distribution of the herd.
Hello - I don't believe I will have time to attend one of the sessions but wanted to share my thought on a few the topics being discussed. 1. Crossbows during archery season - I think this is a bad idea. As a bow hunter I greatly enjoy early season bow hunting on public land. My concern with crossbows is that they require less skill than a bow and by making them legal the places I like to bow hunt will become crowded with more hunters particularly in the pre-rut and early rut. The result will be less satisfying bow hunting opportunities and also spooked deer right before firearms season. My recommendation would be to continue to allow crossbows during firearms and alternative methods seasons and leave bow season to those dedicated hunters that are willing to spend the time to develop the skill required to uses true archery methods. 2. I am neutral to moving the Nov portion back a few days toward Thanksgiving. However, I would be opposed to moving it into any part of December. 3. I would support the reduction of antlerless permits. I have heard stories of people getting 3 or 4 deer in a season. I have never taken more than one deer, but I could see myself getting a deer early in the season, and then wanting to join friends in the field for the latter part of the season, antlerless, or alternative methods season. A 1 or 2 antlerless restriction makes sense to me. Nonetheless, I support any restriction or even elimination if necessary to preserve huntable populations of deer. I also support the policy of relaxed limits in urban zones. In St. Louis County we have too many deer and from my perspective and thus it makes sense to encourage harvest in these areas around cities and suburbs. 4. I am not a fan of the antler restriction. I am not a trophy hunter and have a busy schedule. A couple years ago, I was in Lynn County and had a small buck literally walk up to me on opening morning - it did not meet the restriction criteria. I ended up not getting a deer that year. This experience colors my perspective. Also, I feel that the trophy fixation takes away from our sport, which to me is about appreciating nature and the outdoors. The increasing focus on antler size encouraged by retailers and the media also promotes the breeding of deer and high fence industry that I believe actually threatens sporting fair chase hunting by threatening the spread of CWD. I think public policy should not promote antler hunting, but rather promote deer hunting.
I think crossbows should be legal for anyone to bow hunt with during bow season. I think the buck kill limit is ok now. Very few people kill more than one or two bucks a year now. Two bucks with bow and one with rifle is ok. That way you have more opportunity to find the buck you are looking for. I also think some counties have too many does. I see lots of them killed on the road ways. Please don’t turn the state in to a big buck hunting only. I know some want it to.
I support any type of bow for use during the archery season, although I don't for see myself utilizing a crossbow if allowed at this time I think this only helps to expand the archery season to hunters who currently don't bow hunt.

I also support the elimination of the antlerless season. For areas within the state that have deer over-population it should be controlled by allowing increased antlerless permits in those counties for use during the regular firearms and alternate method seasons. I think all of our firearms seasons make archery hunting much tougher later in the season. I like the idea of a later firearm season that would allow the opportunity to hunt over the Thanksgiving weekend. This would give many of us more days to be in the field, especially school aged youth. I also think the muzzleloader/alternate methods season should be in mid-October. That gives 30 days for archery, a 9 day alternate methods season, then 2-3 more weeks for archery and youth seasons before the regular firearms season. I support a limit of two antlered deer per year, regardless of what type of regular season you are participating. (Don't include managed hunt deer harvest) I also support the continuing/implementing antler point restriction in all the counties I hunt, which are: Taney, Wayne, Benton, Henry and Ste. Genevieve.
I think over all you do a pretty good job but more attention should be paid to the difference between big woods country like where I live and the western Ozarks and open fields country like land north of hwy. 70, with lots of farm fields and just small wood lots and drainage areas.
I would like to see the antler point restriction removed in Gasconade County. Thank you
I think they should do away with unlimited permits in some counties
I support the following: Allowing crossbows during archery season, 1 week later rifle season, 1 buck per year - all methods, 4 pt rule
Please do not open the archery season to crossbows.
I feel the crossbows are more like a gun and should not be considered in archery season. "moving the November portion of deer season back one week".... I assume that means moving it to be the same week that Thanksgiving is in. If that is the case, I say NO, don't interfere with Thanksgiving. That would probably limit my hunting to the first 4 days. As to the antlerless season, I don't feel it should start immediately after the November portion. It could be done away with, if needed for management. It is a BAD IDEA to limit only one buck annual per person. So, how many archery hunters take 2 bucks per season? Why change the current regulations? I have never supported the 4 point regulation in any county. I see no reason to continue with the 4 point regulation.
We need less pressure on our deer herd. We have way too much pressure on our herd, more than any other state. From November to mid-January, the orange is thick in the woods. That needs to be stopped. Please move the firearms season back at least a week! Please limit the buck tags, especially to nonresidents. Please keep trying to make the state a better place, the best place.
Firearms season needs to be moved up one week to coincide with the end of the rut. Deer movement is drastically curtailed as the rut ends, and the season is already too late. The peak of the rut is around November 5, and it comes to an abrupt end around November 10-12. Crossbows might be acceptable, but archery season needs to be shortened, preferably October

1 to December 31. Antlerless seasons should be eliminated. There should only be one youth season. All antler point restrictions should be eliminated to prevent genetic damage to the herd. As a side note, it is time for an opportunistic mountain lion season where licensed hunters with proper weapons during certain dates can take a lion, then submit for checking within a certain time period.
I don't feel turning Mo into a 1 buck state is a good idea. A 2 buck, allowing too use a unfilled gun tag for late bow season would allow more tree stand sit time . Changing bow season to open September 1 and close 12-31 could bring Missouri more revenue from out of state hunters looking to harvest bucks while still in velvet. Few states offer opportunity at bucks while in velvet.
Our area lost a large amount of deer to disease in 2012. We found 10 dead deer just on our 457 acre farm which is located on flag spring road. We are seeing small numbers of does and fawns last year and this year. We believe that deer tags should be reduced in areas that suffered deer loses such as our area. Thank You
1 no comment #2 Moving season one week back is no big deal. #3 No comment #4 Leave Archery Season at 2 bucks & 1 buck for Firearms #5 LEAVE POINT RESTRICTION ALONE !!
Let crossbows into the archery seasons. Allow 2 antlered Bucks, 1 in archery 1 in firearms. Make a 4 pt. rule on an antler state wide.
I think one of the largest problems with hunting dear in Missouri is the way you manage your crops on MDC land. I've been hunting for over 35 years, Bow, Firearms Deer, Pheasant, Quail, Turkey (Spring primarily), Rabbit and Squirrel. Always on public land. I have hunted in most of the counties north of I-70. And the lack of good crop rotation and the destruction tree removal that the forestry has done in the last 5 years doesn't make sense. Over management of the forest! Come on, clearing out the trees? Don't over manage! Also the idea you need rotate crops. I can show you where there are huge bean fields every year in the exact same spot. Just drive up 65 HYW from Moberly to Kirksville. I know you all are biologist and someone is always trying to improve the way things are done. But what you are doing in this area is simply not working. More crops on public land would help. And stay out of the Forest. God designed it perfectly! So once again you want to change deer season. Why? Because your numbers are changing. I think moving firearms deer season back a week is a terrible idea. I also think having the doe season immediately following is ridicules. Who can take that much time to take off work? And it's Thanksgiving. And you really think that only allowing one antlered buck during Archery season is a good idea? It's a horrible idea that won't make any difference. How many total individuals take two antlered bucks during archery season? The thought of only allowing ONE buck for the whole year. OUR YOU OUT OF YOUR MINDS? Really bad decision.

Here's an idea, run the second (doe only season) at the same time as Muzzeloader season. In December. Then you can take the specific areas based on deer population and decide what type of firearms and limits are acceptable. Don't call it an alternative hunt. Most Muzzelloaders are accurate to 100 yards easily. If you want to have specific areas for truly cap and ball primitive hunts no problem. However have it all at the same time. Or move it back to the first 2 weeks of January. With the winters not as bad as they use to be you would probably see an increase in hunters. Last but not least, I have no problem with the current antler restrictions. I have seen better bucks over the years since you implemented it. As long as you manage the doe population correctly the meat hunters should have enough to survive on. I have no problems with cross bows being used during regular archery season.
I would strongly urge that the firearms deer season be backed off one week until the week of Thanksgiving. I also encourage that the firearms deer season be changes to blackpowder and shotgun only, with rifles not allowed. I also believe that, at least in NWMO, the doe harvest should be limited.
CrossBow: ok for use by all hunters. November portion of deer hunter - Move back 1 week - do not allow but 1 antlerless deer & 2 antlerled with point restrictions Antlerless season - move back one week ie: as in November potion do not reduce length but reduce number able to take to 1 or 2 and no spikes bucks. Buck limit - No do not reduce the number of bucks in archery but in November portion reduce to 1 and do away with anydeer permit rather issue doe or buck permit to 1 ea. Remove buck restriction: only in youth hunt and for one of two bucks during bow season.
I DON'T THINK CROSSBOWS SHOULD BE LEGAL FOR ALL BOWHUNTERS.I LIKE THE IDEA OF PUSHING GUN SEASON BACK ONE WEEK.I THINK YOU SHOULD STAY WITH 1 ARCHERY BUCK AND 1 GUN BUCK.I THINK WE NEED TO BACK OFF DOE HARVEST TO GET POPULATION UP A LITTLE MORE. THANK YOU.
We know that many factors enter into MDC's decisions. There must be dozens of factors to weigh if MDC desires to increase interest in deer hunting. However, it seems to me that there are four that overwhelm all the others. First, and most obvious, there must be high numbers of deer. Deer populations have decreased significantly in some areas. I know some hunters that formerly hunted during the entire November Portion. Now they hunt opening weekend and go home, ending their season for the year because the see so few deer. Second, there must be many days in the deer season, in general, and several weekends, in particular. Most hunters have to balance hunting days with days taken up by job, family, and even holiday-season demands. Third, the WEATHER factor during deer season. The month of November can bring almost any kind of outdoor conditions. But we can predict that Autumn temperatures and frost will happen early at the Iowa line and late in the Southeast Delta region. Suppose the deer season

opened and closed something like this: Northern MO--November 8-16; Southern MO--November 17-25; Delta region--November 26-Dec 3. Better weather would be more likely, and more hunters would spend more days in the field. Fourth, tighten up the rules & regs on the Youth-only-seasons. You must know that a significant number of deer are being harvested by other-than-children. This cheats the legal deer hunters who must wait until November Portion opens. Thank you for reading these comments. Will someone there be replying? Best regards, G.S.
I agree with all of the proposed changes except the allowing of anyone to use a crossbow during archery season. This should remain an option only to those not capable of shooting a regular bow
I am strongly opposed to crossbows being legal during archery season. I have no problem with people hunting with crossbows, but they completely defy the purpose of hunting with archery equipment. If that's the weapon people want to hunt with then guess what, we already have a season for them! It's called alternative season because they are an alternative to rifles. Saying that crossbows are like actual bows (I hunt with a longbow), is like saying rifles should be allowed during muzzle-loading season. Both weapons shoot bullet-like projectiles, and rifles would definitely allow more people to participate during muzzle-loading season. It's the exact same logic. Once more, I am adamantly opposed to crossbows during archery season. The purpose of archery season is not to get more people involved; it's to give those who want to challenge themselves a little more time to get the job done.
* Use of crossbow during archery season-YES * Firearm season back one week- YES *Consider a shotgun season * Antlerless season reduction in length-YES *3 days * One buck only for archery season- YES *With the use of a crossbow given in return * One buck for firearm season-YES * Antler point restriction- Discontinue in my county
I read the Missouri Conservationist June/July issues and I agree that the deer herd has been decreasing and I also support decreasing antlerless harvest while maintaining the antler point restrictions. I am concerned though about changing regulations to include crossbows into the general archery season. Adding crossbows to the archery season will only increase deer harvest and we already know that the population is down. It is too easy to hunt deer with a crossbow to allow them the extended season and harvest. It is essentially hunting with a silenced rifle. Crossbow hunters can sit all day with a loaded crossbow and then fire it from a sitting position through a hole in a blind. Hunting with a crossbow avoids almost all of the difficulties involved in bow hunting and should not be allowed during the general archery season. I think the regulations should remain the same where crossbows require a medical exemption. Expanding the use of crossbows into the archery season for urban areas ONLY could be an

option. On another note, I have noticed a large increase in road hunters in Harrison county where I hunt and believe that MDC should carry out more sting operations.
Send me some land owner tags please!
I think that if a new or inexperienced hunter, who has never harvested a deer in their life, is hunting in an antler restriction county (at least four points on one side) that the restriction should be waved for their first deer. Once a hunter has harvested any deer (antlered or not) they then would have to follow the same restrictions as all other hunters. Wouldn't it be a shame for a new hunter to have to pass up on their first deer ever because it didn't have four points on one side? My first deer harvested was a nice little fork horn (four points total) from Benton County back when there were no point restrictions. I am to this day (after many harvested deer) as proud of that little first buck as any deer I ever had the blessing to harvest. I don't feel that letting a beginning hunter take his first deer without restrictions in these counties would significantly affect the Quality Deer Management Plan to grow bigger racks, and would let these hunters have a greater chance at harvesting their first deer. Again, this waving of point restrictions would be only a once in a hunting career occurrence. Thank you for allowing me to comment. I do most of my deer hunting each year in Benton County.
Missouri needs to manage for trophy bucks. Moving the rifle season out of the rut or allowing a three day shotgun season during the rut is needed. Illinois has it right. When you think of big bucks you think of all the states around Missouri. Also it way past time MDC allows crossbows during the bow season. There is no reason not to allow it.
I have been a hunter for some years now but not many. I have killed a small number of deer with my rifle and got to introduce venison to my wife and she loves it. I decided to take up bow hunting to increase our availability of venison in the freezer. However, I didn’t realize that I would rarely get an opportunity to shoot at a deer within bow range. I know how hard it is and how many hours I have to sit but can it be better for us bow hunters here in Missouri? My question is will there ever be an opportunity to bow hunt deer over bait? Other states have it and I see it on almost every hunting show out there. The problem is, like others, we can’t just come home from work and walk out the back door and get in our stand. I can’t have my cameras up at any conservation area for fear of it getting stolen(and it does happen). I have to drive 90% of the time to a conservation area in hopes that the lot isn’t full and pray I can get my spot I scouted for. I am very respectful of this sport that we are so fortunate to have. I also respect every single CA I have ever been to. Just last year I turned in an area that was being baited for fear that I was going to be in trouble. I guess my point is that if we can hunt over a food plot, bait all year as long as it is pulled within a certain time period (just to get the deer in) why can’t we just put food down within reason. What are the other states doing differently that we can’t do? Why is it okay for them, I guess I just don’t see an issue with it. Really, what’s the big deal. As long as our numbers for taking deer are where they need to be, it shouldn’t matter. I now have a 5 month old and I can already bet my time in the woods will be limited for years.

If this question I have could be addressed I'd really appreciate it. Thank you for your time. J.L.
As an archery hunter, I support the full inclusion of crossbow hunting during all archery hunting portions in the future. There isn't a valid reason to deny this privilege. 24 States currently allow full inclusion in the archery portions of their season without negative results. 3 other States allow crossbow hunting during archery season with some restrictions. MDC needs to move beyond the crossbow haters who only are trying to protect their turf without scientific proof the use of crossbows are detrimental to our deer resources. I also support the 1 buck 1 doe limits for any archery method at least until the herd recovers from the losses of late. We have to stop the wholesale doe slaughter, The rules for this year are a start but much more needs to be done. I agree the firearms portion should be moved from the peak of the rut. To many mature bucks are being harvested. From my observations there are many doe that are not being bred and are open this year. I think your findings were spot on as detailed in your proposed rule changes for 2015.
Regarding the use of crossbows in Archery season, I believe that is a good thing. Antler restrictions: We had been using this for a number of years before it was required in our area and there is benefit to this. One area that is sensitive to me happened in about 2008 or 09. After being a life-long Missouri Resident landowner, in early 2000's I became a non-resident land owner, living in Kansas. There was a period of time non-resident landowners received reduced fees for Turkey and Deer tags. At the time of the change MDC was still publishing the quantities of each tag and at that time, the number of non-resident landowner tags in a 2008 report was 1,756 of the 45,133 total non-resident permits sold, about 4%. The decision to increase to full non-resident price at that time was $175,000.00 increase in revenue. It left a lot of hard feelings and we had to buck up and pay it to hunt on our property. Even though we pay taxes on our property, improvements and as you know managing for deer is not a cheap thing to do. As your presentation states, it is a huge revenue producer for Missouri. At the time, if I recall correctly, it was promoted to the public to fall in line with neighboring states. It would be interesting to find out the current number of non-resident landowners and have the MDC review the economic implications of this with the possibility of going back to a reduced fee? Based on the 4% of the non-resident permits in 2008, in 2013 there were 39,769 non- resident permits and 4% would be around 1,550 permits for non-resident landowners. Less than before and only 0.115% of permits issued combined. Another revenue increase for the state with living out of state is we have to hire some of our work done, therefore increasing our spending to support Missouri. Something to think about and consider a reduction in fees for non-resident land owners. Not just for Deer, but for Turkeys also. Since the fee change was based on neighbor states. The state I live in (Kansas) has that if you have a lifetime hunting license, if you leave the state you can purchase Deer tags at resident cost. I happen to have my Missouri Lifetime Hunting and fishing license which as you know, does not give any benefits for Deer and Turkey non-resident deer tags. Has there been

consideration to doing similar for non-resident lifetime conservation partners to sell deer and turkey permits at instate fees? If you have the time I would be interested in your reply.
I am so glad you are at least considering some of these changes. Moving firearm season off the rut and eliminating antler restriction could be a big plus for our deer. During last three seasons have observed many smaller bucks involved in rut. Afraid the inferior genetics will become norm. Have no problems with pen deer rules either; CWD is a serious challenge to the future of our deer population.
•What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? I think that they should have been included all along since they are a historical archery method. I don't think that adding options that get more folks out hunting is ever a bad thing for the continuation of the sport. •Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week? I like the seasons the way they are set up now, but have no issue with it being pushed back a week other than it may cause less hunters to be in the woods if it runs over Thanksgiving Day & weekend. •Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season? It seems to me that the counties that have an antlerless season currently are reporting less deer than the southern counties that do not have an antlerless season. Eliminating it altogether might be a good idea. •Do you think implementing a one buck limit for archery season or a one buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? I think one buck for archery & one buck for firearms is a great idea. •What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler point restriction in the county you hunt? I think the antler point restriction has been great for the county I primarily hunt in (Maries). We see a lot more older and bigger bucks these days than we did before the antler point restriction.
I live in a community that lives for deer season year round. Myself, my family, friends and most of the people I know all are interested in older bucks. We own property that borders conservation ground and I know quite a few other people who do as well or hunt next to some. It kills us every year to see small buck after small buck get taken out of these areas. My brother this year let 4 different small bucks pass his stand and each one got shot after it crossed the ridge. I would love to see antler point restriction on conservation grounds like Red Rock, Seventy-Six and Star Landing. We've been letting 1 1/2 yr old bucks go for over 10 years and we're just not seeing the results like we should. I have friends that are getting pictures of groups of 3 or 4 mature deer together and we are lucky to get a picture of a 3 year old passing through some years. Thanks for your consideration. M.

I would not like to see the firearms deer season start one week later and run through Thanksgiving.
I'm in total agreement with the Departments goal of regulating captive deer in an effort to prevent CWD. The majority of Missouri deer hunters do not hunt captive deer nor do they have a desire to do so. It is totally wrong to jeopardize deer hunting for the majority for a few that want captive deer. Also, I'm getting along in age and it's becoming difficult for me to bow hunt due to arthritis and spinal stenosis. While not disabled, the ability to hunt with a crossbow would provide me the opportunity to so. Lastly, I hunt on private property adjacent to Fountain Grove and Pershing Park in Linn county. I always viewed this area as prime deer habitat but the deer herd is noticeably smaller. I hope they continue to close managed hunts on Pershing Park because park hunting has had a negative impact. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I wish the waterfowl people would give us an opportunity to speak because I have a lot to say on that topic too.
Would like to see more counties studied for antler restrictions. Consider Texas county which is where I own property and hunt. I also would like to see deer gun season stay at its same time slot. I do understand your thinking on this and would go with the consensus.
I would like to see crossbow regulations stay as they are. I would not like reducing the number of buck tags available. I would not like to see the season moved to later in November. I like the increased time to hunt antlerless deer. I like to harvest deer and like antler restrictions to increase the number of bucks that survive but I do not like modeling the regulations specifically to increase trophy bucks. I like most of the ways things are currently done.
Crossbows - I'm primarily a bowhunter and don't use a crossbow and don't plan to but I do support the use of a crossbow during the archery season. Rifle Season - I support moving the season back 1 week to encourage the breeding by dominate bucks. This would also increase the hunters in the field opportunities due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Antlerless Portions - I would like to see the rifle antlerless portion reduced due to the conflict with other hunting activities. This reduction in antlerless seasons wouldn't significantly affect the antlerless harvest. I also believe the EHD significantly affected the deer herd in the Northwest portion of the state were I hunt. By reducing the additional antlerless seasons it would help the deer herd recover. I found numerous dead bucks and does around the watering ways/ponds. Buck Harvest - I support keeping the 2 antlered tags for archery and 1 antlered tag for the gun portion. I'm very selective on the bucks that I hunt/target in the archery and gun portions. I believe the percentage of hunters taking multiple quality bucks is very low. I also believe that hunters should have the ability to take multiple bucks with their archery and gun tags which could be used to target adult bucks that have inferior genes/racks (support quality deer management tactics) if they choose. Localized Management and Antlerless Permits - I encourage the use of localized management practices (Quality Deer Management). I would encourage the limiting of antlerless permits. I

know that if I kill 3 deer my family will have a tough time going through all the meat by the following season. Therefore I limit myself to 2 deer but I do know others (that I'm not proud of) that pride themselves on shooting as many antlerless as possible. They plan to shoot (with a gun) up to 6 antlerless just to give them away. I encourage supporting those less fortunate but not at the expense of the local deer herd. I think limiting the number of antlerless tags would also help the deer herd that was greatly affected by EHD in the Northwest and other areas of the state.
I like the rifle season right where it is, please don't move it. I have no problem with crossbows being legal for archery season. I am in favor of the four point restriction in my county. I think the one buck total rule is a good idea. My real concern is not listed as a possible change. We need to stop unlimited doe tags for archery season. One or two archers in a localized area can have dramatic effects on a deer herd in a particular area. When 2 archers kill as many as 7 does by the end of October, there is a dramatic negative impact on the opportunities of kids during youth season and those who only rifle hunt. It seems backwards to me that there is a possession limit on squirrels that 1 person may have in their freezer but that same person may possess in deer in any number.
YOUTH SEASON -1. Needs to be moved much earlier to minimize conflicts during prime archery hunting. 2. Should be antlerless only and comply with all other regulations. (antler restrictions etc.) 3. Late Youth season should be dropped. It's just an open invitation for poaching. CROSSBOWS - My preference would be NO during archery season, but it's not a big deal either way. ONE BUCK? OK if we move the firearm season back one week. , no otherwise. SEASON TIMING. The single best thing we could do would be to move the firearm season back one week. ANTLERLESS PERMITS - Need to be reduced in the northern part of the state. Reduce the number of days for antlerless hunting after the firearms season also.
I strongly oppose allowing crossbows during archery season. This would not improve the Mo deer quality. If the rifle season was moved later in the year, more deer would be allowed to breed in the rut. There would also be more mature bucks that would survive the rut.
I feel very strongly that crossbows shouldn't be allowed for use in archery season. If hunters want to hunt with a crossbow they can do so during rifle or muzzle loader season, I wouldn't have a problem with that. As a recurve & longbow only hunter (my personal choice), I feel if you’re going to allow crossbows in archery season, is it really even archery hunting. Most modern crossbows have an effective range that rivals some rifles & most shotguns. Wouldn't this just be an extension of rifle season in a since.
My initial thoughts on your proposed deer management plan: I'm ok with including crossbows; performance is not much different than today's compounds. Moving firearm season back 1 week makes sense. No need to change archery buck limits, your data shows very few hunters taking multiple bucks; reducing it won't have any effect. Antler point restriction was helping

with better quality bucks in Randolph county until hemorrhagic and CWD took its toll. I recommend expanding point restriction across the state; you can't have quality bucks if we continue to shoot young ones. You made a good call in reducing doe harvest. Our sightings from stand have dropped 40% in our northern hunting areas since 2009. R.N.
You know I recently watched a YouTube video that one of the MDC employees sent me. At the end, it said point blank, that you lost control of the population of deer in Missouri in 2004. Now if you lost control of how many deer we have in the state how the heck do you go about saying we have X population and we are now going to go from Y management to Z management? Explain that. The video stated that you are working with MU and another college, forget which one, to help you find a way to track the population. Now let's see you say we have however many deer we have. It's a bit confusing. You see, I have seen stats for 2013 but at the open house you only have stats to 2010. Why not have the most up to date stats for the public to see? I think the MDC is playing a shell game with the public. Now let's talk about the survey why do you not send ALL landowners in Missouri the survey? They are the ones feeding the deer are they not? Also why not send ALL successful deer hunters the survey? Your stats even show that a small % of hunters are successful. I will go one even further it's the same people every year right? Now let's go another step. According to Jason Sumners you use the USDA to do this survey at random. Now he also gave my wife and I a dumb founded blank stare when we asked how accurate his survey is. All surveys need a +/- % tied to it. That is how you have an honest survey. You know people do lie on your USDA survey right? Shocking I know right! Bottom line is you are handling this more socially then for the betterment of the heard health and land health. Out of the open house I went too everyone said it is Socially driven. Period damn with the health of the land and the health of the heard. That attitude makes want to puke when I hear "biologist" and "conservationist" saying that. If this is the best we can hire then we deserve to have Hemorrhagic disease every year. It is mother nature's way of saying we have to many. 2012, 2013 are proof. That's how you get a decline in the heard you are seeing.
Is there anything I can fill out since I was unable to attend the meetings?
The allowing of crossbow use, would allow more people the chance maybe to try deer hunting. Since some that can't get a dr. release or are just getting up in age maybe like you all, stated give another method to use instead of bows. I know a few bowhunters don't like the Idea but we need more people enjoying the outdoors or the thrill of the hunt.
Of the proposed regulation changes, the one that concerns me most is allowing crossbows on archery permits. I am especially concerned about the impact it will have on MDC areas, especially MDC areas in metropolitan areas (including Howell Island), that are currently open to archery hunting without being restricted to the managed hunt system. Allowing crossbows will increase the number of hunters and the harvest potential per hunter on those areas, probably resulting in lower deer density, and even worse, possibly forcing closure of the area except by managed hunt access. MDC claims that "in states where crossbows are permitted during the archery season success

rates for bow hunters and crossbow hunters are very similar." Based on my 22 years of experience hunting deer with bow, I am confident that a crossbow would have enabled me to harvest a deer in many of the encounters when I was unable to harvest a deer with my bow, increasing my annual harvest multifold. Such experience leads me to believe that the very similar success rates are not the result of crossbows having the same harvest potential as bows but instead are a reflection of the fact that most deer are harvested on private property by hunters who voluntarily limit themselves to fewer deer than they are capable of harvesting, whether they achieve their quota more easily with a crossbow or less easily with a bow. In the context of MDC areas that receive a lot of hunting pressure and on which most hunters currently fail to achieve their harvest goal, allowing crossbows will have a greater impact than it will have on private land.

MDC claims that "a 2012 survey of 18,000 deer hunters indicated that 46% approve and 33% disapprove of allowing crossbows during the archery season." However, consider that "deer hunters" breaks down to ~63% that use firearm only, ~37% that use firearm and bow, and <3% that use bow only (% estimates are based on 2012 data from "Number of Missouri Deer Hunters" graph). Similarly, consider that among bow hunters, a strong majority use compounds as opposed to stick bows (recurve or longbow). The common thread among the survey, the "deer hunter" breakdown, and the bow hunter breakdown is that there is a tendency for hunters to favor methods that are less challenging. If polling showed that a majority of "deer hunters" wanted to allow firearms on archery permits, would MDC allow it?

MDC's stated reasons for including crossbows in archery season are "to recruit younger hunters, retain older hunters, and provide an additional tool for urban deer management." According to MDC data, the number of archery hunters has nearly doubled over the last 10 years. Missouri is not desperate to recruit additional archery pressure, especially on MDC land. Relentless engineering of the compound bow has already made archery hunting easy enough to accommodate young and old. Even if that weren't the case, then allowing hunters who are younger than 15 and older than 65 to use crossbows is sufficient to fulfill the recruitment/retention objectives. Regarding the use of crossbows as a tool for urban deer management, allowing crossbows statewide during archery season is way beyond the scope of the objective. Crossbows can be specially permitted where needed. To the extent that MDC areas contribute to recruitment and retention, it seems that increasing the abundance of deer and increasing access (increasing access by shifting from managed hunt system to open access) would be more useful than (and incompatible with) allowing crossbows.

I live near the Weldon Spring CA / August A. Busch CA / Howell Island CA complex. The vast majority of my bow hunting time is spent on Howell Island, largely because it is the only one of the three areas that is open to archery hunting without being restricted to the managed hunt system. I hope that MDC will consider the concept of increasing opportunity on MDC land by decreasing the harvest potential of the weapons allowed. "Opportunity" is a composite of three quantities: hunter-hours, number of deer seen per time, and number of deer harvested per land area. All three quantities could be increased by limiting the harvest potential of the

weapons allowed. For a given total harvest goal, if hunters were forced to use weapons with a low harvest potential, then more hunter-hours could be accommodated. For a given number of hunter-hours, if hunters were forced to use weapons with a low harvest potential, then the deer population would increase to a greater density before reaching equilibrium with cumulative harvest potential, increasing the number of deer seen per time. Assuming that a herd can sustain a fixed proportion of harvest independent of population density, a denser herd would also allow more deer to be harvested per land area. Based on these principles, the management paradigm for maximizing all three quantities of opportunity would be to restrict hunting methods to the lowest harvest potential weapons (according to the hierarchy: stick bow < compound bow < crossbow [during firearms season only] < muzzleloader < centerfire rifle) that are adequate to prevent the deer population from exceeding carrying capacity, and do not restrict by the managed hunt system unless even the lowest harvest potential weapon drives the deer population below an acceptable density. I propose that MDC select at least one MDC area that currently provides relatively little opportunity, such as Pelican Island, and use it to explore the paradigm by opening it to everyone throughout the archery season using stick bows only.
Move the rifle season back one week. Only 1 doe during rifle season for counties that allow does to be taken. Limit number of does during archery season for counties based on doe population. Allow 1 antlered deer per year regardless of method.
The bottom line is that Missouri will never reach it's true potential concerning Whitetail management with the current regulations in place. That is not referring to just Trophy Bucks but the health and general well-being of the entire herd. First and foremost, firearms season needs to be removed from the rut. I would propose starting it the Saturday after Thanksgiving for 3 reasons. One, a natural rut will have already taken place allowing for a healthier herd and better balanced breeding structure.(This is the most stressful period of year for a Whitetail and we put a million people in the woods to magnify this, that has never made sense to me) Secondly, the enforcement side of the equation which has shown resistance to having the season run thru Thanksgiving in the past. This would allow them to enjoy the holiday with their families, as well as everyone else for that matter. Lastly, it would give the department more flexibility to micro manage the deer herd by changing all of the seasons if they so desired or find a need for it. For example, let’s say the rifle season moved to the Saturday after Thanksgiving, it would allow the possibility of putting in an early muzzleloader season or doe only season before archery season and/or moving archery season back to start a week or two later as well if the data supported it. However, if these or similar regulations were ever implemented I would propose going to a little different tag system. I would switch to being able to buy one tag to be used before firearms season. Then purchase another for Firearms season and after, but allow the first one to be used as an archery tag after firearms season if it has not been filled. Anyway, just my opinion, but I will say this at closing. I have hunted less and less the last 5-10 years because my best young bucks keep getting killed during firearms season which leaves me very unsatisfied with the department’s efforts and does not really

motivate me to help your cause moving forward. If the status quo continues, which from what I have seen in the past, (i.e. public opinion meetings and surveys which showed 60% of people in favor of moving the season) I think I will be find a hobby.
1) Crossbows should not be added as a method to the archery season. The advancement in crossbows makes them more similar to firearms than archery and should continue to be excluded from archery methods. 2) The archery buck harvest limit should be reduced to one buck, but the firearms buck limit should also be continued as one buck. I am not in favor of an additional reduction in buck harvest limits to one buck regardless of method at this time. 3) I see no reason to change the general date of the firearms seasons relative to rut timing. 4) Based on information at the open house and in the 2014 deer hunting regulation I am in favor of terminating the extra antlerless season statewide and managing doe harvest within the firearms and archery seasons. 5) Myself and the other hunters own my property all strongly favor continuing the antler point restriction in PHELPS County. Thanks again for the fine deer management efforts by MDC.
I would eliminate the antler point requirement. My opinion is that those of us trying to follow the law and not take an 'illegal' buck likely harvest more does - which contributes to the decline of the deer herd. Also, I fully support limiting the number of does harvested. There are those 'hunters' that take extreme numbers of deer and I am convinced they have an effect on local populations of deer. While hemorrhagic disease may have tipped the population scales - that tells me that the MDC is allowing too great a harvest. A well-managed herd should be able to handle a natural event such as hemorrhagic disease.
My father and I have farmed together for 22 years. We own and rent approximately 2000 acres. Over the past 10 years, we have noticed the tremendous deer population growth. We closely monitor our bean crop, and on any given day we will see 4-10 deer in one field. Deer have caused thousands of dollars in bean crop damage for us, the farmer, and for the landowner as well. I believe it is important for MDC to distribute more doe tags in order to better control the deer population.
If you are looking to reduce the herd, then I think a crossbow for all hunter would be great, however if reducing the herd is not the idea then I do not agree with it. Moving the season would not be an issue with me, that's how it was at one time. I would like to see a reduction on the doe season,(fewer does killed) I would love a one buck total season, we would have more bucks to view and maybe a lot larger ones. I think the restriction is great! we been doing it for about 10 years now in our little area with three other property owners and we see some GREAT bucks,(haven't killed may) they get much smarter with age. The conservation department has done a GREAT job please keep it going.
I'm just interested to hear what plans are underway for goal 1.E. I would be interested in the plan for providing flexible and innovative management goals for landowners, especially those

with smaller acreage in rural areas not suitable for farming. Central Missouri is rocky and can have dense vegetation, which is much different from the privately owned farmland of Northern Missouri. As a result, a one size fits all management plan for landowners does not work, much the same as a one size fits all management plan does not work for urban and rural areas.
I am 63 years old and have hunted deer in southeast Missouri for about 40 years. Seems to me that this area has always been the stepchild of the state in regard to deer hunting. The MDC has taken the fun out of deer season. So many regulations that a lawyer would be confused. You say it is to benefit the deer population but, in all the years I have hunted deer, I don't see much improvement. I don't know how many more years I have to hunt deer. It seems to be less enjoyable every time I see more regulations made. Could it be job security for the MDC?
I feel crossbows should not be used in archery season except by limited or handicap hunters. It is more of a gun that shoots arrows instead of bullets. Part of the joy in archery is the action of drawing the bow while the game is mere feet away and getting away with it. One buck rule during archery is not a good idea! Most archers do not even take their second buck but we all like the option. Moving of the firearm season should not affect much except fewer bucks being harvested by firearms, bucks seem to be less active due to breeding or could be hunting pressure, not sure!
Totally against moving the rifle season back a week, as it would interfere with the Thanksgiving holiday week, when families spend time together celebrating this great holiday, traveling great distances is some cases. The rifle season is a strong tradition for most families. Moving the date would be very detrimental to the time spent enjoying the great outdoors and traditional deer hunts.
Amish shoot an overly large amount of deer (does) in our county (we see them hung in the trees, some families harvest 8-10 deer). The doe tags are cheap and unlimited. Granted they eat the deer, but our deer population is down year over year since the Amish population has increased, all of our neighbors have noticed this. Please Limit the amount of tags to 1 buck and 1 doe per hunter for a few years and let’s see the results. We have a great relationship with our MDC agent in our area, he suggested contacting this forum.
I would like to see Missouri copy Iowa’s deer management plan to the letter. I understand that Iowa has less pressure and fewer hunters in confined areas but I also understand that we(Missouri) unleash thousands of armed hunters with high power rifles(which I own, I’m not a hater..) in the middle of the rut which diminishes our heard within a 9 day period. This does not allow a good percentage of the buck population to come to full maturity before harvesting. I do like to hunt for meat but let’s face it, most of us wouldn't mind hanging a record book trophy on the wall along with filling the freezer. I have an 11 year old daughter that hunts with me and hopefully will be harvesting her first deer this year, but I am very afraid that at this rate of killing and with all of the diseases that are hitting our heard she will not ever be able to show her children in the future what a big ten pointer even looks like. I live in KC but hunt in Scotland County, MO in the past and I will again this year now that I have moved back to MO.

from IA. in January 2014. I was born and raised in MO. and I sure would hate to see our beautiful states heard turn into spikes and does. We will all miss the Majestic Whitetail Giants if we hunt, photograph or just walk thru the woods on trails for our enjoyment if we do not do something soon to manage our heard better.
The point restrictions should stay in place. Youth season should be antlerless only
Because of ignorance of rule changes and excitement of the moment I have received a couple of wildlife code violations. I never intended to do wrong but accept the responsibility. I have always tried to harvest game in an ethical/legal/fair chase manner. That said, I hope you will read what I have to say as I have a few opinions regarding the regulations that are currently allowed in conservation areas and on other miscellaneous deer related topics. Conservation areas: I have the luxury of hunting my 10 acres and recently a friend's 100 acre farm. However, 90% of my hunting has been and currently is done on public ground. I am strictly a bowhunter and enjoy the challenge of hunting on large tracts of public ground. I am very willing to go through extra effort to hike great distance, pack waders and wade swamp, quarter and pack out my deer, etc… to be successful. One thing that bothers me however about hunting public areas is that hunters are allowed to harvest the same number of deer (especially with antlerless permits) that they could on private ground. Most deer don't have very large home ranges. This creates a problem for conservation areas that receive steady hunting pressure and results in a lower deer density on said areas. I propose that hunters are only allowed to harvest one or two deer (depending on the area's size, carrying capacity, hunter popularity, and deer density). When they telecheck their deer, they will be asked if their deer was harvested in a public area and then be required to tell which one. I know that this will not prevent some hunters from beating the system but at least there would be a rule in place to keep honest people honest. I am myself guilty of harvesting several deer out of one conservation area and know that I am hurting other hunters chances of harvesting a deer as well. I love hunting deer so much that even though I know I shouldn't take another deer out of a heavily pressures CA, when I need another deer in the freezer, I will buy another antlerless tag and sometimes dip back into the same CA where I feel confident and have a stand already in the tree. I feel that a regulation should be put in place to limit myself and other hunters on their harvest quota inside conservation areas. Misc.: I could go on about this stuff all day but will try to keep it brief. First - I disagree with any and all concepts regarding the legality of whitetail deer being raised and sold on captive deer ranches. When and how did this animal owned by the public become legal to be farmed, bought, and sold. This "business" has brought nothing but problems to our state and their purpose degrades the whole concept of fair chase hunting. They sell the animals to "hunting ranches" where people of low self-esteem, low ability, big ego, and big checkbook can pay to shoot (not hunt) a deer. How insulting this should be to our society. Second - I disagree with people having the ability to kill a publicly owned resource such as a whitetail deer, videotape it, and sell the video or make money on endorsements, products, etc... It is my opinion that it should be illegal for anyone to make money in this way. These people

kill deer to make money, plain and simple. I harvest deer to enjoy the sport and feed my family. Why do we allow these people to shoot our publicly owned deer for the camera, do ten fake fist pumps, and cash a check? They even have competitions to see who can kill the most deer like it is a bass tournament. Speaking of which should also be illegal for the same exact reasons. It makes me sick! The whitetail deer must be the most exploited wild animal on the continent.

