

A Comparison of Harvest, Participation and Land Access among Resident and Non-resident Deer Hunters in Illinois



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SURVEY

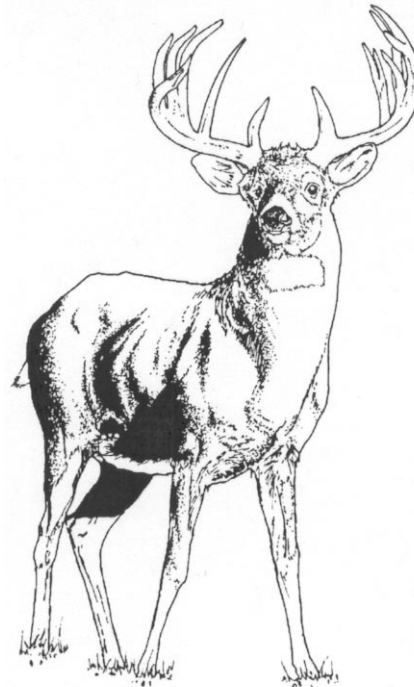


Federal Aid Project
Number W-112-R-16
Job Number 101.1 and 101.5
(Supplemental Report)
Wildlife Restoration
Oct. 1, 2006-Sept. 30, 2007

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INHS Technical Report 2008 (29)
July 11, 2008

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WILDLIFE HARVEST AND HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-16
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.1 and 101.5
(Supplemental Report)

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July 11, 2008

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-16

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Abstract

A random sample of 2,945 non-resident and 2,919 resident deer hunting license purchasers were mailed an 11-page questionnaire between January and April 2007. The questionnaire was designed to allow a comparison of deer hunting activities, methods of land access, expenditures on deer hunting and motivations for hunting deer in Illinois between resident and non-resident hunters. We received 1,916 (65%) valid responses from non-resident deer hunters and 1,744 (61%) from resident deer hunters. Both resident and non-resident hunters hunted the most days during the archery season, however, resident hunters harvested more deer during the regular firearm season than other seasons. Resident hunters harvested more does than other classes of deer, whereas non-residents harvested more bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side than other classes of deer. Non-resident hunters harvested male deer and antlered deer at a higher rate respective to their harvest of female deer or antlerless deer. Resident deer hunters were more likely to harvest female or antlerless deer than males or antlered deer. Non-resident hunters leased land to hunt deer and hired outfitters more often than resident deer hunters. Resident deer hunters were more willing to harvest doe and buck fawns than were non-residents and faced fewer restrictions on their harvest placed by landowners. Non-resident deer hunters were more satisfied with their ability to access private hunting land, the number of other hunters seen and the quality of the Illinois deer herd than were resident hunters.

Objective

Characterize and compare the hunting activity, land access, expenditures and motivations of resident and non-resident deer hunters in Illinois.

Methods

Non-Resident Deer Hunter Survey - The names and addresses of 3,000 individuals who purchased non-resident deer hunting permits in Illinois were selected through systematic, random sampling. Of the selected individuals, 1,350 had purchased non-resident firearm deer permits and 1,650 purchased non-resident archery deer permits. This distribution (55% archery, 45% firearm) reflects the proportional sales of deer permits in Illinois to all non-residents in 2006-2007. Recipients were mailed a self-administered, 11-page questionnaire (Appendix A), a cover letter and postage-paid return envelope on Jan. 24, 2007. A thank you/reminder postcard was sent to non-respondents on Feb. 9, 2007. On Feb. 26, 2007 a replacement questionnaire, cover letter, and return envelope were mailed to non-respondents. The second questionnaire was followed on March 15, 2007 with a postcard thank you/reminder. Data were coded, entered, and analyzed using SPSS 14.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). A summary of survey results can be found in Appendix A.

