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An Evaluation of Fee Hunting as a Technique to Capitalize on the Value of Deer in Northern New York

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Project Title: Wildlife Ecology, Behavior and Habitat Improvement in New York.

Study No. and Title: XIII - Deer Management Research in Northern New York Ecosystems.

Study Objective: To research selected aspects of deer resource dynamics that have been identified as key components in the re-definition and/or implementation of deer management strategic plans and programs in northern New York.

Job No. and Title: XIII-10 - An Evaluation of Fee Hunting as a Technique to Capitalize on the Value of Deer in Northern New York.

Job Objective: To increase the income resulting from fee hunting to a net return of \$4.00/acre/year, while documenting hunter reaction and effects on the quality of the hunting experience.

Period Covered: April 1, 1981 - March 31, 1984.

Abstract: Gross income generated as a result of the 1981-1983 fee hunts at the Huntington Wildlife Forest ranged from \$1.07 to \$1.76/acre/year. Administrative and operational costs averaged 19.6% of gross income during the same period. Net income ranged from \$0.87 to \$1.40/acre/year and averaged \$1.12/acre/year. Efforts to increase revenues from this form of hunting resulted in a 154% increase over the 1978-1980 period, however this figure (\$1.12/acre/year) was considerably less than the established \$4.00/acre/year goal. Increased revenues resulted primarily from escalating the fee charged to each hunter. Cost reductions associated with initiating a season pass system and eliminating special insurance coverage were also important factors. Efforts to increase the number of participating hunters were partially successful. Muzzleloader hunters increased by 94% over the 1978-1980 period, however a decrease in the number of archery hunters offset this gain. The use of a bid system, where hunters were required to submit bids reflecting the amount they were willing to pay for this hunting experience, resulted in an average bid of \$47.82 for a season hunting pass. Hunter success rates for deer averaged 12.3% during the 1981-1983 period. Population models developed for the hunting area suggest that the current hunting effort, employing both muzzleloader and archery hunters, is maintaining a stable deer population near the desired level of 12-13 deer/mi². Past research has shown that this population density is compatible with timber management objectives.

Background: While the white-tailed deer already constitutes an important resource in the Adirondack region, there is a high probability that its value can be enhanced through more effective management. This is the basic premise underlying New York's Strategic Plan for Management of White-tailed Deer in Northern Regions. A key aspect of this management is the manipulation of vegetative conditions. In the Adirondacks, extensive manipulation of vegetation is occurring on private lands through the harvest of wood fiber.

Much of the work already completed under Study XIII can provide the information necessary to suggest strategies for modifying forest management practices to enhance conditions for deer. However, as management decisions are heavily influenced by economic analysis, it is necessary to document the economic costs and benefits to integration of deer management objectives with those of wood fiber management. The objectives outlined in this research program will address this need by documenting the basic monetary return a landowner can expect from fee hunting management of deer. Combining these data with the cost figures associated with maintenance of a deer population will provide much of the information needed for economic analysis. This will place wildlife managers in a stronger position to assist forest landowners.

Past fee hunting under Job XIII-4 has provided valuable information on establishing and managing a system of fee hunting. Preliminary information on costs and returns to the private landowner were determined. Landowner return was calculated at approximately \$0.44/acre/year based on the past hunting experiences (1978-1980) associated with Job XIII-4.

Procedures: Using the 5,200 acre hunting area at the Huntington Wildlife Forest and the established fee hunting system, a variety of alternative fee schedules were tested. Hunter densities, fee schedules, numbers of days of hunting, and several payment procedures were evaluated. The following schedule relating to fees charged was used:

- 1981 - \$10/day/hunter or \$50 season pass/hunter
\$40 deposit/party
- 1982 - \$50 season pass/hunter
\$50 deposit/party
- 1983 - Bid System
\$25 season pass/hunter
\$25 deposit/party

Under the set fee schedules, which were used in 1981 and 1982, it was difficult to assess hunter "willingness to pay" for the hunting experience offered at the Huntington Forest. In an effort to better identify the price hunters were willing to pay, all party leaders participating in any of the hunts held from 1980-1982 and any new hunters expressing an interest in the 1983 hunt, were sent bid forms and instructions along with the 1983 hunting information packet (Appendix I). A total of 185 bid forms were sent out. Fifty seven new hunters (30.8%) and 128 hunters (69.2%) who had participated previously in these fee hunts were included in this sample of both archery and muzzleloader hunters. Party leaders were instructed to submit a bid

reflecting the amount which all party members were willing to pay for a season pass to hunt during the 1983 season.

During the 3 year period of escalating hunting fees and associated procedural changes, we monitored the reaction of hunters to these changes and their effects on the quality of the hunting experience. This was done using questionnaires and personal interviews with participating hunters. Deer population estimates based upon the techniques described in a previous job under this same study (Job XIII-8), were associated with hunter reactions to this experience. Records of all costs and income attributed to the conduct of this fee hunting program were maintained.

Findings:

Income-Costs - Gross income generated as a result of the 1981-1983 fee hunting program ranged from \$1.07 to \$1.76/acre/year. Net income ranged from \$0.87 to \$1.40/acre/year and averaged \$1.12/acre/year. This average net revenue figure represents a 154% increase over the \$0.44/acre/year average net income generated from the 1978-1980 fee hunts. A total of \$18,364 in net revenue was generated from the 3 years of fee hunting (1981-1983) resulting in an average annual net income of \$6,121 from the 5437 acre hunting area. A summary of the annual revenues, costs and other related statistics for all years of fee hunting (1978-1983) is presented in Table 1. Administrative and operational costs associated with the conduct of these hunts averaged 19.6% of gross income or approximately \$1500 annually (\$0.28/acre/year) during the 1981-1983 period. A complete breakdown of the various costs directly related to the operation of the fee hunting program during the 1981-1983 period is presented in Table 2.

Bid System Results - Of the 185 bid forms distributed, 60 bids (32.4%) were returned. Archery hunters submitted 10 of these bids and muzzleloader hunters returned 50. These 60 responses returned by party leaders represented a total of 243 hunters (as determined from the list of party members returned with each bid). Responses from new hunters accounted for 36.5% (22) of the bids returned with past participants providing 63.5% (38).

The bids ranged from \$7 to \$101 (Fig. 1). There were no significant differences between the mean bids of archery hunters and muzzleloader hunters or between new hunters and past hunters. The mean bid for a season pass, based upon all respondents was \$47.82/hunter. Both the median and the mode were \$50.00 (Table 3).

Although the hunters were not informed prior to submitting their bid, a minimum acceptable bid of \$25/hunter had been established a priori. Fifty eight of the 60 bids received met or exceeded this minimum figure. A figure of \$25 was later used as the fee per hunter in 1983, regardless of the amount they bid. We set the fee at \$25 to avoid potential problems which may have resulted from hunters paying different fees for the same benefit.

Fee Schedule and Procedural Change - As shown in Table 1, the fee schedule in 1981 was increased to \$10/hunter/day or \$50 for a season pass. A \$40 deposit was required of each hunting party prior to arrival. In 1982, all hunters

were required to purchase a \$50 season pass and a \$50 deposit was required from each hunting party. These increases in the fee assessed each hunter, compared to the average fee charged during the 1978-1980 period, resulted in a corresponding increase in gross income.