Third - Crossbows should be allowed for disabled people only. I think it is great that disabled people have the option to use crossbows during archery season. I believe however that allowing crossbows during archery season for everyone reduces the challenge of an archery hunt. If people desire the extra hunting time during archery season, they should take the time to become proficient with a bow and invest time on stand to become stealthy enough to draw it in close proximity to the deer or turkey. Why must we continue to make hunting easier for those who don't want to put in the time to become a proficient / ethical hunter? Many would say that a compound bow is such an advancement in technology that it is not sporting enough either. I argue that the difference is in drawing the bow and not having it pre-drawn and held in that state as it is in a crossbow. This is an important difference. Yes, technology has made compound bows easier than a longbow of yesteryear but we must draw the line somewhere. And if a law governs that I must go back to a long bow and wooden arrow, I would start learning how to build and shoot one today.

Fourth - Trail Cameras should be against the law. "Hunters" use them to create an unfair, unethical advantage over their quarry. Once they use them and see how easy it can be to predict wildlife movements, the hunter becomes addicted to their use. Last archery season, my buddy saw turkeys on his trail camera pics over several days at 10:30 AM. He went out on day four at 10:00 and sat in his blind. At 10:38 he shot a gobbler at 10 yards. Really?! How is that an ethical hunt that you can be proud of? A rhetorical question for sure! He and all others who use trail cameras in lieu of actual scouting and woodsmanship should be ashamed of their disrespect toward the game they pursue.

Thanks for listening to me rant. Let me know if there is anything I can do to put money where my mouth is. Keep up the good work with the regulation changes regarding antlerless tags in response to deer herd numbers from EHD, and also the laws you have been able to place on captive deer herds to keep wild deer safe from CWD.

Know that I love wildlife and of course deer hunting. I try to do my part by getting kids fired up about the outdoors as well. I teach PE and Health but also have developed an Outdoor Education class that I teach once a semester and it has become a very popular class. The curriculum includes: Hunting Strategies, Hunter Safety, Angling, Furbearer Management, Knot Tying, Basics of Survival, Camping, Campfire Building, Falconry, and others. Two years ago I was able to harvest a deer at the end of the season, hang it from the basketball goal outside, and butcher it in front of the class (permission slips of course). The next day the class devoured marinated backstrap steaks that I grilled outside the classroom. I am invested in wildlife. Keep up the good work and thanks for reading. D. G.

I am opposed to limiting the number of bucks taken to one. The number of archery hunters or archery and gun hunters who harvest more than one buck each season represents an insignificant impact to deer population in my opinion. Deer hunting society has become far more selective in the age class of bucks being harvested. We deer hunt so that we might have a chance to harvest a trophy buck, but hunters are far more inclined to pass on any legal deer now than they were 10-20 years ago. The season should not be moved back a week either and antler restrictions should remain in place. Because of the antler point restriction hunters must identify if a buck is legal and most times it allows hunter to cool down before shooting a mature deer. To effectively manage the deer population for bigger mature bucks the doe ratio needs to be brought into line. Let kids shoot as many as they want, let hunters have unlimited doe tags, (I like eating deer) at the very least have archery hunters shoot one doe before harvesting their second buck. The proposed change to include Thanksgiving will not result in more people in the field most hunters will go home for the holiday and not hunt. Basing your opinion on a two year stretch of time in the late 1990's is speculative at best because during that time may people hunted just to feed their families. Please leave the season opening date alone and there will be years that it starts later naturally and accomplishes what you want but also allow for it to start early occasionally which will satisfy hunters. I have hunted the same farm for over 25 years and I can say that the antler point restriction and the hunters shooting does have been the only things that have increased the size and sightings of mature bucks. Simply put no one wants to be that guy that brings back a basket rack 8-pointer. Society’s views on just getting a buck have changed and the results of that are beginning to have an effect.
I believe that allowing crossbows in archery season poses an unfair advantage. And shouldn't be allowed with some exemptions. 1. Injury or dr's note. And 2. There could be an exemption for people over a certain age. I also thing firearms season should be moved a week later. And instead of limiting buck harvest as proposed, does should be limited to the same number as bucks. I hunt public land 50-60 days out of the season. I know what it likes more than anyone.
My brothers and I lease land in Knox County just SW of Edina. I find it very hard to believe there is a deer shortage. We drive the gravel roads every afternoon when we are up there (which is at least once a month all year round) and it is nothing to make a five mile circle and see over a hundred deer. Also how is it that the MDC is giving out nuisance tags in that area but will cut the number of antlerless tags in MO. How was the deer herd counted or figured, or was it because hunters complained last year that they weren't seeing the numbers of deer? Thus there must be a deer shortage!!?? I just don't get it. Has far has taking another Buck tag away from the Bow hunters just how many hunters end up tagging two bucks a year with archery equipment. I would think the numbers are low? I also think if you want to protect the MO deer herd raise the price for no residents on the doe tags, but that wasn't an option??
I hunt in the northeast part the state where the country opens up a little bit and there is more ag land. I am an ever-day hunter during bowseason and I also participate in the rifle season. With this being said, I believe the northern part of the state (North of I70) Should not allow rifle

hunting during the firearms portion, instead it should be changed to shotgun or muzzle loaders. I feel the country in the north part of the state is too open for the flight of a high powered rifle. The bullet can travel for miles on a miss, which is seriously dangerous. In the area that I hunt, on the opening mornings of rifle season you can just hear gunshot after gunshot 4 or 5 times in a row. Sounds to me like someone opening up on a deer running full speed across an open field. To me this is unethical. I feel that our deer population numbers are down anyways so implementing a shotgun only system would decrease the number of deer harvested increasing the population.
I don't believe that crossbows should be able to be used by everybody during archery season. It is already hard enough to find land to hunt or public ground that other people aren't hunting too. If crossbows are allowed by everyone then more people would hunt during this season crowding in on public ground and taking up more leases from farmers. Also I believe that the people that do Archery hunt now with a bow all season long are the ones that do practice good deer management by letting 1 and 2 1/2 year old deer go so that they can grow into mature bucks. If you allow crossbows in this mix then you will get a whole new demographic of hunters and I don't know if they would practice good deer management.
The antler point restriction is one of the best things MDC has done to help the Deer herd around the state. Talking to a local taxidermist about 3 years after the rule was imputed he said that the quality of deer that he was getting in increased by 30%. Now if there was only a way to keep hunters from harvesting deer until they were at least 4 1/2 years old, the deer herd would easily be the best in the country.
Managed deer hunts after July 31st the results should be available within a week. Not wait a whole another month cause hunters like me who look forward to July 1st to sign up then have to wait two months just to find out if I got drawn... Not enough time to make an effort to try and find a different option if I am not selected.
I'm not in favor of crossbows during archery season--use them during gun season. Back the rifle season to Dec. 1st.
Buck limitations would only be necessary if Crossbows are allowed during archery season. I would prefer the archery season to stay as is and the any deer archery tags to stay as is. Gun season back 1 week- good idea Antlerless season- is too long Continue with point restriction- absolutely NEW- Proposed change- Youth archery not required to follow 4 point rule on 1 buck a season.
Limiting buck harvest - I agree with keeping point restriction. I disagree with limiting number of buck harvest to one between archery and firearms season. I will support one buck limit per archery instead of two with continued one buck limited per firearms. I believe your Dept. and staff will have an increase difficulty in enforcing and regulating one buck total limit between seasons. How will the system know I killed one buck in archery so I am not purchasing an anydeer firearms permit? For those hunters that purchase archery and firearms permits at same time, which season issues the any deer permit? I realize you expect the individual to govern

himself with this and the ethical one will. With continued budget cuts, I'm concerned there will not be enough staff to monitor and enforce one buck rule. Poaching is out of control in northern Missouri according to locals and number of headless deer in ditches and fields. Locals comment that one conservation agent and one sheriff deputy at night can't respond fast enough to catch them if they even respond. Locals comment some have stopped calling due to lack of response. When we camped on our lease one year, it was common to hear at least one gunshot during late archery and firearms season at night. I can see poaching bucks to continue to rise with one buck limit. Those deer don't make your summary totals. Later firearms season - I like that idea. Antlerless season - remove completely. If is needed again consider going back to unlimited Antlerless permits or increase the total number. Crossbow - I have reservations because with increased technology it may come in near future that the accuracy range pushes 100 yds. That is not bowhunting. As a new and female bow hunter in my 40's I agree physical limitations affect how much I pull with my compound. Right now 42 lbs. and 25 yds. is my limit. I have taken a doe each year. For men it is bigger, more weight draw is better. It is difficult for men to decrease draw weight and then decrease range. It is no longer a bragging right how much they draw and 50 yd. range. So I can see where they start dropping out instead of decreasing to "unmanly" draw weights. Physicians are liberal and willing to complete crossbow forms for disabilities. My husband recently had tendon surgery and the ortho dr. asked if he needed to fill out crossbow papers. I think a range limit needs to be considered with open crossbow or I can see this being addressed again when technology increases range accuracy to 100 yds and archery success rate increases. With increase success rate at further distances in a few years due to crossbow technology, I can see all archers being penalized with shorter seasons and no buck tags. You will not be able to remove open crossbow without a bigger fight nor be able to enforce it. Thank you for reading this. Deer hunting has become my obsession. The seminar at Missouri deer classic on deer management was excellent. All I have to say to those who want bigger bucks - let the small ones walk including the legal 2 1/2 yr olds. Close the deer farms please.
Hello. I support the idea of limiting the antlerless permits for a period of time. At some point in various counties, the population will increase and rebound. Other factors play a role as well, such as food and plant life. I also want to comment on the captive deer in preserves. I know a few months back the Conservationist magazine talked about limiting the importation of deer from other states. It would seem logical to also limit deer being exported from Missouri to other states to prevent Chronic wasting disease going there. Has this been considered by biologists also? Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Keep the antler point restrictions across the board, the quality of the bucks have already been seen. Allow crossbows during archery season, it is shown that they are not any more effective than traditional methods. I am a landowner, hence two cities above, and using the landowner tags helps a lot. I am sure

that there is fraud throughout but restricting them will not stop those that are committing fraud. I agree to move the firearms season back one week and to eliminating the late antlerless portion.
I think that there should be no problem with the crossbow being used in the archery season. It is still just as much of an effort to use as a regular bow. As for the rifle season, I think that you should place a muzzleloader season in Sept. even if it runs with bow season. Make it like a three day hunt or something. Other states do this. I think landowners should have more permits for deer. They are the ones paying for the food that the deer eat. I have never agreed with the point restriction due to the fact that some people hunt for table fare and not for the wall. I work for the state of Mo. And if not for this wild game, my freezer would not have as much in it. I have passed up big bucks in hopes of killing a doe. One reason is so maybe my dad can shoot the big buck and I get better meat in the process. I myself, do not like that kind of hunting (my opinion), I hunt to eat. I have not seen a decrease in our deer numbers in Morgan County. I know there are others but that shouldn't hurt our hunting in the process. Thank you for taking the time to read this.
I think the crossbow rules should stay how they are. I think more hunters will drift away from regular bows. I think it will impact deer numbers fast, therefore forcing less tags allowed to hunters keeping us out of the woods. I normally kill 3 or 4 deer a year with my bow. I hunt every chance I can get. I love to be out in the woods. I think conservation has been doing a great job at keeping our deer numbers good. I feel crossbows will hurt our population
I think you should make crossbows legal. Lengthen the gun season by two or three weeks with it opening earlier and closing later. Remove all the antler restrictions so people can go ahead and check all the bucks they shoot in. Allow at least 2 bucks tagged per year. Pay landowners for the damage the deer do to our crops and repair cars that the deer crash into. I know you won't do any of this, but there are more people than you think that would agree with me
I would like to see a one buck annual limit. I'm in favor of pushing season back one week and in favor of reduced doe harvest.
On the question of antler point restriction, I have to say that I really like it from more of a safety stand point. Before its' implementation opening morning sounded like a war zone and I like many other hunters have had stray bullets zipping past me. After its' implementation I've noticed far fewer shots as I suspect people are actually checking to see what they're shooting at. For this reason I believe it should always remain in place. I also believe the antlerless portion should remain however keeping the number of bonus tags to one or two would be best. I am concerned that we are not getting an accurate number of harvested deer though. I suspect that there are quite a few that never get called in. I would like to see check in stations again for this reason.
I think you should allow crossbows to be used during regular archery season
I do not think cross bows matter one way or another. I think that firearms season should be moved out of November away from the rut to make for bigger bucks in the state of Missouri.

I strongly think that a one buck limit for bucks would be a great idea for Missouri's big bucks. The point restriction is not part of my county but I do not like it I think it just makes for bad genes in the deer. I don't think it makes for bigger bucks.
Crossbows -I feel the use of crossbows is equal to the use of newer compound bows. The newer bows shoot almost as fast and are easy to hold so the issue of being able to draw with the deer around isn't an issue. I would support this measure. Moving the November portion-This is a terrible idea! You will lose more mature bucks and the bowhunters will not be a happy group. If you want more deer taken, add an early muzzleloader season around the first of October. If you are worried that too many deer will be taken that way, limit it to traditional means ie: flintlock, caplock or longbow. One buck limit-One buck per season. One for modern firearms, one for muzzleloader or "alternative methods" and one for archery. If the hunter wants to ruin his hunting of mature deer then that is his option. Antler point restriction-I love this idea for the whole state. Maybe give an exception for the kids but for anyone 16 and up I think it is great.
After so many years of the same managed hunt application time period, for you to arbitrarily change the deadline shows your true nature. How many hunters do you suppose will miss the application period this year, as I did?
I chose other issues because I wanted to address all the bullet point questions. For the question about moving rifle season back one week, I think it's a good idea. Hunting deer as far away from the peak of the rut will give the deer a better chance at more peaceful breeding and make mature bucks less susceptible and give them an extra week to breed. I would not have a problem with eliminating the antlerless portion of the firearm season. I hunt with a bow, rifle, and muzzleloader and feel that's ample opportunity to fill my tags. I would not prefer a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual limit regardless of method. However, I know our deer population is trending downward, and if it helped for a few years I would understand it was for the greater good. I think the antler restriction is a good idea. I do my best not to harvest immature bucks anyway, and welcome incentive for others not to also. As for my thoughts on crossbows I saved for last. All the other questions seem to trend towards reducing the number of deer taken. A crossbow initiative to me would seem to do the opposite. I have no problem with those with physical handicaps using them. However, as an avid bowhunter for over 15 years, I would not like to share my season with crossbows. Part of the allure of hunting with a bow is the challenge of being able to draw undetected at close range, giving the deer a more sporting chance. The use of a crossbow eliminates a lot of that. Also, I'd feel less safe traversing through the woods in full camo knowing an inexperienced hunter is only a trigger pull away from sending a lethal crossbow bolt in my direction.
1: I am opposed to allowing all hunters to use crossbows during archery season. However, I think it would be a good idea to allow youth to do so. 2: I am in favor of moving the November portion back one week.

3: I am opposed to implementing an antlerless season for Cape Girardeau county. 4: I do not agree with a one buck archery limit or a one buck season limit. I think it should be left how it is, or reduced to a 2 buck season limit. 5: I am in favor of implementing antler point restrictions for Cape Girardeau county.
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I for one would like to see rifle season pushed back at least a week. I think allowing crossbows during archery season is good for the already stressed heard numbers. I am glad to see the bag limit restrictions for rifle season.
I think that the MDC should not have had unlimited doe tags for years and then drop it to just one. It would have been better to have kept it limited to just 2 doe tags per hunter. Some land owners let hunters kill all of the does they want to on their land which affect the hunting on land surrounding them.
YES FOR CROSSBOWS FOR ARCHERY SEASON.
I feel there are enough deer in Missouri to allow for a more liberal harvest or for a longer firearms season. Maybe a spit season to let the deer calm down a week.
Move gun season back one week or more. Don't have it during peak rut. NO crossbows for everyone during archery. They are so good now that it’s basically as good as using a gun at longer distances. I would be in favor of bow and shot gun slug only, just like IOWA. State wide Keep antler restrictions. Only 2 bucks per season. 1archery and 1 gun season buck Shorten the antlerless season or eliminate it until the population recovers. Be more restrictive on "urban areas". I hunt in Boone county sometimes at least 15 minutes outside of Columbia and people are gun hunting out in the middle of nowhere during the "urban" season. Deer numbers have dropped drastically the last 5 years and it makes bow hunting more difficult in those areas and spooks the deer.

Make sure the youth deer hunt is on a different weekend than the youth duck hunt. Thanks for listening. I am for stricter regulations to control CWD.
I would like to comment on a few ideas. First off I think crossbows would bring a lot more hunters into woods. I don't have a problem with the use of crossbows during archery season. Next I have said for years that if the rifle season was moved out of the peak of the rut we (Missouri) would have the best deer hunting around!! As far as the antlerless season why would we want to remove it when it is necessary to control deer numbers in CERTAIN areas. One buck a year? How many hunters actually harvest all three bucks in season? I think the current (buck) bag limit is set up perfectly. Finally the antler point restriction issue. I like the fact that there are restrictions on buck harvest but, I DO NOT like the fact that I cannot legally harvest a genetically inferior buck from my herd!! There should be an age restriction but, not necessarily a point restriction. The antler restrictions are a very difficult matter to deal with. My thoughts are this. Go Back to actual physical checking of BUCKS. If a hunter harvests a buck is younger than 3 1/2 don't allow that hunter to harvest a buck during that portion of the following season. If a hunter harvests another buck that is too young don't allow that to hunter to harvest a buck the following year. If a hunter repeats the offense no bucks for five years etc.... This is just my opinion. Thank you
I would like to put in my 2 cents on an issue that I believe affects a lot of baby boomers. I am 62 years old, I took my first deer with a bow in 1971, a recurve with wooden arrows. My dilemma now is, now that I am retired I want to hunt more than in the past, by wearing progressive bifocals, I cannot focus with the string peep on my bow. I would like to see the regs, changed for seniors to use a crossbow in archery season. Several other states have adopted this, including, I believe, Kansas.
I haven't read the new rules yet but if the 4 point rule is still in there that's ridiculous. I have talked to more hunters, since that rule, that have left deer in the field because they didn't make the rule. Now they continue to hunt with the same tag for a legal deer. Now they kill more deer on one tag. Also from what I've read previously about Cronic Waisting Desease, you are not supposed to dump your deer remnants in the forest after butchering because it can lead to CWD. Now we have people leaving their deer because their illegal to take. Where's the gain here. My non-resident hunting partner stopped hunting in MO due to that rule. Spend hundreds of dollars to hunt here and they have to watch deer walk by due to the RULE. Go back the way it was. That's the only solution to all these problems.
I value the opinion on MDC's deer management. Since I live in the very western part of St. Charles county I feel the urban boundaries should be changed. Too many deer are being taken in farming areas west of the populated areas. Please consider changing the boundaries. I live in

a farming area and I feel too many young deer (just born in May) are being taken. I do most of my hunting west of Kirksville and it's noticeable in that area the number of does is down. I saw young does but not many mature does. I intentionally did not shoot a deer because of that. I did pass on one buck. My normal hunting in past years is to see 15-25 deer on opening day. This past season my count was five and fewer on subsequent days. Thanks for what you folks do.
A) In order to increase revenues, crossbows should be allotted a separate early season requiring specific tags. (KY has had great success with this). B) Archery season would be much more effective in herd management if it were extended two weeks in January, rather than September (for many reasons). *poll the archery hunters C) Keep antler restrictions in the counties proposed. But consider the creation of "qualifier" counties in which hunters must take and check a doe in order to receive a buck tag.
Do away with point restriction. Open firearms the day after Thanksgiving. Allow crossbows during archery. Limit one antlered archery, one antlered firearms. Limit archery to one antlered/one antlerless/one turkey, must purchase additional antlerless tags. Do away with current antlerless season. Take fall turkey season down to 15 days. Move alternative methods to third week in October. Youth seasons stay the same. I feel these changes would represent sound conservation efforts of sportsmen/women somewhat better to a non-hunting public. They would also support some additional outdoor opportunity without a loss in revenue. Change is rarely easy or simple, but often necessary. I have great respect for the MDC. I often comment we have the best in the country! Thank you!
The MDC needs to do away with any proposals of confined hunting by private individuals or lodges. All this does is require people to pay high hunting leases, the high purchase price of raising domestic deer and wild game, and according to MDC regulations of someone slipping in wild hogs and other exotic wild game. It is a terrible idea for Missouri. If it is not native to Missouri, then go to the state or country where it originated from
Stop the stupid 4 point rule! All that does is put a bounty on a year and a half old deer which is our deer of the future. You are stopping people from taking mature deer with bad genetics out of the breeding pool. Take notes on what states around us are doing and their results like Kansas. Their bucks get to live longer because the firearm season starts after the rut is over. Get every insurance agent in the state to donate $100 for processing does which hunters would donate for the needy. #1 fewer deer, #2 fewer claims, #3 needy people get meat.
Don't re-invent the wheel. 3 of the eight states that border Missouri are world renowned trophy whitetail destinations. Kansas, Iowa and Illinois all have a few common traits that make those states to grow big bucks. First, late firearms seasons. Second, a draw system for tags, (fewer tags available for non-residents at a substantially higher price than Missouri's non-resident tags.) In two of the states, Iowa and Illinois, high power rifles are not allowed during the firearms portion, shotgun and muzzleloader only. Now, a change to no centerfire rifles during the firearms portion would be a hard one to swallow for a lot of people. Quite simply, there are many people who would not hunt deer at all if they could not drive around and shoot long

distances from a truck, drive deer out into a big harvested field and shoot long distances or just sit in their vehicle in a pasture and snipe deer a few hundred yards away. That would not be positive for the revenue stream, I get it, however a shift to a later season towards the end of November to the beginning of December would help protect more bucks and be very possible, even though the idea would get pushback by those who only hunt for a few days a year during the firearms season. It is certainly time to allow crossbows during the regular archery season. Their effective range is no greater than a compound or long bow and they offer no advantage that would make them "unfair." Aside from pandering to traditionalists, there is no solid rationale to disallow their use as an archery method. Point restrictions need to go in lieu of a different technique. It has been discovered in other states and studies that point restrictions only work for a while before they plateau and start declining. We are beginning the decline in Missouri. I have noticed a distinct difference in antler quality over the last several years above and beyond the environmental conditions that dictate antler growth from year to year. Limiting a hunter to one antlered deer per season, no matter the method, is a losing proposition. Again, there would be a good number of hunters who would stop buying tags for certain segments of the season if they did not have the opportunity to harvest more than one antlered deer. I know very few archers who fill both archery tags with antlered deer every year. By the time the firearms seasons end, most average bowhunters are done and one or both of their any deer tags get thrown away. The agency clearly knows this, as can be deduced by the limiting of harvest to only one antlered deer prior to the firearms season. I understand that another facet to this regulation is to get hunters back into the woods more often and spend more money doing so, however, if there was really no issues biologically with shooting two antlered deer per season with archery equipment, then there would not be any regulation on when it could be done within the season. In the most simple terms, if the goal is to regulate the buck harvest with archery equipment, then limit it to one per season, cut the price of the tag and make clear the goal. If the goal is to drive revenue, then be honest about it. Continue offering two chances to harvest two antlered deer, knowing that most archers won't accomplish the feat. *Same idea holds true with the spring turkey season.* Along the topic of season portions. Why not extend the archery season through the firearms season as long as archers wear orange and allow archery tags to be filled? I have yet to hear a sound reason for the season to close during the firearms season. The department does an excellent job overall and I am very pleased with the hunting opportunities within the state. With a few minor tweaks, things will be even better. Keep up the good work
I would ask to extend the youth rifle portion to more than just one weekend in the fall. Whether it's multiple weekends or a whole week. I have two boys and sometimes it's hard to manage in just one weekend. Also, if one day is poor weather it really limits the time. Some fathers don't

have custody of their children on that particular weekend too, so the kids don't get to hunt at all. I have learned that youth hunting is much more important and fun than any of the others. Crossbows: I think it would be fine to use crossbows during the bow portion. Moving the rifle season back a week: I am against moving the rifle season back a week. One buck for bow season: I would support a one buck for bow season limit however I would not support a one buck for all the seasons.
I am against crossbows for the archery season. I am against moving back the firearms season 1 more week. I think the antlerless season should be eliminated. I think a 1 buck limit on archery season is a good idea. I love the antler point restriction and think we should definately keep it. Thank you very much for listening to my comments.
My answers to the questions you asked. •What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? I think the idea of opening up crossbows to hunters is a good one. Especially if you are going to limit firearms season to just 2 tags like you have now. The new speed bows have the same effective range, so you really have no advantage over distance. The difference would be accuracy, which you could argue a crossbow will typically have a better rate of quick kill. I think it should be legal. •Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week? Don't move it such that it will overlap with Thanksgiving. That is a horrible idea. Too many people in Missouri have to travel away to go to relatives. You will make a lot of people mad. If you are going to move it back go all the way back to the weekend after thanksgiving. •Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season? If you are limiting the amount of antlerless tags the length of the season shouldn't matter. We typically don't kill a lot of deer during the antlerless season anyway because the deer are so messed up from regular season. It wouldn't affect our group much. •Do you think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? Bad, your issue is the antlerless kill. I think you need to back off people killing does. The limits this year make more sense. I think the tags should be two any deer tags for bow season and two any deer tags for guns season. Let people kill two deer period no matter what sex, age, or rack (four total with seasons combined). •What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler-point restriction in the county you hunt? The point restriction has as much to do with doe decline as the unlimited number of tags.

Before the point rule a person would kill a nice 4 to 6 point for meat as often as a doe. I think the point restriction should be completely done away with. The trophy hunters will have a fit, but the number of bucks most likely will not change much. Instead of killing a bunch of button bucks like we are doing right now there will be 1.5 and 2.5 year old bucks killed instead. I hate the rack rule. If you look at the counties that had a good year last year it was counties that do not have the rack rule.
Crossbows at 60 years of age should be ok.
I think crossbows should be legal. I like the idea of moving firearm season back a week and eliminating the antlerless season. I believe you should only be allowed one buck on your archery tag period
I support the majority of the steps outlined in the proposed regulations. I support reducing firearm deer seasons. The continued lengthening of firearms deer seasons has greatly impacted my small game hunting. I no longer own bird dogs due to both lack of opportunity to hunt areas that wouldn't conflict with firearms deer hunters and the continued decline in quail numbers. I also have not brought a new pup into the training phase and plan on quitting squirrel hunting with dogs after my 11 year old female mtn cur succumbs to old age. With nearly every weekend open gun season for deer from the time the leaves drop until the weather is often bad I have gone from 40 + days to less than 10 days in this pursuit. Total agreement in delaying firearms season opening one week. Total agreement in reducing antlerless tags. I don't believe the measure goes far enough. If you drive from the counties of north MO across the border into IA the number of deer seen explodes. I don't believe that disease is as much of a factor as overharvest in the deer decline statewide. I don't believe the disease stops right at the state line. An area such as Lafayette county where I live has so few deer they really are barely a huntable population. Strongly support one buck limit by any method and antler point restrictions. Only proposal which I am somewhat against is the inclusion of crossbows in archery season.
Generally in agreement with the plan goals. In looking to balance landowner desires of often times seeing much lower deer densities with hunter perceptions I have to say that if that were such a problem there would be much better access and all the land wouldn't be leased. The farmers who don't want deer usually do a good job of getting government money to get trackhoes in to tear out all the fencerows and trees and put in waterways. The regulations proposed to limit the CWD damage and further risk posed by the captive deer industry is the absolute minimum that should be done. That whole industry is hard to defend against attack from the animal rights groups and could damage the image of hunting to be able to effectively manage the resources we have.
I am not your average or typical respondent. I hunt only with a camera. I have enjoyed a rural lifestyle in northern Boone County for almost 40 years and having wildlife in my landscape is extremely important to me. The last few years I have noticed what I believe is a decline in the

deer population in my area. Three years ago I attended a meeting hosted by the Conservation Dept. and became a member of the Perche Creek Deer Management Co-op. I learned a bit about deer and deer management but most of what I know is from observation and intuition. As you know there are several factors that place stresses on Missouri's deer population. Hunting, poaching, permits allowing farmers to shoot deer that threaten crops, CWD, automobiles, loss of habitat and harsh weather conditions that limit food sources. It has always been a wonder to me that Missouri harvests 300,000 or more deer annually. When it takes one doe a full year to produce one or possibly two fawns those numbers just don't seem sustainable. Consequently I am in favor of shortening the season and placing limits on bucks. Additionally I would like to see the antlerless permits done away with - at least for now. I have what I consider a small deer nursery on my property. I feed deer daily and have enjoyed several years of watching does raise their fawns. One doe in particular has been coming for five years now. It seems the older does possess the knowledge and skills required to navigate life successfully in and amongst the ever encroaching human population. Crossing roads, finding food and water sources, how to access fields when the fawns are too young to jump fences, etc. It seems to me that these does are invaluable in ensuring the success of future generations. I do understand that allowing deer to overpopulate has its own problems. Increased disease, starvation and increases in potential road hazards. Therefore appropriate management is critical. But only you, the MDC, have access to the numbers of deer in each county and only you can affect legislation through your knowledge and education that will produce the desired results. I appreciate your efforts in reaching out to the public for our opinions and feedback. And I know I'm not alone in being a camera only hunter. I have many friends and neighbors who enjoy seeing them almost (but not quite!) as much as I do. Best regards, J. O.
Along with Hunting, look at the Benefits of Predation as this may stop Blue Tongue and other Diseases. For more Info on Predation Benefits watch Lords of Nature on YouTube This shows how re-intro of wolves brought back the aspen/cottonwood groves, eliminated stream erosion, brought back pronghorn/beaver/brook trout/and many bird species. It also made the Elk/Buffalo healthier and changed their behavior! A Bigger Coyote population could be the predation Missouri Needs to Increase its Bio-Diversity
Here are comments related to all the topics and are made as a property owner in Worth County: Crossbows - I favor maintaining the current structure of allowing crossbows for those with a special need during archery season. A crossbow is not a hand drawn device such as typical

archery tackle. Firearms Season Rollback - I very strongly support moving the firearms season back by a week to reduce the pressure during the height of the breeding season. Firearms Antler-less Season - I strongly support the elimination (or at least reduction) of this segment of the season. Single Buck - I strongly support limiting the archery permit to a single buck. I tend to support the limitation to a single buck regardless of method but wonder about the impact on overall permit sales (MDC revenue) if this structure were put in place. Antler Point Restriction - I strongly support the maintenance of the antler point restriction. There has been a noticeable increase in both the number and quality of the bucks we've seen in Worth county following the imposition of this restriction.
Please, please, please, do not allow crossbows during archery. It is not, by definition, archery. If you allow crossbow hunting along-side archery, you will dilute the experience. Crossbows are stringed rifles without the range. The proponents will argue that they are just as limited in range as traditional archery hunters, but I predict more lost, wounded deer due to the vast amount of idiocy that permeates Missouri. Crossbow should be relegated to firearms and alternative season. Maybe even a January portion, but keep archery season for archers.
Being a bowhunter, I support moving back the gun season. Gives me more time to kill a rutting buck before the woods gets blown up with guns....
Non-resident landowners should not be paying full non-resident prices to hunt on their own property. They are stewards of land, provide others (including residents) a place to hunt, and are a key component to the overall conservation program. They should not be grouped together with all other non-residents. Charging non-resident landowners full non-resident prices is just plain wrong. Resident landowners should not receive free tags. Maybe discounted tags but they should be paying something.
Please do not allow Crossbows to be used during Archery Portions of the year. I feel this will lead to a diminished use of Archery methods across the state and a conversion to crossbows. I would consider crossbows as a method only in conjunction with a youth hunter, and an adult. When the youth can't effectively draw a bow yet (age would have to be determined).
The point restriction seems to be working over the past 4 years we have consistently seen older larger deer. I have seen a healthy population of bucks across multiple counties that I hunt. I do not agree with the idea of restricting 1 buck per year. It is already difficult enough for archery hunters to kill mature deer. I believe the antler restriction is effective in and of itself.
I have been an avid deer hunter for nearly 30 years here in MO utilizing archery, firearm, and alternative methods for putting food on the table. I have several concerns and/or opinions I would like to share. – -The one issue I have faced with hunting in neighboring states is the cost of their out of state tags. I understand that MDC encourages others to hunt here with our lower prices, but it seems very unfair that this cost is so off balanced for us to hunt in these other states. Why can't we