Resident Hunter Harvest Survey - A systematic, random sample of 3,000 addresses were selected from Illinois resident hunting license and state habitat stamp purchaser data (1,500 addresses of resident hunting license purchasers and 1,500 addresses of resident habitat stamp purchasers). Recipients were mailed a self-administered, 11-page questionnaire (Appendix B), a cover letter and postage-paid return envelope on 22 February, 2007. A thank you/reminder postcard was sent to non-respondents on 15 March, 2007. On 29 March, 2007, a second questionnaire, cover letter, and return envelope were mailed to non-respondents. The second questionnaire was followed on 17 April, 2007 with a postcard thank you/reminder. Data were coded, entered, and analyzed using SPSS 14.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). A summary of survey results can be found in Appendix B.

Results and Discussion

Survey Response - We received 1,928 responses to 2,945 deliverable 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Surveys. 1,916 responses were useable, for a response rate of 65%. Ninety-eight percent of respondents (n=1,886) reported purchasing one or more permits to hunt deer in Illinois during the 2006-2007 season. Survey respondents had hunted deer in Illinois for an average of nearly 5 years (n=1,899, range: 1-49 years; Note: IDNR regulated deer hunting in Illinois was established 50 years ago). Nearly all respondents (98%) were male with an average age of 44 years (n=1,868, range: 11-90 years). Non-resident hunters resided in 47 of the 50 U.S. states, with the largest number of non-resident hunters coming from Pennsylvania (11%, n=218) and Michigan (9%, n=162, Table 1). Nearly one-third (29%) of respondents currently live in a rural, non-farming area. Nearly half of respondents (n=894) indicated an annual household income of greater than \$80,000.

A total of 1,767 respondents returned Resident Hunter Harvest questionnaires from a valid sample of 2,919 addresses. 1,744 responses were valid, for a 61% response rate. Nearly all respondents were male (96%). Of the 1,744 respondents to the 2006-2007 Hunter Harvest Survey, 72% hunted deer in Illinois during 2006-2007. Respondents had a mean age of 50 years (n = 1,723, range: 9-76) as of October 1, 2006. Respondents resided in all of the 102 counties in the state. Most respondents currently reside in rural areas (48%) or small towns (26%). Respondents reported hunting deer in Illinois for an average of 20 years (n = 1,249; range: 1-66 years; Note: IDNR regulated deer hunting in Illinois was established 50 years ago).

Deer hunting participation and harvest in 2006-2007 - Non-resident deer hunters purchased more regular firearm permits per hunter than other permit types; however, archery

permits provided more than three times as many days hunting as any other permit type (Table 2a). Non-resident deer hunters harvested 0.5 deer/hunter (all seasons). Harvest per firearm hunter was highest (0.6 deer/hunter) and harvest per late-winter antlerless hunter was lowest (0.4 deer/hunter; Table 2a). Harvest per permit followed a similar trend. Non-resident hunters harvested the greatest number of adult bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side ($n=590$ deer; Table 3a) and the smallest number of doe fawns ($n=40$ deer) of all deer harvested. Harvest of large bucks (≥ 4 antler points per side) was highest during the regular firearm season (0.3 deer/hunter; Table 4a) and lowest during the archery season (0.2 deer/hunter). Harvest of small bucks (< 4 antler points per side), does, and fawns followed a similar trend by season. Non-resident hunters harvested just over 1 male deer for every female deer harvested during the archery deer hunting season (male:female ratio_{archery} = 1.30, Table 5a); however, they harvested many more male deer than female deer during the firearm and muzzleloader seasons (male:female ratio_{firearm} = 3.55, male:female ratio_{muzzleloader} = 2.47). A similar trend was exhibited in the ratio of antlered to antlerless deer in the total reported harvest (Table 5a).

