

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Game Division

June 12, 1959

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Gentlemen:

Enclosed is the first revision of the statement on policy and organization of the Great Lakes Deer Group.

I have deleted, rearranged, and edited as best I could from the excellent responses to my October 1958 request for comments.

Again I request your comments as members of the Procedures Committee.

If you have previously made suggestions that have not been incorporated, please feel free to restate them -- they may have been overlooked in the final coordination.

Sincerely,

IHB:bjm
Enclosure

I. H. Bartlett, Chairman
Procedures Committee
Great Lakes Deer Group

THE GREAT LAKES DEER GROUP

The Great Lakes Deer Group is an informal organization of deer men (field, investigative, research, management, administrative, and educational) from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario -- a rather closely knit area where range, herd, and hunting conditions are somewhat comparable. The group holds annual two-day field meetings rotated among the member states and province. Meetings generally are made up of directed round-table discussions and a field trip.

The purpose of the organization is to promote a closer "grass roots" exchange, among members, of information on deer, range, hunting, management, and administration, through closer association, field trips, and group discussions at the field level. This is an important activity not provided for by either the North American or the Mid-west conferences.

The long-range policy of the group is:

1. To develop a progressive inventory and more efficient use of basic knowledge of deer and their related subjects.
2. To maintain a current list of projects contributing to our knowledge of deer and their management.
3. To pin-point the more important needs for better knowledge of the above subjects.
4. To outline a basic program for the management of deer, range, herd, and hunting in the Great Lakes Area.

ORGANIZATION

The Group shall be known as,
"The Great Lakes Deer Group"

It shall consist of representatives from the Federal, State, Dominion, and Provincial Wildlife Conservation organizations and Educational institutions in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario.

Officers shall consist of a chairman and a secretary, appointed each year by the host state or province.

It shall hold annual meetings rotated each year among the states and province. It is suggested (not mandatory) that meetings be held in midwinter in major deer or deer study areas and comprise two full days which may include a field trip of at least a half day duration, together with round-table discussions. Dates, location, and other details may be set at the discretion of the host organization.

Attendance shall be limited (with reasonable exceptions) to those working on deer investigations, deer management, deer research, administration, and wildlife education with emphasis to be placed, at least partially, on the lower brackets -- those who are actually doing the work on the ground. It is strongly

suggested that the total attendance at the annual meetings be kept within the 30-to-40-person range and that each visiting state or province send not to exceed 6 delegates (including educational). Dominion and Federal wildlife agencies should limit their attendance to 1 or possibly 2 each.

Meetings shall be of the "discussion-leader" type with topics for discussion previously assigned to various organizations or individuals, or as is otherwise desirable. Specialists from outside the group may be invited to discuss pertinent topics but should take up not more than one 2 or 3 hour period of each meeting.

A generalized record of the discussions shall be kept, and an informal report distributed among members and others each year following the meeting.

The Group shall make no specific recommendations on research, investigations, or management unless such is definitely requested by an administrative unit. However, the Group as a whole represents an important pool of knowledge on deer range, deer, hunting, research, investigations, and management in the Great Lakes area and requests from administrative units for expressions of opinion or recommendations will be welcomed.

HISTORY

The Great Lakes Deer Group is unique in that it was deliberately organized to provide for a continuation of the informal "hotel-corridor" type of discussion found so valuable at the Mid-west and the North American Wildlife conferences. It was found that there was insufficient time at these conferences to complete these desired, valuable discussions among the various deer workers. The informal midwinter deer group meetings were set up to fill this deficiency, with the field trips and "on the spot" observations and discussion further adding to the value.

Since the deer problems in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario are similar, and to keep the group within the most efficient round-table discussion size the group has been self-restricted to these four governmental units.

The deliberately planned informality of the directed discussion-leader type of talks has encouraged the free expression of opinions while the main theme has been adhered to. It has contributed greatly to a productive, stimulating atmosphere. The group has been meeting regularly since 1953 with increasing interest each year. The response has been so enthusiastic that there has been some difficulty keeping the attendance within the most efficient (30-40-person) size range.