charge an equivalent tag cost to help our programs and struggling budget? I really doubt that the decrease in the number of tags sold due to higher cost will cause a reduction in money made by the state. I am just sick of paying outrageous tag prices for Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois yet people can hunt in our state for a fraction of the price during the peak of the rut. -We have been offering unlimited antlerless tags for years now. I keep hearing from people around bigger cities about the over population of deer though. Out in the areas that I have hunted for years, the deer populations have reduced so much in the past 5-10 years due to hunters (including myself) filling a number of tags. I have spread out my hunting to 5 counties now just because I am afraid of eliminating too many deer in one area. I do see the overpopulated areas mainly around larger cities or urban areas where hunting restrictions do not allow managing the deer as easy. With everything said, I do think we can just reduce the number of tags offered to 2 or 3 and reduce the length of the antlerless season to a week. I am happy to see that we moved the antlerless season up into November to reduce taking bucks that shed their antlers. -I appreciate the antler restrictions and thought that we finally have done something to help grow bigger bucks. Like many others, I do hunt the trophy deer during archery and firearms seasons. I hope that we can continue to take a buck for each of the seasons instead of the one-buck issue brought up. I also think that the antler-point restriction should be maintained. -I noticed the crossbow issue and don't believe that it is a good idea. I have had an old shoulder issue for years, but it has not prevented me from using my bow even though I could probably get a doctor's excuse. Once we introduce more crossbows openly into the system and the market sales skyrocket in Missouri, we won't be able to reverse the rules. If certain populated counties (Jackson, St Louis) wanted to implement the use to reduce the number of deer, it may benefit those areas. For the remainder of the state we might as well open up a longer firearms season because the deer won't stand a chance, especially with out of state hunters adding kills. Crossbows have become so advanced, anyone, including small children can use them easily. They could easily become a weapon of choice for too many people someday if we open up our deer season to them. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss a few items that have been burning in my mind the past few years. I hope that MDC continues to make good decisions towards the management of our deer.
I don't think we ever should have implemented point restrictions during firearms season. i think you should earn a buck...shoot a doe first then you can kill a buck. This assumes doe herd is in good shape. During archery and muzzleloader, point restriction is fine. I think you need to put a limit or raise the tag fee on out of state hunters...these folks are taking over the hunting ground around my farm. I am surrounded by folks from Louisiana and Texas. They don't believe in deer management or property lines. if it has four points, it is going to get shot. Deer hunting has been so commercialized in MO. Growing up, it was fun and all I ever

wanted was to own my own land to deer hunt. Now that I have it, it is more of a burden than fun. Trespassing is a huge problem with out of state hunters. I don't think cross bows should be allowed during bow season, except for handicapped.
I was very discouraged to listen to a couple of farmers around the Bollinger County/Cape Girardeau County area discussing the number of deer they were killing during the summer months for crop reduction. As a hunter the thought of 30+ deer killed on one farm and dumped in a ditch was heart breaking. I have witnessed the number of deer seen slipping year after year and now wonder if this is the reason why. Is there anything on the table to stop or at least reduce the number of crop damage tags available to the farmers?
I agree with everything except making the November regular Deer season a week later.
I am strictly opposed to allowing crossbows during the archery season. "Crossbow" is a misnomer: they have 1) a stock 2) a safety 3) a trigger 4) they load and do not require physical power to hold at full draw. They require little skill. My wife killed a deer in Arkansas 30 years ago with about 5 minutes practice, at 35 yards. The long archery season was designed for long bows and recurves and compounds were added but the long season was developed because the number of deer killed would be relatively low. Crossbows have the range of a muzzleloader and if crossbows were allowed in archery season it would be the equivalent of allowing muzzleloaders all through archery season. MDC has the regulations correct right now. Crossbows should be in the alternative season with muzzleloaders. I realize there must be tremendous pressure from the manufacturers and retailers wanting the increased business from expanded crossbow sales. I hope MDC will support the true archer sportsmen and keep the crossbow regulations as they now stand.
The goal needs to be managing for trophy deer. Why are people killing big deer in Illinois and Iowa and not in Missouri? 1) Make the youth season doe only. 2)Push back gun season another week-gives people the opportunity to hunt over Thanksgiving and makes the bucks less susceptible to the rut 3)Non- resident landowners should be able to get permits at resident prices. I'd argue (and I am biased) that non-resident landowners probably on average do more to help the wildlife than resident landowners...and yet you penalize non-resident landowners. Makes no sense to me.
I think moving youth season to later in the season and not in the rut. I wish we would go to 1 buck per season for all methods like Kentucky. I think crossbows are a bad idea, maybe forfeit your rifle tag to use crossbow. My dad uses a crossbow because he is not able to shoot a bow, he does not like, it is not fun because it is like shooting a rifle at 50 to 60 yards which is where probably 70 percent of deer are shot with a rifle. We hunt hard for 3 weeks in November in, KY, IL and MO and love to hunt Kentucky. Missouri does not even compare to Kentucky, we have strict management on our 100 acres in Bollinger County and it not even close to deer population on public ground. Probably would not hunt MO If I did not live here!
I am totally supportive of using crossbows during archery seasons. I was a "compound Bow" man for years until about 2 years ago. My friends talked me into a crossbow. In my opinion

they are much more ethical. The accuracy is superior. I believe there would be far less wounded deer and many more recovered from marginal shots with a compound. Not bragging...but have not missed a deer with it yet...killed 10 deer in 2 years throughout Tennessee and Virginia. All quick...humane kills. I believe it would encourage hunters who aren't adequate shots with a compound bow to hunt more, get more kids involved...which is always a plus. I have hunted Missouri for the past 3 years with an outfitter in Northeast MO. I would also be in favor of moving the firearms opener back to say November 6 or 7 as opening day. Thanks for allowing my input.
I strongly disagree with allowing crossbows during archery season. As noted in explanation of the proposed regulation, crossbows require much less skill, and are a less true "sport" way of hunting. I agree they should be allowed during rifle and alternative methods, but not archery. As for the concern with keeping hunters in to archery as they grow older, why not give out the special permit for those who are unable to draw a bow due to age? - I do understand this would be difficult to regulate, and thus would likely need to be a hard line cut off, for example, "over 60 years of age." This would allow hunters as they grow older to continue archery hunting, but would not apply across the board to all archery hunters.
Antlerless seasons should be early or late season and not be conducted during the primary rut(s). I would support a TWO buck limit per hunter/yr., but NOT a one buck limit per hunter/yr.(1 archery, 1 firearm). I would not be against the general firearm season moving back one week as long as it is not framed by an antlerless season. Crossbow use should remain restricted.
I think cross bows should be reserved for people with disabilities and for use during firearms season only. Moving deer season back one week wouldn't make any difference to me as long as the wildlife biologist concurs as to the timing of the rut. Reducing the number of bucks that can be taken to one per year will probably make some hunters unhappy, but if this is good for our deer quality then I would support this. Maybe due this only in the counties where deer numbers are declining. Antler point restrictions are great for allowing young bucks to mature and breed. I see no reason to change this in the counties where implemented. (I hunt in Knox county)
I think allowing crossbows for a short time during the archery season is a good idea, but not for the entire season. I have been very frustrated with the antler point restrictions. My eyes are not as good as they used to be. Over many outings during the 2012 seasons (archery, rifle, and muzzle loader) I had to let 5 different good-sized deer go by, when I had excellent shots at each of them, because tree branches behind the deer prevented me from being able to confidently count the antler points. I did not shoot a deer that year. I hunt on public land in Callaway County.
After hitting another deer with my car along highway 160 I feel as if the deer population is getting out of hand. On one 15 minute drive I spotted 12 deer along the road. I'm also concerned with the spread of tick diseases because of the increase in deer population. These are

two reasons why I will become a hunter this year. The only solutions I can think of for these problems is expanding the deer hunting season or reducing the cost of tags so more people hunt multiple deer during the season. Thanks.
I favor crossbows only for people with disabilities and over age 65 No extra seasons for does are necessary I suggest keeping the buck harvest at two for the bow season and one for the rifle season I favor one doe with a rifle and unlimited with a bow Please keep the rifle season dates as is, a late season would interfere with Thanksgiving etc. Please keep antler point restrictions, it is great, makes hunters stop, look and stops long range shooting at running deer. I love the late alternative methods season. Keep the seasons and harvest regulations as you have them, adjust the rifle doe tags to manage deer numbers as you are doing.
Sure, allow crossbows. I see no problem with .223, either. Maybe give shotgun slugs a head start on rifles to begin firearms season. Further discount antlerless tags relative to antlered tags. Meat over trophies. Discourage adults from taking deer during the youth hunt. We both know it occurs.
To whom it may concern, I, along with many others, believe that eliminating Missouri's rifle portion would not only raise deer populations, but allow deer to mature. Therefore, attracting more out-of-state hunters and increase revenue to the MDC to put toward other management programs. Also, removing the rifle portion, and only having archery season open during the rut, would create more of a challenge and eliminate the decimation of immature deer with a rifle in their most vulnerable time (similar to that of Iowa or Illinois). Thank you for your time.
As a farmer, landowner, and hunter who participates in every portion of deer season, I feel that in regards to the lower deer population numbers from disease outbreaks in the recent history the MDC should consider some different avenues of deer management. I, along with fellow hunters feel that the rifle portion of deer season should be done away with, and only more challenging methods should be allowed. Money should not be the only concern, but I know that the rifle portion brings a lot of revenue to the state. However; consider the possibility of the revenue potential if rifle season was eliminated. This would create a scenario that would allow deer to mature to their full potential, which in turn would create a trophy environment for wild deer that could establish a very favorable reputation for the state of Missouri; in turn, drawing out of state revenue from true hunters pursuing trophy bucks. With current rifle season regulations it appears that even though there are antler restrictions, there are several "hunters" that kill whatever moves during rifle season, not for food, or sport, but simply because it was a deer. Often times that situation includes, but is not limited to, immature bucks that are smaller than the set regulation allows. If this is not a feasible approach, then considering shortening the rifle portion to five days, and

moving it to late November when it is post-rut, and deer are not as vulnerable could be a viable option. Thank you for your time in this matter, and I hope to see some positive changes in the near future.
I would love to see crossbows allowed for the entire archery season. I feel strongly that it will not significantly increase the harvest, but it will allow additional hunting days for those of us who love to hunt but do not use a standard bow. I am 52 and have a bad back and shoulder issues but they are not bad enough for a medical exemption. There are other folks out there like me in the 50+ age group who can't use a standard bow but would cherish the use of crossbows for the entire archery season. I strongly believe that all hunters should be able to spend time in the woods during October and early November when deer activity is high. Crossbows for the entire archery season will accomplish this. I believe we should be able to harvest one buck with a bow and one buck with a gun. I strongly believe the harvest will not dramatically increase. I have never been a big fan of antler point restrictions although I hunt in a county that does not have one (St. Charles). I believe we as the hunter should be able to determine what deer to harvest. I do see some benefit to the restriction but I'm glad I don't "have" to hunt within it. I do however police myself to not shoot the small bucks, and a ton of others do the same thing. I would not mind at all moving the firearm season back one week, I would prefer to hunt earlier in November versus later. I like what Illinois does for the doe season, they have it in mid-January, adding another weekend at year end was a bad idea as we don't need 2 weekends, just one, and you can eliminate the November doe season, I see no purpose for this when you can shoot does the prior 10 days during regular firearm season. I do like the October doe weekend, great time to hunt with the kids/women when the weather is nicer. Thanks for taking the time to review my comments. Keep up the good work on the web-site and in the field!!
I just submitted my comments but also want to add: I am an Illinois resident but have a clubhouse on the river in St. Charles county Missouri and spend a lot of time there, especially in the fall and winter during hunting seasons. I would like to be notified of any regulation changes or any other important topic. Thank you and have a Blessed day.
I'm not excited about seeing crossbows considered for archery season. As the deer season progresses, the "spookiness" of deer crescendos through firearms season due to the number of people/deer encounters. Adding crossbows would increase the number of participants resulting in higher pressure on an already stressed deer herd. I agree with moving the firearm portion back as late in November as possible. Allowing the most dominant bucks to do the majority of the breeding should sustain better genetics. I think the antlerless season should be discontinued. Actually, I would support eliminating doe harvest completely after the main firearms portion even in the late archery and alternative methods. This would increase the number of does harvested during the main firearms portion and result in less people/deer encounters later in the season. I think the antler point restriction is great and should be expanded to all counties. I would also

provide more informative/encouraging details in the MDC fall deer and turkey hunting regulation brochure on aging deer on the hoof and encourage letting 2-1/2 and 3-1/2 year old deer to walk improving the age structure of the heard resulting in more mature harvests. As for limiting the number of deer/type of deer harvested, I would support a two buck limit per hunter total across all seasons combined, especially if more 2-1/2 and 3-1/2 year old deer were allowed to walk. I think hunters may be a little more conservative with their choices with a two buck limit.
-Maybe age requirement for crossbows, say 45 and up. -November portion during rut is extremely popular. I think hunters are more selective because of the timing. -While the November portion is statistically more popular, we look forward to it as it prov
I like the Idea of every one having the option of using a xbow If they choose. I'll tell you why. I started with a recurve that my dad got me. He taught me to instinctively shoot, range and never let an animal suffer. Clean and quick kills only. For the quality of meat and the respect of life I wanted the most capable bow I could buy. I would not be so presumptuous as to say all people have the necessary skills to pick up a long bow, recurve, compound and make a clean kill. I would say most men don't want an animal to suffer and once they taste the difference between an old buck in rut that's been gut shot and a young doe with a clean quick kill they'll be looking for the latter. As to the other Questions, I wouldn't like to push rifle season back, but if it helps the herd, do it. I'm ok with getting rid of the antlerless portion and the antler point restriction. I'm also ok with the one buck limit. One thing I would like to see is the MDC issue a special use permit for individuals who want to use pistols, pellet guns, or sticks they want to throw at deer to qualify at a CDC range to certify they are able to make a clean kill.
I have been noticing that a lot of states around us have added crossbow to their archery season and am wondering why we don't. I am in my 60s and it's getting pretty rough on me with a regular bow. I can remember when people fought compound bows and inline mussel loaders and here we are with deer so plentiful they are dead all over the highways. If you can't do it for everyone at least do it for your older hunters.
Crossbow during archery season is cheating. Why else would all these guys get false doctors notes where they could shoot one. A crossbow shoots accurately out to 100 yards easily. Might as well just let them use rifles. Unfair to the guy using a bow and doing it right. The all you can shoot doe tags is an epic fail. I've heard of guys who process their own deer buying one tag and killing every doe they see. Once they get it home, shut the garage doors, and turn on the grinder, MDC never hears about it. This is larger problem then what most would expect. I'm a strong supporter of the antler restriction. I have seen a strong increase in age class of bucks in places I hunt. The number of deer has drastically decreased, but I have witnessed the positives of antler restriction. I'm a supporter of buck tag reduction. I like the concept of a trophy management plan for Missouri. Why can't Missouri be a big buck destination like Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois.

Management duck hunts are state residents only. Why can't manage deer hunts be this way also. Also some managed hunts are in county parks. Shouldn't these hunts be awarded to residents of the county where they occur? They are the ones paying the taxes for these parks. An increase in out of state tag cost would be a recommendation. Also having to provide a taxidermist with confirmation # and having to cross reference with MDC to make sure deer was legally taken.
I think implementing the use of crossbows during archery season is a good thing. I think you need to continue the point restriction for antlered deer. I would like to see the firearm season set back till the first part of December. I think reducing the number of antlerless tags to the public is a step in the right direction, deer numbers are down in our area. The biggest complaint I have with the MDOC is the funding of share the harvest. This is a wonderful program, but let the individuals who take these deer to the processers pay for this program. These individuals who use the program don't like the taste of deer and have the money to pay these processing fees. This money can be spent for other improvements to benefit the public.
One of my biggest issues about the conservation in Missouri is how easy it is for people that are not residents in Missouri to hunt in the state. I believe that for everything for deer to turkeys it should be a draw system for out of state residents. Most of my deer hunting is done in Adair County and I have noticed that the majority of hunters I am encountering are from out of state. I also believe that antlerless season should be put on hold for the time being because myself along with many others have noticed it's not rare to sit in the woods either private or public and not encounter a single deer in any county like before when deer seemed to be seen on a daily basis. The changing of one antlered deer per year no matter how the deer is harvested has it's good qualities as long as flaws. I am an avid bow hunter and to limit others and myself to one antlered deer a year will help the amount of antlered deer in my area but in my experience if you have too many smaller antlered deer it's less likely to have a quality managed deer program.
I am in favor of moving the November firearms season 1 week later and reducing or eliminating the antlerless season. I am also in favor of allowing crossbows during archery season. Restricting buck harvest - I'm in favor of limiting buck harvest to 1 during the archery season plus 1 during firearms season, only one of which could be below the 4-point minimum. My favorite deer for eating is a 1 1/2 year old buck so I like the opportunity to take one in that age class. I am NOT in favor of restricting buck harvest to 1 buck in total AND having the point restriction in place.
Moving deer season back a week will ruin deer hunting for so many hunters because so many of us travel out of state to spend time with family for Thanksgiving.
I would like to give my 2 cents on deer management. First, I hate the game farms. Deer are definitely not livestock and I'm glad our governor has some common sense. Next, I'm all in

favor of moving rifle season back a week or two. A yearly one buck limit is fine with me also. I think crossbows during archery season is a terrible idea. Also not a fan of the late doe season. Should have plenty of time during rifle season to fill your doe tag. I still like the 4 point rule. I like seeing all age classes in the deer herd. Tried to keep this short. Thanks
your regulations will change very little due to the fact there is little effort in enforcement and even less given to the changes in management. sad but the changes made to some counties will almost certainly (carter) alter the methods and the way deer are hunted, greedy hunters now have tags to be in stands all year and will not pass up bucks regardless of the buck quota being 1 OR 3. Crossbows should be for the disabled only. If you can shoot a rifle you can shoot a crossbow, effective "bowhunter" immediately few people can be effective instantly with any other form of bow. YOU MUST STOP listening to the lazy- greedy-entitled so called hunters. Hunting has always required effort, skill, patience, and dedication. The conservation seems to only be worried with tag sales and elk restoration. Without better enforcement, your new regs will have an adverse effect. Wake up
I would like to see a four point rule for Perry County.
Here we go, I think hunters are allowed to take to many does during the gun season that should stop. The crossbow, for now, I would say leave it the way it is but I may change that in a few more years. Antler restriction was the best move in deer hunting regs in years. I think 1 buck with a bow and 1 with a rifle is far enough. And now for some bitching, the tele check is a joke. There is way too much game not being checked in my personal opinion. I hate it to death. The check station was one of the best parts of deer hunting, what a shame.
Ok, first I'd like to just state my opinion about changing to a one buck limit.. I think it is ridiculous! That's one of the greatest aspects of hunting in Missouri. The generous bag limits, especially the harvesting of three bucks per season is amazing. Now I personally hunt primarily with a bow and I see an abundance of deer every season. And the majority of bucks I see are young. I pass on these deer and wait for mature bucks only. I wish to see small bucks become mature before being harvested. I would love for the four point restriction to be in Stoddard county. Every season I constantly see young bucks being harvested and it makes me sick. The doe population both where I live (in puxico) and around my dad's farm (Crowley ridge CA in Bloomfield) is over populated. I see so many does every season it's not even funny. They are fun to watch and good to eat but up until this year (2014) we didn't have the option for unlimited does in Stoddard county, which if I may add is a very good management strategy for this part of Missouri. What I would like to see is more people working together on a management program that allows buck to reach their full potential before being harvested. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the 3 buck bag limit for antlered deer in Missouri as long as the right deer are harvested. As a matter of fact, it is an outside attraction to out of state hunters that come to participate in Missouri's deer season every year. Now, as for moving firearms season back a week, I am all for it. The weather is usually a little colder and more people are off work because of thanksgiving, thus resulting in more hunters being able to put in

more hours hunting, thus increasing the number of harvested deer in Missouri. And in certain places such as where I live, the deer population needs to be thinned out some. They are over populated and they are destroying crops in concentrated places. Thank you for taking the time to hear me out and consider what I said
I support severely limiting captive cervid operations as the imported deer are a threat to our wild population. I have little or no respect for high-fence hunting for deer. I am not in favor of using crossbows during archery season except for those hunters who are disabled. Heck, I shoot a recurve, just had reconstructive shoulder surgery and I can shoot very well. A crossbow is a lazy-man's bow. Recall why it was created in the first place - to arm conscripted and poorly trained armies. My friends who shoot compounds are dead-eye accurate with them, so I don't know why a person would want a cross bow other than being lazy. And after hunting under antler restrictions I am seeing more and bigger bucks where I hunt, but have found dead non-legal deer in the field. I hope this is sufficient input. Oh yes, I do like the switching of the alternative methods and antlerless seasons.
Move the Deer Gun Season to the later part of November. Adjust the Doe season as needed to sustain/rebuild the herd. Keep the buck harvest levels the same I have never killed more than one buck with my bow but have had fun trying. Ban all game farms in the state.
Move rifle season back one week in November. Make archery season one buck only instead of two. Limit rifle season antler less tags to one. Most hunters I associate with are really big bowhunting fanatics. We truly care about the deer herd in Missouri. The last two bow seasons have been excellent early on due to early fall cold fronts. Warmer than normal temps for opening weekend of gun have a lot of gun hunters claiming there are no deer. True deer numbers are down from the mid 90's, but there are still a lot of deer for experienced hunters.
I think the antler point restriction is great, no cross bow for archery season, I would move firearms season to December if moving it at all, a one buck per year should be used, I'm not worried about the length of the antler less season our main concern as a state is shooting all our potential trophy bucks too young. Rifle hunting the rut is the biggest contributor to that.
we could have the early youth the third weekend in October followed by a Monday-Sunday alternative weapons then follow the same pattern with the last weekend in December for late youth followed by a Monday-Sunday late alternative methods
I still can't believe that we are at the manageable number of deer in MO to only allow hunters especially up North 1 bonus tag. It seems as if a drastic decision has been made, to go from unlimited tags to only one. I like most bonus hunters, usually don't fill all my tags and frankly don't mind spending the extra dollars by doing it. I feel that MDC will not benefit the additional money given for these tags and I truly hope that MDC doesn't try and recoup their loss by increasing the cost for one tag in the future. I'm, pretty disappointed on such a drastic decision.
Please don't allow crossbow s during the regular archery season and do not move the gun

season. I believe the antler restrictions are good for growing our buck population. Keep up the good work!!
Deer management is a tough issue to discuss because people hunt for different reasons, I have always been one to argue we need to do what's best for the herd long term rather than cater to people's personal wants. I have some strong opinions on deer management as most people do so here it goes. I would like to see gun season pushed back at least a week or have it begin the first Saturday of December. I do not see the need for an 11 day gun season or even high powered rifles at this point. In my perfect world, I would like to see shotguns or muzzleloaders only in Missouri, if nothing else at least on all public land for safety reasons. I know some MDC areas have already gone to muzzleloaders only and I think that's the way they all should be. I see states like Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois produce way bigger bucks than Missouri and that saddens me as a resident, because the only reason they do is because they restrict high powered rifles, limit the number of non-residents and do not have gun season smack dab in the middle of the rut. On the subject of antlered buck limits, I feel that one buck by bow and one by gun is fair to all hunters, one antlerless by gun is fair also as long as numbers say it’s ok. I would like to abolish the antlerless seasons all together. I think Missouri has always catered to the gun hunters and I know why ($$$) but I feel strongly about moving gun season back a week or two, I know people will complain but life is always about change and evolving, and the same goes for deer season. All in all I love hunting in this great state and I think the MDC does a great job, and I hope they continue to make the right decisions and not the popular ones! In closing I hope to see gun season moved out of the rut and all mdc areas reduced to muzzleloader/shotgun only for safety reasons! The other issues I feel are ok as they are. Thanks for the opportunity to speak my voice
Take more counties to the 4 point rule. I like the fact that you are limiting the doe harvest. I hunt in gasconade county and over the last couple of years where I hunt the doe population has decreased dramatically.
It’s a great idea to limit all hunters to 1 buck per year and to also move the rifle season sooner by 1 week. I believe we have been catering to bow hunters too long, when it’s the rifle hunters who pay the bills. I support the min 8 point restriction, this should remain in place forever. I think we should cancel the antlerless portion of the rifle season. I would most support moving the bow season to AFTER rifle season only. We should charge more for non-residents to hunt in MO. We should treat each non-resident like their state treats us, same consistent rules by state, depending on where they are from. We need to somehow limit or deter non-residents from buying up all MO lands.
I feel like the chronic wasting disease is a very important topic. Not only are our deer very important to us, but their health is as well. Missouri is known for having a great amount of deer so keeping them safe should be a priority for us citizens. Since the disease is fatal it is very important to keep healthy deer from getting infected. So if you hunt it’s important to clean the deer meat and dispose of the carcass most importantly the spinal cord and skull.
I don't think that crossbows should be allowed during archery season without a doctors note

stating that you can't draw a bow. If someone wants to use one during rifle season I see no issues with that. I think the rifle season should be moved back to give archery hunters more of the rut to hunt. My opinion on the buck limit is one per year per hunter no matter what the method. Antler point restrictions should be statewide, but still allow for youth hunters to take any deer. We are never going to see the age class of bucks across the state increase if people keep shooting two or three 1 1/2 old bucks every season.
I support allowing crossbows during the bow season as it has been proven in other states to increase participation in archery hunting while not drastically increasing the harvest during this season. Also, I support reducing the number of bucks allowed on an archery tag to 1
keep conservation area regulations that are archery and muzzleloader only the way they are
Crossbow interests have been attempting to get their hunting tool of choice in the Missouri archery season for some time. It is my opinion that a crossbow is not a bow at all, but more related to a firearm. Crossbows should not be allowed in our archery seasons, please keep them in the firearm classification where they belong. I fully support a one buck limit for any hunter in Missouri, whether a hunter chooses his tool to be a firearm, bow, or atlatl. It is my opinion that limiting a single buck per deer hunter will reduce the pressure on bucks, and allow a hunter to be more selective, and careful of his or her choice to harvest a buck if he or she knows that this will be the only male whitetail that he or she will be allowed to harvest in a given year.
I would also like to comment on moving the firearms deer season a week later. Personally, I do support the regulation change. I am a bowhunter, I choose to hunt with my recurve or longbow even during the firearms season. From past experiences, I have seen the whitetail habits, movement, and feeding change once the center fire projectiles start flying, and unfortunately, the timing of the firearms season always interrupts the intense pre or peak rut. Many times over the years, I have lost the opportunity at a certain deer because of the interruption of the firearms season. I believe that pushing the firearms season one week back into the Thanksgiving week will also allow families, myself included, to enjoy the opportunity to hunt together with other family members. It may be more into the post rut, but with more hunters in the woods and fields, we may not see the noticeable decrease in deer movement that comes after firearms season has concluded until well into December. I am only one voice, but I am for moving the firearms season back one week, not only for the bowhunter in me, but also being able to spend more time in the woods with my son, during the Thanksgiving break, who at this time enjoys hunting with his muzzleloader, and my young daughter, who wants to start hunting deer too.
I think allowing crossbows during bow season is a good idea. You have to get them in the same distance as a bow. Most of the time Crossbows and Compound Bow have the same FPS when shooting. As far as limiting the bucks per season, I do not like this. If I can only get one buck combined for all season I will just stop hunting the gun season. Most bow hunters don't get a buck or just

get one buck a season so over all I don't think it makes that much impact on the total bucks in an area. As far as for the antler restrictions I don't mind them. I just think every few years the restriction needs to be lifted so that the bucks that never get legal size can be taken out of the population. I like the seasons dates and times. I don't want to see them change much.
Would strongly reconsider increasing crossbow usage. I almost lost my left thumb and I consider myself an extremely safe hunter. Crossbows are getting more powerful by the minute and should not be taken lightly. In some situations, I would consider a crossbow to be more dangerous than a firearm. Lastly, I believe crossbows make it too easy for the hunter to harvest deer during the pre-rut and rut. Hunters over 65 or with a documented handicap should still be allowed to use crossbows though.
Firsts of all, this is a great way to take comments. As usual, our Dept. of Conservation is ahead of the curve. My first comment is that we should absolutely NOT allow crossbows during bow season except for those with disabilities and Senior Citizens. Secondly, the MDC needs to increase availability for bow hunting in urban areas. For instance, I live in Kirkwood, MO and we have a large population of deer in the Kirkwood Park area. Why not open this area for limited hunting? Also, make the information more accessible on what is needed to hunt urban deer and make a forum/website that would facilitate interested urban property owners and bow hunters to come together and make hunting arrangements. Finally, make it mandatory that all meat is donated to area food banks. This may increase the public's acceptance of these measures. Thanks for your time. M. P.
I think reducing the archery buck bag limit to one a year is a great idea. As for taking it to just one buck a year no matter the method, not a big fan of that but do see where you are coming from for a management perspective. As for antler point restriction, absolutely love keeping that in place I hunt in Benton county and have seen more big bucks every year and I think that regulation has a lot to do with it. Now on moving rifle season, I think it should stay just the way it is one week can make the difference in hitting the peak of the rut but we all know that mother nature is in control of that so I think leave it like it is. Hope that can be a little help to your efforts on the deer management issue
If our state is interested in growing bigger deer like the other states in the Midwest, we need to take a serious look at our deer management. We have huge potential in this state and there is no reason we shouldn't be on the radar with KS, IA, or IL. My hunting partners and I have talked for years about not having rifle season during the rut. This time frame has mature deer running through the woods out of their mind while the most hunters outdoors with the biggest range are in the woods. This leads to a huge number of mature bucks killed by people who haven't stepped in the woods until opening day of rifle season. My philosophy is that hunters should earn a trophy buck. Hunters walking out the back door on opening morning and killing

a big buck by blind luck with a rifle is frustrating to me. So is hearing of people shooting beyond their effective range because a buck was so big. Too many deer are wounded because of this. Allowing this time frame to be hunted with more primitive weapons forces hunters to actually "hunt" their deer. There isn't any sport in shooting a rutting buck at 400 yards. If we're going to hunt them during a time when they're completely out of their mind, we need to do it with weapons that have a much smaller range. I'm not against shotguns or muzzle loaders, but I would love for the rut to be archery only. I believe that most of the mature deer should be killed by hunters who earn their deer by scouting and spending time in the woods so they can get close and fool America's most weary animal. Please consider pushing our rifle season back. I know that I speak for many people in my area on this aspect. Next, almost everyone I know wishes we had the 4 point restriction in Polk county. We have such great potential here. I get sick of people shooting a forked horn instead of a doe so they can say they killed a "buck". There is no reason for us to place emphasis on killing a young buck vs a doe. An old doe is exponentially smarter and harder to fool than a forked horn buck. Let’s get past the old school idea of any buck being an accomplishment. There is a whole new world of deer management than there used to be. Some hunters fail to see it. Within 2 years, our land would be filled with nearly as many "4 point" legal deer as there are forked horns now. If we quit shooting 1-2 year old deer they have a much better chance of growing into mature deer for all hunters to pursue. Let’s get the whole state in a 4 point restriction and move toward modern deer management practices. I know there is a voice coming from the meat hunters. However, if you want meat, shoot a doe. There are plenty of them. If we can all make a small sacrifice, our entire state can realize its potential. Most people I know are not against letting kids shoot whatever walks by. Thank you for opening up a way for hunters to communicate. I like that our conservation dept. listens to its hunters and tries to find the happy medium between conservation and hunter morale.
The biggest mistake we are doing in managing our deer is having an antler restriction -PLUS- A rifle season during the rut. These two factors, combined, result in the target harvesting of the best breeding bucks in the herd, for genetics and health. Most hunters just want a legal deer and will shoot the first one they see. This results in the harvest of young deer with great genetics being taken out when the hunter would have taken a fork or six pointer if it was legal. Then you add the rut into the equation which makes the breeding bucks more easily hunted, then we are weakening the entire deer herd.
Crossbows should NOT be allowed during the Archery season. Don't be pressured by the crossbow manufactures to allow their use during this season.
Landowner Firearms Deer Season Permits Landowner permits will be based on the number of acres owned. Acres Number of Any deer Permits 5-49 – 2 permits, 50-99 - 3 permits, 100-499 – 4permits, and 500+ - 5 permits. Or one permit for each partner of a partnership if there are more partners than the number of

allotted permits based on acres
The landowner(s) can use all of the allotted permits for his/her land, themselves, or can assign any number of the allotted permits to any family member, or to a leasee who may or may not reside on the property.
A landowner owning more than one piece of property either through a partnership or individually may use the permit(s) allotted for only one piece of property for him/herself, but for not all properties. The permit(s) allotted to the other property(s) must be assigned to a partner, family member, or leasee.
An Assignee (partner, family member, or leasee) may be assigned permit(s) from only one landowner and for only one piece of property.
The permit system would be changed so that when the Landowner(s) uses the allotted permit(s) for their property, for their own use, their conservation number will be attached to those permit(s) OR if the landowner assigns one or all of his/her allotted permits to a partner, family member, or leasee, those persons conservation number will be attached to the permit(s), so that it is known who holds the assigned permit(s).
Each person who is a holder of a landowner permit whether the landowner or an assignee will be responsible for telechecking those deer harvested on those permit(s)
Landowner allotted permit(s) are Any Deer permits, but whether it is the landowner or assignee that is the holder of a landowner permit, he/she will only be allowed to harvest one Antlered Deer, regardless of the number of allotted permits they are the holder of. The remaining permit(s) may be used to harvest Antlerless Deer only.
(ex. If a Landowner has 60 acres, he/she will be allotted 3 landowner permits. He/she can use all 3 of the permits themselves or can assign all 3 of the permits to a family member or leasee. The holder of those 3 permits may harvest 1 Antlered Deer and 2 Antlerless Deer.
OR the landowner can use one permit for himself and assign the other 2 permits to two different family members, or a family member and a leasee. Each of the 3 permit holders may harvest 1 Any Deer (Antlered or Antlerless Deer)
OR If a partnership owns the land with 4 partners, 4 permits will be allotted to that Landowner (partnership) The partners can each use one permit themselves and each may harvest 1 Any Deer;
OR Two of the partners can use 2 permits each, and each may harvest 1 Antlered Deer and 1 Antlerless Deer;
OR The Landowner (partnership) may assign all 4 allotted permits to a family member of any of the partners or to a leasee, and that person may harvest 1 Antlered Deer and 3 Antlerless Deer
OR if a landowner is in a partnership on a 100 acre piece of property and is a landowner individually on a 40 acre piece of property. He/she may use the 2 permits from the individually owned farm for him/herself, but must assign the permit(s) from the partnership owned property to another partner, family member of his/hers or another partner, or to a leasee Conversely, he/she can use 1 to 4 of the permits for himself from the partnership owned

property, but must assign the 2 permits from the individually owned property to a family member or leasee. A landowner may use the permit(s) for him/herself from either of the property(s), but not both. Depending on Antlerless deer management: In whatever management unit (or county) a property is located, whatever is determined for number of antlerless permits per hunter in that unit (county), then the same number of antlerless permits should be allotted for each qualifying landowner permit. Each antlerless permit will be attached to each allotted landowner permit, and can only be used by the holder (landowner, assignee) of each landowner permit (Ex. In management unit (or county) _____, it is determined that each hunter will be allowed 2 antlerless permits. If a landowner owns 50 ac and is allotted3 any deers permits, then he will be allotted 6 antlerless only permits. Two for every landowner permit. Landowner Archery permits could be handled in much the same way as firearms permits Landowner Turkey Permits could also be handled in much the same way as firearms permits
Change the managed deer and turkey hunting preference points so that an applicant is given priority based on the number of preference. Instead of random drawing and the applicants name is entered for each preference. This provides for older hunters to havve a better chance of getting drawn before they are unable to hunt. It prevents individuals from getting draw more than once for a particular highly sought after managed hunt, before other individuals have an opportunity to get drawn for that hunt. As elk and bear seasons start this type of system will be important
My thoughts are as follows to your questions #1 on crossbows, I feel your current regulations are good. #2 the firearm deer season is just about perfect for adults. Bow hunters get a good crack at the pre rut and the masses get the full rut. I would leave it alone. #3 antlerless season. Why not have an antler less season in all counties and limit ALL to only one tag unless agents determine there is an overload on the environment. #4 buck harvest, leave it as is!! I pass on bucks every year and don't fill my tags. If you want to regulate the number of bucks harvested by non- residence to only one, that along with charging what their state charges for tags for out of state permits, you would have my vote! #5 antler point restrictions, who cares? How can you tell me what I can and can't do on my property? Communist! I only harvest mature deer anyway unless I want meat then I hunt 1-1/2 old does. The thought of bigger bucks really hasn't happened in my area that I've noticed with the current laws. And what about those giant 6 pointers on the downhill side of life? Why not take those deer? The biggest problem with the restriction is public land hunting where the deer are running by and you don't have time to count tips. Now you have to pass on the shot.
I have seen a serious drop in the numbers of mature does and agree with limiting extra permits in some area. I do not believe we should all everyone to use crossbows during bow season. I disagree with the point restriction in my area I see no more big bucks than in the past but see numerous big body mature bucks with poor horn growth and apparently poor genetics that they

pass on as they survive when people pass them up and over kill the 8 and 10 point bucks which leaves the poor genetic bucks more access to the does. It took me and my family several years to harvest obviously mature bucks with poor genetics and get better results from deer in my area. Since the increase to unlimited tags and the horn restrictions I am seeing a reverse in that trend. I believe Callaway county which is always a good hunt is headed for trouble with the combination of in-mature does and the increasing numbers of older bucks that never get out of the spike and fork horn category no matter how big or old they are.
I would like to see crossbows allowed to be used in archery season along with the alternative portion. After all, it is, so to speak, a primitive weapon. Keep in place the antler restrictions! From what I've witnessed over the past few years, racks are definitely getting bigger (depending of course on the weather conditions that allow for an adequate food source.) The November firearms season is on the mark. From all of my remembrance of seasons past (since 1973) the rut varies from year to year by as much as a week or so. The season always seem to catch a part of it, meaning its peak-the chase. My closing remark or comment; bad idea on the 1 buck limit, leave well enough alone. It works fine.
Look through a scope, pull a trigger,--Archery? Can’t believe this is even an issue. There is already enough people in the woods with no hunter etiquette or savvy that it takes to bow hunt. Please don't ruin archery hunting by flooding it with xbows when a season already exist that allows them. I would like to see firearms moved back even two weeks would be alright with me. I would also like antler restriction state wide.
I would approve allowing cross bows to be used in the second half of the Deer/Turkey Bow Season.... meaning; after the November portion is over.
Prefer season dates remain same. Support one buck and only one doe per firearm season in CALLAWAY. Support one buck archery season not included in firearm limit. Do not support crossbow legalization. Support eliminating doe only season statewide. Support antler point restrictions.
Yes, I think crossbows will be Ok. One buck will be plenty during archery season. (I hunt does to eat. Not a horn hunter.)I like the season where it's at, don't change it. We don't have the antlerless portion in Polk Co. Yes on the antler point restriction. Anyone wanting to shoot a deer to eat can kill females and leave the bucks for the horn hunters and they seem to want big horns.
What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? I believe that crossbows should be allowed during archery season. Just because they stay cocked they are more like a bow than a rifle. It is obvious that states are trending to this anyway, and rightfully so. I am an avid bowhunter, and while I doubt I will ever use a

crossbow, it would be great for the sport to get more people involved.

Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week?
Wouldn't really bother me one way or the other.

Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season?
As our deer numbers are declining, I would like to see it removed. Coyotes are a big enough predator in this area.

Do you think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea?
If we restrict the harvest of bucks more, even more does will be harvested, resulting in a smaller population. Leave it where it is.

What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler-point restriction in the county you hunt?
I wish very badly you would implement the apr in Polk county. While I know it would cause some more does to be harvested, our buck to doe ratio is severely out of wack. I have hunted my entire life and have only seen a couple large bucks. We have some good genetics if they were allowed to grow. The 4 point rule still allows people to shoot young bucks, so its affect on the doe population shouldn't be too large.

•What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? I am in the military and have been stationed in a place where crossbows have been legal during archery for a long time. I see not detriment to allowing them during archery season.

•Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week? I personally like the firearms season where it is. I would like to see it shortened back to Saturday through the following Sunday like it used to be, but I prefer it when it is.

•Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season? Until the herd balances out from the recent overharvest and EHD issues I think the antlerless portion needs to be suspended.

•Do you think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? If you do this get rid of antler point restrictions.

•What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler-point restriction in the county you hunt? I hate antler point restrictions. I believe it is this type of management that reduces

our hunting numbers. I have limited time in the woods and sometimes all I see are young bucks. I would rather put my tag on a fork horned buck and have meat in my freezer than watch him walk because he is illegal and then have an empty freezer. I would rather you manage the bucks by the number of tags vs. antler point restrictions. I think APR's will reduce the number of hunters eventually, because guys with limited time in the woods won't want to put forth the effort to hunt when all they see is illegal bucks.
on the subject of the doe permits, I understand that the past couple years the deer herd has been affected by EHD and other diseases. Also by the high kill rate of does in past years. However, when we (hunters) are limited to one antlerless tag, how can we manage our local herds to get a buck:doe ratio to where we (hunters) want it? In my case approximately 1:1 to 1:2. (so the rut won't be so stressful on the bucks). Also, the regulation on 1 buck with gun, 1 buck with bow, I think it should stay the way it is now, 1 buck before gun season, buck during gun season, and an option for another buck after gun season. The area I hunt still has a strong deer population, even though it has been affected. A lot of us hunters need the meat as we can't afford to go out and buy beef with the cost it is right now. My family is/has been looking forward to the fresh meat. I'm glad the archery antlerless tags aren't limited and hoping they won't be in the future as well.
the November rifle season, I think, should be moved and shortened. I am an avid deer hunter and love to both, bow hunt and rifle hunt, I think it should be moved. This will decrease the number of bucks killed each year, however, at the same time, letting the younger bucks grow at least one more year. In the future Missouri could, most likely will be, be ranked up there with Iowa and Illinois. That will bring in more revenue for the department. As for the 4 point restriction, I think it is a good idea and a worked a little bit, however, (this being a small %) there are some mature 6 point bucks that need to be taken out of the herd. Even though that might be the case I would vote to keep the 4 point restriction in place, but move and shorten the firearms deer season.
I'm commenting on both the new proposed regulations and also the deer management plan. I do not like the idea of allowing the use of crossbows by all hunters for archery season. I think it should be limited to the people that are not able to pull a compound bow just as it is now. Archery season is meant to be very challenging and for hunters that put in the time to actually hunt. With crossbows you don't have to even really practice just pull out the box and go. You can also look at all the specs between a crossbow and compound bow. When compared a crossbow is almost like shooting a small caliber rifle. Moving rifle season back I would like it if the rifle season was moved back. With rifle season being in middle of the rut you see a lot more bucks especially younger bucks get killed chasing. If you look at most "big buck" states Missouri is the only one that has rifle season during the rut. Last year Real Tree listed all the states with whitetail and Missouri got a pretty good grade with their biggest knock being because the rifle season is right in middle of the rut.

One buck Rule I would like it if you were allowed 1 buck for the archery season and 1 for the rifle season. I feel like allowing 2 bucks with a bow gets many younger bucks killed that need another couple years because hunters figure they have another tag might as well get this rack. If restricted to one buck with a bow I think more hunters will hold out for that older more mature buck. I think if you go to 1 buck annually you are going to run into more poaching because people are not going to report bucks they've killed with a bow because they are waiting for their opening rifle weekend deer camp because everyone wants the big buck at camp. Antler restrictions I would like to see the entire state move to the 4 point restriction. I think it will help let young bucks get a little older more mature and a bigger rack. I live in southwest Missouri and also travel to north Missouri to hunt, talking to people up there and from what I have noticed the point restriction is making a difference .
I think hunters should be limited to 2 antlered bucks per year while only 1 be allowed during firearms portions as it stands currently. I personally think the antler point restriction is an excellent tool for helping bucks have a better chance of reaching maturity. Doe numbers are down slightly in the area I hunt but still there is a higher concentration of does than bucks but I support the 1 antlerless tag limit for rifle season and would be in favor of a limit on archery antlerless tags to 2 or 3. To still allow landowners to have a way to still manage their individual numbers.
On the topic of decreasing the amount of buck tags for archery hunting, I think it is a bad idea. I don't know the statistical data for how many hunter fill both archery buck tags and a firearms tag, but I can't imagine that it is very high. I think by allowing archery hunters the opportunity to harvest 2 bucks gives them the added incentive to go hunting later in the year, that if they had already filled their buck tags they wouldn't have.
In regards to legalizing crossbows for all archery hunters, I am definitely in favor of this. I think that there are a lot of hunters already doing this through the "exemptions" (medical reasons). I have a young child that I know would probably participate in archery season sooner if crossbows were legal. I would enjoy the opportunity to use a crossbow, but feel as though I would like still carry my compound to the field occasionally if I felt like it. I think the dedicated or so called "die hard" bow hunters could still use traditional archery equipment if they wanted to, and I doubt that a crossbow hunter would really affect their harvest objectives very much.
Crossbows for those with disability or injury only. Move firearms to later in Nov or early Dec. Strict regulations on deer farms. Eliminate late winter antlerless season, some bucks lose antlers & are targeted.
First, on the subject of crossbows being used by all hunters...I feel this is a bad idea. Part of what sets archery hunters aside (for the most part), is the patience and work we put into making

a clean kill and ensuring we have the perfect shot opportunity. Countless hours go into practice and preparation for the release of that one arrow. I know several people who have said "I would bow hunt if I could use a crossbow. Then I won't need all that practice, I can just line up the crosshair and shoot." This is wrong for several reasons, but I am certain they need no explanation to the MDC. Another issue is a lot of people seem to think crossbows will suddenly make an arrow into a long-range precision killing tool, much like a bullet. I personally feel that allowing crossbows as a general method for archery season will encourage people who are too lazy and responsible to prepare, to start flinging arrows, often at ridiculous distances or unethical shot angles. This will result in a much higher pressure on the deer herd, and will no doubt lead to the wounding and/or lack of recovery of many more animals. Keep crossbows where they belong, in the hands of disabled hunters, or in a special season such as 'Alternative Methods.'

Second topic, regarding moving firearms season back a week...I feel this is an outstanding idea. The fact that our rifle season currently coincides with the peak of the rut is something that has bothered me for years. Look at most states known for the quality of their deer herd, their firearms seasons come in later in the year. This allows for mature bucks to effectively breed more does without being killed. This will lead to healthier offspring in years to come. Rifle hunters will still have the opportunity to kill deer, obviously, but it will place much less pressure on the mature side of our deer herd. This will, without a doubt, lead to many more mature bucks and could put Missouri higher on the list of top-notch Whitetail Deer states.

Regarding the reduction of the length of the antlerless portion...I think this is a good idea, if beneficial to the heard overall. This, of course, is coming from someone who does not know the overall picture of the state's deer herd. But obviously if too many does are taken, that's not a good thing. Maybe we could just limit the number of firearms antlerless tags available? Any that are not filled in the regular firearms season can be used in a short (one weekend) January season. If the state could use more antlerless deer being taken, let the archery hunters take care of that by offering them extra tags.

Regarding the one buck limit...I am primarily a bowhunter. I love the long season and have enjoyed our liberal limit on bucks. However, realistically speaking, is it really a good idea to allow one hunter to take so many antlered deer? I am not a huge fan of the idea for only one buck regardless of methods. But limiting the archery limit to one buck could prove beneficial to the heard, and that is something I fully support.

Regarding alter point restrictions...I feel this can be a good or bad thing. In theory, it allows bucks to reach maturity without the worry of being shot. This is great, except some bucks will just never reach that trophy level hunters dream of. But the average hunter cannot make that determination, or accurately judge the deer's age on the hoof. So overall, I feel point restrictions are a good thing.

Lastly, I would like to add my thoughts on youth season. I am all for promoting hunting within our youth. When I was a child, there was not youth season. My father took me out in the normal hunting season like everyone else. I feel that having the youth season where it is now is

a terrible idea. Why not move it to early October? The weather is much nicer then, which can be great for kids who don't understand, or have the desire to sit in a cold stand for hours. This will also move firearms pressure off the deer around the time of the rut. Most children don't understand the rut and the opportunity it affords for taking a trophy class buck, and they don't care. They just want to get a deer...whether it be a yearling doe or a mature buck. Overall I think Missouri is a great state, and I love living and hunting here. I feel it could become a prime hunting state if the proper steps are taken. I don't pretend to be an expert in the matter, but I feel the points I have illustrated in this letter are more of a realistic look that anyone who loves deer hunting, and the outdoors in general, can understand. M.M.
Answering the deer management questions •What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? - I think crossbows should be allowed during archery season, especially on private property, if you want to limit use of crossbows on public land that is a different discussion •Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week? - I would leave firearms season in its current place •Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season? - no input •Do you think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? -personally I think it’s a bad idea, although I don't harvest more than I can eat, if a one buck limits was put in place I wouldn't be happy but I wouldn't fight that rule. •What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler-point restriction in the county you hunt? - one thing I hate is never seeing a shootable buck, removing this restriction would lead people to taking more young bucks which would limit to growth of these deer into large animals
If you are looking to sell more tags and that is what it is about to the conservation department then go ahead and open season up for all hunters to use a cross bow!!! I personally do not think the conservation department should open up the use of a cross bow unless you have a permit. If you intend to do this open rifle season up from September 15th thru January 15th just like bow season and when you have the number of deer killed that you want close season!!! Onto deer management--many states in the united states allow baiting. WHY does Missouri conservation not listen to the people in this state when baiting is the topic? I have sent letters along with many others from this area requesting baiting deer to be legal. If not state wide then Counties that want this. Put a request on your website asking people of this

state if they want baiting to be legal!!
Hello, I would like to voice my opinion on the four point law. I live in Greene county and I really think we need to get the antler restriction down this way, every year I put hours upon hours of planting food plots to try in better the antler growth in my area, it's so hard to keep a buck around long enough for him to be what I consider to be mature (3+years old) in my neck of the woods, every year I seen multiple bucks that all my neighbors shoot that are all young bucks, they do not care to have mature deer in the area, if its brown its down for them and it makes it that much harder for hunters like myself who put in the time in hopes of just seeing a mature buck which is hard to come by in Greene county because there is no antler restriction, I would love to see the whole state with the four point restriction, I have an excess to 5000 acres in Central Mo and the 4 point restriction has done wonders to that part of the state, so many mature bucks that way compared to how it used to be. I would also like for the bonus doe tags to be brought to where only purchase one per hunter per year, it seems like there are not near as many does as there used to be...at least have one bonus tag per hunter for a couple years to get the population of the does back up then go back to normal after a couple of years. Maybe the conservation department could set up a poll on their website seeing if people thought southern Missouri should have the four point rule? just a thought I hope my comment can have an impact at least on the antler restriction because southern Missouri needs the four point rule Thanks C.T.
One buck and one antlerless deer tag for archery and gun hunter per year. There are to many deer being harvested. We have seen significant decline in deer the past 6 years. I know the chronic waste is playing a role.
Hunters should be limited to only 1 deer total on MDC managed land. Owning a property next to MDC land and having hunters allowed to harvest unlimited deer during archery season provides no benefit to a landowner that tries to manage their land. MDC should practice exotic/invasive species control on their land. Coldwater Conservation area is filled with invasive species such as Autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle and Sericea that spreads to adjacent landowners. Non-resident deer permits should be sold at a discount to people who choose to invest in land located in Missouri.
I'm all for moving rifle season to a later date. It would give the big bucks more of a chance of doing the breading. Thanks!
I think the 4 point rule should only be in northern Missouri where they grow trophy bucks. Down here in Henry County, we don't grow trophy bucks so why have it here? Where we hunt

we have yet to harvest or see a trophy buck!
Crossbows are for the handicapped. Moving firearms season back one week is a good idea. One buck annual limit is a bad idea. Antler point restrictions are a great idea. Firearms antlerless portion should be shorter. Thanks for taking my vote.
I agree that crossbow use during archery is a good idea. Moving November portion of firearm season back one week would be bad for archery hunting, after the rifle season most of the time killing the deer with archery equipment is slim. I think that implementing one buck limit for archery or one buck annually wouldn't change much because many people only kill one buck for the season or none. Antler point restriction should stay in place and I hope to see some good bucks in the future.
1) If you are proposing crossbows during regular bow season, I feel that allowing them AFTER the rifle season will increase hunter participation during that time frame, especially since most of the bow hunters will have either gotten their fill prior to gun season, or if they are hunting that one big buck then it gives them the first half of bow season to use regular bows and the crossbow for increased opportunities after gun season. 2) Antler point restriction/Limiting the number of bucks available to any hunter to one. This is a bad idea, as it will result in a decreased number of hunters overall. If the numbers are crunched, I would be interested to see how many archers actually harvest a buck or two with their bow and then go on to harvest a buck with a firearm. I know it has only happened twice in my 18 years of bowhunting. The number of larger bucks I have seen is proof that the antler point restriction is working, as I have passed many 6 pointers the past few years.
I do not see a problem with allowing crossbows during archery season. The effective range is still the same as a compound bow. I am all for moving rifle season back 1-2 weeks. Too many young bucks are killed in the heat of the moment during the rut when it is a frenzy. I think it would allow more bucks to reach a mature age. Thanksgiving would allow more families to hunt together as well! I do not agree with a 1 buck limit. What if someone's farm has a good buck to doe ratio and properly manages their deer herd - would you punish them by only allowing them to harvest 1 buck a year? And statistically not many hunters harvest more than 1 in a season anyway.
1. Crossbow's allowed during archery season- I believe that this would be a positive and effective way to increase the archery season harvest and attract out of state hunters. 2. Moving the start date of the Fall firearms season-Please do not even consider doing this! Opening weekend is a longstanding tradition for my family, and moving it would create major scheduling issues. Also I believe that you would see a greatly reduced # of hunters due to the conflict with Thanksgiving. 3. Antlerless season-While I believe that it should continue to exist, I do not have an issue with MDC adjusting the season as needed. 4. Annual buck limit- I believe the current system that allows a hunter to take one mature buck in archery season and one during firearms season is best. Any reduction could limit both opportunity and interest overall.

5. I believe that the current 4 point to a side restriction is an effective and positive way of managing the whitetail population.
PLEASE move the rifle season back a week! It would allow for an extra week of breeding before harvesting bucks. Also, limiting the archery season to one buck would increase the buck population and allow them to mature. I am an avid bowhunter and outfitter. We limit our clients to one buck in archery and you would be amazed at what we have compared to land that has two archery bucks harvested. We are on the state line and have land in Kansas and Missouri. Our Missouri land is as good as our Kansas land because of the limited archery harvest policy that we voluntarily enforce. Missouri has incredible potential if you put the proposed regulations in place! J. M.
I think the non-resident permit fees should be more reciprocal to the states the non-resident resides in. More and more out of state hunters are using our public ground making hunting conditions increasingly crowded.
I agree with 2 of the 3 proposed changes to deer management in MO. I am a retired Marine Sergeant Major originally from PA. In Pa. When I was growing up I only hunted a day or two for deer. I do remember that we could only take one buck in PA. I would recommend the same in MO. I would also recommend that the deer season is pushed one week to allow the deer to populate. A lot of nice bucks are taken way too early. In PA., and other states, the rifle season is later (rightfully so). I have hunted all over the country, and I feel that the recommendations I have mentioned should be incorporated. Thanks
I'm a non-resident landowner in Putnam county. I'm in favor of delaying the firearms season 1 week to better protect mature bucks at their most vulnerable time of year. I'm in favor of reducing the amount of buck licenses per year a hunter can purchase. Reducing archery permits from 2 to 1 I'm in favor of. But I still believe hunters should be able to harvest one buck with archery equipment and 1 buck with a firearm. I don't have an opinion either way on allowing crossbows. I would also like to see the return of the reduced price non-resident landowner permits. Thanks for letting me send in my comments. The MDC has many great leaders, and I could only wish my home state of MN could adapt and learn from the practices the MDC is putting in place and offering. Thanks again for listening to the hunters and stewards across the state.
Yes on the crossbow. Leave buck harvests as they are. We can move gun season back one week. Depending on the size of our herd adjust doe season as needed.
I am a 55 year old hunter love my long bow but have problems with my hands and missed last season altogether would love to use crossbow during archery season maybe we can use crossbows with age restriction
crossbow may be good idea, but I wouldn’t reduce it to a 1 buck season, 2 minimum, I wouldn’t be opposed to moving season back for gun either, all these options suck, but if it has to be done then has to be, maybe don’t do all of them. Where I hunt in Jackson Co. and Cass Co. I have seen no evidence of deer population declining, in fact it’s as healthy now as I have ever seen it

It doesn't really bother me about the cross-bow during bow season, having a point restriction would not be so bad, but cutting the number of bucks per season, why, maybe possibly one for bow and one for gun but not just one annually for either/or. If you are looking to grow bigger bucks do the point restriction, don't take away from the bow hunters, which is what you will be doing. I think the bow bucks be left alone, or allow one before gun season and only one after gun season, regardless if you didn't get one before you can only shoot one buck after gun season. Please do not go to just one annually. I think it will hurt more than it will help. Thanks
I am in agreement, less does should be harvested. I think the antler restriction should be lifted. I think cross bows should be an option for anyone who chooses to use one during the archery season. I also like having the firearm season the week before Thanksgiving, I know a lot of people would be able to be off, but many other people would miss out due to family obligations.
I already submitted a comment but didn't respond to the moving the season back a week. It will probably work two ways, some hunters may get more time in the field and some may get less with the holiday, myself I don't see anything wrong with the way it is, the antlerless season it looks like we are doing a pretty good job with controlling our deer population we start shortening some seasons there might be bigger impacts on car collisions which seems to be still a problem so changing this may affect how many deer we take annually. I just don't see the need with drastic changes, thought you have been doing pretty good job with our Deer Management, no need for big changes like these. Thanks
I support the suggestions to push back firearm season and to allow everyone to hunt with crossbows. For the buck tags two buck tags all season, but only allow one of them tags be used for gun season.
I believe all this management stuff is being brought about not to manage the deer population but rather to manage the big buck population. I can understand trying to restrict the number of does being taken because there are entirely too many being shot and wasted each year. I do not agree with the proposed regulations because in my opinion it is just to grow bigger bucks to make our state one of the popular big buck states to draw in out of state hunters. It used to be that big bucks got big by being smart, now bucks get big because we have to let them walk until they get bigger because of regulations.
I know this is a little late in the game, but wanted to chime in. I have hunted the same area for 13 years now and can honestly say our numbers have stable throughout that time. Over the last couple years we as a group have cut back on the number of deer we have taken not because of numbers but because we don't consume as much meet. I believe we harvested 5 animals last year compared to 7-9 in past years. According to 2 cameras I have scene at least 10 fawns so far this summer. With that I would say the deer herd we pursue will have a good increase. I will be disappointed if mdc bucks to the TV generation hunter! Last fall I hunted probably 30 days and saw numerous small bucks too many really, many legal animals and a doe herd that will produce far more animals than can be harvested. In closing I think MDC has not done their homework in Cooper Co. by limiting doe harvest to one animal.....My 2 cents

I say crossbow, YES! Rifle one week later YES! (1) buck per year YES! Great plan and I will assist in any way to help implement this. I have an outfitting business here in Northern Missouri and feel that these proposals are long overdue. Move the rifle season one week will not change things that much. Please feel free to contact me anytime. H.
Crossbows should not be allowed during archery season. It's like allowing center fire rifles during the alternate method season. Changing deer season to the Thanksgiving week will cause vacation conflicts. Not a good idea. I don't like a one buck limit. Make it a two buck limit for all seasons combined. Allow a person to purchase two buck archery tags but when they do they cannot purchase a buck gun permit. And get rid of multiple doe archery permits. There is no reason to keep killing does.
I am adamantly opposed to the inclusion of crossbows for all hunters in the regular archery season. A crossbow is not a bow; it is a gun that shoots arrows. The only archery organization that I know of that considers a crossbow as a piece of archery equipment is the Archery Trade Association; which is in the business to sell and promote such items. The Pope and Young club doesn't, the North American Bowhunting Coalition doesn't nor does any state archery organization that I can think of. If crossbows are so popular, then why aren't more folks using them during the 40+ days when they are legal to hunt with in Missouri? The answer to that is simple; laziness. The only time you can use a crossbow now is during a firearms season and the folks that want to use crossbows in archery season certainly aren't going to use a crossbow when they can use a gun. Likewise, they are too lazy and undisciplined to learn how to shoot a real bow so they want to be able to use something easier in a season originally set up for a challenging weapon. New hunters will not be recruited. It will just be rifle hunters who finally get a chance to take part in a longer season. We always tell our kids that anything worth having is worth working hard for yet we are hypocrites when it comes to the crossbow issue. I don't care if little 5 year old Johnny wants to bow hunt but isn't strong enough to use the current legal equipment. Tell little Johnny to eat his Wheaties and wait a few years. He isn't old enough or big enough to operate an automobile either. Should we lower the driving age? I have wanted to be able to dunk a basketball since I was 10 years old. I worked on my jumping, waited to grow some more and finally realized that it just wasn't going to happen. Not once did I consider having the rules changed such that the regulation goal height was lowered for us vertically challenged folks. That is EXACTLY what the crossbow proponents are doing!
Two issues as an out-of -state hunter: 1. I understand the rationale behind higher fees for out-of-state hunters based on tax support, etc. However, I find it short sighted of MDC to have increased the antlerless tag. As this is the primary method for controlling populations from year to year, it does not make sense to me to limit the opportunity to employee out-of-state hunters fully by charging more for an antlerless tag. I spend more than 10x what my in-state family members spend to hunt with them. Out-of-state hunters already are burdened with providing a portion of tag revenue disproportionately high for their numbers. The difference in revenue to the MDC gained by the higher cost of an antlerless permit is negligible. 2. Consider an "Any Season - Any Deer" permit for out-of-state hunters. That would allow someone like

me to take one deer by firearm, archery, or muzzleloader. Similar permits are available in other states already.
I personally don't think that crossbows should be utilized during bow season. Crossbows are a lot more effective. The harvest would be greater. I think that the current rules for crossbows are fair should stay. I do believe that moving the firearms season back one or two weeks is a great idea. Not just because it gives the bucks more time to breed but they wouldn't be as vulnerable during this time. I personally think that stopping the late season firearms doe hunts would do more good than anything. Most doe have been bred by this time. So when you kill a late season doe chances are she has a least one and most of the time two or three fetuses already developing inside her. I quit shooting late season does with my bow years ago when. It was December 31. Back then it was the last day of bow season. I shot a doe. Getting close to dark knowing it was my last chance of the year I shot her. When I was dressing her out she had three almost fully developed fetuses in her. Also during late season firearms doe season a lot of big bucks that have shed are killed by inexperienced hunters thinking they are doe or don't care. As far as changing the limit. I believe that at the least residents should be able to take one buck during archery season and one buck during firearms season. In some states you can take only one buck a year. But these states sell a limited number of non-resident tags. Missouri sells unlimited non-resident tags. Is the MDC going to limit the non-resident tags sold. My main concern is for the deer. But you have hunters that bow hunt and gun hunt. Then you have hunters that strictly gun hunt and hunters that strictly bow hunt. I do both. I sometimes bow hunt during firearms season with my firearms tag. I personally believe that if you limit it to one buck a year the loss of revenue would outweigh the benefits. Also in essence you force some hunters to choose whether to gun hunt or bow hunt. If you limit it to one buck for firearms season and one buck for bow season the deer population would have a chance to rebound without a loss of revenue and all hunters share the burden. Most non-resident hunters either come to bow hunt or to gun hunt. I do guiding and outfitting and very rarely do they do both. So in essence, it wouldn't affect them that much. If a resident hunter is strictly a gun hunter he shoots one buck and he was done anyway so nothing would really change. So in essence, the bow hunter is the one taking the brunt of this. But if you are allowed one buck for each season, the hunter that is strictly a bow hunter can take his one deer during archery season and if he elects to buy a firearms tag and take his second buck with his bow during gun season and of course if he is both a gun hunter and bow hunter he can take one with gun or bow.
This is just my opinion, but wouldn't it make sense to only shoot one buck with bow and one buck with rifle. Limit would be 2. Or you could make it that you have to shoot a doe first before you can take a buck.
The proposal to reduce our antlered buck limits is absolutely absurd. In Mr. Sumner's own data, .06% actually took three antlered in MO last year, .06%!!!!!! This really has an impact on our deer herd doesn't it??? (insert sarcasm) 1.13% took 2 antlered deer.... so, combine the two and not even to 2% of our deer hunters who took over half of what they are allowed.... why decrease our chances of success when success is already so low??

Why does everybody who becomes the "deer biologist" for this department have to "leave his legacy behind" by coming up with some cockamamie BS to write on his resume and say "look what I did"?? OUR Dept. is SUPOSSED to make decisions based off of SCIENCE!! Is that not in your mission statement?? NEXT, the reasoning to move deer season back a week is just as absurd..... NUMEROUS studies have shown that the age structure of bucks that breed have ZERO EFFECT on reproduction rates, PERIOD..... So to move the season back a week will just mean that you are making it harder for folks to kill a legal buck... Hell, you already limit the size of our deer we can take.... what's next, NO ANTLERED TAGS?!?! I've said it before and I'll say it again, it is NOT MDC's JOB TO MANAGE FOR TROPHY BUCKS!! WHERE IS THE SCIENTIFIC DATA SHOWING CURRENT POPULATION ESTIMATES AND POPULATION GOALS?? Are you really surprised that northern landowners who lease their land want more restrictions?? come on, you all are educated people.... people that make money on big bucks, of course they want MORE BIG BUCKS.... big money farmers, who gain thousands every year by leasing hunting rights... they are their own enemy for reduced numbers.... if they allow overhunting to make an extra buck, they have no right to have any input on my public land opportunities.....
I think during youth season they should be required to harvest an antler less deer as the first deer of the season. This would take the emphasis off of strictly trophy hunting. There are a lot of mature bucks harvested before they have a chance to reproduce.
Crossbows should be allowed. How many hunters get 2 bucks in archery season? Its' got to be an insignificant number in the grand scheme of things. Keep the 2 allowed regulation. Delaying gun season until after the rut is a good idea. I am not in favor of antler restrictions. What most of the public wants, is to see deer when they are hunting and harvesting some venison to eat. Don't buy into the premise that all the hunting programs on tv nowadays have that you can only shoot "trophy" deer. These guys are hunting on prime properties where the deer are grown as a crop. What's different about mowing down a corn field and leaving it on the ground or throwing out corn from a bag?
I have been reading a bit about the ideas being thrown around regarding deer regs. I would like to add my thoughts in the pot. As a landowner, that both archery and rifle hunts, I have put quite a bit of thought into this. With regards to the specific ideas, my preference would be as follows: At this time, the antler less season should be eliminated immediately. I would support a one buck limit for archery, but do not support a one buck limit per season. From a purely selfish perspective, I like the opportunity to harvest a buck for each season. However, in addition to that, I would hate to see the Department lose the revenue and participation, during rifle season, from all archery hunters that have killed a buck, from purchasing a rifle tag and enjoying the magical rifle season. Personally, if I was fortunate

enough to kill a buck during archery season, I would simply not participate in rifle season. I would hate to do that under any circumstances, so would therefore probably quit archery hunting because even though I might be passing an opportunity at a large buck, I would not want to shoot any buck and forgo the tradition of rifle deer camp. I really think that the impact on the herd would not be worth the lost revenue and the lost participation between hunters that enjoy both. With regards to crossbows, I would not support making them a part of archery season. I feel even more strongly about that if they do, in fact, move the season. I believe that those two together would have the opposite effect of what the department wants. If you move the season, and then allow crossbows, you will have a whole army of hunters using crossbows during the rut AND hitting the woods the following week for rifle. I think under that scenario, MORE bucks would be killed than before. In my opinion, if the Department wants the breeding to occur, they should stop archery season at the same time as they do now and push back the rifle season. Therefore, the deer would have a week of no hunting pressure. With regards to the antler restrictions, I do not have a problem with it, but I don't know enough about it to really feel strongly one way or another.
I manage 1200 acres of property in north Laclede County. Our deer numbers have been holding steady for the last 10 years, despite hunting all seasons, bow, gun, and youth. I see no need in limiting the number of antlerless tags. We have harvested as many as 20 deer both antlerless and bucks and have seen no change in numbers, that doesn't include poached deer or hunters without permission of which there are every year. If the antlerless tags are limited I'm sure it would be bad for our property even though we supplement natural forage with corn in the winter and early spring.
I believe that the firearms season should be moved back at least one week if not more, preferably into The first week of December like Iowa's. I hunt mainly in Schuyler County and there is no difference in the habitat form northern Missouri to southern Iowa yet Iowa grows a lot larger bucks the only difference is their firearms season is not during the peak of the rut. I also think the the antlerless season should be moved to the last week of September, we are not helping the population by shooting does that have more than likely already been bred by having a doe season after the rut. I also think that not everyone should be able to use a crossbow, only those that have a medical condition. I'm also alright with a one buck limit per year, no matter what method it is. Hopefully we can get these changes made and unlock the true potential for Missouri deer herd.
Good Morning. Are there any left-over Tags for the Kansas City Area Managed Deer Hunts (Archery/Compound Bow)?? W. B.
First off, let me say that I am almost exclusively a bowhunter. I purchase a rifle tag every year but primarily with the goal of filling a buck tag with my bow. I think my last rifle deer was in 2006 but I'd have to look that up to verify. You could eliminate all firearms and I'd be perfectly happy. BUT since that isn't realistic or fair....I'll offer the following opinions.