In 2006-2007, resident deer hunters hunted more days during the archery deer season than other seasons, but harvest was highest during the regular firearm season (Table 2b). Resident hunters harvested 0.7 deer/hunter (all seasons) in 2006-2007. Harvest per hunter was highest during the regular firearm season (0.9 deer/hunter) and harvest per hunter was lowest during the late winter antlerless season (0.30 deer/hunter, Table 2b). Doe harvest was highest among all types of deer harvested ($n=712$), and harvest of doe fawns was lowest ($n=123$, Table 3b). Harvest of large bucks (with ≥ 4 antler points on one side) was highest during the regular firearm season ($n=256$) and lowest during the muzzleloader only season ($n=14$; Note: antlered deer were not legal to harvest during the late-winter antlerless season; Table 4b). Adult does

were also harvested most during the regular firearm season ($n = 339$), although the highest rate of doe harvest per hunter occurred during the archery season (0.38 does/hunter, Table 4b). Harvest of buck and doe fawns was low in all seasons. Resident deer hunters harvested female deer and antlerless deer more often than male deer and antlered deer in all seasons except the regular firearm season (Table 5b). Resident hunters harvested antlered deer nearly half as often as they harvested antlerless deer during the archery and muzzleloader seasons.

Expenditures to hunt deer in Illinois - Non-resident hunters spent an average of \$2,142 ($n=1,850$, range: \$21-\$25,000; Note: Responses of <\$49.25 were less than the minimum a non-resident could spend on licenses and permits) to hunt deer in Illinois for an average of 8.6 days ($n=1,850$, range: 0-90 days), including license fees, leases, food, lodging and all other expenses. The average per day cost to hunt in Illinois, as reported by non-resident deer hunters, was \$340 ($n=1,850$, range: \$5-\$3,333).

In 2006-2007, resident hunters reported spending an average of \$382 ($n = 1,119$, range: \$0-\$20,000; Note: the least a resident hunter could have spent to hunt deer in Illinois was \$5.50) to hunt deer for an average of 17 days ($n = 1,060$, range: 1-100 days). The average cost to hunt per day was \$38 ($n = 1,052$, range: \$0-\$625).

Location of deer hunting in Illinois - Non-resident hunters hunted in almost all counties in Illinois, but most frequently hunted in Pike (24%, $n= 483$) and Adams Counties (7%, $n= 133$; Table 6, Figure 1). In addition to hunting in Illinois, 1,619 respondents (85%) hunted deer in other states and countries. Pennsylvania (10%, $n=233$) and Georgia (7%, $n=156$) were the most commonly hunted states (Table 7). Resident deer hunters hunted in all counties in Illinois, but

most frequently hunted in JoDaviess (3.9%), Pike (3.4%) and Randolph (2.9%; Table 6, Figure 2) counties.

A majority of non-resident deer hunters hunted on private land during all hunting seasons in Illinois (85% archery, 90% firearm, 86% muzzleloader, 91% late-winter antlerless; hunters who did not report hunting during the given season were excluded). As a result of the high demand for private hunting land among resident and non-resident deer hunters, many non-resident hunters indicated encountering difficulty securing a place to hunt in Illinois (36% of archery hunters found it very or somewhat difficult to access hunting land in Illinois, 37% firearm, 40% muzzleloader, 39% late-winter antlerless; hunters who did not report hunting during the given season were excluded). Nearly 28% of non-resident hunters hunted on private land owned by a friend or family member. Another 30% hunted on land they paid an outfitter to access. Few hunters hunted on private land owned by someone they did not previously know (12%), public land (11%), or private land they owned (6%).

Resident deer hunters in Illinois reported hunting primarily on private lands during all deer hunting seasons (80% archery season, 88% regular firearm season, 94% muzzleloader only season and 93% late winter antlerless season; hunters who did not hunt during the given season were excluded). Most resident hunters reported having little difficulty finding a place to hunt deer in Illinois during the 2006-2007 seasons (64% of archery, 66% of firearm, 64% of muzzleloader and 68% of late winter antlerless hunters reported no difficulty finding hunting land; hunters who did not hunt during the given season were excluded). Resident hunters most frequently hunted on private land owned by a friend or family member (58%).