Hunter participation did not decline; the mean number of hunters participating during the 1981-1983 period was identical to that of the 1978-1980 period. However, the average length of stay per hunter increased from 2.95 days in 1978-1980 to 4.50 days during the 1981-1983 period. The number of total hunter days/season was also higher during the 1981-1983 period (959.3) when compared with the 1978-1980 period (652.5).

Efforts to increase the number of hunters participating in these hunts in order to increase income were only partially successful. During the 3 year period, archery hunter numbers declined from 80 in 1981 to 31 in 1982 with a slight increase to 44 in 1983. All of these numbers are well below the average of 136 archers participating during the 1978-1980 hunts. Muzzleloader hunters, on the other hand, increased sharply averaging 171 during the 1981-1983 period as compared to an average of only 88 during the 1979 and 1980 hunts (no muzzleloader hunting permitted in 1978).

The number of days of hunting provided under the 1981-1983 fee hunting programs was increased by an average of 12 days over the 1978-1980 period. The number of hunting parties permitted on the hunting area during each hunt was increased each year beginning in 1981 to a maximum of 50 parties in 1983 (Table 1).

Responses by hunters returning questionnaires relating to their appraisal of hunter density were very similar between the 2 hunting periods. Less than 4% of the hunters indicated that hunter densities were too high (the highest hunter density experienced during these hunts was 1 hunter/40 acres). The highest percentage of hunters felt that hunter densities were about right (72.6%) and 20.3% indicated hunter densities were too low (based on the 1981-1983 hunts).

Characteristics of Participating Hunters - During the 6 years these hunts were conducted, a clientele of hunters has been developed. Currently (based on the 1983 season only) 50% of the participants are returning hunters. Nearly 67% of the hunters are from out-of-state with Pennsylvania and New Jersey accounting for the majority of this group.

Participating hunters averaged more than 20 years of hunting experience. A large majority hunt with at least 2 different weapons (i.e. bow and gun). Responses to the questionnaires show that these hunters spend more than 40 days afield annually in connection with non-hunting pursuits and more than 16 days each year involved in hunting activities (Appendix II).

Attitudes of Participating Hunters - In response to a suggestion offered by D.E.C. personnel, an additional set of questions used as part of a hunter opinion survey in northern New York (Smolka, R.A. Jr., D.J. Decker, N. Sanyal, T.L. Brown, 1983, Northern New York Deer Management: Hunters' Opinions and Preferences), were incorporated with the fee hunting program questionnaire. The 4 questions (Appendix III) were designed to assess hunter

attitude toward D.E.C. deer management activities in the northern zone. The evaluation of the responses to these questions was done in an identical manner to that used in the D.E.C. survey. The results based on the responses of the hunters participating in the 1983 fee hunt at the Huntington Forest, are presented in Table 4. A comparison of the responses of these hunters with the results of the D.E.C. survey of northern zone residents, and southern zone residents from the 6 counties adjacent to the northern zone, is shown in Table 5.

Chi square tests were used to analyze hunter's responses to these 4 questions. There was no significant difference ($\alpha = 0.05$) in the responses of archery versus muzzleloader hunters or between New York residents and non-residents. However, when Huntington data were compared with D.E.C. data (northern and southern zone residents combined), we found that Huntington hunters were significantly more supportive of D.E.C. deer management activities than the sample of hunters polled in the D.E.C. survey. However, further breakdown of this data revealed no significant difference between New York resident hunters on the Huntington Forest and hunters from the D.E.C. survey. Non-resident fee hunt participants were significantly more supportive of D.E.C. activities than D.E.C. survey hunters.

Deer Harvest and Hunter Success - The total number of deer killed on the hunting area during the 3 years of fee hunting (1981-1983) was 81. This figure included 43 females (53.1%) and 38 males (46.9%). Deer harvest per square mile ranged from 2.82 in 1981 to 3.53 in 1983 (Table 6). The sex and age composition of the deer killed during the 1981-1983 periods is shown in Fig. 2. Archers accounted for 13.6% (11) of the total number of deer killed with muzzleloader hunters harvesting the remaining 86.4% (70). Pre-hunting season deer population estimates for the hunting area based on techniques similar to those described in a previous final report (PR Project W-105-R, Job XIII-8) ranged from 10 to 12 deer/mi² during the 1981-1983 period. Hunter success rates (for deer only) ranged from 10.0% to 14.0% and averaged 12.3% during the 1981-1983 fee hunts. This average figure is considerably higher than the average hunter success rate (3.5%) experienced during the 1978-1980 period when deer densities were lower and archery hunting constituted a major portion of the hunting effort (Table 6).

Analysis:

Income and Costs - Efforts to increase the revenue generated from fee hunting were partially successful, as evidenced by the 154% increase in income resulting from the 1981-1983 hunts when compared to the 1978-1980 period. However, the \$1.12/acre/year net revenue figure was still far below the \$4.00/acre/year goal.

The 154% increase is attributed primarily to reductions in costs and increased fees charged to participating hunters. Cost reductions were associated with the initiation of a season pass system which reduced personnel time in checking hunters in and out and with the elimination of the special liability insurance carried during the 1978-1980 period. The cost of this insurance was \$2.25/hunter. The increase in the fee assessed each hunter, from \$5/day in 1980 to \$10/day in 1981 and to approximately \$11/day in 1982 (\$50 season pass ÷ average hunter stay of 4.5 days), resulted in a

corresponding increase in gross revenue. Increases in the amount of the deposit required from each party did not contribute substantially to the increased income generated during the 1981-1983 period as relatively few "no shows" (less than 3 per season) were encountered.

Hunter Participation - The substantial increase in the number of muzzleloader hunters participating in the fee hunting program had the potential to increase revenues. However, this factor was offset by a dramatic decline in the number of archery hunters. The end result was that the total number of participating hunters (1981-1983) was unchanged when compared to the 1978-1980 period. Extremely difficult hunting conditions and "low" deer populations, resulting in low hunter success rates, appear to be the primary reasons for the decline in the number of archery hunters participating in the fee hunts.

Procedural Changes - Increases in the number of days of hunting offered during the 1981-1983 seasons and the number of parties permitted on the hunting area appeared to have little effect on increasing the total number of hunters. This is primarily due to the fact that the additional days provided were either during the archery season where interest appears to be low, or during the first 10 days of the northern zone rifle season (for bucks only) where other hunting seasons conflict with this added opportunity. The regular increases in the numbers of hunting parties allowed on the hunting area were accompanied by a gradual decrease in average party size.

Bid System - The results of the bid system initiated in 1983, clearly identify a season pass fee approaching \$50/hunter as the "acceptable" charge for the hunting experience provided, in the minds of most hunters. The argument that this figure resulted from "conditioning" of hunters as a result of past fees charged, is refuted by the fact that the average bid fee submitted by hunters with no previous experience with the hunting program (\$49.08), was nearly identical to that of hunters who had participated in the program (\$47.22). In addition, \$50 and \$51 were the most common bid figures (mode) received and \$50 was the median bid.