I am in favor of moving the rifle season back one week.....even if it corresponds with Thanksgiving....maybe set it the Saturday closest to November 15. I am NOT in favor of reducing the total number of buck tags per hunter to ONE. I believe that moving the rifle season back will reduce the number of bucks killed making it unnecessary to reduce the number of buck tags available to each hunter. With that in mind, I AM in favor of reducing the number of bucks per hunter to TWO which would reduce buck harvest to a degree but would still allow hunters who hunt with archery tackle and firearms a chance at a buck with each. I am in favor of continuing the antler point restriction....I feel like it's a valuable tool for increasing the age structure of bucks. I am in favor of the reduced antlerless harvest but feel like MDC needs to be flexible on that and adjust quickly as deer numbers increase or decrease over the years. I feel like measures taken this year to improve deer numbers came a year or two too late in certain areas. MDC needs to be more proactive in estimating deer numbers and adjusting the limits appropriately. I don't like the late alternative weapons season timed the week of Christmas....I think having it there excludes a lot of hunters. I'd prefer to see it run concurrent to the firearms season.....it could easily replace the current antlerless season which falls the week after regular rifle. So for instance you'd have ten days of the regular rifle season followed immediately by say a seven or ten day alternative weapons season which would give hunters plenty of time to fill a firearms buck tag and a limited number of antlerless tags. This would have all of the firearm seasons completed by December 10 with the exception of a possible late youth season. Regarding youth seasons....I wouldn't change anything there.....except maybe add a REAL check in station for the youth to show off their deer and to check them in personally as their OWN kill to help prevent adults from hunting the youth season and claiming a youth killed the deer. Regarding non-resident hunters.....how much revenue is generated every year by non-resident tag purchases? Would it be feasible to limit the number of non-resident tags and INCREASE the cost of resident tags to offset any monetary loss incurred?
In regards to the possible lowering of the buck limit for archers, isn't the percentage of people who kill even 2 bucks extremely low? If so, how would that rule affect deer populations? I say let archers continue to at least try for another buck in order to have more fun hunts. I'm also against crossbows for the generally healthy hunter. I'm also against baiting. How easy do we have to make it? People aren't entitled to a deer kill. Sometimes you don't get one and it adds to the fun of being successful on a later hunt. I'm in favor of moving back the gun season as far as you would do it. I'm in favor of doing away with antler less only seasons. Muzzleloaders now are being advertised in the most recent deer and deer hunting magazine as accurate to 300 yards. Do they really need their own season? Why not just say use them during Nov. firearm season. Thanks for the platform to voice my opinions!
My family and I hunt every year and frequently host a father-son hunt for our out-of-state friends, some of whom trophy-hunt out West. We and our guests are always grateful for the

hunting experiences we get "down home" on our farm--plenty of nice HEALTHY deer to hunt, the challenge of the hunt, and good wholesome meat when the hunt is successful. We support MDC's efforts to protect our whitetails!
Would rather the firearms deer season not be moved to Thanksgiving week, would be competing with fellow workers (that don't hunt) for the week off.
I believe there needs to be a step a person needs to take to get a crossbow permit. I don't think it needs to be open season on the crossbow front. In Kansas, you have to fill out an application. Why not charge $20 for a non-medical application and put that towards a program. If you don't monitor it, the crossbow deal could get out of hand. Just don't want to see it abused.
I personally am not a fan of allowing crossbows to be utilized during the archery season. That would make it too easy to tag a deer with the technology of today's crossbows. On many occasions I have seen a lot deer just beyond bow distances. That’s what makes archery season so intense. You can't always shoot at a deer. Next: Buck Management: my opinion is the youth season should be moved up to mid-October, This would also allow mature bucks to make it to the breeding period. Moving the start of gun season would definitely have a decline in bucks being taken. Also I am not a fan about reducing the buck limitations. I like the idea of being able to take a management buck out of the herd as long as he has four points on one side and still have a tag to trophy hunt with. By reducing the buck tags limit, I would be really selective on which buck to take. Therefore, bucks with bad genetics would be allowed to breed and pass on their genes to the next year’s population.
I thought by now we'd have heard what regulations are being considered. I read an article on midwest whitetail that now says regulations wouldn't take affect til 2016, I guess I don't understand what the timeline is going to be for finally wrapping this up? I think a lot of people are anxiously waiting. If a one buck limit for all methods is implemented some of us will need to start making plans to hunt out of state. I own land in 2 Missouri counties and also a lifelong Missouri resident, I don't want to hunt out of state but that regulation may force me to so I can continue to hunt. So without a doubt I'm against a one buck rule, if one the archery bucks was taken away I could live with that and I think most people would.
I wish the department would legalize the use of crossbows during archery season . I believe it would help in participation of older archers and boost the sales of archery permits from archers that quit hunting because of the physical ability of pulling a long bow gets harder but they don't have a disability to qualify for a special permit
It is hard to kill any deer with archery equipment and it is nice to be allowed the opportunity to harvest a buck with a bow in the early season I do not think that it is needed to restrict buck harvest, but I would like to see the antler restriction expanded stated wide. I also would like to see crossbow's legal in the archery season. I do not think the antlerless season is as helpful as it used to be so it could be eliminated. Thanks for giving me this opportunity to express my thoughts
If you want to continue to give Hunters opportunities to hunt why would you limit the total numbers of Bucks taken? Every person I talked to would hunt less if they had 1 buck tag per

year. I bow hunt hard and also take off an entire week to rifle hunt with family. I would not spend near as much time in the woods or near as much money on hunting equipment if I could only kill 1 buck a year. I'll go sit in a tree for a week pull the trigger once and be done. Wow now my hunting is over. Great work great Idea for getting people to stay in the woods. If you wanted to cut down to 1 buck for Archery and 1 Buck for Rifle that would be fine, but 1 for all seasons is just Ridiculous and you should feel bad for even thinking of taking those opportunities away from us Hunters.
PUSH THE SEASON BACK 1 WEEK, 1 BUCK FOR ARCHERY 1 BUCK FOR FIREARMS
First off, I would hope and will be happy that the MDC would finally correct its' mistake by not allowing crossbows long ago like Ohio and other states. Crossbows are archery and those wishing to use them need to be given the respect and diversity to hunt with them as archery products. As an archery hunter since the 1970's, I will be delighted to finally see that those of us whom have owned crossbows finally be included in archery season as we should have been long ago. I'm also happy that an overwhelming majority statewide also feel they should be legalized and included in archery season. Only the bow hunters that are afraid they may have to share the Fall woods with other hunters are against this so, it needs to happen! As for the 1 Buck rule, I am NOT against it but, feel and 1 Buck with archery, 1 Buck with gun would be a better way to go. IF the move is made to 1 Buck, I think dropping APR's would be reasonable also. Very few people kill more than 1 Buck annually anyway so why not allow 1 Buck with each method? I DO NOT feel it is the job of the MDC to manage the states deer herd for "Trophy Bucks" or "Mature Bucks". Most hunters just want to kill a deer for meat or for other reasons. A "trophy" is different for each person and most people simply want the MDC to manage for a deer herd large enough to see numerous deer throughout the state. As for moving the season, again, I'm not against it. I hunted in the 70's when it was over Thanksgiving. I do believe there will be problems. I honestly never thought I would see this proposed again! While it would seem that moving the season 1 week later would allow for more hunting time, it will also cause many families problems as far as the holiday and with "Black Friday" shopping. I believe the MDC will receive plenty of backlash over this. Also, I believe it will change hunting in much of Missouri and many people my age and older agree. I believe we will see a LARGE increase in deer drives just to get the deer moving just like we did in the 70's. Finally, I will mention this, I hope the majority of the decision makers at the MDC agree with the agents and others I've spoken with over the years and that a rifle season completely in December is NEVER considered. A December season would simply not work for most of the state South of the Missouri river. I've lived here and hunted all over the state and I know, as I'm sure most of the MDC knows, deer in the Southern portion of Missouri move into winter feeding patterns near agricultural areas by early December. Agricultural fields become more and more sparse the further South you go in Missouri thus, the landowners with or near ag. fields would have large numbers of deer while areas away from ag. fields would have very few

deer. It simply would not work. Thank you for your consideration.
I think the 4 point restriction should be statewide, move rifle season back a week to give the mature bucks time to breed, also instead of two youth hunts, have the normal youth hunt like you usually do and then that second weekend your using for youth hunt again change it to a management rifle hunt where smaller bucks can be shot that some people want to cull out of there deer herd
I don't like the idea of moving the season back over a holiday. Move it further back and it doesn't take time away to travel to hunt or to be with family. The one buck option I am also not in favor of.
Dear MDC, I think it is a horrible idea to include crossbows for able bodied hunters in the archer season. Anyone who would like to archery hunt has the ability to do so now, and if they choose not to participate why should a weapon that has NEVER been considered archery be allowed for everyone in archery season??????? Harder method seasons are meant to be just that, HARDER, why the need to make it easy for everyone????? Isn't that what the firearms season is for? Why not allow crossbow as an option for hunters when they turn 55, or 60??? The firearms season placement is long overdue for adjustment! A December placement would benefit the age structure far more than a week, but a ANY movement from the peak breeding is a welcome starting point! Please explain to me how a one buck limit affects the 500,000+ firearms hunters? Then explain to me how it does not negatively affect the 120,000 archery hunters? I would concede that a 2 buck limit with only one max during firearms would be a nice concession! For clarification, archery hunters would still be allowed two bucks with archery, but 2 maximum for the year (all methods combined). Youth season, how is it we want to let crossbow hunters into archery, but limit youths to one deer during a two day 1st youth season???? The one deer youth limit is absolutely mind boggling when you (MDC) appear willing and readily trying to wipe the population of deer to an alltime low. Lastly, if you insist on crossbow, and one buck limit, then PLEASE, PLEASE at very minimum have a December placed firearms season! Thank you for your time! Sincerely, B.
I think that limiting 1 buck for Archery season is fine, that way someone just don't focus on hunting bucks. I just think it may help a little more with doe harvest. Also it could help with managing for more mature bucks. Another rule that I have seen work really well is the 4 point restriction rule. I hunt a lot in Pulaski County and I have seen the mature buck population rise. I was hoping sooner than later that we could have that here in Dent County. Thanks, Jim
I am for moving the gun season back at least one week, to coincide with thanksgiving, or

toward the December 1st timeframe. I am for crossbows during the archery season, I think this would increase interest and keep people participating for longer periods during their hunting careers. I would also support the 1 buck bow and 1 buck gun proposal, eliminating the 2 bucks during the archery season (1 before and 1 after gun). I would also go as far as supporting a one buck only per hunter if this would prove to increase age structure. I grew up in Missouri, lived in Iowa for 8 years and have now been back in Missouri for 10 years. I lived 20 miles north of here in Iowa and the age structure and quality of mature bucks is dramatic in Iowa. The only difference between where I live and Iowa's reality is our gun season being during the rut and of course Missouri allowing rifles. (Overall cover is probably better here, soil and crops are equal) I understand the banning of rifles during rifle season is not going to happen. However the limiting of one buck per archer and the moving of the gun season back toward the latter portion of November to get it out the critical breeding time period would be a huge step in the right direction. Great work MDC and keep up the dialogue I look forward seeing the possible positive changes to increase age structure and quality deer hunting in Missouri.
I support the use of crossbows as it will bring a larger group into bowhunting - and we need to focus on growing our sport to more people as we are a minority and need all the voices and support we can get. PLEASE DO NOT MOVE GUN SEASON....I want to keep thanksgiving as a time I can spend with my (non-hunting) extended family. Finally...I am OK with reducing bow buck tags to one....but not statewide one buck per year regardless of method. Missouri has done a great service to those seeking high scoring racks by implementing APRs but please don't continue to feed this need by further reducing buck tags to one statewide. Has any true conservationist taught us to focus on management strategies that are specifically focused on growing B&C bucks? By implementing a one buck a year limit we will shed hunters that traditionally harvest two bucks per year and those that think they will.....you can count me into that group. I'll bowhunt in Missouri and gun hunt in an adjacent state and spend my money there.
Q1. What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? I would like to see crossbow's added to the authorized for all hunters during archery season. Q2. Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week? I think it might benefit the deer population to move the November firearms portion back a couple of weeks. Growing up back east it always opened the 1st week of December. Q3. Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season? Whatever is best for the deer herd in MO I would support. Q4. Do you think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual

limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? One buck for Archery is fine but I think limiting one annually may lose some hunters. I have several friends that hunt all season because they can get the multiple Bucks and this is also why many of them are willing to support programs like Share the harvest. This might impact programs negatively. Q5. What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler-point restriction in the county you hunt? It works OK but how do we cull the older Bucks who's time is up? I understand the want for a healthy robust herd but we need to think of a way to allow for the culling of older deer. Maybe take antler restrictions off for Muzzle Loader.
I believe the management of deer in Missouri is on track but I believe slightly off. I think that being able to harvest three bucks a year, including archery and rifle, is too many. I think it should be limited to two. I also think that our rifle season needs to be pushed back into the month of December. We have our rifle season right in the heart of the rut which is good to allow people to shoot bucks but we need to harvest more does than buck so pushing it back into the December month will allow people to harvest more does when they are back onto the feeding pattern. I also would like to see archery pushed up to September 1st. I do not believe that the 15 days will make a difference other than the fact that it will allow people to harvest velvet deer. I think that this will raise the number of out of state hunters that come into Missouri. I think that we should put out of state numbers in a draw system. I think that Missouri has a big enough hunting population to control the herd and I think that they should do a one year or one preference point draw system to manage the number of out of state hunters.
•What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? My point of view is as a new amateur hunter...I'm not disabled but the skill involved with archery hunting is higher, and so any advantage I could get that would help ensure I make clean, ethical kills would be ideal, so I would have much preferred to start on crossbow, then move to compound bow. I understand the concern that this might flood the archery season with gun hunters, so creative ways to mitigate it...say, having the existing archery season, but then a slightly smaller archery with crossbow season (say, October 15th up to Nov 15th). That would give new aspiring bowhunters a way to try bowhunting while using the "training wheels" of a crossbow, without waiting til the one week at the end of December (where your gun hunter would probably choose a muzzleloader over a crossbow anyway). Anyway, I shoot a compound now, so its less a personal concern for me, but my preference would be some sort of middle option, where crossbows could be used by hunters beyond just the short/late alternative methods section, but not quite through the full regular archery season. •What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler-point restriction in the county you hunt?

Again, as a new hunter, this is a tricky thing...I'm hunting primarily for meat, so it will be painful to have to pass up a deer because of that. It's probably a good thing for trophy hunters, but as I say, that's less important to me. I will be hunting in Morgan County, which does have the restriction. It's an understandable concern...wait to harvest bucks until they have something impressive to mount...and it puts more pressure on does, but for the novice first timer, the prospect of getting out there and maybe having only one good chance to harvest a deer, and it happened to be a young buck, would be disheartening.
I am a hunter from Osage County in Central Missouri. I would like to bring up the issue of hunters hunting over bait in our County. It seems to get worse and worse every year. I do feel if this hunting over bait issue is taken care of it will help our deer herd out considerable. In my opinion people have gotten lazy with planting food plots and trying to manage deer the right way. They find it easier to just dump bait out. I have been hunting deer in this County for 20 years and this problem has escalated in the last 5 to 6 years were I would hate to guess the percentage of hunters hunting over bait due to the percentage being so high. I believe it's gotten so bad in our County some people who do it don't even realize it's illegal. I also cannot figure out why stores like Walmart, Bass Pro Shop and etc are allowed to sell bait products during hunting season. I guess money talks. Writing out a decent amount of tickets to people for baiting around here would go a long ways because word of mouth travels quickly. If people know tickets are being written for baiting they may consider not doing it.
I think you’re on the right track by limiting the antlerless permits, in the future I would like to see limiting Archery Hunters to only one Buck per season, just like us firearm Hunters, why should Archers be able to shoot two Bucks?
Allowing crossbow into regular season would be ok with me. I think all the hardcore hunters are taking vacation to hunt the season anyway are we trying to get more hunters or just let some more of the does get breed earlier. I think the season is ok as it is but would also give us bowhunters more opportunity when the rut in full swing. On the antler point restriction, maybe let the youth kill anything if they get the chance instead of having the point restriction in regular firearm season. On the one buck only thing, I like the chance to kill a buck with my bow and my firearm and in my area have ample chances if I so choose so on that note, I feel like my area was not hit by the disease as are deer are above average I would say.
pushing back rifle season on deer is okay with me but I do not think that crossbows should be allowed to be used during archery season
I would like to see the four point rule in Laclede county. I don't have a lot of land to hunt but never see larger deer. Always young bucks. If people want meat. Shoot a doe. Leave the little bucks alone to grow. (exception youth season) I also would like to have the option to use a crossbow during archery season without having a disability. Thanks
I think it would be a good idea to move rifle season back out of the rut like Kansas does. If Missouri wants bigger bucks then that would seem to make more since. Drop the point restriction! And I don't know who thought that opening day of bow season on Monday was a good idea but it's VERY IRRITATING because now I have to take a day off from work!

Should’ve made it on a SATURDAY! Come on guys, think!
Crossbows regulations should remain the same. Limits on archery should also remain the same. Moving the firearms season (depending on what you mean by forward) will interfere with Thanksgiving in one direction or too early for the rut in the other direction.
What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? I feel that crossbows make it easier to kill deer and turkey, not due to the effective range of either bow type, but due to the motion it takes to draw a long or compound bow. Both deer and turkey are notorious for picking up motion. That being said, I would applaud the use of crossbows during bow season because it gives people more of a choice. And our goal is to keep hunter numbers at a steady incline, right? Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week? I feel moving the firearms season back to a week later would make hunting tougher on the hunters and thus less enjoyable. I hunt archery and gun methods, so it doesn't really matter to me. But not everyone is like me and if people started seeing less deer in the woods, then they are going to quit hunting. Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season? As the deer herd has decreased, we should minimize the taking of antlerless deer except in focus areas where the deer population is too high. Do you think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? I enjoy a 2 buck limit for archery. Because there is a 2 buck limit I get to keep hunting even after I take a buck, though I have never actually killed to 2 bucks in the same year with a bow. I dislike the idea of only getting 1 buck regardless of season. What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler-point restriction in the county you hunt? I like the antler point restriction system where during youth season, they can choose to take a smaller buck or not.
I have hunted the Peck Ranch black powder hunts for many years. Very tough to get drawn now. Thanks for our group being drawn this year. One thing though, the Black Powder hunt used to be the last weekend in Oct. but now it is in Dec. This hunt being so late makes it tough for the primitive camping. Overall I think MDC is the best in the nation.
I am ok with crossbows even though I don't shoot one. Moving season back a week would help me personally on time off. I think if we need to change buck harvest, change archery to one but not one total between archery and firearm season. I am totally ok with 4pt. rule state wide except for youth season. Thank you.
I like the thought of crossbows only being used by individuals that have a medical excuse. Today’s bows are fast and accurate enough that a common healthy person does not need any

more help. The point restriction is strict, however I feel it is a great idea. My taxidermist even told me that he is seeing larger deer since it came into effect. However, I don't NEED hunting in order to put food on the table unlike too many people. Overall the restriction is just fine by me. The gun season for Any Deer seems to be a good time of the year from what I've witnessed. Never heard any complaints from other hunters either. I wouldn't like to see 1 buck per archery season or 1 buck at all per season in that matter. But I am all about deer management and I am willing to sacrifice for the better good of the deer population. I am pleased with the length of the antlerless firearm portion. Again, I am ok with a sacrifice. I think the bow hunter observation survey is an amazing idea to help with the overall count of whitetail deer or any animal. Even though I do not have a problem with internet or searching for it, I do know people whom don't have the internet and would like to participate. If the places that sell licenses had stacks of these surveys available to people to just pick one up, that would help dramatically, in my opinion. That would prevent people to having to first pull it up on your website and then to email to request it. I think a lot more people will participate. I am very proud of our conservation department and feel you guys have an amazing program, whatever you are doing, keep it up and thank you!
My father went on the first deer hunt in modern times in Mo. I was there when he and my uncles harvested the first deer N. of the Mo river with bows! Since then there have been many changes in the regs., and not many of them worth a dam! The antler restriction only guarantees that our poorest racked bucks will do the breeding. Your prejudice against muzzle loading firearms (ie the late season after even the doe hunt) and then allowing handguns at the same time(Thompson Center makes a 243, 33-30,45/70, hand gun which are now legal) have shown me that you all need to be replaced , the 1/8 cent sales tax repealed and we should start all over with a system that has some accountability!
Crossbow would be good yes move gun season back one week and make four point rule for the whole state
My main worries are all the bike trails that are placed inside the conservation area. We have seen hikers and bikers during the managed rifle hunt not wearing blaze orange. I know it's a violation for a hunter, so I think it should be one for them too. Does the MDC post such regulations on conservation grounds to be enforced? For their safety as well as ours.
I don't think limiting only 1 buck either bow or gun is fair. If I shoot one with a bow, then I can't buck hunt with gun. Maybe 1 buck with bow and 1 buck with gun. I would hate to have to miss gun season just because I already took a buck with my bow. That's what makes gun hunting fun. You can shoot farther and maybe get that buck of a life time. Please, consider this matter...
I think the antler point restriction has some definite benefits for the trophy hunter. In the short time it has been in place, I believe I have seen an increase in the number of decent sized bucks in the public lands that surround Truman Lake. On the other hand, I wonder if the decrease in

the overall numbers of deer I've seen in the past few years isn't at least in some part due to this regulation? With the number of accidental shootings that have taken place over the years by a hunter that was overtaken by an adrenaline rush, sometimes even mistaking another human being for a deer, I have to wonder how many illegal bucks have been shot by accident? How many have been left in the field to waste by a hunter not willing to face the penalty for their mistake? And how many times was this mistake repeated before the hunter killed a deer that could be legally tagged? Having read many articles over the years and heard stories of hunters making unbelievably bad decisions in their excitement to shoot a deer, I believe the number of times this type of thing happens might be staggering, thus reducing our deer population at a higher than expected rate. While I like the thought of having an increased chance of taking a trophy buck, I also wonder if we aren't cheating the people who hunt because they need the food. I really like the theoretical idea of this regulation, but I think with all things considered, the reality of it makes me believe it is not in the best interest of many Missourians.
I personally think that bow hunting should be left to long bow or compound bow only, and it is too easy to have a crossbow at the ready to shoot dear illegally out of the window of your vehicle. I do not like the idea of moving rifle season back 1 week. I would prefer other changes to perhaps archery season and the number of tags one can fill. I do not know if the department thinks in this respect but too many people shoot deer illegally during bow season with a 22 or small centerfire rifle and just call it in on an archery tag. Reducing these tags would cut back on the number of deer killed illegally, thus leaving the traditional rifle season alone. There is nothing better than seeing these bucks chasing does at this time of year and by moving it back I believe many of us will not see this kind of activity. As far as the antlerless portion, if it means keeping rifle season the way it has been I say eliminate it or reduce the availability of it. I would like to see that we could continue to have the opportunity kill a buck with a bow and a rifle if possible. I have no problem with the antler point restriction in Phelps or Pulaski county, where I hunt.
1. I would like to see Missouri adopt the shotgun and black power only method of deer hunting during our regular rifle season to strengthen the numbers of our mature bucks. 2. It would be great if bow hunters have the option to use cross bows during the regular Missouri bow hunting season. Not only does this give the hunter more choices but I think it would greatly eliminate wounded deer by misplaced tradition archery shots. 3. I would like to see better check and balances on managed hunt tags. for example, hunting and animal activist that purposely apply for managed hunts to greatly reduce the chances of Missouri's outdoorsmen from getting a managed hunt tag and also those outdoorsmen who can't make their managed hunt. I would like to see some kind of "back up" plan in place that would allow the next hunter in line to get awarded the managed hunt. 4. I know why we don't hunt past 1pm in Missouri's spring turkey hunting season but is it really that necessary? I would like to see the short season allow hunters to hunt the entire day -

perhaps giving it a trial to allow hunters to hunt the last 5 days all day? 5. I like the checks and balances that Missouri has in place for antler restrictions to help our mature bucks mature which is good for healthy breeding. Thank you
Deer hunting is a billion dollar industry, and Missouri should look at her sister states Kansas, Iowa, and Illinois. We are right in the middle of all these states and have the potential for the same quality of hunting and other outdoor activities as they do, however we are lacking in some areas. We should take some of the ideas from each of those model states and implement them in our state. Our seasons are so mixed up it is ridiculous. What kid wants to sit in freezing temperatures in January? Does it make sense for alternative weapons season to be in December when the weather is bad? Why do we make it so easy for the firearms hunters when that is the easiest method to harvest animals? Why not make it a challenge for the firearms hunter and enjoyable for the kids, and alternative methods hunters? Also why do we make it so easy and cheap for nonresidents to come to our state to take our game but if we want to go to theirs it costs an arm and leg to go? If they want to come and enjoy our state then it should be equal to what we pay to enjoy theirs! I think youth hunters should get the last weekend in October and the first two weekends in November so they have more time to spend and a better chance for more favorable weather. Alternative methods season should be moved to the first ten days of November so they can maybe have a better chance for better weather. They can hunt safely with the youth hunters as well during the weekends. Firearms season should be moved to the last ten days of November so that it is more of a challenge for the long range weapons, and when families get together for Thanksgiving they can go enjoy hunting together if they like. The antlerless portion should follow the firearms for the next five days. This way works out nicely for all the hunters. With the exception of archery all the seasons would be finalized before bad weather begins to arrive. This would also make the main portion of the rut more favorable for the deer herd because they could pass along good genes before being harvested. The idea of planting food plots in or around CRP also comes to mind so that deer would have a more favorable food source other than the farmer's field. This may cut down on his yield being eaten up, as well as keeping the deer from jumping out in the road for someone to crash a $30,000 car into. We can't cure all the problems but we can try new ideas and study them for a while. The ones we have in place now just are not working! We need quality deer management not just management! That goes for all the game in our great state!
I live in Nebraska but own hunting land in Nodaway County MO. I am concerned about dropping deer populations, increasing coyote sightings, and too liberal hunting seasons, particularly for does.
I live in Omaha but own rural property with a cabin in Nodaway county. I am an avid deer watcher and hunter. I would like to see a one buck only rule, allowance of crossbows as an acceptable archery weapon, and a one doe limit. Personally, I don't shoot does on my property (or anywhere in Missouri) and like the 4-points on a side rule for bucks. Although I have frequently paid the out-of-state license fee without firing a shot, I am willing to do that with the

expectation the deer herd will improve. That is not happening. With 2 years of EHD and increasing coyote numbers our weekly drive to our cabin has seen a dramatic reduction in deer sightings. In 2010 my wife and I typically saw 10-14 deer during our evening drive from Hamburg IA to Elmo, MO...about 40 miles (I am ignoring the Omaha to Hamburg part). This year most drives end without a single deer sighting. We are concerned. M.S.
Comment about Landowner permits/fees. My residence is Omaha, but my wife and I own 12 acres and a cabin in Nodaway County, MO. We spend close to 120 days per year at our cabin. My suggestion is to allow a reduced permit fee for out-of-state land owners. I think $100 for one either sex tag (archery or firearm) would be reasonable. Rationale: We pay Missouri taxes and take care of our property to maximize habitat for deer, turkey, and other wildlife. As a side comment, I do not hunt turkey in Missouri (except with camera)--the out-of-state tag prices are way too high. A $25 out-of-state tag for Missouri land owners would get me to buy a tag and hunt. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. M. S.
I'm very excited about the proposed rifle hunting being moved back. Moving it back two weeks would be fine with me. We would finally be able to hunt the same age class bucks as Iowa does.
I live in Michigan and purchased land in Missouri 5 years ago to hung Whitetails. I thoroughly enjoy hunting your state as it provides me the opportunity to hunt a much older age class of Whitetail, and older equates to larger antlers. 1. As for the crossbow hunting I am not against it. I believe if that is the weapon of choice by the hunter during that season it should be allowed. 2. I firmly agree with the idea of pushing the firearms season back at least one week. If a concern is to have the firearm seasons during Thanksgiving, I would say make it the weekend always following Thanksgiving or I would even go further by just making the opener Dec 1. 3. I understand and am for the reduction of antlerless deer, however shortening it or regulating the harvest amounts by permits statewide or by areas would help. 4. I like the idea of reducing the buck harvest limit. Now a hunter can harvest three bucks. I would be in favor of reducing it by one and allowing a two buck harvest. Either one with bow and one with gun. Or if a hunter wishes to purchase two bow tags they could only kill one in the early season and one in the late season but could not purchase a firearms license. Reducing it by one buck and implementing these options above would work very well if it coincided with the moving of rifle season back a week or more. 5. I believe the antler restrictions are a great tool to save young bucks from being taken. They antler restrictions should definitely remain. With these restrictions it eliminates the hunters from just shooting at any buck running across a field without knowing how many points it has. Therefore saving many bucks lives or wounding them. Overall I believe Missouri Conservation does a wonderful job with their wildlife. Hearing that you are open to change to improve the hunting is refreshing and shows you care about the wildlife as well as the hunters pursuing them. Thank you for allowing me to express my opinions in these matters.

It would be nice to have a longer rifle deer season. Most working hunters look forward to this all year and we only get to hunt 2 weekends. You might consider giving us another weekend, or just have 3 separate weekends. I would be willing to hunt with shotgun only and get more time to spend in the woods. It would be safer too. Also, it would be nice to move the rifle season up one week sooner so we could rifle hunt during the rut, not when they are in lock-down. I would recommend letting all deer hunters only kill 1 buck each year, now bow hunters can kill 3, 2 with a bow and 1 with a rifle. Bow hunters pay the least to hunt deer and they get the biggest benefit. Rifle hunters pay way more than bow hunters just based on numbers. MDC should team with auto insurance companies and give breaks to deer hunters. Example: If you shoot a deer, you should be eligible for a discount on your deductible if you have an accident with a deer involved. Deer hunters do provide an important service, and help to reduce auto/deer collisions/accidents each year. Lastly, recommend all out of state hunters should have to enter a draw to be able to deer or turkey hunt in MO. Even if you own land here. If you residence is in another state, you are a non-resident. The price of the tags and licenses should match what other states charge for MO hunters to hunt in their state. Thank you for asking.
I strongly favor a one buck per season per hunter regulation. Our hunt club follows this practice already. We also favor moving rifle season back one week. Also we think there should be a draw for non-resident tags. Keep the antler restriction in place. As far as crossbows. The law is fine as is.
Take care of this CWD problem before it gets out of hand.
Good morning, I just wanted to throw my 2 cents in on deer regulations in Missouri. My #1 issue is that Missouri always holds the firearms portion of the season during peak rut periods. Missouri has all the potential to become a big buck destination such as IA/KS/IL, but I think current seasons expose too many deer making mistakes during the rut, and doesn't allow a larger portion of bucks to fully mature. Long term, if the firearm season is moved away from the rut, MO would have bigger deer, more bucks and could charge higher premiums for out of state permits. I'd also like to see the 4 points on one side rule statewide. There are some negatives to this such as not being able to legally cull out a mature 6 point, but I think the positives outweigh the negatives overall. Thank you for your time.
I found much to admire about portions of the proposed regulations, such as the CWD testing requirements, the ban on new facilities within 25 miles of a confirmed case of CWD and the record keeping requirements (although, they do seem onerous in the required retention times). However, I would suggest that the transportation ban will result in even further decline in the population, as many breeders summer their herds in other places to take advantage of lower temperatures, more abundant feed and breeding opportunities not otherwise available. Would it not be better to only restrict importation from those states with confirmed cases of CWD to avoid undue hardships on the state's breeders?
after reading the topics that you had listed on the last page, there are a couple things that i

would like to comment on. First, I personally do not like the idea of moving the firearms season back a week. It seems like every year the deer have already locked down by the time that gun season gets here so moving it a week later will only make this worse. As far as the antler restriction goes, I have hunted in Clark County since 2004. in those years i have taken a few nice bucks from conservation areas but I have not noticed the major difference in the quality of deer that I am seeing there. I think that it is working to a point but not making a huge difference because there are deer with bad genetics that are still in the breeding pool because they will never have a rack large enough to have 4 points on one side. I feel that only having the restriction during firearms season would have a greater impact because it would allow archery hunters to remove the bucks with bad genetics, while still having a low impact on the population of younger deer. My final topic is the rules that have been instated in the conservation areas in Clark county. The areas that I hunt in the county are Charles Heath and Fox Valley Lake. The reason that I hunt on these areas are that they simply have more deer than the other areas. Both of these areas only allow hunters to use their any deer permits with both archery and firearms. There are other, much smaller areas, in the county that allow archery hunters to fill antlerless tags and would allow Firearms hunters to fill a set number of antlerless tags under the new antlerless rules in that area. I feel that opening the areas I listed above to allow at least archery antlerless would benefit the area more than allowing antlerless tags in the smaller areas that do not hold as many deer. As I said I have been hunting these areas for almost 10 years because there are more deer than in my home county and I have taken my share of deer from them. My issue is that a lot of hunters have to travel a long way and on limited budgets, to hunt in places where they have a good chance of taking a deer and would like to have the chance to take more than one deer on these trips. I just feel that it is wrong to limit all of the hunters who do not have the money to get farms to lease and have to rely on public ground to only use any deer tags in the areas that have always held a large population of deer. Thank you very much for your time with these matters. C.G.
I support using the Crossbow for all hunters. I would like to see the rifle season moved back as the same time Kansas rifles season begins. There is a reason Kansas has older and bigger bucks and I believe this is one of the main reasons. I see too many young bucks shot in Missouri that have tremendous potential to became great bucks. I am mainly an archery hunter as well as my son and friends. We manage over 1,000 acres and only harvest older mature bucks but the problem are my neighbors who shoot any buck they see during rifle season.
I think we need to limit further the number of doe tags available to hunters. The population has drastically decreased in my area because of the disease and the number of does being killed. No person needs to kill three or four does a year. Second, we need the antler restriction in Lawrence County as well so people will stop shooting the small bucks during the firearm season. Third, it would be a bad idea to allow people to use a crossbow because it's basically like shooting a gun and there would be too many deer killed and again make the problem

worse. Thanks
What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season? I am mostly an archery hunter and I am for the use of crossbows for whoever decides to use one. This may actually increase bow hunter numbers, especially for younger hunters who cannot pull a 40 lb draw weight bow. Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week? This would be GREAT. More importantly I think the firearms portion of deer season should be greatly reduced. MO allows use of firearms for nearly 30 straight days counting youth and muzzle loader season. This is WAY too long and probably why the average age of bucks is so much lower than states like KS, IA, and IL who have much less firearms opportunities. Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season? No feelings. I would however like to see antlerless bonus tag for Bollinger Co. This is our firearms county and we see very many does but very few bucks- no one wants to waste their tag on a doe but would be happy to shoot one if they knew a "trophy" buck was still possible. Do you think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea? This is a GREAT idea. Look what this has done for the State of KY....and I have never heard of anyone there complain. What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler-point restriction in the county you hunt? This should be in every county, or by implementing a 1 buck limit, this would cause the hunter to decide if a buck is good enough to end their season or not- By default creating trophy management statewide. Again, look what this has done for KY.
Would like to know how I put in several years and can't seem to get picked for Fleming park. And I live in Jackson county. I don't think it’s right that other people from other county's get to hunt my county I apply for. I should have first choice over them. This point system isn't working on how many times you enter, you have a better chance.
I think we should allow the use of crossbows. I like the idea of only 1 buck per season. Continue the point restriction. I think we should move the season back by a week.
I would have a problem with archery season being extended to crossbows. There is a large, and unfair, skill gap with a crossbow, as you are cocked, locked and loaded from the time you leave the car until the time you get back in it. Half of the challenge would be gone as you don’t have to worry about moving, drawing your bow, and being able to hold the weight until the shot lines up. if you allow crossbows, you might as well open rifle season for 3 months. I hunt on private property, and as soon as rifle season opens, i spend the whole time running trespassers off of our land. If you open crossbow, i think the massively larger crowd of people that will participate will encroach even farther. i like archery season because the woods are still calm, without all of the out of staters that don’t obey the law, and all of the farmhands that only rifle hunt trespassing on all the places they jump deer up on the tractors. In my case it is the neighbors and their farm hands that won’t stay out. With the current rules, and cooperating

with the conservation agents, there still are not enough protections of people's property or rights. If crossbow increases these issues, I will stop hunting, even though it is something I love to share with my kids.
I think most of the proposed changes are good. But I think that if you cut the buck tags to just one you would lose a lot more hunters. Hunters that hunt for mature bucks are very selective of what they kill. I think hunters are killing too many of the button bucks. If you stop killing button bucks and have the four point rule you will see more mature bucks. A change to think about is to count any buck killed as a buck if a hunter kills a button buck they should count it as one of their bucks. Hunters would have to kill more mature does instead of killing all the yearling deer I think this would also help bring the population back up so you wouldn't have to cut the buck tags. That way you may not lose a lot of hunters.
I do not agree with the crossbow added to the archery season it needs to stay with the firearm season. I would like to see the firearm season moved back a week but two weeks would be better. This would improve the quality of bucks in Missouri like in Iowa and Kansas. I would like to see the elimination of the antlerless portion. If you think you have to have it cut the days back to one weekend in the middle of Dec. I think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season would be a good idea. One buck for firearms season and one buck for archery season is enough bucks to harvest for one person. I believe the antler-point restriction is one of the best things MDC has done for the MO deer herd in Ray county. I would like to see it continued and added to the entire state. I also believe that there should only be one youth season and should be the last weekend in Oct.
I am a meat hunter and not really interested in the size of the rack on a deer. So having so much of the state under the 4 point restriction and limited areas for doe permits and areas to hunt does is limiting to my potential to get a deer. I suppose that the hunters that want trophy racks in this state already hunt private land and have their "food" plots established to that end. The only thing that I have seen in relation to the "food" plot issue is that the deer leave the state land and go to where the food plots are. Thus leaving less deer in public areas to hunt. In my ten years of hunting in Missouri I have seen one 6 point buck in Pea Ridge and he saw me first, and I have seen one doe with 2 fawns for the last 5 years on federal land. Other than that I run across deer on the way to public land heading away from the public land to private land and that has only been about 20 deer total in the last 10 years and this has been around the Pea Ridge conservation area. Overall coming from Michigan I have to rate Missouri deer fair to poor overall. The only time that I have heard of draws in Michigan was for regulated hunts on public land around Detroit and the bigger metropolitan areas to help curb the car/deer accident rates and the Elk draw in northern lower Michigan. Here it's much the same but seems to be limited in the number and scope of the draws. I hunted in Michigan last year and didn't have a chance to scout or anything and saw 3 deer from my blind on a one day hunt on federal land, thus beating the number of deer I have even seen in Missouri for my 30 days of hunting per

season, per year. Very sad.
With regards to crossbow regulations, I think nothing should change. Moving firearms season back at least a week would be great. Hopefully there would be less rut crazed bucks running suicidal when every tom, dick and harry is in the woods with a rifle. I believe the antlerless portion of firearms season should be eliminated, at least temporarily, until deer numbers rebound. Deer numbers in north central Missouri appear to be half of what they were ten years ago. A one buck limit seems unnecessary. The point restriction is one of the best things that has happened to Missouri deer herds. It took a couple years for folks to notice but there's no denying how many more quality bucks are around because of it. It's too bad about the point restriction being lifted in the CWD "containment zone" but understandable considering the spread of such a horrible disease would be devastating.
Why hunt during Thanksgiving? Conservation Dept. is too worried about money. You have more money than any other Dept. When the conservation tax comes up for renewal I vote NO! Anything else for conservation I vote NO. You want to stop CWD? Stop the damned trophy deer farms!
I think as many does as I have seen dead on the road this summer from auto accidents, with your new regs on how many antler-less deer that can be taken in Camden co. this year is a mistake. By next year we will have so many does the deer auto accident numbers are going to sky rocket. You are in a panic because of the drought year. Numbers are up, at least in Camden co.
I wish to comment on the idea of moving the Nov firearms season back a week. Surely, you are receiving thousands of emails calling for the move. However, I wish to remind the MDC that these people only have those opinions because they are bow hunters and want to selfishly have the best couple weeks for themselves and themselves only, not because of deer management. Furthermore, most rifle hunters don't even know this is on the table and you will never hear from 99% of them. If you push back the firearms season, you are affecting hundreds of thousands of people. If implemented, hunters will see fewer deer. Within a couple years many hunters will give up and not buy any tag at all because lack of deer movement.
Use of Crossbows during archery season is a good idea. Allowing only 1 buck is a bad idea. 2 for bow 1 for gun the way it is now works. Moving the gun season back a week will help bow hunters. I am a bow and gun hunter, doesn't matter to me. Antlerless season as needed, not open where I hunt Wright and Douglas Co. Antler point restriction, thank goodness doesn't apply in the Ozarks. I think it's a bad idea, it's too hard to tell how many point are on a deer most of the time. I will take the first legal deer on public land, more selective on private land. Deer Health is in jeopardy, more so do to feeding ranch raised deer, meat bi-products than any other reason. CWD could be controlled better by doing away with deer farm.
One buck for Archery and Firearms. Please do not have the deer season during Thanksgiving week. We have family from out of town and would like that time to visit with family. I appreciate your consideration. Thank you.
Do not have deer season during Thanksgiving.