Leasing deer hunting land – Nearly 1/5 of non-residents (18%, $n=337$) indicated that they had leased land to hunt deer in Illinois during the 2006-2007 deer seasons. Of non-resident lessees, 83% paid for their lease in money. Few non-resident hunters paid for leases by working on the land (4%), giving the landowner venison (5%) or other trade-based payments (4%). Many (32%) leases granted non-residents access for any deer hunting season in which the lessee wished to hunt. Another 36% leased land for use only during the archery season and 19% leased land for use only during the firearm season. Nearly 1/3 of leases (31%) lasted for the entire calendar year and another 23% lasted for the duration of all deer hunting seasons in Illinois in 2006-2007 (October 2006 – January 2007). Twenty-three percent ($n=81$) of leases lasted only a portion of the season in which the lease was in effect (>1 day).

Few resident hunters (6%, $n=74$) reported leasing land to hunt deer in Illinois during 2006-2007. Of lessees, most paid for their lease in money (60%) or worked on the land or for the landowner (17%). A plurality of leases (38%) lasted for the duration of all deer hunting seasons in 2006-2007

Leases granted non-resident hunters access to an average of 589 acres ($n=351$, range: 20-12,000 acres). A plurality of leases (31%) gave non-resident hunters access to between 101 and 250 acres of land (Table 8a). The average number of hunters allowed access under a respondent's lease was 5 ($n=347$, range: 1-50 hunters, Table 9a). Lessees paid an average of \$1,435 per person ($n=240$, range: \$50-\$11,000) and \$6,005 per party ($n=241$, range: \$26-\$112,500) to access hunting land. Most non-resident hunters (51%) were willing to pay to access hunting land in the future, even if they did not lease land in the past.

Leases allowed resident deer hunters access to an average of 238 acres of land ($n=72$, range: 6-4,000 acres, Table 8b) and allowed access for an average of 6 hunters ($n=73$, range: 1-

20 hunters, Table 9b). Lessees paid an average of \$698 per person ($n = 53$, range: \$0-\$6,000) and \$5,425 per party ($n = 46$, range: \$0-\$150,000) to access leased hunting lands. Many (54%) resident hunters would be unwilling to pay to lease hunting lands in the future, however, a sizeable portion of respondents (28%) were unsure if they would be willing to pay for access.

Outfitting to hunt deer in Illinois - More non-resident respondents hired an outfitter (37%, $n=687$) to hunt deer in Illinois than leased land to hunt deer in Illinois ($n=337$). Thirty-seven respondents reported both hiring an outfitter and leasing land to hunt deer. Of those hunters who employed an outfitter, the mean amount paid for services was \$2,045 ($n=657$, range: \$0-\$7,200). Very few resident hunters (1%, $n = 7$) contracted with an outfitter to hunt deer in Illinois. Of these hunters who did hire an outfitter, they paid an average of \$583 ($n = 3$, range: \$150-\$1,200) for services.

Effect of leasing and outfitting on deer harvest in Illinois – Whereas many non-resident hunters leased land or used an outfitter to hunt in Illinois, these activities appear to have little effect on their rate of harvest during the regular firearm and archery seasons (Table 10). When compared within seasons and between types of deer, non-resident hunters who did not lease land or hire an outfitter harvested deer at similar rates (per hunter and per day hunted) to those who either leased land or hired an outfitter. Leasing land and outfitting increased harvest success most in the harvest of mature bucks (≥ 4 antler points on one side) during all seasons.

Leasing land did have some effect on harvest of deer by resident deer hunters (Table 11). Whereas small sample sizes for hunters who leased land prevented statistical comparison, data indicate that hunters who leased land harvested deer at a higher rate than those who did not lease

land. This is especially apparent in harvest during the archery season and harvest of mature bucks (≥ 4 antler points per side).

Willingness to harvest deer in Illinois - Non-resident hunters were willing to harvest adult deer of either sex at any time during their hunting season; however, they were reluctant to harvest fawns of either sex and immature bucks. A majority of respondents (57%) indicated they would be willing to harvest 1 large buck (≥ 4 antler points on one side) during their hunting season, but few (32%) were willing to harvest more than one buck of this type (Table 12a). A majority of non-resident deer hunters (54%) were willing to harvest more than one adult doe during their hunting season and another 34% were willing to harvest one doe. Non-resident hunters were much less willing to harvest doe (75% would not harvest a doe fawn) and buck fawns (92%) than adult deer of either sex.