Informal interviews with several of the hunting parties participating in the 1983 fee hunts, indicated that transportation, food and hunting license fees (particularly out-of-state license fees), collectively represented a cost of nearly \$200/hunter. When discussing the \$50 season pass fee with these hunters, this charge was consistently viewed in the context of the total costs of the hunting trip. This suggests that the amount hunters are willing to pay for the hunting experience provided may be related to the total cost of their hunting trip, not just the value of the hunting experience.

Deer Density Control - Based upon the estimates of the deer population on the hunting area (Table 1) during the 1981-1983 period, the combination of archery and muzzleloader hunting involving 200-250 hunters annually appears to have stabilized the population at a level of 10-12 deer/mi². The population model for combined archery and muzzleloader hunting (Table 7, Model A) indicates that an annual fall harvest of 25-30 deer (33% of the pre-season population) composed of nearly equal numbers of males and females has resulted in a stable population density. Previous research has shown that a deer density of 12-13 deer/mi² is compatible with timber management objectives.

The annual harvest achieved through archery hunting alone would not result in adequate deer density control (Table 7, Model C). It appears unlikely that the number of archery hunters could be increased to the point where effective control of deer densities would be possible on the hunting area. Severinghaus (1963) concluded that archery hunter densities of 100-200/mi² would be required to control deer densities on the Howlands Island Game Management Area. Such hunter densities would undoubtedly "destroy" the wilderness character of these hunts which has been identified as an important part of the hunting experience for which "our" hunters are willing to pay.

Muzzleloader hunters accounted for 86.4% of the deer harvested during the 1981-1983 period. As a result, the model (Table 7, Model B) developed for muzzleloader hunting is very similar to that for combined archery and muzzleloader hunting (Model A). Recognizing the limitations of these models, the differences between them are probably not significant. The advantage of including archery hunters in the fee hunting program is associated with increasing recreational opportunity and revenues. The contribution of this group to control of deer densities is minimal under the current level of participation.

Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Deer Density Control Program - To the forest land manager interested in producing high quality sawtimber, the income directly resulting from fee hunting may not be the most important economic consideration attached to a managed deer hunting program. Excessive deer densities which can result from insufficient harvest (Table 7 Model C and D), may prevent or delay the establishment of desirable regeneration, leading to a longer rotation age. Alternatively, deer browsing can reduce the stocking of desirable species in regenerating stands resulting in lower value wood products in the future. Selective deer browsing can result in the development of undesirable plant species in some stands which may require expensive site preparation treatments before adequate regeneration can be established. All of these situations result in either a reduction in income or an added cost to the forest land manager. For example, the average net income generated from timber production alone for northern hardwood stands on the Huntington Forest has been determined to be \$20.42/acre/year. Each year that regeneration is delayed by deer can be interpreted as a \$20.42 loss in revenue attributable to excessive deer densities.

If selective browsing alters species composition such that a low value species such as beech dominates the stand rather than sugar maple and yellow birch, average net income can decline to \$6.35/acre/year; a difference of \$14.07/acre/year. For sawtimber stands managed on a 100 year rotation, this could mean a loss of \$1407/acre.

In stands where deer browsing has led to the development of undesirable species as advanced regeneration or following a regeneration cutting, elimination of this unwanted vegetation in order to establish preferred species may cost anywhere from \$45 to \$115/acre.

When faced with these potential costs or losses in revenue, the benefits of a well managed deer density control program employing public hunting should

be attractive to forest land managers. Obviously, if deer densities are below the threshold at which negative impacts on vegetation occurs such costs or reductions in revenue are not a major concern. Maintenance of the deer population at a desired level compatible with timber management objectives provides opportunities for increased monetary returns from both the timber and white-tailed deer resource.

Recommendations: This job has been terminated. The data collected and the information presented in this report should be useful in planning and developing future programs related to deer management in the northern zone as described in the Northern New York Strategic Deer Management Plan.

Table 1. Summary of Selected Statistics from Huntington Wildlife Forest Fee Hunting Program.

Year	# Hunters	# Hunting parties permitted/hunt	# Days of hunting provided	Hunter days	Type of hunting(% of total hunter days)	
1978	225	25	16	670.5	archery	(100%)
1979	164	25	24	479	archery muzzle.	(66%) (34%)
1980	277	25	34	808	archery muzzle. rifle	(33%) (39%) (28%)
MEAN	222	25.0	24.7	652.5		
1981	241	35	42	771	archery muzzle.	(29%) (71%)
1982	193	45	35	910	archery muzzle.	(16%) (84%)
1983	233	50	35	1197	archery muzzle	(16%) (84%)
MEAN	222	43.3	37.3	959.3		

Table 1. Summary of Selected Statistics from Huntington Wildlife Forest Fee Hunting Program (cont.).

Year	Fee schedule per hunter	Income (per acre)	Net Income	Administrative costs (%)
1978	\$25 flat fee/4 day hunt \$20 deposit/party	\$5925 (1.10)	\$3754 (0.69)	36.6
1979	\$5/day \$10 deposit/party	\$2505 (0.46)	\$ 544 (0.10)	78.3
1980	\$5/day \$10 deposit/party	\$4680 (0.86)	\$2958 (0.54)	36.8
MEAN		\$4470 (0.82)	\$2419 (0.44)	45.9
1981	\$10 day or \$50/season pass \$40 deposit/party	\$7380 (1.36)	\$5978 (1.10)	19.0
1982	\$50 season pass \$50 deposit/party	\$9650 (1.77)	\$7633 (1.40)	20.9
1983	Bid system \$25/season pass \$25 deposit/party	\$5825 (1.07)	\$4753 (0.87)	18.4
MEAN		7618 (1.40)	\$6121 (1.12)	19.6

Table 2. Mean annual administrative and operational costs of fee hunts held on the Huntington Wildlife Forest 1981 - 1983.

Personnel	1981-1983 Mean (dollars)	% of Total Cost
Supervisor	210	14.0
Technicians (2)	185	12.4
Secretary	296	19.8
Temporary Service	247	16.5
Total Personnel	938	62.7
<u>Other Costs</u>		
Insurance	Not required	
Phone, postage	185	12.4
Maps, printing	89	5.9
Signs, repairs	50	3.3
Garbage bags	26	1.7
Outhouse maintenance/materials	164	11.0
Misc. supplies	45	3.0
Total Supplies	559	37.3
GRAND TOTAL	1497	100.0

Table 3. Summary of Huntington Wildlife Forest Fee Hunting Bid System Results.

<u>Total # bid forms sent out = 185</u>		<u>Total responses* = 60 (32.4%)</u>	
New hunters	= 57 (30.8%)	New hunter responses	= 22 (36.5%)
Past hunters	= 128 (69.2%)	Past hunter responses	= 38 (63.5%)
<u># Responses by type of hunters</u>		<u>Minimum acceptable bids (\geq \$25/hunter)</u>	<u>Range in bids</u>
Archers	= 10	58/60 (96.7%)	Overall \$ 7 - \$101
Muzzleloaders	= 50		Archery \$25 - \$ 80
			Muzzle. \$ 7 - \$101
<u>Mean bid by type of hunter</u>			
Archers	= \$43.20 (N = 10)	New hunters	= 49.08
Muzzleloaders	= \$47.67 (N = 39)	Past hunters	= 47.22
Muzzleloaders (late hunt)	= \$52.54 (N = 11)	(No Significant Differences)	
<u>Results based on all 60 responses</u>			
Combined \bar{X}	= \$47.82		
Median	= \$50.00		
Mode	= \$50 and \$51		

* One bid sent in for entire party representing price all hunters in party were willing to pay. As a result, the 60 responses represent 243 hunters.