One Buck for Archery season and Firearms. Thank you.
I am all for the limiting of one buck only per person per season. I am all for limiting the amount of doe tags to one. Crossbows for archery season I think is a great idea.
The deer herd should be managed so that each hunter can make their own choice as what type of buck to harvest. A trophy is in the eye of the shooter. I have hunted deer for 30 years and I still get excited over every deer I kill. Just because a 100 inch deer is not a trophy in your eyes does not mean it's not to someone else. A healthy deer herd is the most important thing we should consider.
I support the use of crossbows during Archery Season. I have not purchased an archery permit since 1991. If crossbows are allowed I will purchase archery permits and get back into hunting during the archery season.
I don't own a crossbow, but I believe our job as hunters is to harvest animals in the most efficient and ethical way possible. Crossbows help with this yet still keep the challenge of archery hunting. When compound bows came around I don't imagine traditional hunters loved it either. On that note the crossbow is believed to have been invented around the 5th century BC so I would really put it in the category of traditional.
Based off the graph trends over the past 10 years, the overall deer harvest numbers seem irregular and inaccurate. I believe the telecheck system is to blame, or in all honesty, dishonest hunters. I do not understand how a management plan can be implemented with incorrect data. I do not agree with allowing crossbows. I see no harm in moving the firearms season back a week. I think the antlerless season should be eliminated completely. I feel 1 buck per hunter per year is a good idea. Hunters should harvest a buck based off his age and genetic characteristics, rather than the number of points on one side of his antlers.
Please DO NOT allow the use of crossbows for those who are not disabled. Bow hunters enjoy being able to get into the woods, away from the rifle season madness. Bow hunters enjoy the thrill of scouting all year long, planting food plots and targeting an individual buck and going after that particular deer that is 4-5 years old and has reached maximum potential. If the use of crossbows is allowed for the general public, the mad house that the woods sees during the rifle portion of the hunting season will return. I enjoy concealing my scent, hunting on my farm when neighboring areas are experiencing little to no hunting pressure. The use of crossbows will take that away and defeat the purpose of a true bow season. I truly hope that the Department of Conservation understands this.
Please move the opening weekend of deer rifle season BACK TWO WEEKS TO AT LEAST TO THANKSGIVING. I am only making that statement bold in case there is a large amount of comments and all cannot be read thoroughly. When the rut is in full swing, the woods and bottom lands come to life. It is a magical time to be in the tree stand. By moving the season back, mature bucks will get to breed and there is a GREAT chance that two-three year old bucks that have great potential, will get to walk for another year. As a bow hunter, I enjoy managing the herd. I love to let young bucks walk and target does to keep the ratio on the farm

as close to one doe to one buck as I possibly can. My gut wrenches every time I let a good looking young buck walk by during rifle season knowing that he is active because it is the heart of the rut and the next group of guys from town that are in nearby woods will surely blast him on spot. Let the bucks breed and settle down before rifle season starts. The "if it's brown, it's down" culture that comes to life during rifle season ruins the management process and patterning deer goes out the window for another year. Also, I think that for a year or two to get numbers back down, hunters, during the rifle season, should be required to harvest a doe before they can harvest a buck. Many hunters will let two to three does walk only to blast a four point. How is that positive for the Missouri deer herd?
Please install a point restriction in Bollinger and Cape Girardeau counties. This will allow younger bucks to have a better shot at maturing and will shift the focus on thinning out the doe herd. We have to start shooting more does. Maybe installing a system similar to Iowa, which is known for world class whitetail hunting. That system would include the hunter to harvest a doe before they are allowed to harvest a buck. We have to move rifle season back too. We cannot have the most amount of hunting pressure in the woods while the peak of the whitetail rut is going on. It just ruins it. We must move it back. Let the deer breed. As a bow hunter (who also rifle hunts), I want the young bucks to walk and I want the dominant bucks to be able to get with as many does as possible to keep those great genetics in the pool. So much effort is put forth by bow hunters to set up food plots, control scent, set up several trail cameras and let deer walk that need to be walked. The first Saturday of rifle season, that all goes out the window. The deer do not settle back down until Christmas time and then you might as well start concentrating on next year. I hunt my hardest from 9-15, opening day of bow season until the Friday before rifle season just because the woods and the deer are normal and hunting pressure is not through the roof. Deer would still be harvested if the rifle season is moved back. With as many four-wheelers, smokers, walkie-talkies and deer drives that are going on with the rifle season, the deer will be kicked up and they will get harvested. Leave the best part of the rut free of the rifle season madness.
I have archery hunted for deer for approximately 15 years so have seen the numbers of deer seen per hunt change remarkably. I have harvested at least one deer a season since I switched from ground hunting to hunting from a tree stand. All of my archery hunting has been on MDC properties, and I thank you guys every day of my life for that opportunity. I cannot afford leasing or buying property to hunt on. I have been invited to hunt on private property with a friend on occasion and have been successful there as well. I have spent a lot of time afield hunting or not hunting North of the Missouri River. The size of the groups of deer I see has changed dramatically, but I still remain successful. The number of days that I have hunted in the past has been more than the average hunter hunts. Nearly all of the deer I have harvested on conservation area lands have funneled in directly from private property in the evening or are on their way back there in the morning, except for the very young deer that I see during the day that mill around as if lost during the rut. I assume that the pressure of other hunters and the scent of other visitors on MDC lands greatly affect deer movements. I applaud the decision to

reduce antlerless permits to increase the herd in the northern section of the state. I also believe that MDC and all of the other state departments here in Missouri should hold all captive deer breeders/exotic cervid dealers and hunting preserves to the highest standards at all costs to control and prevent any further introduction of CWD into the wild population of cervidae. To spare rules to satisfy a few at the expense of many is unreasonable and self-destructive. All of the hard work and goals of a long history of wildlife biologist and conservationists should not be allowed to be pissed away by a few gung ho bottled hunting enthusiasts. If that happens, I do not want anything to do with any of you. You can hand my tax dollars back while you are at it if that is allowed to happen. It is too late to assume that anyone would have thought of regulating these deer movements/housing restrictions before CWD arrived here, what with Wisconsin and Illinois full of the disease; interesting what we learn as time flies by. Diseases are diseases and just like livestock losses such as brucellosis, rinderpest, vesicular stomatitis, CWD, EHD, blue tongue will have their economic impact unless someone does something about it. I remember when Missouri was trying to become a brucellosis free state. How about a CWD free state? Bring it on! After a long crappy work week, I like nothing more than to go to a local St. Louis county park to walk and see numerous white tailed deer milling about. I do not want to lose that. Incidentally, that is where I have seen the biggest buck of my life/a/real monster that dwarfed the other deer (a shooter as some say); what I would love to see while I am on stand with my bow in my lap--hint hint. And may I bring up motor vehicle accidents involving deer? I was hit by a deer once while I was stopping my vehicle in an effort to avoid it. The deer had no clue as to what was going on and appeared unaffected. So I surmise that they should have the right of way as pedestrians do as pedestrians also seem to wander about without a clue. How about "Save a deer. Don't text and drive."
I would like to use a crossbow during bow season
I would like to be able to use a crossbow during deer bow season.
Feel we need state wide antler point regulations, I don't just shoot a deer to be shooting one. I am not a trophy hunter but I would like to see bigger older deer around and not have people shooting at everything that jumps up in front of them
I agree with moving the season back and I also agree with allowing only 1 buck per year. I archery hunt and firearms hunt and I think one buck is sufficient. I would also like to see "deer drives" be outlawed. I understand it’s the landowner’s rights to be able to do whatever they want "legally" but I don't think it’s fair to the real sportsmen who sit out all day and wait for their deer to show up. It’s very dangerous to be sitting in the woods while your neighbors bring 20 guys and line up and push deer through the woods while you are sitting across the fence on your property and bullets start flying through the air. I'm sure there haven't been any fatalities because of this but if we can prevent one death or injury, it would be worth it. It also would prevent shooting the button bucks because people cannot tell what the deer’s gender is running through the woods being chased by a hunter. It just doesn't make sense to me and is very dangerous.
I know the Dept. is considering moving the main, firearms deer hunting season to the week of

Thanksgiving to get it out of the main rut and also "to allow more hunter hours" in the field. I just want to say that for me, it will likely be just the opposite. My wife does not hunt but expects me to be home during the holidays for family gatherings and such, thus limiting my available time in the woods. Currently I take the full 1st week of deer season and am able to hunt almost all of them. By having the season during the week of Thanksgiving and that 4 day weekend, I will likely be much more limited on the days that I can actually hunt and still keep the family happy. ;) Thanks for listening.
I do not support the use of crossbows during the archery season. I would not like the firearm season to move later and be during the Thanksgiving Holiday to interfere with family gatherings. Also it is fun to hunt during the rut to see the bucks chasing does even if you don't take a shot. I would like to see a limit of 1 buck taken per year by any method . That would help to keep mature bucks from being harvested before they can breed. Hunters just need to be more selective and that will make the odds of getting trophy bucks better. Leave the antler restriction in place in areas where there is not a problem with CWD. I wish you would change the alternative season back to muzzle loaders only. It was more enjoyable to have fewer hunters in the woods for that period of time. And finally starting the archery season Sept 15 is too early, the pressure on the deer is heavy before it is even cool enough to enjoy being in the woods.
*Deer Management Plan - All of the stated objectives are all areas and topics that SHOULD have been being done this whole time. I do not understand any of it, because the objectives are your JOBS already. Missouri has ALOT of antlered deer around which is what I based all these thoughts. ALL of these regulations and changes are for what purpose exactly?? More Deer? More Bucks? More Does? Balance in Population? Because after we implemented changes... 2-3 seasons later we have different issue. Everything is pretty decent as far as population, except noticeably more bucks than does. Change a regulation for 1 season and then change it back after you receive the #s that is needed. For example - As of today we have more bucks than does, Reduce Antlerless Portion or Eliminate it for ONLY 1 season, extend Main Portion up by 1 week. Check the #s, if they are around better balance CHANGE THE REGULATIONS BACK for next season. The main issue for all of this is antler restrictions = more bucks. So... lessen the antlerless portion and no extra doe tags, just extend the Urban Zones for areas as needed. *Crossbows During Archery - Only if have Permission for Injury Purposes or Alternative Methods Portion *Firearms (Main Portion) - If anything it should be move UP 1 week to get part of Pre-Rut. Then reduce Antlerless Portion by 2 Weeks to counter it, because obviously Opening Gun Season has a lot of deer harvested and mainly antlered deer. *Antlerless Portion - If the Firearms Main Portion was moved forward 1 Week, then reduce antlerless portion that means more bucks taken sooner, less does taken later. Or don’t change Main Portion whatsoever and just reduce Antlerless Portion. Bucks to does ratio is out of balance due to antler restrictions law.

*1 Buck Limit - YES, for 1 buck per Archery Season. NO, to 1 buck limit annually. With the set regulations as is, we have a lot of bucks compared to does. *Antler Regulations - Absolutely one of the greatest implemented laws for Missouri. Let the bucks grow! But... this would be why our population is out of balance.
I am a non-resident Missouri land owner of more than 500 acres in Bates county, have a Missouri company and will file Missouri tax returns. Why can I not receive the same benefits as a Missouri resident that owns 6 acres? It sure seems like your regulations are a bit out of balance. I'm a Missouri tax payer.
I just wanted to drop a quick comment on the issue of changing the buck season limit between all seasons. . . . I'm an avid bowhunter, and use a rifle or muzzleloader less than 6 days total per year. But average over 30 hunts per year with a bow. If you consider changing the buck limit, consider the possibility of allowing 2 bucks. I have no issue with taking it from 3 bucks down to 2. Maybe allow one buck with modern firearm/muzzleloader, like it is now, and either one buck or two bucks with bow. If you fill both buck tags with bow, you're done. I think this would still allow bowhunters who may tag a buck before the firearm season, still participate in firearm season with family and friends. Just something to consider. Thanks. And keep up the great work!
Crossbows should be able to be used. Antler restrictions should be dropped altogether a person should be able to choose what they want to shoot big deer will always be there and we can't eat horns anyway. Need to let up on the special regs on conservation areas we used to shoot does and bucks on all of them and everyone had the opportunity to take a legal animal since a lot of them went to bucks only lots of people have to pass on deer they would be happy to take and we don't have any more deer on those areas than we had before. I have grown up hunting deer and cannot afford to shell out big bucks to hunt private land my family eats the meat and I am just as happy with a little buck or a doe as any these regs are put in place to attract out of staters and sell high dollar tags I guess because I see the same amount of deer as always just can't shoot them on public land so they jump the fence and the guy that pays the money for the lease or has his own land gets to shoot them doesn't really make sense to me just hinders my opportunities
No to cross bows except handicapped. No more doe season. Only 2 bucks per year regardless of method.
I am not convinced the limits on antlerless deer is a good idea. We have had ridiculously easy hunting in the last few years. Last year the hunting was a bit more difficult in that we didn't see deer every few minutes. I really feel the population is perfect. We have gone from overpopulation to a good population. The crop damage has been decreased. I have talked with "hunters" who think we don't have deer. They are not good woodsman. We hunt the same property with different tactics. They show up around 7:30 and leave before noon and then come back at 3 or 4. They complain because they don't see any deer. While it is true we see

less deer than before, we still see a lot of deer. We hunt from dark to dark and don't leave the woods. I fear that we are setting the expectations for hunting based on an unhealthy overpopulation of deer. I support the limit on bucks for bow hunting but am not overly concerned with the former regulations. I do not support the 4 point rule. I have too many young hunters and older gentlemen that should not have to value the kill based on the rack. I also to not like our current antlerless deer season. When it was separate we were able to have another opportunity to get together. I do not hunt in the doe season as aggressively as I used to because I am wore out. Having time off, even if it were a couple weeks would let us recoup. I do appreciate the timing of the alternate methods season. Thank you
allow crossbows for all hunters eliminate antlerless only season
I am writing to you for a second time in hopes that I can bring to light the intensity and passion that I, as well the majority of Missouri bowhunters feel towards our great sport of bowhunting. Bowhunting has always been a game set aside for those that want to take their abilities as a hunter to the next level. The challenge that comes with taking to the woods with "true" archery equipment is second to none. It brings hunters so close to nature that they can't help but come away with a deeper understanding of why we owe it to generations to come to protect every piece of the outdoors no matter how big or small. This connection, this amazing feeling of being part of something so much greater will be lost if we allow crossbows to be used throughout the archery season. Many argue that it is no different than the advent of the compound bow and that it will bring so many more people into the sport of archery. Most that argue these points are simply in it because they will gain financially or are simply too lazy to accept the real challenge of bowhunting. If it has a fixed stock and stays in a drawn position it is not archery equipment and should not be classified as such. Will draw locks for compound bows then be allowed as well? I have read that nearly half of Missouri bowhunters want crossbows in the woods but I can't possibly come to believe such statements when everyone I talk to that hunts is firmly against it. I know for a fact that it is the Bass Pros, Cabelas, Academeys and all those big name manufactures that are behind this push. MDC has always been about doing what the people want and listening to them before making huge changes in regulations. I fully realize that you have a job to do and not all things are going to be exactly what the public wants but this is an issue that will eventually lead to the erosion of what it means to conserve and protect our great natural resources. This is driven by the financial gain of a few and will cost so many a sport that they truly love. If there is a middle ground on this subject I believe it would be a two week season set aside for crossbows. I would support that and I believe many hunters would, but to classify crossbows as archery hunting equipment and let those that choose to use that sort of equipment stand side by side to real bowhunters is sadly a deprivation of hunter ethics. Please do not allow it.
Would like to see crossbow hunting allowed.

I do not think it is a sound management practice to make youth deer hunters pick between Halloween and deer hunting. If the goal of the conservation is to increase or maintain the number of deer hunters, making a child pick between deer hunting and Halloween is counter-productive. I have two daughters, one has hunted the youth season the last two years and one who will start next year. It took my oldest three weeks to make the decision on which one to do and thankfully she chose to go deer hunting, however this will not be the choice my youngest daughter will make next year if she has to choose between deer hunting and Halloween. It just seems somebody on your end totally dropped the ball on this scheduling conflict. You need to remember youth deer season is for children and schedule it appropriately.
I like the idea of doing away with landowner permits for lessees. Many times not only the lessee gets landowner tags for a certain parcel, but also the actual landowner. Perhaps the landowner tags could be made transferable from the actual owner to a lessee that physically lives on the land if the landowner has no intent to use them? I don't mind limiting the harvest of bucks a bit, but not down to one per season. With the outbreak of CWD, and bucks being the higher probability carriers, killing more bucks will slow the spread. That being said I would be for limiting to one in bow season and one for firearms/alt methods. I wouldn't mind shortening or eliminating the antlerless portion at least for a little while. Blue tongue and high hunting pressure has put a dent in the deer population in my hunting area (Cooper County) in recent years, and it would be nice to bring it back where it used to be.
I would like to see crossbows made legal for all archery hunters. This would make it more effective to hunt from the ground for those who choose to do so. This would provide a safer option for those who do not like to climb trees.
Non-Resident Landowners play a vital role in the development of habitat and overall health of the Missouri deer herd. Having a large farm in Missouri as do many other non-residents and investing in habitat and forest improvement, I believe that we should be afforded the same # of deer tags as a resident. Or, make the regulations 50 acres and above the minimum for landowner tags. There should be some way to make an equitable allocation of landowner tags for non-resident landowners.
First....Please correctly spell management on the drop-down.....Answering your questions to consider: Unless an individual has a physical disability, crossbows should remain in the "alternate weapons" season and not used during the general archery season. The firearms season should not be moved back a week over the Thanksgiving holiday. The season timing is perfect where it is. The elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearms season should be based on sound wildlife biology. The reduction of doe permits in Camden County is an excellent initiative based on the # of deer and the carrying capacity. A one buck limit for archery and one buck for rifle season should remain. There is an antler restriction in Camden County and it is an excellent initiative! It forces a

QDM on all residents and we are starting to see some great trophy quality animals! Do not change this restriction as it is allowing bucks to mature and greatly helps the herd. The cutback on doe tags this year has been met with praise from the majority of hunters in Camden County. The department is doing an excellent job and we appreciate the ability to provide input. B.K.
These issues have needed to be addressed for a few years now. Thank You! My thoughts on the crossbow issue, we should continue to use our current bowhunting methods. Allowing the use of crossbows for everyone would greatly increase the number and success of hunters and would lead to higher deer harvest numbers during archery season which would not help our declining numbers we have in Northeast Missouri now. My thoughts on moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week. Yes I think this is a good idea as it would allow bucks to have a less stressful time to get does bread. Also it would allow the rut to slow down and perhaps not so many mature bucks would be harvested resulting in a better deer heard and more overall deer numbers. It would also allow bow hunters to hunt in the more aggressive stage of the rut. My thoughts on a one buck annual limit. Yes this is by far the best question yet. One buck annually will help our deer herd rebound and allow more bucks in the herd. It will also force hunters to choose more carefully when taking one buck instead of having the option of harvesting up to three. My thoughts on antler point restriction. I believe the antler point restriction in my county is a good idea. While some will disagree I believe it helps us to have more mature bucks in the deer heard and also forces the hunter to carefully choose his buck when shooting instead of shooting anything with antlers. A few other opinions I would like to address are, I believe we need an improved system of checking our deer in, or better enforcement on deer tagging and limits. It is my experience and many others that see hunters taking deer and not calling in there tag because they simply don't have to and can get away with it. There is no one there to check. THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM. Without everyone calling in there tags MDC has no way to estimate the deer harvest numbers or herd size. Another thought is for the youth portion of deer season. While I believe this is a good program is has its flaws. First its placement as usually the weekend before normal firearms season is disruptive to bow hunters and the upcoming firearms hunters. Also I believe that youths hunting during the youth portion should only be allowed to harvest a doe. My thoughts on this subject are that if a child or young adult wants to have the experience of hunting and taking an animal then it would be good practice to have them start with a doe. What is a young adult learning when the first time in the woods the takes a 150in deer. I would like to add that I am a lifetime hunter and love taking a big buck as anybody, however I am willing to sacrifice to have a healthier and numerous deer herd.
Allow crossbows to all hunters. Move rifle season after the rut. One antlered buck for archery season.

Crossbows - I am in favor of everyone being able to use crossbows during the archery season. The technology dates back to about 420 B.C.
As a non-resident hunter in Missouri for the past 10 or so years, I have been limited to the amount of time I have to hunt with a rifle/muzzleloader while in the state for holidays. Recently, I have started hunting with a crossbow and have discovered it is a great way to get into the sport of bow hunting, providing a lot more time in the field and the opportunity to harvest more deer for the freezer for the family. I believe allowing the use of this gear would increase the amount of out of state revenue and also increase the number of youths that could become involved with bow hunting in the future. Crossbow usage has become increasingly popular in the last several years and many states have seen its benefits and value in allowing this as a new method in the bowhunting seasons for all hunters. Please consider this as my recommendation that the MDC allow the use of crossbows during the archery seasons in the near future. I will definitely be hunting more and spending more money in Missouri if so. Thank you
I would like to see antler restrictions in southern Missouri. I travel to northern Mo. to hunt and like the antler restrictions up that way. I just don't see the bigger deer down here. If more areas had antler restrictions, less bucks would be taken and there would be no need to reduce current limits.
In regards to the one buck limit either overall or just during archery season the limit will not affect the number of bucks taken. The number of bow hunters that actually harvest two bucks is probably less than 5% which does not significantly affect the deer herd. The archery hunters that harvest a buck before gun season might not purchase other tags.
I am concerned about the regulation change allowing increased antlerless harvest in Cape Girardeau county. I hunt several areas within the county, and none of those have an abundance of deer. In fact, I struggle to even see deer most days I hunt, and I hunt quality habitat under low hunting pressure. I've all but given up bow hunting for deer due to lack of opportunity, and I don't want to hurt my local population any more than it already is. I realize some pockets within the county struggle with high deer density, but I feel that increasing harvest county-wide is not the answer.
I am opposed to the proposal of reducing buck harvest (both 1 buck archery or 1 buck total) This, along with the new antlerless permit allowed, will devastate local annual recruitment. The areas I hunt in Cape Girardeau county simply do not have the population base to support such a regulation. My family relies on venison as our staple meat supply, both for economic and health reasons, and I struggle harvesting enough deer as it is on our family farm (160 acres row crop, CRP WSG, timber & riparian). We have more crop damage from raccoons and woodchuck than deer. This should not be the case. Let me finish by saying that it's quite a disappointment to put so much effort into creating quality habitat only to have my efforts undermined by MDC's loose regulations that promote increased harvest by neighboring hunters who are more concerned about filling their tags than the overall picture of a sustainable local deer population. Concerning buck harvest, please leave it as it is. Current regs allow my

family to harvest enough deer without hurting recruitment.
I have previously commented about these items already, but something else has occurred to me that I think would have important side effects to one rule in particular. One of the goals mentioned was increasing participation. When I really considered the proposals and how it would change my hunting, one thing really stuck out. That is, the possibility of going to a one buck rule, regardless of method. On the surface, that doesn't seem like a huge deal. However, I think it is for the following reason. I would stop bow hunting! The fact is, that even though I like archery hunting more than rifle hunting, the whole family gets together and makes rifle season opener a big deal. We all gather for fun and anticipation of the chance to shoot that big buck. Now, honestly, I would not go through everything we do, to get ready, if I couldn't have the chance to shoot a buck. Therefore, I would never shoot a buck during the first archery season. Therefore, I simply wouldn't go archery hunting. I would fully support limiting archery hunters to one buck, but I really believe that many people would feel the same as I do. The rifle season is a big event in many hunting families and if you limit the total buck take to one, I think many bow hunters will stop hunting archery for that same reason.
Please allow everyone to use crossbows during archery season in 2015. This would result in more clean kills. Many bowhunters are not skilled enough, and wound several deer each year(I am unfortunately part of this statistic). If harvest goes up significantly, the number of available tags can be adjusted.
I support the proposal to allow use of a crossbow during archery seasons. I am in my late forties and pulling a bow back and holding it at full draw is getting harder and harder the older I get. I see that without changes to this regulation in the future I will be forced to give up archery hunting in the next few years. In the setting where hunter numbers are declining we need to try and recruit as many as we can and work hard to retain the ones that we have. I also support moving the rifle season to later in the year because I practice qdm on my property and trying to get a small buck through rifle season during the rut is very difficult. Also, I would like to appeal to the MDC to reconsider its position on the use of supplemental feeding and use of bait during season. This tool can be used on private property to get deer to stand still long enough to make harvest decisions and give youth time to focus on an animal for a clean shot.
I support the proposal to allow use of a crossbow during archery seasons. I am in my late forties and pulling a bow back and holding it at full draw is getting harder and harder the older I get. I see that without changes to this regulation in the future I will be forced to give up archery hunting in the next few years. In the setting where hunter numbers are declining we need to try and recruit as many as we can and work hard to retain the ones that we have. I also support moving the rifle season to later in the year because I practice qdm on my property and trying to get a small buck through rifle season during the rut is very difficult. Also, I would like to appeal to the MDC to reconsider its position on the use of supplemental

feeding and use of bait during season. This tool can be used on private property to get deer to stand still long enough to make harvest decisions and give youth time to focus on an animal for a clean shot.
I manage my own property and have a one buck limit annually on my property. I believe it allows a hunter to make a good decision prior to pulling a trigger or releasing an arrow. I agree with this proposal. Also, I support limited doe harvest some while numbers rebuild from the recent end outbreak.I support statewide antler point restrictions in order to promote qdm but this would only be possible with doe harvest restrictions also so that numbers overall can be maintained.
I think moving firearms season back a week would work for me but it may put it in the middle of Thanksgiving and I think that's bad. Point restriction works but in places where you may only see one or two deer a year will put people off enough to leave the sport. Crossbow shoot it like a gun, leave in gun season.
In reference to the Landowner permits: I am a land owner. I own 118 acres in Marion co. I enjoy the fact that I get the no cost permits. So first thing is I suggest NO changes to the current regulations. Now as far as the fraudulent people obtaining no cost permits, I suggest 2 things. 1. Make ALL landowners provide a copy of their "paid" property tax from the county(s) in which their land resides in order to obtain their no cost land permits. If he/she is a lessee, then they need a copy of the landowners paid property tax & written permission. 2. Create a hefty Fine for anyone who is found to be in violation of the lessee or landowner definition and is hunting with no cost landowner permits. The fine should be in line with either, Hunting with no license OR poaching deer, depending if they have taken a deer or not taken a deer. And the fine should be progressive with each offence! That is my suggestion. I would be interested in hearing any feedback (positive or negative) about my suggestion. Thank you! R. M., landowner.
1. I like the current rules regarding crossbows for archery season. Unless you have a medical reason, then hunt with the recurve, longbow, or compound bow. 2. YES!! Move the firearms season back 1 week. It used to be that way back in the 70's. This makes good biological sense, and Illinois is proving that. 3. Keep the antler less season the same. 4. One buck for archery and one buck for firearms is the answer here. If u make it one buck annually, then you will lose hunter interest in one or both categories of hunters. They have to have hope of taking a buck, otherwise it's just another doe season. 5. I AM ALL IN FAVOR OF ANTLER RESTRICTIONS IN MARION COUNTY!!!

Appendix C. Comments that Came to the Department Offices, Ombudsman, Regulations Committee or the Department Website from June 1, 2014-September 30, 2014

I have read the article in this month's edition of the Conservationist concerning new ideas for white tail management and have a suggestion. I believe that the youth season should be limited to the harvest of does only. My reason for that is very simple. My first deer kill was a doe many years ago and I was absolutely thrilled. I believe any young hunter would be tickled to death to get a deer- period. I realize that every hunter would like to shoot a whopper buck, but feel that it would better serve the young hunters to have them cut their teeth on does only. The benefits would be multiple. First there would not be as many bucks wounded by inexperienced hunters. Second, the young hunters would not be pushed into a trend that seems to be that if your deer doesn't "score well" it is not desirable or it is an unworthy kill. Third, it would eliminate the possibility of dear old Dad shooting the large buck instead of the youth. I've seen too many photos of very young hunters that I suspect can't hold a rifle steady. Fourth, the results will be more does harvest which is what we are after anyway. I've noticed that a lot of sport activities are more centered on the parent's ego than the actual will of the young participant and hate to see deer season follow that trend. I would also support point restrictions statewide and stiffer penalties for poachers. A reply by email would be appreciated. Thank you for your consideration. T. D.
I see one of the regulation changes you are considering is a one buck limit, since I probably won't be able to attend a meeting since they are scheduled during the week and not near me I figure I'll give my thoughts here. A one buck limit may look good on paper but what about a bunch of us that can't afford to always hunt out of state to hunt for another buck; I've made big investments in the land I own in Missouri. I don't want to shoot a buck in October and have to wait a whole year before I can hunt for a buck again, I shot one buck last year during archery but I had the opportunity to continue to hunt for a buck. If you're going to allow crossbows to get people involved what about people like me who have only hunted mo. I'm a landowner and I would only get one buck tag for a whole year? That's not right, I spend the money on habitat, food plots and everything else that goes along with it. I could see a 2 buck limit but one I am not going to support that at all. K.V.
Good morning my name is J. and I have sent you several messages in the past half a year I was reading in the paper and noticed how the MDC is going to cut back on the doe permits I will not be able to make any of the hearings where the public can voice their thoughts or opinions to the Missouri Department of conservation. I am a little disappointed that they cut back on the doe permit as I have been complaining on how many does or dear I have been seeing hit along Highway 50 as I just passed another deer hit this morning. I guess they decided not to allow Franklin County or the area I have been advising about into the urban portion or bonus doe season. Sometimes I feel like things just don't make sense but it is what it is people can have their own opinions. Are they ever going to allow and legalize crossbows for all people? I was told through the grapevine years ago that MDC was looking at allowing crossbows I really don't understand why it's taking so long to allow this. I have a wife and several other people that would be hunting more if we could legalize crossbows it's a win-win because you guys obviously get more money from selling more deer tags and local pro shops sell crossbows I don't

see why this is being drawn out and taking so long to legalize. Can you please shed some light on my concerns as to why are why not our opinions aren't making a difference and what it will take to legalize crossbows for all people? I have always been an ethical honest hunter and I hear many complaints about the Department of conservation I am trying to be sympathetic to both sides but when I express my opinions and concerns and I know I'm just one person and I can't make a difference but I have a hard time trying to stand up for the Department of conservation whenever ideas or suggestions go the opposite direction such as me reporting this abundance of deer being hits along Highway 50 in a certain area and instead of allowing us to shoot more does we give less doe permits. Maybe I am just missing informed but I believe this is what the paper was stating. How soon does MDC intend on legalizing crossbows so that my wife can hunt???? Respectfully J.L.
I can sympathize with the traditional bow hunting methods. Someday years ago, those hunting with recurves likely felt the same way about those using compound bows today. Perhaps they could allow female hunters to use crossbows. My wife wants to bow hunt, but at the moment can't provide an excuse acceptable to MDC to obtain a crossbow. She is a smaller female, and would not be able to pull back a compound bow. At least with the acceptable amount of weight to penetrate and harvest a deer. Just another year she has to sit out and another year she loses interest. Very frustrating... J.L.
Concerned about the number of deer down due to disease and poaching. Would like something done about the poaching problem in Wayne County
Deer eating his soybeans. Caller doesn't want to shoot them and waste the meat but would like extra permits during deer season and take care of the problem during the season
I just read the Deer article in the Missouri conservationist and the part about adding crossbows to bow season for those without disability's alarms me. The reason is that crossbows are effectively "point and shoot" and they require the same amount of skill to use as a modern firearm, the only added skill is the strength require to cock it. this will increase hunter numbers for archery season, increase harvest, and I believe as an end result shorten the season. Even if the number of hunters remains the same harvest will still increase because most archers are not proficient shots with a standard bow and arrow, spend time at a local public range and you can see this. If they switch to a crossbow their effective range will increase, which could lead to them taking longer and more questionable shots at game. This will also increase the pressure on public archery only hunting areas. I believe the current system of allowing those with disability's use them is the best policy when it comes to the current archery season. For those without disabilities a new crossbow season should be added to Missouri's fall season. This is the best compromise so that everyone gets something out of it. Area regulations should be revised in conservation areas that are heavily used by the public so that crossbows cannot be used because of their "point and shoot" quality to keep the risk of an accident as low as possible. B.S.
I would like to share my concern with you about the one-doe harvest limit enacted for the 2014 firearms deer season. I live on J Highway in southern Clinton County adjacent to the Smithville Lake Corps of Engineers area. At present, there are three dead deer along a four mile stretch of J Hwy north of the Clay county line. This is not unusual but rather the norm in this area. The attached photo (taken yesterday) is of a deer located a few hundred yards from my home. I am also an avid hunter, and I lease 300 acres adjacent to my property. In my opinion, there is

an overabundance of deer in this area. I also hunt other areas of Clinton County, and have not seen the dramatic decrease that your department implies by enacting a one-doe limit for this particular county. I do understand that the limitation may be a wise decision for other areas of Missouri. However, I am bewildered as to why this limit was applied to this area; especially given the area has an abundance of deer/vehicle encounters. I am in disagreement with the MDOC's decision to include Clinton County in this doe harvest limitation. I am also amazed at how quickly the MDOC will enact regulation and harvest-limit changes for white tailed deer, but take no action on other wildlife issues. For example, my family owns a farm in northeast Missouri (Marion and Shelby counties). Wild turkeys have virtually disappeared from this area; however, I have seen no action on the part of MDOC to reverse this situation. I would think that it would be prudent to close the fall turkey seasons (shotgun and archery) in such areas. True conservation efforts should be given to all wildlife and not just to the one particular species that generates millions of dollars for the State. Thank you, M.G.
Hemorrhagic Disease - HD took quite a toll on populations in NE Missouri, didn't see many deer during season, feels MDC did not come clean with hunters about the disease, has a problem with dishonesty with local conservation agent but didn't want to pass on any further information on that topic
A few issues I would like to talk about: 1. When are we going to get an MDC gun range down here near Poplar Bluff? The nearest one to us is Grasse, MO or maybe outside of Piedmont, both over 60 miles away. We really need one down here and soon. 2. I'm not happy with the ease in which people are getting medical excuses to use crossbows in archery season. It's supposed to be archery season and a crossbow is close to being a rifle, there isn't much skill involved...I hunt in archery season with traditional tackle, a recurve bow, wood arrows etc...we are being squeezed out by technology. 3. I don't hunt with a muzzleloader, but allowing hunting with a pistol during black powder season is not a good idea. Modern pistols are not in the same league as a muzzle loading rifle; they are far superior and should be kept in the regular gun season. 4. Don't bow to money regarding this CWD problem and deer breeders. That industry needs few curbs to protect our deer herd. 5. I spent most of yesterday going around one of my larger pieces of property with one of your conservationists and he is writing up a guideline for me to make my property more deer and turkey friendly. It used to be a farm but all I've ever done was hunt on it, that's all I intend to do with it. He was very helpful and I learned more in a long morning than all my botany classes ever taught me. Please keep up the good work. T.
I am writing to you about the deer hunting seminars. I was unable to attend the June 23rd. meeting in Crestwood MO, but my buddy went and told me your thinking of upcoming deer seasons.