Resident deer hunters were willing to harvest 1 or more adult deer of all sizes and sexes in Illinois (Table 12b), however, they were far less willing to harvest buck or doe fawns. A majority of respondents reported being willing to harvest 1 or more does (94%), large bucks (87% would harvest deer with ≥ 4 antler points on one side), and small bucks (69% would harvest deer with < 4 antler points on one side). In contrast, many respondents were unwilling to harvest buck fawns (58%) or doe fawns (46%).

Just over $\frac{3}{4}$ of non-resident deer hunters (77%) were willing to harvest a large buck at any time during their hunting season (Table 13a). Over half (51%) of non-residents said they would harvest a small buck after up to 75% of their season had passed. Nearly all respondents (92%) were unwilling to harvest a buck fawn at any time during their season. Most (60%) non-resident hunters were willing to harvest adult does any time during their hunting season.

Most resident deer hunters were willing to harvest a large buck (82%) or a doe (78%) at any time during their hunting season (Table 13b). Many hunters would allow more of their hunting opportunity to pass before harvesting a small buck, with 56% willing to harvest a small buck any time, and another 17% willing to harvest after up to 75% of their hunting opportunity had passed.

Non-resident hunters did not harvest does at rates that supported their stated willingness. Non-resident hunters reported being more willing to harvest >1 doe than any other type of deer; however, they harvested does at a rate lower than that of male deer for all seasons (Table 5a). Over half (54%) of respondents reported being willing to harvest >1 doe, however, only 56 respondents (3%) harvested ≥ 2 does over all of the deer hunting seasons in 2006-2007. Another 16% ($n = 306$) harvested 1 doe and the majority (81%, $n = 1,554$) did not harvest any does.

Reported willingness to harvest adult deer was borne out in harvest reported by resident hunters, as does made up the largest proportion of reported harvest (44%), followed by large bucks (25%) and small bucks (12%, Table 3b). Harvest rates of doe and buck fawns were higher than would be indicated by reported willingness to harvest, especially in comparison with harvest of small bucks.

Restrictions on harvest by landowners - Nearly half (44%) of non-resident hunters reported that the landowner on whose land they hunted limited their harvest decisions in some way. Of those hunters who reported being subject to harvest restrictions ($n=1,500$; *Note*: Many respondents were subject to >1 type of restriction), nearly one-third (32%) were based on antler size of male deer (Table 14a). Antler-based restrictions broke out as follows: no harvest of bucks with <4 antler points on one side (29%, $n=440$) and no harvest of bucks with ≥ 4 antler points on one side (3%, $n=40$). Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ (24%, $n=352$) of respondents who were subject to harvest restrictions

were not allowed to harvest a buck fawn. Another 16% (n=244) were not allowed to harvest fawns of either gender. Only 4% (n=56) of respondents were required to harvest a doe before a buck. Many non-resident respondents (23%, n=357) reported being subject to some other type of harvest restriction. Of these respondents, 274 (77% of “other” or 12% of the total) were subject to minimum Boone and Crockett or Pope and Young point restrictions.

Relatively few resident hunters (13%, n = 154) reported being subject to restrictions on the type of deer they could harvest, as imposed by the owner of the land on which they hunted. Of those respondents who reported being subject to restrictions, most were prohibited from harvesting a small buck (30%), a buck fawn (23%), or a fawn of either sex (18%, Table 14b). In addition, 15% of respondents were required to harvest a doe before they could harvest a buck.

Restriction of harvest by landowners is tied to the method used to access hunting land in Illinois for non-residents, but not for resident hunters. Of non-resident hunters who hired an outfitter to access hunting land, 73% (n=490) were subject to restrictions on the type of deer they were able to harvest. Only 26% (n=304) of non-resident hunters who had not used outfitters were subjected to these restrictions. Thirteen percent (n= 104) of non-resident hunters who had leased land to hunt deer in Illinois were subject to restrictions. Only 7% of resident hunters who leased land were subject to restrictions, and 13% of those who did not lease land were subject to restrictions. Sample size for outfitter use among residents was too small to allow analysis.