Table 4. Results of hunter opinion survey relating to extension of D.E.C. authority of deer management in the northern zone (based on Huntington Forest fee hunters only).

Hunter Group	Hunter Acceptance in percent ¹				Total
	Full Support	Conditional Support	Qualified Opposition	Full Opposition	
Archery hunters	25 (6)	50 (12)	12.5 (3)	12.5 (3)	100 (24)
Muzzleloader hunters	26 (28)	40 (43)	24 (26)	10 (11)	100 (108)
N.Y. residents	21 (11)	35 (18)	27 (14)	17 (9)	100 (52)
Non-residents	29 (23)	46 (37)	19 (15)	6 (5)	100 (80)

¹ Numbers in parentheses represent raw scores.

Table 5. Comparison of hunter opinions towards extension of D.E.C. authority over deer management in the northern zone.

Hunter Group	Hunter Acceptance in percent ¹				Total
	Full Support	Conditional Support	Qualified Opposition	Full Opposition	
Huntington Forest Fee Hunters	26 (34)	42 (55)	22 (29)	10 (14)	100 (132)
Respondents to N.Y.S.D.E.C Survey (Total northern and southern zones)	24 (540)	28 (630)	30 (676)	18 (405)	100 (2251)

¹ Numbers in parentheses represent raw scores.

Table 6. Summary of deer harvest statistics for Huntington Wildlife Forest fee hunts 1978 - 1983.

Year	# Deer harvested			# Deer harvested/mi ²	Hunter success rate (%)	Estimated deer population/mi ²
	Males	Females	Total			
1978	3	3	6	0.70	2.7	No estimate
1979	2	1	3	0.35	1.8	No estimate
1980	12	5	17	2.0	6.1	8
MEAN	5.7	3.0	8.7	1.02	3.5	-
1981	18	6	24	2.82	10.0	10
1982	8	19	27	3.18	14.0	10
1983	12	18	30	3.53	12.9	12
MEAN	12.7	14.3	27.0	3.18	12.3	10.7

Table 7. Simulated deer population growth models under alternative harvest schemes for the Huntington Forest 8.5 mi² deer hunt study area.

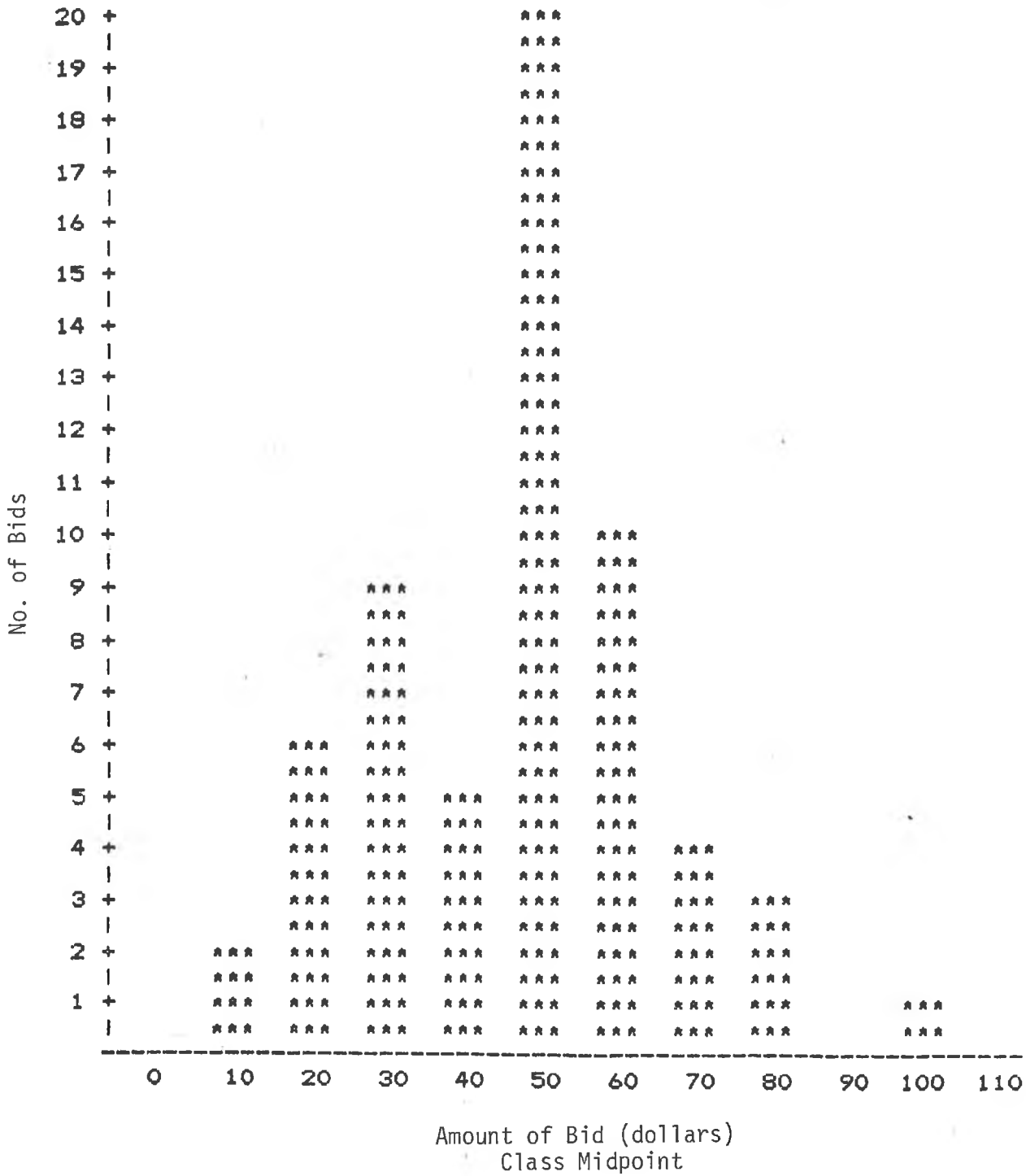
Time	MODEL A		MODEL B		MODEL C		MODEL D	
	<u>Muzzleloader & Archery</u>		<u>Muzzleloader Only</u>		<u>Archery Only</u>		<u>No Harvest</u>	
	# males	# females	# males	# females	# males	# females	# males	# females
Fall 1981 ^a	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Harvest 1981 ^b	18	6	14	4	4	2	0	0
Spring 1981	24	36	28	38	38	40	42	42
Recruitment ^c	15	15	15	15	16	16	17	17
Fall 1982	39	51	43	53	54	56	59	59
Harvest 1982 ^b	8	19	8	17	0	2	0	0
Spring 1982	31	32	35	36	54	54	59	59
Recruitment ^c	13	13	14	14	22	22	24	24
Fall 1983	44	45	49	50	76	76	83	83
Harvest 1983 ^b	12	18	10	17	2	1	0	0
Spring 1983	32	27	39	33	74	75	83	83
Recruitment ^c	11	11	13	13	30	30	34	34
Fall 1984	43	38	52	46	104	105	117	117
Deer/mi ² Fall 1984	9.5		11.5		24.6		27.5	

^a Pre-hunt population estimate (equivalent to 9.9 deer/mi²) based on Huntington Forest deer density calculation technique.