I support the idea of moving the rifle season back one week to allow for more of the does to be bred. I also support the idea of allowing crossbows for the archery season. I think it will help keep older hunters buying archery tags and enjoying the archery season. I also think it will help grow enthusiasm for the new young hunters. We all know that the future is in our kids. Thank you for the meetings to hear what Missourians think and to keep our deer herd viable. D.S.
Mr. R.H. called this morning to provide input on the following topics: Supports all proposed regulation changes related to captive cervids. Supports the Governor's veto on legislation that would transfer regulatory authority for captive cervids from MDC to MDA. Supports including crossbows as an approved method during archery deer season. Supports elimination of the antlerless and alternative methods portions of the season. Would like to see the November portion moved back one week and supports implementation of a split season. Would not support a reduction in the buck harvest but may support reducing the bag limit to one antlered deer during archery season.
I am writing to you in regards to clearing up some questions that I have as an out of state landowner. My 3 siblings and I have inherited my parent's property in Perryville, MO. We grew up in MO and I moved across the JB Bridge to Columbia, IL about 10 years ago to get the small town feel close to where I worked. When I moved I stopped hunting at our land in MO because it was so insanely priced and I grew tired of the excuses that both IL and MO have as far as out of state hunters. Now that I have a 25% share of 160 acres which I have managed with my brother for 20 years I wish to get back into hunting. I contacted MDC months ago only to find out you killed off the Out of state landowner permits which I could not believe. I got the excuse that property taxes do not go towards MDC which I get but on the other hand I spend 100 dollars in MO for every $1 I spend in IL for farm equipment, outdoor stuff, fishing stuff, hunting stuff and you name it. I dont even hunt there and I spent my money helping build permanent blinds, paying for food plots over the years etc. So quite frankly the argument does not hold any weight with me. My question is with Farm tags. I know my father use to get farm tags yearly. Does that work the same way? If we get farm tags, I would have to pay 225 per farm tag to use them? Can I ask what prompted this childlike fit between MO and its neighboring states? Could you not have made an exception for actual LANDOWNERS that own a certain amount of acreage even??? I am so disheartened by what I have learned about MDC and the other states with this bickering and just blind action of denying all out of state landowners any reduction in hunting tag costs that I almost want to start a class action of some sort. It seems that the more I read online the more I find with people like me. We own serious chunks of land and have worked with MDC over the years to better the wildlife habitat on our land. Invested time and money only to be kicked in the gut with these permit prices and juvenile reasons as to why they were removed for OOS Landowners in 2009.

Very disappointed in what I always looked at as the BEST Conservation Department in the US if not the world. 1) Are there any actions I can take to apply for discounted tag fees via any programs out there? 2) Can you please change the rules ASAP and give the serious landowners of your state a reason to keep doing what we are doing to better the wildlife? Make the discount based on acreage or even force us to keep records and mail them yearly so we qualify for discounts. If MDC only gets funding from sales tax then I am sure that I pay more than most of the residents of the state. We shop entirely in MO since we are right over JB Bridge. Thanks for your time, T. H.
I would like to express my disapproval for crossbows in the archery season. Crossbows do not require a hunter to drawback and are therefore not archery. I understand disable hunters being allowed access during archery season, but able bodied hunters should be require using an actual bow (vertical bow). I would support crossbow for kids under 14 -15 years of age and for adults 55-60+ as age may be hindering their strength. Worst case if the MDC insist on allowing everyone crossbow hunting it should be allowed after the firearms season. Thanks for your consideration. B.P
I read an article in the KC Star about future changes in deer hunting regulations. The first thing I thought of was another all or nothing solution to a problem. Too many deer- kill them all not enough don't kill any. I agree with pushing back the rifle season, crossbow for anyone who wants to be in the woods in archery, putting a hold on doe season ...BUT.....only one buck a season is unacceptable .Myself and many others love the woods and are out there 40+ days a year. I bow and rifle hunt, you're asking me to give one up if that would pass, Here's a thought. Start a limit on out of state tags or me too legislation on out of state hunters, Missouri hunters deserve to be first. G.P.
I spoke to W.B. by telephone today. He expressed his support for traditional archery methods but he believes that crossbow use will be allowed as an archery method due to increasing hunter sentiment in that direction. His recommendation is to: Not allow crossbows during the first part of the archery season – Sept. 15 to start of November portion of firearms season. Once the November portion begins, crossbows would be allowed from that point through the end of the archery season (Jan. 15). That way, traditional archers would maintain some of their access to deer hunting without crossbow hunters being allowed to hunt, but crossbow hunters would gain additional hunting opportunity outside of the firearms season
This is a recommendation for a serious re-thInk of the 4-point Antler Restriction in all Missouri's counties. Because of the 4-Point Antler Restriction rule the deer hunting field is no longer a level hunting field: 1. The Restriction rule favors the Trophy Hunters whose chances have been upped. 2. The Restriction rule ties the hands of conscientious Meat Hunters. Their chances of taking

meat home have dropped to little or nothing. Ex., even with binoculars, being sure of brow tines to complete the correct antler count is often impossible to establish, and so the good shot walk away.

Brainstorming possible solutions:
1. Remove 4-point Antler Restriction rule across the board; or
2. Modify rule. Lift the restriction when hunting on private property; or
3. Modify rule. Lift the restriction for the first few days of the season for hunting on private property or anywhere.

These concerns have been voiced among Meat Hunters countless times, year after year now. They are numerous. Their frustration level is high. Perhaps their concerns have not come to your attention, however. They feel they don't have a voice. This is to remedy that, so you know the desires of your constituents.
Please restore our deer hunting season to a level hunting field. Re-think the 4-Point Antler Restriction rule.
Thank you.
One conscientious Meat Hunter, among many

I filled out a form months back about using crossbow during archery deer season without a doctor's permit. Looking over the methods for upcoming season it does not list crossbow so I assume it cannot be used. I do not understand why a crossbow cannot be use during this season. MO is losing money because there are a lot of hunters that go to other states to hunt with crossbow. I know people can go to doctor and get permit but there are some that go just to get permit that do not need it which is wrong. I hope in future MDC will allow the use of crossbow during archery season. I know it can be used during rifle season and the alternate method season. A crossbow is not a fire arm it is arrow shot by string you cannot be any more archery that that.
C.B.

I think you need to take whatever steps that is necessary to keep MO deer herd healthy.
E.D

I spoke by telephone to Mr. C.C. of Johnson Co. this morning regarding his desire for regulation changes to allow:
All veterans to be exempt from the small game hunting and fishing permit requirements
A third category in the acreage requirements for no-cost landowner permits

He would like to see acreage brackets of 5 – 25 acres one any-deer
25 – 75 acres one any-deer permit, one antlerless
75+ acres. one any-deer permit, two antlerless
Mr. C. owns 30 acres."

I own land in St. Clair County. I just took my conceal and carry class and want to make sure I understand the law correctly when it comes to bow hunting. The only reason why I took the class was because (sorry to say) I feel unsafe when coming out of the woods at the end of the day. My property is at the end of a road. My understanding is that once I get my permit back from the sheriff I can carry a handgun with me while hunting. Is this true?
And does it have to be concealed or can I open carry it? And can you tell me which cities in the

county allow open carry? Normally I never carry a handgun except during deer season. And how does ccw apply to fall and spring turkey hunting? While I am writing I would like to give my opinion on some of the new and current rules on deer hunting. I don't like the idea of being limited to one buck for the year. Also I have told anyone I come in contact with at the MDC that the 4 point rule is just away to sell out of state permits. Also if look at Cabalas in Kansas City KS you will one buck that score around a 170 that is only a six pointer would hate to have to pass that up . Also I have some older deer in my area that are less than the 4 point rule that can't be shot to manage deer. If we need a trophy area in our state to bring in out of state hunters make it up north where the trophy hunters with lots of money go anyway. Nobody drives hundreds miles to hunter the monster bucks of St. Clair county. They drive two to three hours more where the chances of the big boys are a lot greater. I also hate telling a young or new hunter that they can't shoot that nice six pointer right in front of them. And I still wonder how many deer are shot throughout the state each year that is not reported because someone didn't see the points correctly.
I know I have passed up several deer that I was only 95% sure they legal (I am overly cautious about hunting ethics and have a warning ticket to prove it when I turned myself in for killing two jakes with one shot several years ago in Harrison county the agent told me not many people turn themselves in when they can walk away and not get caught) . I have also support the MDC in past on taxes and anything else but will not now because of the antler rule.
I don't have to get the biggest deer but it's not a competitive sport to me.
J.L.

I was unable to attend the public workshop in Lees Summit on July 2nd. I want to thank you for soliciting public comment on the proposed changes of changing firearms deer season to Thanksgiving although I was surprised to see this proposal again since it was soundly rejected a short time ago. I realized some trophy buck hunters and outfitters are pushing this.
I am a serious deer hunter always taking a week plus off for firearms season. I also archery deer hunt and participate in the alternate methods season. I also usually go out west to hunt each year. My spouse hunts the firearms deer season.
The "Missouri Conservationist" magazine stated 40% of does are bred before rut and by moving firearms deer season a week later 75% does would be bred. What the magazine does not say is all the does are bred in either case.
I do not believe the increase in hunters afield over Thanksgiving 35 years ago Is any indication of what will happen today, times have changed. One of the growing groups of hunters are women. Moving firearms deer season to over Thanksgiving will probably decrease women participation. Thanksgiving is a traditional holiday that most families observe with a family dinner. Women are usually the ones who prepare the meal. This will make it very difficult for these women to go hunting the day before and Thanksgiving Day. Then there is "Black Friday" and the weekend sales. In these times, people must take advantage of these sales. This will remove additional women and men from the field. My wife's family has a Thanksgiving dinner. We hunt in northern Missouri, the dinner is in southern Missouri, we will miss it if firearms deer season is moved causing hurt feelings. The old saying " i f mama is not happy, nobody is happy" may hit a lot of families. I believe the Conservation Department should be encouraging new hunters, such as women, not making it harder to participate by moving firearms deer season over Thanksgiving.
I also think the proposed change will also have a disruptive effect on your employees by forcing them to miss their family's Thanksgiving activities. While this may not be the deciding factor but

it should be weighed in. I think moving firearms deer season over Thanksgiving is a very bad idea. Missouri deer seasons have always been for the common person not for a subset of trophy hunters and outfitters. I haven't found anyone who supports this change. Unfortunately, summer time activities prevented many from attending the workshops. Also, many of them think it is a done deal anyway. I urge the Conservation Department not to move firearms deer season to over Thanksgiving week. Sincerely, G.B.
Let me thank you in advance for your time. I have an issue that I would request your thoughtful consideration. Before I outline the issue I must provide you with some background in hopes that it will explain my angst. I was born and raised in MO my childhood home of Hannibal, MO. I went to college in Fulton, MO at Westminster College and remained a resident of MO thru my 29 years of military service until my retirement in April of 2000 as a COL. Our final assignment was at Ft Detrick in Frederick, MD where our children were in school and had established lifelong friendships. Moving back to MO was just not possible so we became and still are residents of MD. While a MO resident I acquired property and since have procured additional acreage totally about 410 acres. My property lays North of Salem MO off of Route 19. I purchased the property for recreational purposes alone. I love to hunt and fish and used Salem as my home away from home when not traveling around the world with the military. Now to the issue: My issue deals with the requirement to pay full fare for an out of state hunting license. Previously out of state property owners were given some leeway by not having to pay the full out of state fee (+/- $200). I fully understand that I am no longer a resident of MO but as someone who pays MO state property taxes and who manages his property for wildlife I think there to be a distinction between folks like me and someone who neither owns property, pays no state taxes and does nothing to enhance the management of wildlife in the state. Additionally as a Veteran who served their country proudly for 29 years, should in and of itself exempt me from paying any fee for hunting and fishing. I am really troubled by the fact that MO places a condition on its gratitude for serving its country. It seems wrong for one to qualify for a fee reduction they must be disabled or mentally disadvantaged before MO will offer leniency. Because I was one of the lucky who escaped these hardships should not diminish my contributions as a Veteran. Proposed Solution: Perhaps one of two solutions could be considered. Reinstate some form of exemption for out of state property owners who own some reasonable amount of acreage. If this is not acceptable then consider a second that gives an exemption for out of state Veterans who own acreage of a reasonable amount. Thanks for your time and consideration. I look forward to your reply
I do know that MO is overrun with deer. I am in favor of responsible, humane hunting. If this is not done, animals die of disease and over population. With that in mind, I don't think we need to import more! I am sure there are people working with this who have answers. Let them do their job.
I like the idea about one buck per year. Then you probably would not need 4 point restriction at all. You would grow bigger bucks!! Then if the trophy was a small buck to that person wanting

to harvest it you would make everyone happy. also moving firearms season back one week would help a lot.
A man called the office this morning and wanted to pass on a comment. He owns land in four counties and thinks his out-of-state family members should be able to hunt on his property with resident status and avoid the high cost of non-resident fees. His name is R.K., and he owns property in saline, Lincoln, Cooper and Benton counties.
i want to have the right to crossbow hunt during archery season...i think when u hit 50 years u can use a crossbow, let the kids use the bow. I like the antler restriction in Callaway co....and we need the season for gun to move.....UP a week not back are u kidding me ...whose idea is that???
S.F. expressed his support for providing a Deer Management Assistance Program to allow the removal of deer during the hunting season. Approximately 20 does are harvested from his property annually, but with reduced FA antlerless permits it inhibits his ability to continue while he is experiencing deer damage.
I do not support the unconditional use of crossbows during the archery season! T.M.
I have an idea, I have been hunting for 51 years and I think you should let hunters pick the 11 days out of the 30 days in the month to use for hunting. Hunters would not have to use their vacation days and it would put more people in the field to hunt. When you apply for your tag, you just say which days you will be in the field.
I want you to know that I used to be proud of you all but here lately you are not doing so good, first you have a meeting on the July 9 it is a Wednesday, I and others go to church so I cannot make them, #2 I think that the deer season should move back a week for gun, then I think that a crossbow is all right but have its own season using it in the bow season is like using a 30-06 in alternative season. Get rid of the urban season for gun and make them a crossbow season I think that if a crossbow is used all the time the deer harvest will go up and the tags will go down and I do not want to lose the two any deer permits. I have been hunting for about 45 to almost 50 years.
I certainly appreciate you taking input on possible new deer management plans. I am 66 years old and have been hunting since age 8 in MO, mainly in Texas County. I do bow hunt, but am primarily a rifle hunter. This past rifle season seemed like the perfect storm for fewer deer sighting during the rifle season (lot of acorns, warm windy weather and moon phase and deaths of deer the previous season of hemorrhaging disease). I did not see the usual number of deer in the rifle season, but on December 30th, during the muzzle loading season I quit counting at 40 and shot about the 45th doe I saw that day. I personally think the deer were there all the time, I just didn't see them in the early rifle season. I think we all want more hunters to preserve the sport and I think moving the season back one week would be a disincentive for recruiting more hunters. Surely the largest number of tag purchasers are rifle hunters. I would welcome extending bow hunting to include cross bows, but please don't try to fix something that is not broken by theoretically allowing more does to breed. Our does and all deer will come back and continually be a danger to cars if seasons are left basically the same. I think keeping the current rifle season as is would help our youth (weather is not typically as cold from November 10th to the 20th). Thanks for allowing input, but please don't take away the opportunity to rifle hunt during the run, bow hunters already get the best 10 days of November. I think you would risk losing revenue and hunters, therefore not killing as many and hurting our future.
I would like to get a four point restriction in Oregon County MO. Can you help me?

I'm simply writing this email on the fact there is a doe restriction during firearm season. Too many uneducated hunters were, in my opinion, harvesting too many does. I've been waiting for the unlimited doe tags to be eliminated and hope that it stays that way. All that being said, I do feel that the late doe season needs to be eliminated as well. The reason being that I can't tell you how many bucks I see during that time period with both sides being shed already. Just my opinion.
Complaints to the Ombudsman: Can't use crossbow as archery method Antler point restriction disliked in St. Genevieve County Antlerless permit reduction disliked in Clay County Dislikes unlimited archer antlerless permits in Carter County Antler point restriction disliked Lack of discounted deer permits for non-resident landowners Dislikes authorization to destroy deer for crop damage Didn't like that we didn't follow his advice from the deer survey he submitted Kudos to the Ombudsman: Thank you for the open houses CWD article in Sept. magazine appreciated

Appendix D. Online Open House Web Text

"Please use the Deer Management Comments link below to send us your thoughts on the following questions and topics.

Questions to Consider

- What are your thoughts on the use of crossbows by all hunters during archery season?
- Do you have ideas related to moving the November portion of the firearms season back one week?
- Do you have comments on the elimination or reduction in the length of the antlerless portion of the firearm season?
- Do you think implementing a one-buck limit for archery season or a one-buck annual limit regardless of method is a good or bad idea?
- What are your thoughts on continuing/implementing the antler-point restriction in the county you hunt?

Browse background information about these and other issues under consideration (there are also pdf's that could be downloaded and printed).

Key Messages:
We work with you and for you to sustain healthy forests, fish and wildlife.

Conservation Area Management

Diverse hunting regulations on conservation areas have been established to fulfill the desires of hunters with different harvest and hunting methods interests. The pdf can be viewed at http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2014/05/handout-conservation_area_management.pdf

Deer Management Comments

Send us your feedback on the Department's deer management plan, regulation considerations, and other deer management issues. You can see this page at http://mdc.mo.gov/node/28131

Deer Management Plan

This plan outlines four primary goals that incorporate the current priorities for deer management in Missouri. The Deer Management Plan can be seen at http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2014/05/deer_management_plan_onlineversion.pdf

Deer Management Program Review

The history of deer management in Missouri document can be seen at http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2014/05/deer_management_program_review_online_document.pdf

Hunter Recruitment and Retention

Many states are experiencing extreme declines in hunting participation, making it more difficult to instill the importance of natural resources and relevance of hunting. Missouri is not among those states. Here's the numbers at http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2014/05/hunter_recruitment_and_retention-handout.pdf

Landowner Permits

Landowners play a major role in our deer management program and, as a result, have some privileges which have evolved over time. Periodically, conditions change which alters the original intent of privileges afforded to landowners and lessees requiring reconsideration of those privileges The pdf can be found at http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2014/05/handout-landowner_and_lessee_deer_hunting_permits.pdf

Regulation Changes Under Consideration

Our goal is to adjust regulations in a manner that produces the desired population change (i.e., increase, stabilize, or decrease) and meets the desires of hunters, and ensure recruitment and retention. The pdf can be found at http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2014/05/handout-regulation_changes_under_consideration.pdf

Urban Deer Management

Help us manage deer in urban areas. The PDF can be found at http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2014/05/handout-urban_deer_management.pdf

Appendix E. Online Comment Page Deer Management Comments

Send us your feedback on the Department's deer management plan, regulation considerations, and other deer management issues.

About You

Your Name: *

Your City:

Your ZIP Code: *

Gender: *

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

Do you consider yourself a hunter?: *

- ● Yes
- ● No

How did you hear about the open house?: *

- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Conservationist Magazine
- ☐ MDC web site
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Other website
- ☐ MDC employee
- ☐ Friend or neighbor
- ☐ Other

Comment

Deer Management Topic: * - Select -

Your Comment: *

Tell us your comments on this aspect of deer management. We hope to hear from a broad range of public interests.

Stay in touch

News about deer management:

☐ Yes, email me with news about MDC's deer management efforts.

Your Email:

Submit

Shortened URL

Permalink for this page: http://mdc.mo.gov/node/28131

Appendix F. Draft White-Tailed Deer Management Plan

Draft

MISSOURI WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

(April 7th, 2014)

INTRODUCTION

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is arguably the most important game species in North America. Additionally, the white-tailed deer is both socially and economically important to the citizens of Missouri. As Missouri's most popular game species with diverse citizen interest, the management of the white-tailed deer has a number of unique challenges that range from providing public viewing and hunting opportunities, to minimizing conflicts.

The white-tailed deer management plan was developed to outline the components of Missouri's deer management program and provide strategic direction for deer management in Missouri over the next 10 years. By clarifying the deer management goals and objectives of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), this plan provides an opportunity for critical input from Missouri citizens on the direction of deer management in Missouri. This plan outlines many activities that are already occurring and proposes new concepts to be evaluated during implementation of the plan. It does not outline operational details of the deer management program. Operational details (e.g., proposed regulation changes, research proposals, and work plan adjustments) of plan implementation will be evaluated within a structured decision making framework, and implemented through the appropriate processes.

Previous planning efforts have not been as comprehensive and goal focused as this plan. For example, the most recent 2004 Strategic Deer Plan's primary focus was to manage rapidly growing populations, which at the time was a major challenge of managing Missouri's deer herd. The complexity of challenges to deer management in Missouri continues to increase over time. Existing and future challenges include, but are not limited to: managing deer in urban areas; public versus private land deer management; changing hunter attitudes, preferences, and demographics; changing land use practices; and disease threats such as chronic wasting disease. Ultimately, there is no optimal condition for deer management only a series of alternative strategies that have some predictable and some unpredictable outcomes. Therefore, identifying deer management goals and priorities is a critical first step in establishing the foundation for the future of deer management in Missouri.

This plan outlines four primary goals that incorporate the current priorities for deer management in Missouri: 1) Proactively manage for balanced deer populations below the biological and social carrying capacity within the defined management units at levels acceptable for agriculture, ecosystems, and other impacts consistent with the deer population, and recreational goals; using science-based wildlife management practices; 2) Provide opportunities for all citizens to enjoy deer-related recreational activities, and promote deer hunting as a socially and culturally important tradition that is the primary tool to achieving the deer population goal; 3) Ensure the maintenance of a healthy deer population, and minimize the threat and impacts of diseases on the deer populations in Missouri; 4) Provide information to the public about all aspects of deer biology and management in Missouri, and create opportunities for additional public engagement in the decision making process regarding the management of Missouri's deer resource.

MISSOURI DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REVIEW

In preparation for the development of the white-tailed deer management plan a thorough review of existing information, identification of management challenges and assessment of the current status of white-tailed deer management in Missouri was conducted. A summary of that information can be found within the *White-tailed Deer Management Program Review*.

DEPARTMENT DEER PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the deer program is to use science-based wildlife management to maintain biologically and socially balanced deer populations throughout the state that provide recreational opportunities, and minimize human-deer conflicts and the potential for negative impacts on ecosystem health.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The *Missouri White-tailed Deer Management Plan* has been developed to provide long-term strategic goals that direct management of the white-tailed deer in Missouri. This plan presents a series of goals, objectives, and strategies for managing Missouri's deer herd in the future. The goals of this plan should remain relatively constant over time; however, objectives and strategies may need to be altered periodically as conditions change and new challenges arise.

Goal 1: Deer Population Management – Proactively manage deer populations for a balanced sex and age structure while maintaining densities at or below the biological and social carrying capacity within the defined management units using science-based wildlife management practices.

The white-tailed deer is highly valued by the citizens of Missouri; however, conflicts between deer and humans as a result of agricultural damage, deer-vehicle collisions, landscaping damage, and suppression of forest regeneration do occur. MDC attempts to minimize the negative impacts of deer by keeping deer populations at acceptable levels and providing landowners and communities a diversity of lethal and non-lethal alternatives to mitigate damage risk.

It is important for a deer management plan to define management units and to propose measures to assess current status of the population. A plan should also propose population management objectives, management strategies to achieve the management objective, and a method to monitor population response. Ultimately, there can only be three desired deer population management objectives: increasing the deer population, maintaining the population, or reducing the population. Therefore, management unit population status can be simply stated as having too many deer, about the right number of deer, or too few deer.

The challenge in establishing population management objectives is balancing social and biological demands given that there are variable deer densities, habitat conditions, and stakeholder attitudes toward deer within and among management unit. Any method for establishing population management objectives should give consideration to all potentially affected interests within the management unit. In the end, public attitudes toward deer and perceptions of the population will determine the success or failure of the deer management program in Missouri.

Recreational hunting is the preferred method for managing deer populations and the associated deer-human conflicts. However, traditional hunting practices may not always be feasible or effective. Therefore, maintaining alternatives to traditional management for mitigation of damage is critical to ensuring that the public continues to place a high value on deer in Missouri.

> **Objective A** – Establish deer population management objectives for each management unit (e.g., county or aggregate of counties in urban areas) with consideration to available habitat, recreational demand, and the potential for deer-related damage
>
> **Objective B** – Annually assess and monitor deer populations within each management unit using science-based techniques

Objective C – Establish effective harvest guidelines for management of deer on both public and private lands within each deer management unit to meet population management goals

Objective D – Develop or continue programs for localized deer management within a management unit (e.g., conservation areas, cooperatives, communities)

Objective E – Provide flexible and innovative management tools and/or opportunities for communities, hunters, and landowners to achieve localized deer management objectives while meeting overall population management goals

Objective F – Increase effectiveness and management of deer populations in urban and suburban communities.

Objective G – Determine ecosystem impacts of deer and manage deer populations within levels that ensure maintenance of biologically diverse ecosystems

Goal 2: Hunting and Recreation – Provide opportunities for all citizens to enjoy deer-related recreational activities, and promote deer hunting as a socially and culturally important tradition that is the primary tool to achieving population and conflict management goals.

White-tailed deer hunting has become an important part of Missouri's wildlife conservation heritage and modern day traditions. In 2012, more than 517,000 individuals in Missouri possessed some form of a deer hunting permit. Additionally, Missouri deer hunters annually spend more than seven million days hunting and had total annual expenditures of more than $800,000,000.

Deer hunting is the primary tool that MDC utilizes to manage deer populations. Therefore, proper application of this management tool is critical to meeting deer population goals. Additionally, there is a great deal of tradition associated with Missouri's deer hunting seasons; however, a cultural shift in the expectation of the hunting experience is occurring, with an increasing desire among hunters to see, and have the opportunity to harvest more older age class bucks. However, many deer hunters still want the opportunity to harvest any legal deer. Additionally, to achieve the deer population management goals and maintain high levels of public satisfaction with the deer management, the desires of all user groups must be understood.

Objective A – Establish deer hunting season structure and regulations that achieve the deer population management goal and promote hunter participation, recruitment, retention and satisfaction

Objective B – Continue to promote recreational hunting as the primary tool to manage deer population

Objective C – Create a simple regulatory system that ensures fair and equitable allocation of hunting opportunities (e.g., seasons, methods, and permits) on private lands

Objective D – Provide satisfactory hunting opportunities on public lands

Objective E – Facilitate better deer hunting opportunities on private land

Goal 3: Deer Health and Disease – Ensure the maintenance of a healthy deer population and minimize the threat and impacts of disease on the deer populations in Missouri.

The Missouri Department of Conservation is responsible for ensuring the health of the deer population through management and regulation. Like all wildlife species, the white-tailed deer is susceptible to a number of diseases and parasites. The periodic occurrence of hemorrhagic disease (epizootic hemorrhagic disease and blue tongue), and the recent introduction of chronic wasting disease (CWD) to Missouri have raised public concerns regarding the short- and long-term impacts of diseases on the health of Missouri's deer population.

Chronic wasting disease, once established within a deer population, poses a significant threat to the long-term health and size of the state's deer herd. The emergence of CWD in Missouri not only jeopardizes the health of Missouri's deer population, it is also a long-term threat to the state's hunting heritage. Management actions to minimize the impact of CWD within our deer herd and efforts to reduce the spread and risk of future introductions require immediate attention.

The MDC management response must give consideration to the level of risk any disease poses to the health of the deer herd, other wildlife, livestock, and humans. Identification and monitoring of diseases of concern coupled with development of contingency plans to deal with current and emerging disease risk will be beneficial in addressing current and future disease management challenges.

> **Objective A** – Conduct monitoring of deer herd health and implement surveillance programs for diseases that pose a significant risk to the deer population
>
> **Objective B** – Implement policies and regulations to prevent the infection of deer by diseases not currently established in Missouri, and reduce the prevalence of diseases already established
>
> **Objective C** – Minimize risks from diseases that impact multiple species, such as wildlife, humans and livestock.

Goal 4: Education, Communication, and Public Engagement – Provide abundant and adequate information to the public about all aspects of deer management in Missouri, and create opportunities for additional public engagement in decisions about the management of Missouri deer resource.

The public is very interested and directly affected by all aspects of deer management. Additionally, any discussion of deer hunting or management is likely to elicit a strong response. Public opinions and philosophies often stem from traditions, long-held ideals, and biases that may be difficult to change. Because of the diversity of stakeholders affected by deer management, it is critical that effective communication and engagement be a priority to ensure the long-term success of the deer management program. It is widely recognized that engaging large diverse groups of stakeholders is extremely difficult, and development of educational materials that clearly communicate management strategies is no simple task. Therefore, MDC must implement a clear strategy to engage the public, key stakeholders, and partner organizations to proactively address management issues.

> **Objective A** – Clearly and effectively communicate deer management strategies to all stakeholders
>
> **Objective B** – Ensure stakeholder engagement in deer management decisions and clearly communicate outcomes.

Objective C – Continue to coordinate with partners to provide science-based deer management information and implement educational outreach programs

Objective D – Continue to value and promote the role of the private landowner and landowner cooperatives in the management of Missouri's deer herd

Please provide your thoughts and comments about the Deer Management Plan.

DRAFT

Appendix G. Open House Handouts

Hunter Recruitment and Retention

Deer hunting is the primary tool that the Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) utilizes to manage deer populations. Therefore, hunters are critical to ensuring the long-term ability to manage Missouri's deer population. As a result, hunting season structure and regulations must be designed to achieve the Department's deer population goals while promoting hunter participation, recruitment, retention and satisfaction.

The Department supports youth seasons and an apprentice hunting program based on our commitment to hunter recruitment and retention. Through youth seasons, the Department is working to get young hunters in the woods when the chance of success is optimal, to engage them in hunting and the outdoors at an early age. Many states are experiencing extreme declines in hunting participation, making it more difficult to instill the importance of natural resources and relevance of hunting. Missouri is not among those states, and that is largely due to our efforts to reach new youth and adult hunters and provide them with exciting opportunities, like youth portions of hunting season and the apprentice hunting program.

Successful recruitment efforts are evident in the changing age distribution and number of deer hunters (Figures 1 and 2). In 2001, 435,000 individuals held some form of deer hunting permit in Missouri. That number has grown to more than 513,000 individuals during the 2013 deer hunting season. Youth hunter recruitment efforts have been successful in increasing the number of hunters under the age of 16 by more than 40% from 2001 to 2013. Additionally, hunting is gaining in popularity as the number of women hunters increased from 39,000 in 2001 to 81,000 in 2013. Increasing hunter numbers are likely the result of increased opportunities and high success rates that result from a strong and growing deer herd of the late 1990's and early 2000s.

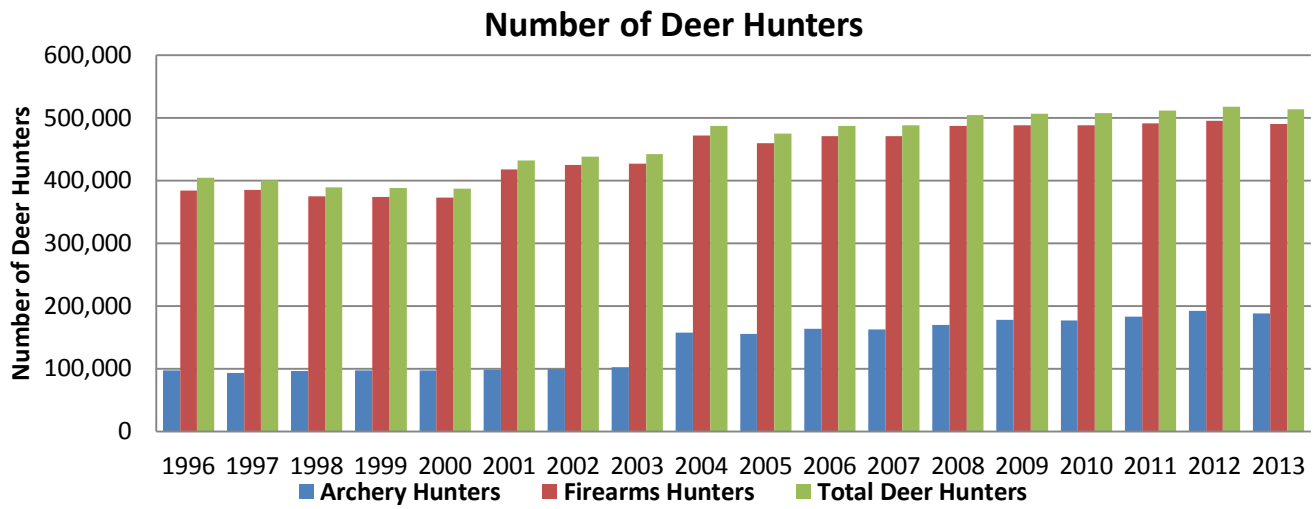

Figure 1. Number of archery, firearms, and total deer hunters in Missouri from 1996 to 2013.