Satisfaction with Illinois deer management - Overall, non-resident deer hunters were more satisfied than resident deer hunters with the deer herd and their deer hunting experience in Illinois . Eighty-four percent (n=1,565) of non-resident deer hunters rated the quality of their

deer hunting experience in Illinois average or better, whereas only $\frac{3}{4}$ (78%) of resident deer hunters felt that the quality of their deer hunting experience in Illinois was average or above. As a result of high quality experiences, a majority (87%, n=1,633) of non-resident deer hunters would return to Illinois to hunt deer in the future. Nearly all non-residents (93%, n=1,743) rated the quality of the deer herd in Illinois as average or better, with 43% (n=804) rating it above average and 21% (n=400) rating it excellent. A high proportion of non-residents (92%, n=1,719) also rated IDNR deer management average or above. Forty-one percent (n=771) rated IDNR deer management above average and 23% (n=433) rated it excellent.

Table 1. State of residence of respondents to the 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey ($n=1,916$).

State	<i>n</i>	%	State	<i>n</i>	%
Alabama	104	5.4	Nevada	3	0.2
Alaska	1	0.1	New Hampshire	8	0.4
Arizona	14	0.7	New Jersey	60	3.1
Arkansas	48	2.5	New Mexico	2	0.1
California	12	0.6	New York	79	4.1
Colorado	7	0.4	North Carolina	80	4.2
Connecticut	6	0.3	North Dakota	1	0.1
Florida	92	4.8	Ohio	21	1.1
Georgia	143	7.5	Oklahoma	9	0.5
Idaho	1	0.1	Oregon	3	0.2
Indiana	76	4.0	Pennsylvania	218	11.4
Iowa	17	0.9	Rhode Island	3	0.1
Kansas	4	0.2	South Carolina	17	0.9
Kentucky	31	1.6	South Dakota	3	0.2
Louisiana	67	3.5	Tennessee	128	6.7
Maine	4	0.2	Texas	32	1.7
Maryland	29	1.5	Utah	1	0.1
Massachusetts	9	0.5	Vermont	20	1.0
Michigan	162	8.5	Virginia	31	1.6
Minnesota	18	0.9	Washington	3	0.2
Mississippi	76	4.0	West Virginia	39	2.0
Missouri	154	8.0	Wisconsin	77	4.0
Montana	3	0.2	Wyoming	1	0.1

Table 2. Deer hunting activity and harvest during the 2006-2007 deer seasons in Illinois a) by respondents to the 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey and b) by respondents to the 2006-2007 Resident Hunter Harvest Survey.

a) Non-resident Deer Hunters

Season	<i>n</i>	Permits		Days Hunted		Deer Harvested		
		Total	Permits/ Hunter	Total	Days/ Hunter	Total	Harvest/ Hunter	Harvest/ Permit
Archery	1,362	1,733	1.3	12,289	9.0	636	0.47	0.37
Regular Firearm	836	1,129	1.4	3,001	3.6	535	0.64	0.47
Muzzleloader	194	246	1.3	659	3.4	104	0.54	0.42
Late Winter	22	27	1.2	48	2.2	9	0.41	0.33

b) Resident Deer Hunters

Season	<i>n</i>	Days Hunted		Deer Harvested	
		Total	Days/ Hunter	Total	Harvest/ Hunter
Archery	676	15,084	22.3	547	0.81
Regular Firearm	1,013	4,231	4.18	862	0.85
Muzzleloader	206	487	2.36	79	0.38
Late Winter Firearm	346	731	2.11	104	0.30

Table 3. Deer harvested during the 2006-2007 deer seasons by respondents to the a) 2006-2007 Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey (*n*=1,886) and b) 2006-2007 Resident Hunter Harvest Survey (*n*=1,256).