^b Harvest rates for models A, B, and C are observed rates for Huntington Forest fee hunts. Models assume only harvest mortality.

^c Recruitment rate = 1.10 (# of adult + yearling females). Number of breeding females estimated by reducing post-hunt population by 26% to account for non-breeding fawns. Recruitment rate and age composition of herd based on sample of 272 deer harvested on Huntington Forest 1966-1970.

Figure 1. Distribution of bids submitted by hunters for purchase of a season pass for the Huntington Wildlife Forest 1983 fee hunt.



Appendix I. Procedure for initiating a bid system for hunter reservation for the 1983 Huntington Wildlife Forest fee hunt.

1. Contact all party leaders from the last three years (1980-82), both archers and muzzleloaders.
2. Each party leader will be instructed to pool party members to determine what their party is willing to bid per person for a season pass to hunt the north unit of the HWF.
3. A total of 50 parties will be accepted for each hunt.
4. The top 50 bids will be accepted if 50 bids of $>$ \$25.00 per person are received. We feel this is the minimum acceptable bid, however party leaders will not be informed of this minimum until all bids are received so as not to influence bidding.
5. If 50 bids of $>$ \$25.00 are not received, a subsequent mailing will be initiated to all parties which did not submit a bid or submitted a bid below the acceptable bid level. This mailing will set the season pass fee at the minimum acceptable bid level. These hunters will then be able to hunt if they are willing to pay the minimum fee. Following these mailings, all new hunters expressing interest in these hunts will be invited to participate at the minimum acceptable bid if openings are still available.
6. Those parties who submitted acceptable bids will be guaranteed a reservation, with the remaining parties coming from the subsequent mailing and additional advertising and new hunters as required.
7. A deposit of \$25.00 per party will be required. The deposit will not be charged until all bids have been received and the 50 successful parties selected and notified.
8. All people submitting an acceptable bid will be charged the minimum acceptable bid fee. This will be done to minimize conflict between hunters and between hunters and staff, and because the research effort does not depend on actually collecting the money but in determining their willingness to pay. Successful hunters will only be informed of this after they have submitted an acceptable bid.
9. The above process will be used for both archery hunters and muzzleloader hunters.
10. The entire bid process will be conducted through the mail and should be completed by June 30, 1983.



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- U.S. Forest Service Cooperative Research Unit

Dear Interested Hunter:

Enclosed are all the materials you need to complete a reservation application for for the fall archery/muzzleloader hunts at the Huntington Wildlife Forest (HWF). As you may or may not know, all hunting done on the HWF is done in conjunction with a cooperative research project with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. In order to complete the stated objectives of this project, we are initiating a fee schedule this year based on a competitive bid system. Party leaders are asked to submit one bid on behalf of the entire party, representing the amount each hunter in the party is willing to pay for a season pass to participate in the fall HWF big-game hunts. All party members must have the same bid. For example, if the party leader submits a bid for a specified amount, each party member will be charged that amount upon arrival in the fall. All bids will remain sealed until June 30, 1983. At this time all bids will be opened. The top 50 acceptable bids will be chosen for each hunt.

As was mentioned previously, the bid made is for a season pass which includes a campsite and hunting privileges for all hunts. If you make a reservation for the early archery hunt and wish to also hunt during the muzzleloader or late combined hunt (or wish to hunt during both the muzzleloader and late hunts), please include this information on the reservation application. For those who wish to reserve a particular campsite, this will be done on a first come first serve basis based on the date the reservation application is mailed to us.

Season dates and all other information is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Weber
Wildlife Intern

SJW:dh
Encl.

CRANBERRY LAKE CAMPUS
CRANBERRY LAKE, N. Y. 12927

Charles Lathrop Pack
Demonstration Forest
Cranberry Lake
Biological Station

NEWCOMB CAMPUS
NEWCOMB, N. Y. 12852

Archer & Anna Huntington
Wildlife Forest
Adirondack Ecological Center

TULLY CAMPUS
TULLY, N. Y. 13159

Heiberg Memorial Forest
Genetic Field Station

WANAKENA CAMPUS
WANAKENA, N. Y. 13695

Forest Technician Program

WARRENSBURG CAMPUS
WARRENSBURG, N. Y. 12885

Charles Lathrop Pack
Demonstration Forest
Summer Field Program

RESERVATION APPLICATION

HUNTINGTON WILDLIFE FOREST BIG GAME HUNTS - 1983

This reservation is for hunt number: (circle one or more)

#1 S.pt. 27 - Oct. 14 #2 Oct. 15 - Oct. 21 #3 Oct. 22 - Oct. 31

If the party quota for the hunt you selected above is filled, indicate alternate dates you would be interested in: _____

The bid for a season pass for each member of my party is \$ _____.

Party Leader: Name _____

Address _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Birth Date: _____

How did you hear about these hunts? (check one)

Hunted at HWF before _____ Newspaper _____ N.Y. Sportsman mag. _____

United Bowhunters of N.J. _____ Other _____ Specify _____

Phone number _____ No. in party _____
(area code)

If you wish to request a particular campsite, please indicate the site no. here: Site no. _____ We will do our best to schedule this site for you unless it has already been assigned to another party.

Other Members in Party:

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

Reminders: No deposit is required at this time and you will not receive anything back from us until after June 30, 1983. Hunting parties making reservations for Hunt #1 be sure to read Special Note on information sheet concerning license requirements. Also, remember Hunt #3 is for bucks only and black bear.

Return Completed Form To:

Steven J. Weber
Huntington Wildlife Forest
Newcomb, New York 12852

HUNTINGTON WILDLIFE FOREST 1983 ARCHERY-MUZZLELOADER HUNTS

SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION SHEET

A. Where: Newcomb Campus of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Huntington Wildlife Forest Station, Newcomb, New York.

B. When: Three hunting periods are scheduled during 1983 as follows:

Archers Only Hunt #1

Sept. 27 - Oct 14 Any portion of this period (bucks, does, bear)
(See Special Note)

Muzzleloaders Only Hunt #2

Oct. 15 - 21 Any portion of this period (bucks, does, bear)

Combined Archery and Muzzleloader Hunt Hunt #3

Oct. 22 - Oct. 31 Any portion of this period (both archers and muzzleloaders will be permitted to hunt during this period for bucks and bear only)

There is no rifle hunting scheduled during the 1983 hunting season.

SPECIAL NOTE: Hunting parties making reservations for the first four days of Hunt #1 (Sept. 27 - Sept. 30). Due to the way in which the N.Y.S. license year runs (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30), all hunters who wish to hunt during the first 4 days of Hunt #1 must have an unfilled 1982 big game license and archery stamp. Remember bear can be hunted on last years unfilled bear tag also.

C. Who: These hunts are restricted to bowhunters/muzzleloaders, both resident and non-residents. Each hunter must possess a valid, unfilled N.Y.S. resident or non-resident big game license and archery/muzzleloader stamp. No special permits are required. All hunting activities, hours, licenses, equipment, bag-limits, etc. are as described by New York State Conservation Law for the Northern Zone of New York.