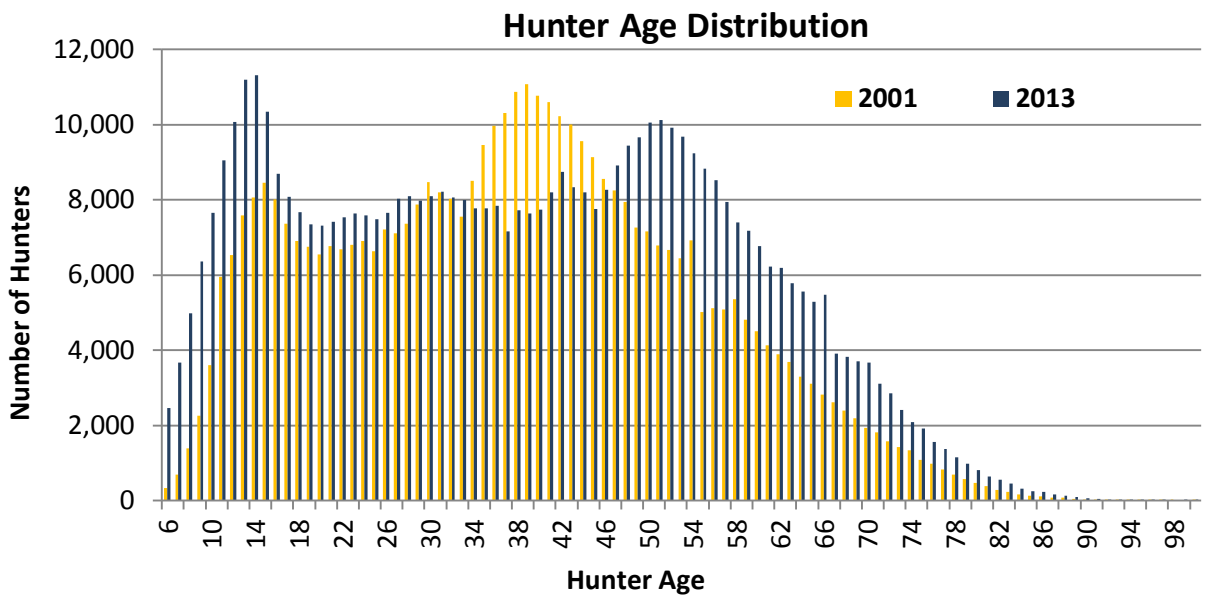

Figure 2. Age distribution of Missouri deer hunters from 2001 to 2013. As the "Baby Boomer" generation continues to age, this portion of the hunting population's participation will decrease.

While increasing hunter numbers, greater participation by women, and young hunters is encouraging, there is an aging segment of our hunter population that is not being replaced. Twenty-four percent of the hunters in 2001 were 50 years of age or older; today that number has increased to 32%, which indicates that unless hunter recruitment and retention increases over the next 5-10 years, total deer hunter numbers will begin to decline (Figure 2). Additionally, as hunters age, they tend to shoot fewer deer (Figure 3). Ultimately, failure to maintain hunter numbers jeopardizes the Department's long-term ability to ensure that the deer population remains healthy at or below biological and social carrying capacity.

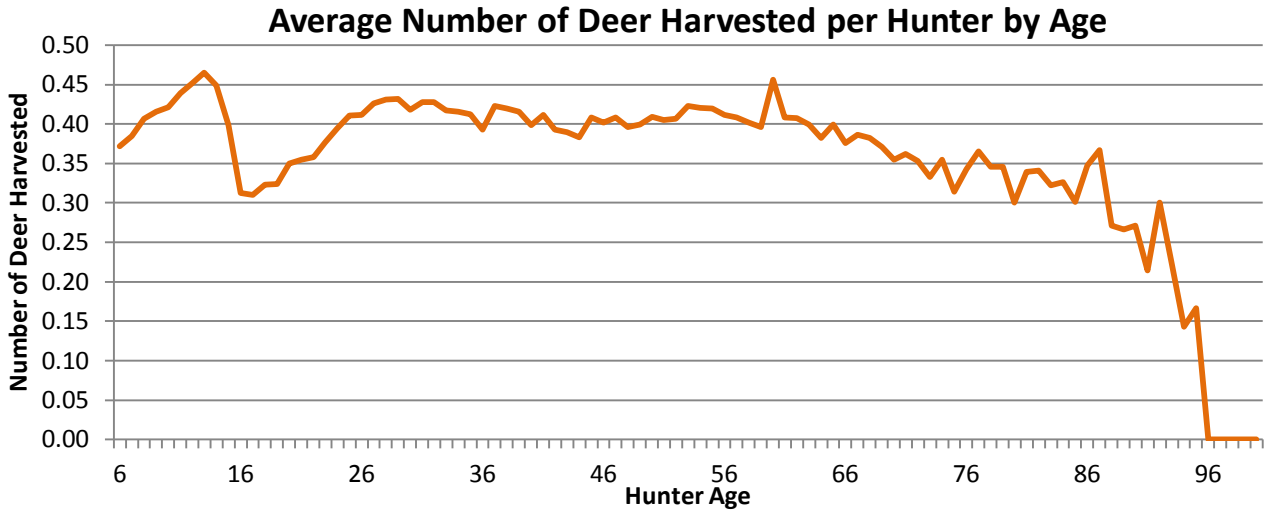

Figure 3. Number of deer harvested per hunter by age in 2013. As deer hunters age, they tend to shoot fewer deer.

Please provide your thoughts and comments about deer management and hunting opportunities on conservation areas.

Deer Management

Approaches for the Future

The current Missouri deer season structure and hunting regulations were built during an era of rapidly growing deer populations, coupled with a concern that hunters would not be able, or willing, to harvest enough does to stabilize or decrease deer numbers in much of rural Missouri. In order to meet the deer management challenges of today we must devise a new approach to deer management and reconsider the structure of seasons and regulations. Effective population management revolves around ensuring appropriate levels of harvest, which is affected by seasons and portions, season timing, methods, buck harvest limits, availability of permits, and several other factors. The goal is to adjust regulations in a manner that produces the desired population change (i.e., increase, stabilize, or decrease) and meets the desires of hunters, and ensure recruitment and retention.

MDC General Philosophy on Hunting Regulations and Season Structure

MDC's role and responsibility regarding hunting, fishing, and hunter / angler participation—**when consistent with biological considerations—**is to:

- Provide maximum opportunity and access;
- Minimize barriers;
- Use hunting to achieve wildlife management objectives;
- Support the economic benefits that result from hunting and fishing;
- Ensure that hunting and fishing remain viable mainstream activities for Missourians;
- Promote an understanding of our hunting and fishing heritage and traditions.

Archery Season –

The archery deer season has been growing in popularity over the past several years. Additionally, archery hunting is a critical deer management tool in many urban areas where the discharge of firearms is restricted. With the increasing popularity of the archery season, we have received an increasing number of requests to expand the season to include crossbows, which are currently only allowed with a Hunting Method Exemption.

The crossbow has never been allowed during the archery deer hunting season in Missouri, except where physical disability—confirmed by a physician—prevented use of a "regular" (i.e., long, recurve, or compound) bow. Currently more than 10,000 Hunting Method Exemptions are in effect to allow

persons with disabilities to use a crossbow during the archery deer season. Both regular bows and crossbows have been allowed during the firearms deer hunting season since 1958.

Many archers' groups and organizations oppose defining the crossbow as archery equipment. The stated concern is that crossbows greatly diminish the challenge of archery hunting. However, in states where crossbows are permitted during the archery season success rates for bow hunters and crossbow hunters are very similar. Support and request for allowance of crossbows during the archery season has been increasing over the last few years. A 2012 survey of 18,000 Missouri deer hunters indicated that 46% approve and 33% disapprove of allowing crossbows during the archery season. Therefore, the many Missourians who have individually requested additional crossbow hunting opportunity would no doubt welcome the allowance of crossbows during the archery deer season.

A 2008 report on archery deer hunters found that similar to other types of hunting activity, many hunters begin at an early age, then decline in participation during the late teen and college years, followed by a return in the mid-to-late twenties with somewhat stable participation until about age 40. Age 40 is the point where archery participation diverges from firearms deer hunter participation. It appears this is the age when Missouri archery hunters begin to "drop out" of archery hunting. This "drop out" appears to occur about seven to eight years earlier than with firearms deer hunters, and continues with a resulting decline between ages 40 and 85 that is comparable to the decline in firearms deer permit sales between ages 48 and 85. If, as suspected, physical limitations further the decline in participation of middle-aged archery hunters, allowing the use of alternative methods of harvest, such as crossbows, could prolong participation for several years for those that still retain a desire to hunt.

As always, our challenge is to balance contrasting hunter opinions with the desire to provide maximum hunting opportunity while also responsibly managing Missouri's deer population. In an effort to recruit younger hunters, retain older hunters, and provide an additional tool for urban deer management, we are considering expanding the archery season to include crossbows.

Season and Portions –

The timing of various portions of the firearms deer season are of great interest and debate among hunters. The November portion during the peak of the rut was established at a time when the goal was to minimize doe harvest and maximize buck harvest. Setting the firearms season to coincide with the rut was a good deer management strategy in the early years of deer management. Deer activity is high at that time so deer, especially bucks, are vulnerable to hunting. This was appropriate because we were most interested in protecting antlerless deer and did not care if we took a high proportion of the antlered bucks. Additionally, when the November portion was established many hunters were restricted to taking an antlered deer only and were not selective, shooting the first legal deer they encountered. They were satisfied because early to mid-rut deer hunting increased their chances of taking a deer. This season framework worked well given hunter interests and management objectives.

A growing deer population throughout the 1980's and 1990's produced many modifications of our deer management objectives, shifting from a buck harvest emphasis to a doe harvest emphasis. In addition,

deer hunter interests have changed. Hunters are becoming increasingly selective (Figure 1) and increasingly support management for adult bucks.

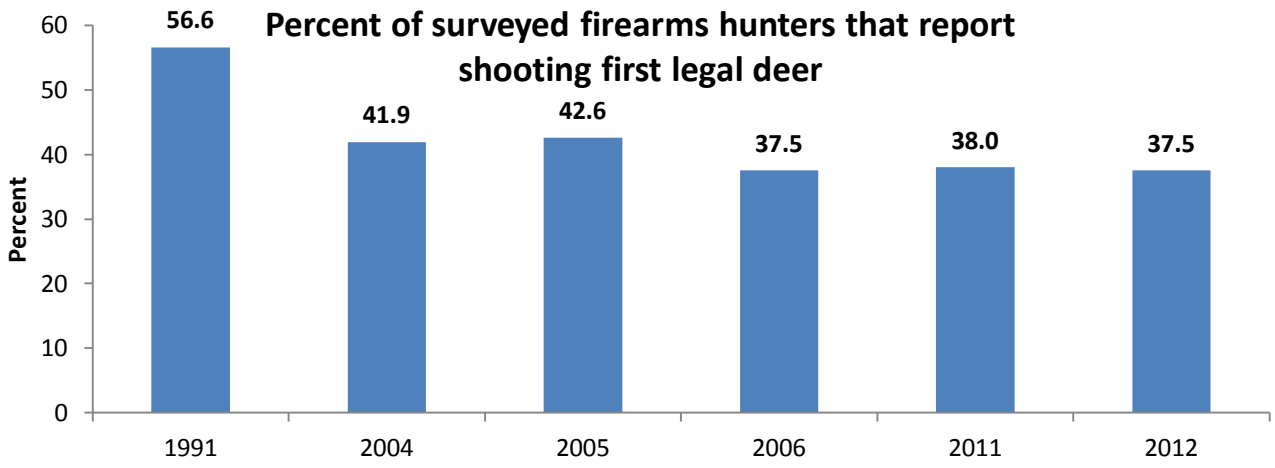

Figure 1. Percentage of surveyed firearm hunters who reported that they planned to shot the first legal deer that offered a shot.

Furthermore, the current November portion timing results in the removal of bucks during the peak of the breeding period, is disruptive to the established dominance hierarchies, and, biologically, is not an ideal time to apply heavy buck harvest. These dominance hierarchies ensure that the most fit, but not necessarily largest, bucks do a disproportionate amount of the breeding. For example, the current timing means that only 42% of the breeding occurs prior to the November portion (Figure 2). A one-week later shift would mean that approximately 75% of the does would breed prior to opening of this portion of the deer season. A later season would maintain the dominance hierarchies so that less fit bucks have less of a chance to breed.

Additionally, we know from historical changes in season timing that when the firearms season shifts from the earliest possible date (Nov 10), based on the current formula, to the latest date (Nov 16), that doe harvest increases slightly and buck harvest decreases slightly (Figure 3). Therefore, a one-week later shift to the firearms deer season would result in a slight increase in overall antlerless harvest and slight decrease buck harvest.

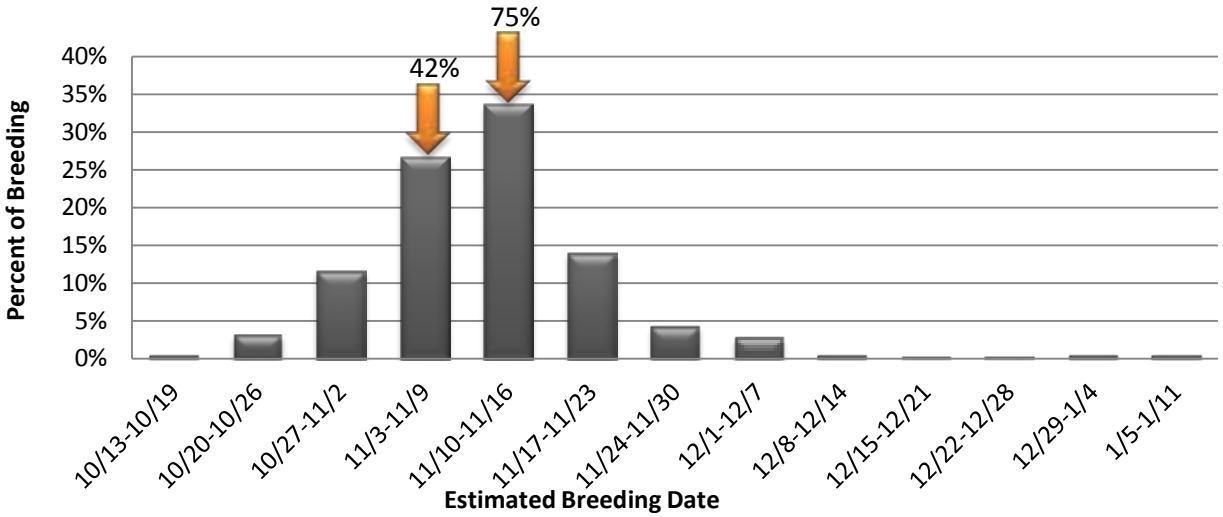

Figure 2. Distribution of breeding and percentage of breeding that would have taken place by the earliest opening date (Nov 10) and the breeding that would have taken place if the firearms season opening day began one week later (Nov 17).

Furthermore, one of the often-cited reasons for not hunting more is limited time. Starting the November portion of the deer season one week later would also incorporate the Thanksgiving holiday. Historically, when the firearms season included Thanksgiving, there was an increase in the number of days hunted. During firearms seasons that included Thanksgiving (1977-79), the number of hunter trips (average = 1,068,999) was higher than in the three years preceding (average = 933,365) and the two following (average = 1,053,444). Therefore, by moving the season one week later it would provide additional opportunities for people who have a limited number of days to hunt. This may be helpful in our efforts to recruit youth and improve hunter retention.

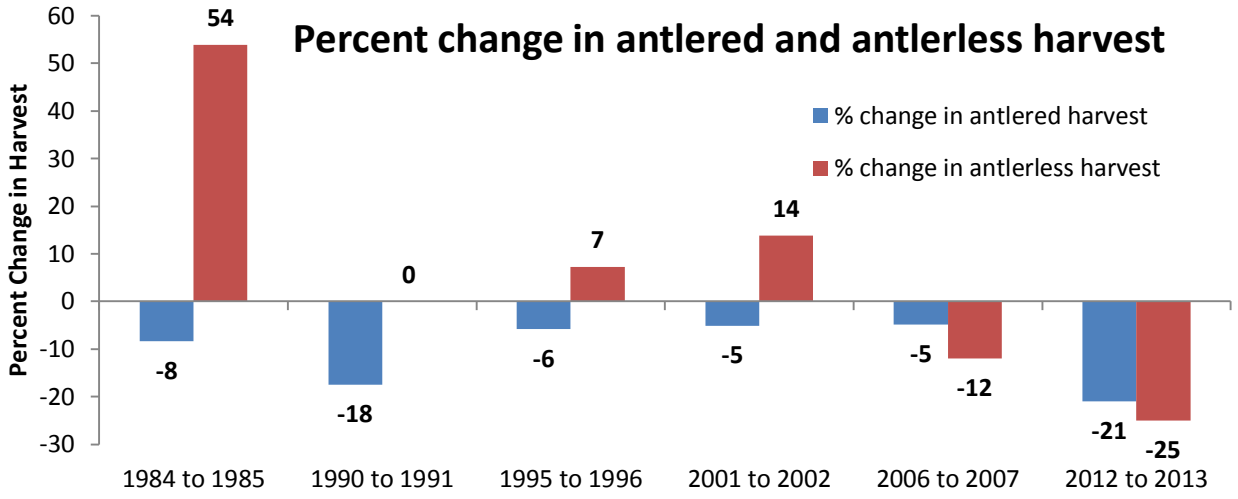

Figure 3. Percent change in antlered and antlerless harvest from a year with the earliest opening (Nov 10th) to a consecutive year with the latest opening (Nov 16th).

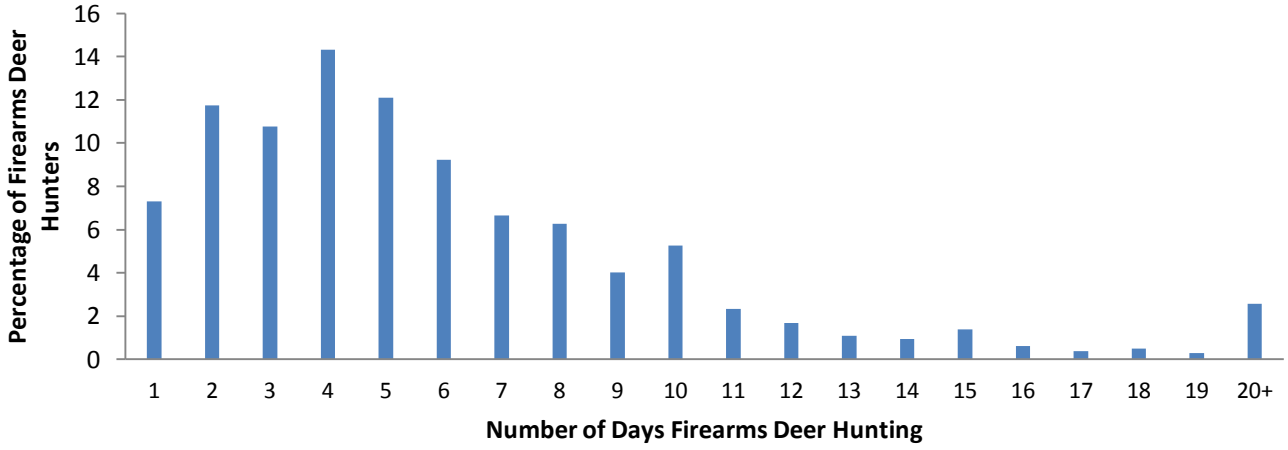

Figure 4. Estimated number of days spent firearms deer hunting in Missouri in 2012.

Antlerless portion –

The antlerless portion of the firearms deer season was implemented in 1996 as an effort to increase the harvest of antlerless deer in response to a rapidly growing deer population in portions of the state. The antlerless portion began as a 2-day portion and was expanded to 4-days in 1998 and 9-days in 2003. The antlerless portion was implemented to provide additional opportunities to harvest antlerless deer. However, because participation much lower than the November portion of the firearms season, the antlerless portion has not resulted in a significant overall increase in antlerless harvest. Much of the

harvest occurring during the antlerless portion is likely the result of shifting antlerless harvest out of the November portion. For example, in 2013, the antlerless portion only made up 6% of the total firearms deer harvest and 7% of the total antlerless deer harvest (Figure 5).

The antlerless portion has not produced significant additional antlerless deer harvest and complicated regulations on public areas because of added pressure. The deer population in most of Missouri is currently at or below the population goal, the previously mentioned changes to season timing and buck harvest limits can compensate for any potential loss in antlerless harvest that would occur as a result of eliminating or shorting the antlerless portion. When we consider the changes to the population across much of Missouri that has occurred over the past several years, the additional antlerless harvest opportunities provided by the antlerless portion are no longer necessary to meet population management goals.

Also, increasing numbers of deer hunting days with the creation of youth portions, expansion of November, antlerless, and alternative methods portions has created conflicts between deer hunters and others outdoors users like small game hunters. Removing or reducing the length of the antlerless portion of the deer season may result in some lost deer hunting opportunities, but it would reduce conflicts that occur between other hunters due to the length of the current deer hunting seasons.

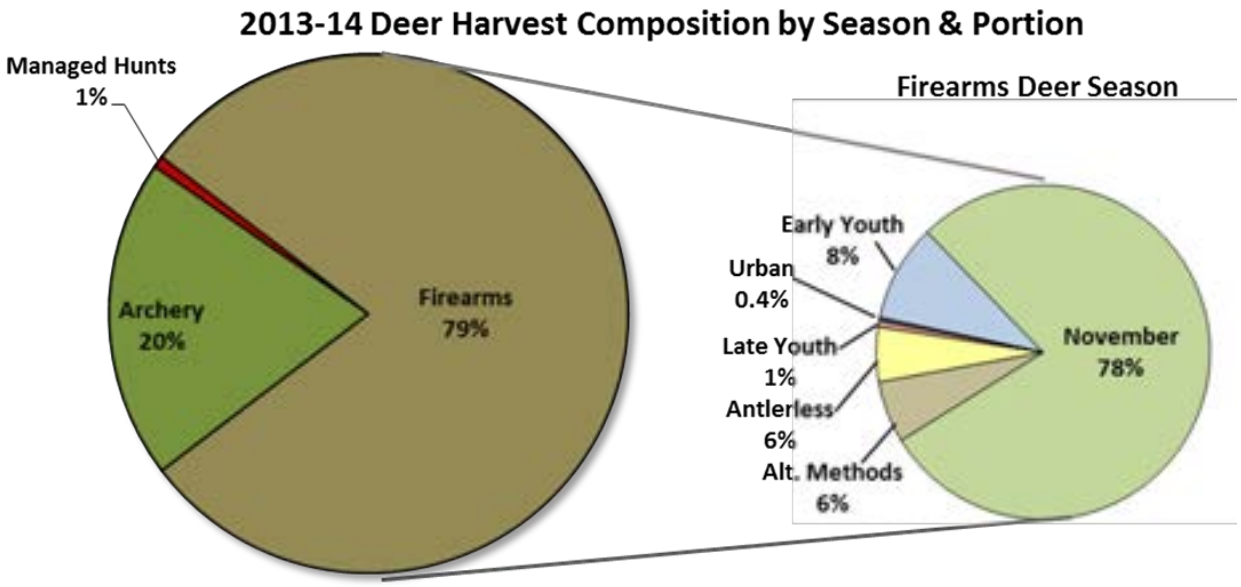

Figure 5. 2013-2014 Composition of deer harvest by season and portions of the firearms season.

Buck Harvest –

Traditionally, deer management did not limit or restrict buck harvest. As population management goals shift toward encouraging antlerless harvest and hunters' desire to see more bucks in older age-classes, wildlife biologist have begun to consider the restrictions on buck harvest as a tool to manage the sex ratio and age structure of the deer population. For example, the antler-point restriction was implemented to shift harvest pressure from bucks to does and improve age structure of the buck segment of the populations. The point restriction has reduced the harvest of bucks 1½ years old, but has not greatly reduced total buck harvest. Therefore, one option to consider is reducing the total number of bucks an individual could harvest to reduce pressure on the buck segment of the population. This is particularly important as we explore ways to ensure appropriate antlerless harvest and meet hunter desires for more bucks in older age classes, particularly in areas where the antler point restriction is not biologically or socially appropriate.

The more than 400,000 deer hunters that only hunt during the firearms portion of the deer season are currently limited to only one antlered buck because they don't hunt during the archery season. A reduction in the antlered buck limit to one would affect the approximately 120,000 hunters that participate either only in the archery season or both the archery and firearms seasons. However, each year archery harvest makes up a larger proportion of the total antlered buck and overall deer harvest. For example, in 2000 archery deer harvest made up 10% of the total deer harvest and 11% of the antlered buck harvest, by 2013 those numbers had increased to 20% and 19%, respectively.

Localized Management and Antlerless Permits –

Now that deer populations have become well established across the state, most management focuses on meeting localized population goals. Because deer populations are affected by local factors such as habitat condition and hunter numbers, we must consider the application of antlerless harvest and allocations of antlerless permits on a much more localized basis. From 1974 to 2003, there was a quota system on the number of antlerless permits issued by management unit. In 2004, the Department went to county-based management units, eliminated the quota system, and replaced it with the current system, which is based on limiting antlerless permits an individual could use on a county-management unit basis, but not limiting total antlerless permits available for that county. The quota system is slightly more complex than the current system, but it provides some control over the number of antlerless deer harvested by management unit.

As management intensity increases, the pressure for more small-scale localized management will also increase. The current system or the quota system for allocation of antlerless permits can only regulate harvest at the county or management unit level and cannot deal with small-scale localized differences that occur within a county. Therefore, wildlife management cooperatives, where neighboring landowners work together to meet common deer management goals, are increasing in popularity. The Department is also considering developing a Deer Management Assistance Program with some combination of county limit or quota that would allow for greater localized antlerless harvest flexibility, which would help hunters and landowners meet local management goals.

Please provide your thoughts and comments about statewide deer management, hunting regulations, and hunting opportunities.

Urban Deer Management

In urban areas, deer populations can expand to nuisance and damaging proportions with the overabundance of deer usually being a reflection of human values rather than biological thresholds. As human and deer populations in Missouri have grown together there have been increases in deer-related concerns and conflicts. Extensive and continuing overlap in landscape use by people and deer has led to the enormous challenge of managing abundant deer populations in human-dominated environments, with a complex mix of human expectations, concerns, and values.

Despite the magnitude of deer-related impacts in urban and suburban environments, whitetails have a tremendous positive value to society. Many people in Missouri enjoy observing deer, and as a hunted big game species, deer also have a high recreational value to hunters, state agencies, and businesses that rely heavily on incomes from activities associated with deer hunting. It is critical that we manage deer populations in urban areas than maintain the social and cultural value of deer.

The goal of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) urban deer management is to provide individuals and communities with information about deer management and to assist, as requested, in the management of white-tailed deer by providing management expertise, deer management plans, and population control options that provide residents and communities with effective ways to manage deer in accordance with the MDC Urban Deer Management Guidelines.

Extensive effort to inform and educate landowners is an essential aspect of managing deer in urban and suburban environments of Missouri. MDC staff has a long history of working with urban and suburban landowners and community leaders regarding human-deer conflicts. These efforts typically suggest that a multi-faceted approach of lethal and non-lethal deer management strategies must be used as there is no single solution to alleviating all human-deer conflicts. Options offered and used in Missouri by landowners and communities include: non-lethal options such as habitat modification consisting of planting species non palatable to deer and cutting roadside vegetation further away from the shoulder of the roadway, temporary and permanent fencing, no feeding ordinances, capture and surgical sterilization of female deer, and public awareness campaigns about cautious driving on Missouri's roadways. Lethal options utilized include ordinance changes allowing controlled hunting , implement or advise on implementing controlled hunts on public lands in urban and suburban areas, the establishment of urban zones and urban firearms, and archery deer seasons in Kansas City, Springfield, St. Louis, and Columbia/Jefferson City metropolitan areas, sharpshooting, and trapping and euthanasia.

In order for the Department to further advance the urban and suburban deer management program and remain relevant in the future, additional management tools must be seriously considered and implemented. The Department has taken a progressive and proactive approach to urban and suburban

deer management and will consider adding tools to the toolbox to help urban and suburban communities meet their deer management objectives.

Please provide your thoughts and comments about urban deer management.

Deer Management

Conservation Area Deer Management and Regulations

Deer management on Missouri's public areas has had a diverse history ranging from refuges that served as a source of deer during the state's deer herd restoration in 1940's-60's to the current offering of diverse hunting opportunities. Diverse hunting regulations on conservation areas have been established to fulfill the desires of hunters with different harvest and hunting methods interests.

In 2005, the Department applied six deer hunting regulations on conservation areas and monitored how they affected deer numbers and hunter attitudes. During 2005, 2006, 2011, and 2012 hunters on select conservation areas were randomly interviewed and received follow-up surveys to determine their perceptions of the deer population, hunting experiences, and overall satisfaction with different hunting regulations.

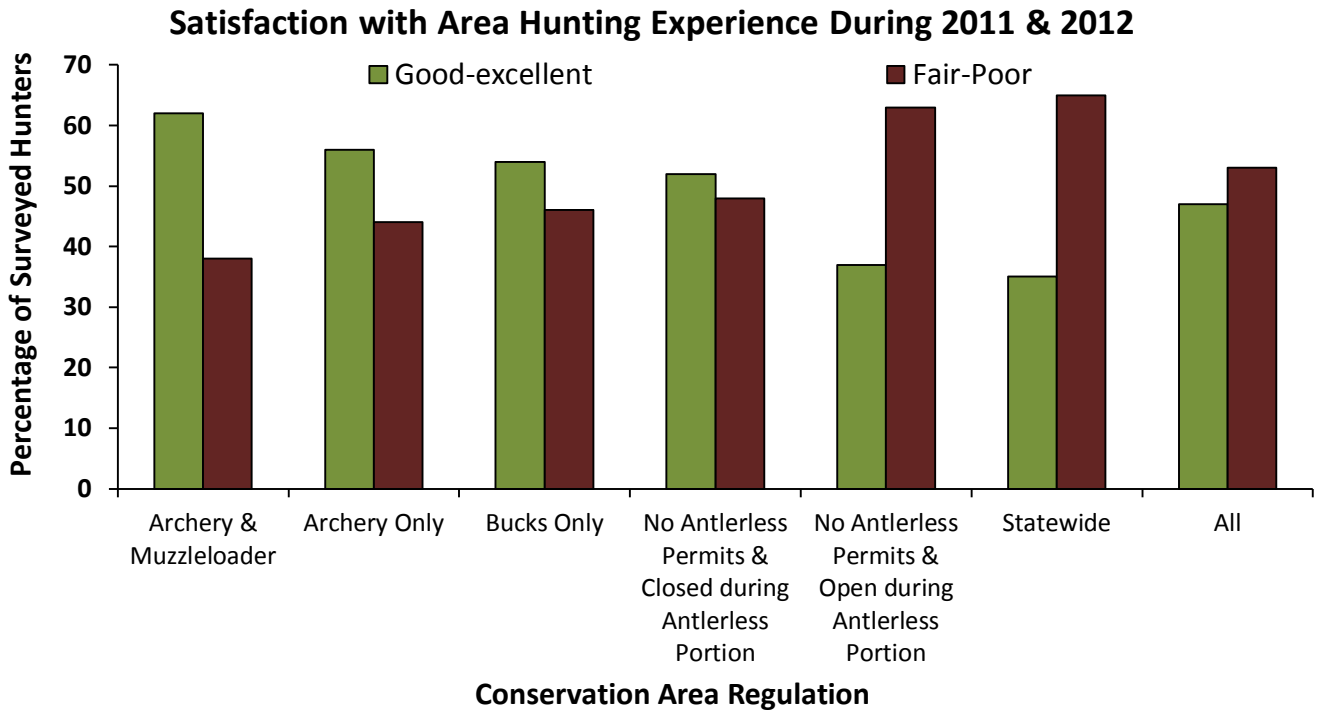

Figure 1. Hunter satisfaction with the hunting experience on conservation areas by regulation type. Conservation areas with restrictive regulations (archery/muzzleloader methods, bucks only, etc.)

produced better hunting experiences for hunters than areas with more liberal regulations (statewide, open during antlerless portion).

The study found that for most hunters, the opportunity to see and harvest a deer is important, affecting how hunters select an area to hunt, and their satisfaction with the hunting experience. The results suggest that conservation areas with restrictive regulations increase opportunities to see deer and produce more satisfied hunters. However, for some hunters the opportunity to hunt deer and use whatever permits are available in the county is most important.

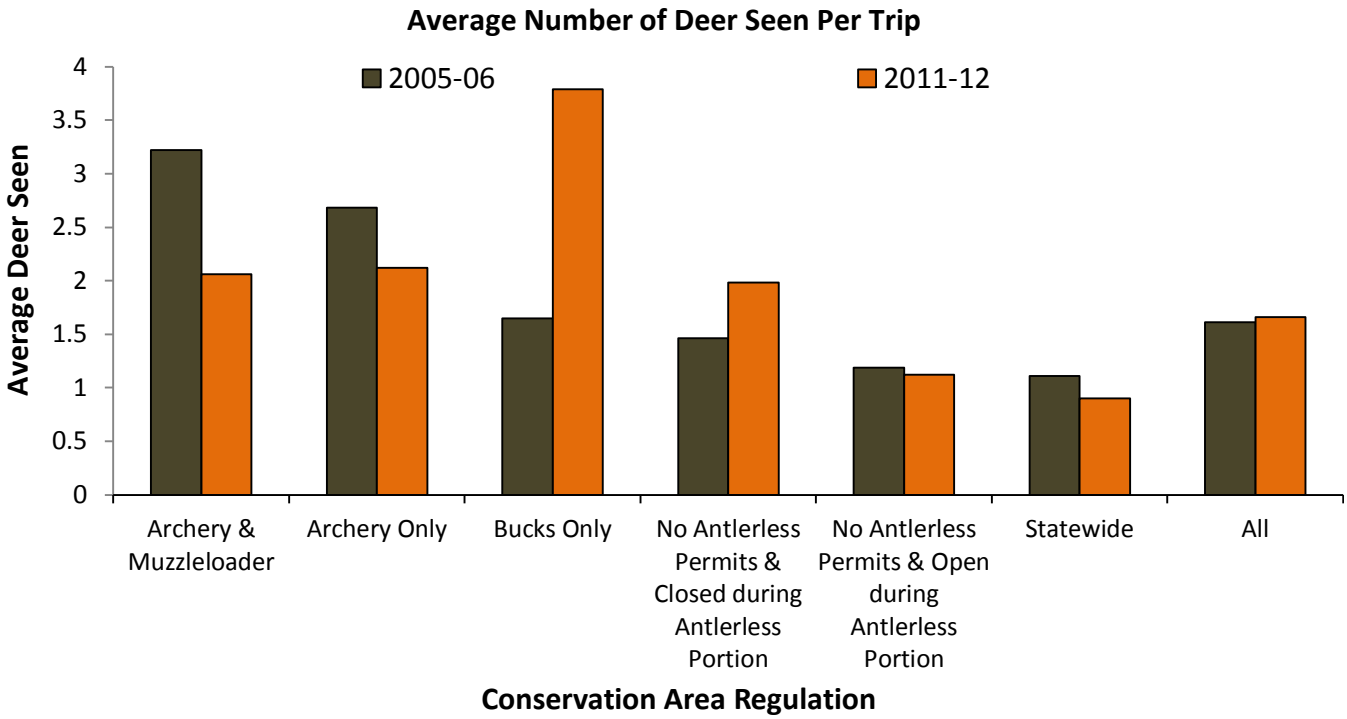

Figure 2. Average number of deer seen per trip by year (2005 & 2006 vs. 2011 & 2012) and by conservation area regulation. Generally, more deer were viewed on areas with more restrictive regulations. It is important to note the increase in deer viewed on "bucks only" areas between the two time frames is a reflection of growing deer populations as a result of regulations limiting antlerless harvest.

The Department is aware of hunter concerns with the harvest of too many antlerless deer on public lands (not just conservation areas) as indicated by the results of statewide surveys of a sample of all deer hunters. Generally, deer hunters on public land have lower success rates, perceive lower deer numbers, and tend to rate their hunting experiences lower than private land hunters. This at least partly explains why the portion of deer hunters who only hunt public land in Missouri has declined from 39% in 1971 to 11% in 2012. The Department continues to strive to manage deer numbers at desirable levels while providing diverse deer hunting opportunities for the public. The Department will evaluate regulation and permitting options to ensure levels of antlerless harvest on conservation areas produce biologically and socially balanced deer populations.

Please provide your thoughts and comments about deer management and hunting opportunities on conservation areas.