a) Non-resident Deer Hunters

	<i>n</i>	Harvest	% Total Harvest	Harvest/ Hunter	Harvest/ Permit
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	581	590	46.0%	0.31	0.18
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	164	166	12.9%	0.09	0.05
Does	392	432	33.6%	0.21	0.14
Buck fawns	56	56	4.4%	0.03	0.02
Doe fawns	40	40	3.1%	0.02	0.01

b) Resident Deer Hunters

	<i>n</i>	Harvest	% Total Harvest	Harvest/ Hunter
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	388	408	25.3%	0.31
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	196	198	12.3%	0.16
Does	590	712	44.1%	0.57
Buck fawns	164	172	10.7%	0.14
Doe fawns	117	123	7.6%	0.10

Table 4. Types of deer harvested in Illinois during each season by respondents to the a) 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey and b) 2006-2007 Resident Hunter Harvest Survey.

a) Non-resident Deer Hunters

	Harvest	Harvest/ Hunter	Harvest/ Day
Regular Firearm (n=836)			
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	270	0.30	0.09
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	85	0.10	0.03
Does	145	0.20	0.05
Buck fawns	19	0.02	0.01
Doe fawns	16	0.02	0.01
Archery (n=1,362)			
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	271	0.20	0.02
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	64	0.05	0.01
Does	256	0.19	0.02
Buck fawns	25	0.02	0.00
Doe fawns	20	0.01	0.00
Muzzleloader Only (n=194)			
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	49	0.25	0.07
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	15	0.08	0.02
Does	27	0.14	0.04
Buck fawns	10	0.05	0.02
Doe fawns	3	0.02	0.00
Late-winter Antlerless (n=22)			
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side ^a	0	0.00	0.00
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	2	0.09	0.04
Does	4	0.18	0.08
Buck fawns	2	0.09	0.04
Doe fawns	1	0.05	0.02

^a Not legal harvest during the given season

b) Resident Deer Hunters

	Harvest	Harvest/ Hunter	Harvest/ Day
Regular Firearm ($n_{\text{hunter}}=1,013$, $n_{\text{days}}=4,231$)			
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	256	0.25	0.06
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	124	0.12	0.03
Does	339	0.33	0.08
Buck fawns	79	0.08	0.02
Doe fawns	64	0.06	0.02
Archery ($n_{\text{hunter}}=676$, $n_{\text{days}}=15,084$)			
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	135	0.20	0.01
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	59	0.09	0.004
Does	259	0.38	0.02
Buck fawns	65	0.10	0.004
Doe fawns	45	0.07	0.003
Muzzleloader Only ($n_{\text{hunter}}=206$, $n_{\text{days}}=487$)			
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	14	0.07	0.03
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	13	0.06	0.03
Does	38	0.18	0.08
Buck fawns	9	0.04	0.02
Doe fawns	4	0.02	0.01
Late-winter Antlerless ($n_{\text{hunter}}=346$, $n_{\text{days}}=731$)			
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side ^a	3	0.01	0.004
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	2	0.006	0.003
Does	76	0.22	0.10
Buck fawns	19	0.05	0.03
Doe fawns	10	0.03	0.01

^a Not legal harvest during the given season

Table 5. Ratio of total harvest by season in Illinois during the 2006-2007 deer hunting seasons, as reported by a) non-resident deer hunters and b) resident deer hunters. Male deer included adult and fawn bucks. Female deer included adult and fawn does. Antlered deer included all bucks with antlers. Antlerless deer included adult does and all fawns.

a) Non-resident Deer Hunters

Season	<i>n</i>	Harvest ratio	
		Male: Female	Antlered: Antlerless
Archery	1,362	1.30	1.11
Regular Firearm	836	3.55	3.07
Muzzleloader	194	2.47	1.60

b) Resident Deer Hunters

Season	<i>n</i>	Harvest ratio	
		Male: Female	Antlered: Antlerless
Archery	1,013	0.85	0.53
Regular Firearm	676	1.14	0.79
Muzzleloader	206	0.86	0.53

Table 6. Counties hunted by respondents to the 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey (Non-resident; $n=2,244$) and 2006-2007 Resident Hunter Harvest Survey (Resident; $n=2,182$)