D. What: Both white-tailed deer and black bear hunting will be permitted. One deer of either sex and one black bear may be taken per license during Hunts #1 and #2. During Hunt #3, only legally antlered bucks and bear may be taken. No small game hunting will be permitted on the hunting area.

E. Area: An area of over 5,400 acres of managed private forest land in Newcomb, NY adjoining several thousand acres of public wilderness land will be open to hunting. This area is in the "heart" of the Adirondack Region of N.Y.S. Maps of the hunting area will be provided to each hunter upon arrival.

F. Hunting: Camping Parties: A maximum of 50 camping parties will be permitted on the hunting area during any one hunt. The minimum party size (camping parties) is two persons. Hunting is by prior reservation only, reservation applications will be accepted through Sept. 25, 1983.

Camping parties may arrive after 12:00 noon on the day preceding their first scheduled day of hunting to set up camp and look over the area. Parties will be required to be off the hunting area by 12:00 noon on the day following the last day of their scheduled hunt. All parties participating in Hunt #1 only must leave the hunting area by 1:00 pm on Oct. 14, 1983.

Private camping areas, accessible by gravel road, are distributed throughout the hunting area. Each party will be assigned to a camping area, however party members may hunt anywhere within the 5400 acre hunting area. Campsites will consist of reasonably level, cleared ground with an outdoor toilet. No electricity or running water will be available. Water may be obtained from any of a number of brooks, streams and lakes within the hunting area. Firwood will be available at at least two locations within the hunt area.

G. Fee and Payment: Each party leader is required to submit a bid for what each member of his/her party is willing to pay for a season pass (see attached letter and reservation application).

A deposit will be required for all successful parties. The amount of this deposit will be outlined and collected by return mail after June 30th. No deposit is required to submit the enclosed reservation application.

All parties are advised that the bid which they submit will be considered binding if they are among the top 50 bidders.

A party (or a portion of the original party or a reorganized party) wishing to return and hunt on a second or third occasion during the hunting period may make a reservation in writing or may call anytime in advance of their arrival to let us know when they plan to hunt. No deposit is required for these returning hunting parties. However, these hunters must check-in at our office or make special arrangements with us before going on the hunt area.

H. Check-in: The check station will be open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Sept. 26 and from 12:00 noon until midnight on Oct. 14. In addition, hunters may check-in anytime between 8:00 am - 4:30 pm on week days throughout the hunting period. Any hunter who cannot check in during these times should indicate this on their reservation form or by calling us directly. We will try to accommodate you if at all possible. However, if your plans change before arrival, please inform us as soon as possible.

I. How to find us: Following the receipt of a completed reservation form, a letter will be sent to the party leader confirming your reservation. Included with this letter will be a map explaining how to get to our main office building to check-in. Specific directions to the hunting area and campsites will be available upon arrival. All hunting parties must check in at the Adirondack Ecological Center (our office building) located on the north side of Route 28N just outside of Newcomb, heading towards Long Lake.

J. Other: Due to a busy schedule of research and management activities throughout the summer and early fall, we cannot allow hunters access to the hunting area for scouting purposes prior to Sept. 26.

All deer and bear taken on the hunt area will be checked by staff personnel. Age, weight, antler development, kill location, etc. will be recorded. All female deer will be dressed by staff personnel.

Portable tree stands will be permitted.

No firearms of any kind will be permitted on the area during Hunt #1. Muzzleloading firearms only will be permitted during Hunts #2 and 3.

The roads in the hunt area are narrow, gravel roads. If possible, please come in a vehicle which has good ground clearance. Hunters participating in Hunt #3 should be aware that snow is a real possibility. Please plan accordingly!

If you have additional questions regarding these hunts, contact:

Richard W. Sage Jr.
Huntington Wildlife Forest
Newcomb, New York 12852

Steven J. Weber
Huntington Wildlife Forest
Newcomb, New York 12852

Phone: Office (518) 582-4551
Home (518) 582-5471

Office (518) 582-4551
Home (518) 582-4602



COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY

NEWCOMB CAMPUS
NEWCOMB, NEW YORK 12852

ADIRONDACK ECOLOGICAL CENTER

SYRACUSE CAMPUS
SYRACUSE, N. Y. 13210

21 July 1983

- Schools of:
- Biology, Chemistry, & Ecology
 - Continuing Education
 - Environmental and Resource Engineering
 - Environmental and Resource Management
 - Landscape Architecture
 - Applied Forestry Research Institute
 - Empire State Paper Research Institute
 - Institute of Environmental Program Affairs
 - State University Polymer Research Center
 - U.S. Forest Service Cooperative Research Unit

Dear Hunter:

The season dates printed in our previous literature are incorrect for hunts # 1 and 2. The correct dates are:

Hunt #1	Sept. 26 - Oct. 13
Hunt #2	Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
Hunt #3	Oct. 22 - Oct. 31 (same as before)

The reasons for these changes are complicated and not worth bothering you with at this time. We hope this does not cause too much of a problem for anyone. As a result of these changes, the registration station will be open late on Sept. 25 and October 13.

We apologize for this last minute change in schedule and are looking forward to seeing you this fall.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Weber
Wildlife Technician

CRANBERRY LAKE CAMPUS
CRANBERRY LAKE, N. Y. 12927

- Charles Lathrop Pack Demonstration Forest
- Cranberry Lake Biological Station

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Appendix II. Huntington Wildlife Forest six year hunter questionnaire summary.

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Total	Percent
1. ARE YOU A MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZED HUNTING CLUB?								
Yes	54	39	13	17	32	-	155	28
No	76	73	96	63	82	-	390	72
2. DO YOU HUNT WITH:								
Gun	103	88	98	70	97	-	456	62
Bow	129	88	61	56	79	-	413	56
ML	-	40	61	62	100	-	263	36
N	130	112	231	142	116	-	731	36
3. NUMBER OF YEARS HUNTED:								
								<u>Ave.</u>
Total	18	18	-	18	24	24.3		20.6
Gun	16	16	17.7	17.3	22	24.2		19.0
Bow	10	10	8.5	7.7	12.2	11.5		9.9
ML	-	4	3.3	2.2	4	5.3		3.7
4. WHERE DO YOU NORMALLY HUNT?								
NY	93	93	66	35	43	53	383	57.0
PA	8	3	13	36	44	66	170	25.3
NJ	18	6	7	9	20	22	82	12.2
CT	1	0	0	0	0	4	5	0.7
VT	4	3	3	0	0	3	13	2.0
W.VA.	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0.3
N.H.	0	0	0	0	6	11	17	2.5
5. DO YOU BELONG TO A CLUB WHICH LEASES LAND FOR HUNTING?								
Yes	36	25	22	23	34	-	140	26
No	92	84	85	54	82	-	397	74
1982 ONLY - IF YES HOW MUCH ARE YOUR ANNUAL DUES?								
0-\$50					20			61
\$50-\$100					9			27
\$100-\$200					2			6
> \$200					2			6
6. HOW MANY DAYS DO YOU SPEND BOW/ML HUNTING PER YEAR?								
		16.3	14.4	23.4	21.1	16.0		<u>Ave.</u> 18.2
7. HOW MANY DAYS PER YEAR SPENT AFIELD NON-HUNTING?								
	35.0	36.6	47.3	48.6	-	40.4	41.6	

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Total	Percent
8. HAVE YOU PAID A FEE TO HUNT BEFORE?								
Yes	54	44	35	29	40	-	202	37
No	76	68	73	50	75	-	342	63
Big game	35	28	25	-	-	-	88	66
Small game	3	4	5	-	-	-	12	9
Water	-	4	7	-	-	-	11	8
Other	-	1	0	-	-	-	1	1
Big & small	15	6	-	-	-	-	21	16
9. DO YOU USUALLY HUNT BIG GAME ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LAND?								
Public	52	43	51	32	52	-	230	41
Private	51	52	60	36	64	-	263	47
Both	26	17	3	12	13	-	71	12
10. DO YOU PREFER TO HUNT BIG GAME ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LAND?								
Public	32	9	14	4	21	-	80	16
Private	80	62	61	15	63	-	281	57
Both	10	5	2	-	6	-	23	5
No Opinion	2	36	34	1	32	-	105	22
11. WAS YOUR CAMPSITE ADEQUATE?								
Yes	113	90	100	75	-	-	378	94
No	15	1	4	4	-	-	24	6
12. WERE ACCESS ROADS ADEQUATE?								
Yes	130	111	110	78	-	-	429	99
No	0	1	0	2	-	-	3	1
13. A. RESERVATION PROCEDURE:								
Convenient	90	89	86	62	-	-	327	77
Inconvenient	1	1	0	0	-	-	2	0.5
Okay	33	14	21	18	-	-	86	20
No Opinion	3	4	1	0	-	-	8	2.5
B. CHECK-IN CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE								
Convenient	94	95	86	62	-	-	337	80
Inconvenient	0	1	1	0	-	-	2	0.5
Okay	29	12	17	16	-	-	74	17.5
No Opinion	3	2	2	0	-	-	7	2

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Total	Percent
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C. HUNTING AND CAMPING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Convenient	96	87	84	59	-	-	326	77
Inconvenient	1	1	0	0	-	-	2	0.5
Okay	28	18	22	20	-	-	88	21
No Opinion	1	2	4	0	-	-	7	1.5

D. NUMBER OF HUNTERS

Too many	1	1	10	3	1	8	24	3.3
Too few	52	35	23	25	18	29	182	25.7
Okay	71	68	76	49	91	117	472	66.8
No Opinion	6	6	4	2	5	6	29	4.2

E. HUNTING CONDITIONS

Tough	103	65	66	25	33	99	391	55.5
Average	25	42	40	55	70	46	278	39.4
Easy	-	2	2	0	2	9	15	2.1
No Opinion	1	1	3	3	7	6	21	3.0

F. MAPS

Useful	103	94	93	59	-	-	349	81
Okay	19	14	16	17	-	-	66	15
Useless	3	1	2	1	-	-	7	2
No Opinion	3	2	1	1	-	-	7	2

G. DEER POPULATION

High	2	4	2	0	5	6	19	2.7
Low	91	75	56	45	66	96	429	61.4
All right	15	14	45	21	31	37	163	23.3
No Opinion	15	14	15	10	11	23	88	12.6

H. BEAR POPULATION

High	17	12	2	0	4	0	35	5.3
Low	43	38	50	49	58	57	295	44.4
All right	19	16	17	5	14	11	82	12.3
No Opinion	44	37	47	23	39	62	252	38.0

14. DID YOU HUNT ON HUNTINGTON FOREST ONLY OR ALSO ON ADJACENT STATE LAND?

Hunt. only	108	82	72	65	80	-	407	76
State only	3	2	0	0	1	-	6	1
Both	15	27	34	15	34	-	125	23

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Total	Percent
15. DID YOU HUNT FROM A PORTABLE TREE STAND?								
Yes	100	34	6	12	22	-	174	32
No	30	71	101	68	93	-	363	68

16. DID YOU USE THE GRID SYSTEM?								
Yes	53	37	52	44	66	-	252	46
No	75	75	58	35	49	-	292	54

17. DURING YOUR HUNT HERE WERE YOU PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN:								
Bear		24	47	12	2	0	85	10.8
Bucks		39	109	37	14	24	223	28.3
All deer		27	31	29	20	15	122	15.5
All		39	80	70	58	65	312	39.5
Bear & Bucks only		-	-	-	21	26	47	5.9

18. HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU HUNT?								
	Mean	Sum	SD	SE	N			
1978	23.54	3013	15.48	1.37	128			
1979	28.80	2309	21.63	2.05	111			
1980	21.00	4851	12.00	0.79	231			
1981	24.94	3541	12.38	1.04	142			
1982	35.30	4059	18.91	1.76	115			
1983	42.45	6749	-	-	159			
Total	27.68	24522	16.08	1.54	886	7.56 hours/day		

19. HOW MANY DAYS DID YOU HUNT?								
1978	2.98	381	1.25	0.11	128			
1979	2.90	322	1.75	0.17	111			
1980	2.96	683	3.25	0.21	231			
1981	3.50	496.5	1.53	0.13	142			
1982	4.71	547	2.66	0.25	116			
1983	5.14	807	-	-	157			
Total	3.66	3236.5	2.09	0.17	885			

SD = Standard Deviation

SE = Standard Error

20. A. HOW MANY DEER AND/OR BEAR DID YOU SEE?						
	Bear	Deer	Bucks	Does	Unknown	N
1978	17	216	62	121	33	130
1979	32	237	44	163	30	112
1980	16	393	57	288	48	231
1981	5	374	55	240	79	142
1982	25	378	35	261	72	116
1983	4	581	50	353	178	128
Total	99	2179	303	1426	440	859
Mean/Yr.	16.5	363	50.5	237.7	73.3	143.2
Mean/Hunter	0.11	2.54	0.35	1.66	0.51	

B. HOW MANY SHOTS WERE TAKEN?

	Bear	Deer	N
1978	8	55	130
1979	3	13	112
1980	4	61	231
1981	0	56	142
1982	2	76	116
1983	1	90	160
Total	18	351	891
Mean/Yr.	3.00	58.50	148.50
Mean/Hunter	0.02	0.39	

C. HOW MANY HITS?

1978			
1979	1	2	112
1980	3	27	231
1981	0	24	142
1982	2	22	116
1983	1	25	160
Total	7	100	761
Mean/Yr.	1.40	20.00	152.20
Mean/Hunter	0.010	0.13	

D. HOW MANY KILLED?

1978	0	7	130
1979	1	1	112
1980	2	16	231
1981	0	17	142
1982	1	12	116
1983	1	22	160
Total	5	75	891
Mean/Yr.	0.83	12.50	148.50
Mean/Hunter	0.005	0.08	

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Total	Percent
--	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------	---------

21. WAS THIS HUNT WELL RUN?

Yes	124	105	222	136	-	-	587	98
No	4	0	4	1	-	-	9	2

22. ASSUMING YOU CAN GET AWAY, WOULD YOU COME BACK NEXT YEAR?

Yes	80	89	97	74	-	-	340	83
No	45	16	7	3	-	-	71	17

23. WOULD YOU BUY A SEASON PASS COSTING \$50.00?

Yes	-	16	20	24	-	-	60	22
NO		91	80	48	-	-	219	78

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Total	Percent
24. WOULD YOU PAY \$3.00 TO DRIVE THE ROADS IN SUMMER, IF HERE?								
Yes	-	57	61	50	-	-	168	60
No	-	48	43	22	-	-	113	40
25. IF PERMITTED, WOULD YOU COME AND SCOUT IN THE PRE-SEASON?								
Yes	-	80	79	54	-	-	213	73
No	-	30	25	22	-	-	77	27
26. IF AREA WAS OPEN TO RIFLE HUNTERS, WOULD THIS EFFECT YOUR DECISION TO HUNT HERE IN THE FUTURE?								
Yes	-	62	45	51	-	-	158	56
No	-	46	55	24	-	-	125	44
27. DID YOU HUNT HERE IN PREVIOUS YEARS?								
Yes	-	25	61	62	58	79	285	37.8
No	-	86	164	80	58	80	468	62.2
28. DO YOU NORMALLY TAKE A HUNTING TRIP LASTING ONE WEEK OR MORE ANNUALLY?								
Yes	74	-	-	-	79			
No	55	-	-	-	35			
29. DO YOU HUNT SMALL GAME WITH:								
1978 only - Bow			4	(3%)				
Gun			60	(46%)				
Both			43	(33%)				
Not at all			22	(18%)				
30. HOW DOES LOGGING AFFECT DEER NUMBERS?								
Increase	73				89	-	162	68
Decrease	12				1	-	13	5
No Effect	12				4	-	16	6
No Opinion	28				20	-	48	21
31. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THESE HUNTS EXTENDED TO ONE WEEK RATHER THAN JUST 4 DAYS?								
Yes	61							48
No	65							53
32. WOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN A "BUCKS ONLY" HUNT ON THIS PROPERTY DURING MID-NOVEMBER FOR BOWHUNTERS ONLY?								
Yes	42							33
No	84							67
33. IS 12/DEER/MI ² ADEQUATE TO MAINTAIN YOUR INTEREST?								
Yes	32							29
No	79							61

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Total	Percent
34. DID YOU PASS UP A GOOD SHOT?								
Yes			7 deer 2 bear					4
No			161 deer					96
35. WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF A "ONE DEER OF EITHER SEX" SEASON IN NORTHERN NEW YORK?								
Yes			67					60
No			45					45
36. WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF A "ONE DEER OF EITHER SEX" SEASON ON CERTAIN PRIVATE LANDS IN NORTHERN NEW YORK WHERE LANDOWNERS CAN DEMONSTRATE SIGNIFICANT LOSSES DUE DIRECTLY TO DEER?								
Yes			93					87
No			14					13
37. SHOULD BOWHUNTERS AND MUZZLELOADERS IN NYS BE REQUIRED TO BUY A SPECIAL "STAMP" IN ADDITION TO A REGULAR BIG GAME LICENSE, IF THEY STILL TAKE ONLY ONE DEER PER SEASON?								
Yes			32					28
No			83					72
38. WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF BOWHUNTERS AND/OR MUZZLELOADERS BEING PERMITTED TO TAKE A DEER OF EITHER SEX ON THIS STAMP, AS WELL AS A BUCK ON THEIR REGULAR BIG GAME LICENSE?								
Yes			96					86
No			15					14
39. BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCE THIS YEAR, DO YOU THINK THERE ARE MORE, LESS OR THE SAME NUMBER OF DEER ON THE HUNTING AREA COMPARED TO THE LAST TIME YOU HUNTED HERE?								
More				31				53
Less				4				7
Same				23				40
40. WOULD YOU FAVOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HARVEST QUOTA SYSTEM (FOR THIS PROPERTY) WHICH WOULD DESIGNATE THE NUMBER OF BUCKS AND DOES TO BE HARVESTED EACH YEAR? THIS WOULD MEAN THAT WHEN THE BUCK QUOTA WAS REACHED, ONLY DOE HUNTING WOULD BE PERMITTED, OR VICE VERSA, UNTIL THE TOTAL HARVEST QUOTA IS REACHED.								
Yes				21	29	-	50	29
No				34	49	-	83	47
No Opinion				7	36	-	42	24

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Total	Percent
41. WOULD YOU FAVOR A DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (ON THIS PROPERTY) AIMED AT MAXIMIZING THE PRODUCTION OF TROPHY BUCKS?								
Yes				26	45	-	71	40
No				28	43	-	71	40
No Opinion				8	26	-	34	20
42. UNDER A PROGRAM OF TROPHY BUCK MANAGEMENT, WOULD YOU BE MOST INTERESTED IN SHOOTING A:								
Large heavy bodied buck				5				8
Buck with large antlers				39				64
No opinion				17				28
43. WOULD YOU FAVOR A POLICY (ON THIS PROPERTY) WHICH WOULD DISCOURAGE THE SHOOTING OF FAWNS?								
Yes				47	79	-	126	71
No				10	25	-	35	20
No Opinion				5	11	-	16	9
44. WOULD YOU FAVOR A POLICY (ON THIS PROPERTY) WHICH WOULD RESTRICT THE SHOOTING OF:								
A. SPIKEHORNS?								
Yes				27	38	-	65	37
No				33	64	-	97	55
No Opinion				1	13	-	14	8
B. SPIKEHORNS AND FORKHORNS?								
Yes				13	20	-	33	22
No				29	71	-	100	67
No Opinion				3	13	-	16	11
45. WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO FEED DEER (ON THIS PROPERTY) DURING SEVERE WINTERS?								
Yes				44	70	-	114	64
No				15	24	-	39	22
No Opinion				3	21	-	24	14
46. HAVE YOU EVER PAID A DAY USE HUNTING FEE?								
Yes					25			22
No					87			78
47. HAVE YOU EVER LEASED LAND INDEPENDENT OF AN ORGANIZED CLUB?								
Yes					6			5
No					106			95
IF YES, HOW MUCH DID YOU SPEND ANNUALLY?								
0-\$50	2 (33%)							
\$50-\$100		1 (17%)						
\$100-\$200			0 (0%)					
> \$200				3 (50%)				

Appendix III. Questions from 1983 Huntington fee hunt questionnaire used to assess hunter attitudes toward D.E.C. deer management activities in northern zone.

1. What level of authority should New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (D.E.C.) biologists have for northern zone deer management?

full authority_____ limited authority_____ no authority_____

2. What is your opinion about antlerless deer harvest through the use of a deer management permit in New York State?

favor anywhere in N.Y._____ favor in northern zone only_____

favor in southern zone only_____ do not favor anywhere in N.Y._____

don't really care_____

3. Do you think there should be a law change to allow antlerless deer harvests in the northern zone of New York?

Yes_____ No_____ Not sure_____

4. If no, would you give your conditional approval for antlerless deer harvests in the northern zone of New York?

Yes_____ No_____

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Richard W. Sage Jr. Title

Date

Approved by: William F. Porter (dh) 30 March, 1984
William F. Porter Date
Project Leader

Approved by: _____
Gary Parsons, Acting Leader Date
Game Species Section

Approved by: _____
Stuart Free, Chief Date
Bureau of Wildlife