County	Non-resident		Resident	
	Hunters	% Total	Hunters	% Total
Adams	133	6.7%	22	1.1%
Alexander	54	2.7%	4	0.2%
Bond	2	0.1%	26	1.3%
Boone	2	0.1%	0	0.0%
Brown	122	6.1%	27	1.4%
Bureau	5	0.3%	44	2.2%
Calhoun	94	4.7%	23	1.2%
Carroll	7	0.4%	18	0.9%
Cass	35	1.8%	11	0.6%
Champaign	1	0.1%	17	0.9%
Christian	11	0.6%	9	0.5%
Clark	38	1.9%	18	0.9%
Clay	8	0.4%	33	1.7%
Clinton	5	0.3%	32	1.6%
Coles	9	0.5%	20	1.0%
Cook	0	0.0%	6	0.3%
Crawford	32	1.6%	17	0.9%
Cumberland	0	0.0%	9	0.5%
DeKalb	3	0.2%	14	0.7%
DeWitt	1	0.1%	16	0.8%
Douglas	1	0.1%	6	0.3%
DuPage	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Edgar	9	0.5%	22	1.1%
Edwards	20	1.0%	7	0.4%
Effingham	4	0.2%	21	1.1%
Fayette	5	0.3%	19	1.0%
Ford	2	0.1%	1	0.1%
Franklin	19	1.0%	33	1.7%
Fulton	57	2.9%	51	2.6%
Gallatin	39	2.0%	13	0.7%
Greene	49	2.5%	30	1.5%
Grundy	4	0.2%	20	1.0%
Hamilton	40	2.0%	21	1.1%
Hancock	48	2.4%	36	1.8%
Hardin	27	1.4%	9	0.5%
Henderson	18	0.9%	6	0.3%
Henry	8	0.4%	13	0.7%
Iroquois	5	0.3%	19	1.0%
Jackson	25	1.3%	34	1.7%
Jasper	15	0.8%	37	1.9%

Table 6. (con't)

County	Non-resident		Resident	
	Hunters	% Total	Hunters	% Total
Jefferson	24	1.2%	28	1.4%
Jersey	12	0.6%	32	1.6%
JoDaviess	27	1.4%	78	3.9%
Johnson	56	2.8%	34	1.7%
Kane	0	0.0%	6	0.3%
Kankakee	3	0.2%	7	0.4%
Kendall	1	0.1%	9	0.5%
Knox	8	0.4%	17	0.9%
Lake	4	0.2%	9	0.5%
LaSalle	1	0.1%	14	0.7%
Lawrence	21	1.1%	9	0.5%
Lee	3	0.2%	25	1.3%
Livingston	0	0.0%	12	0.6%
Logan	6	0.3%	5	0.3%
McDonough	20	1.0%	20	1.0%
McHenry	1	0.1%	29	1.5%
McLean	3	0.2%	25	1.3%
Macon	0	0.0%	13	0.7%
Macoupin	13	0.7%	49	2.5%
Madison	1	0.1%	43	2.2%
Marion	7	0.4%	47	2.4%
Marshall	4	0.2%	8	0.4%
Mason	2	0.1%	15	0.8%
Massac	17	0.9%	11	0.6%
Menard	9	0.5%	17	0.9%
Mercer	4	0.2%	21	1.1%
Monroe	2	0.1%	26	1.3%
Montgomery	11	0.6%	20	1.0%
Morgan	27	1.4%	19	1.0%
Moultrie	0	0.0%	17	0.9%
Ogle	9	0.5%	32	1.6%
Peoria	6	0.3%	30	1.5%
Perry	32	1.6%	34	1.7%
Piatt	0	0.0%	3	0.2%
Pike	483	24.3%	68	3.4%
Pope	80	4.0%	28	1.4%
Pulaski	29	1.5%	11	0.6%
Putnam	1	0.1%	11	0.6%
Randolph	21	1.1%	57	2.9%
Richland	6	0.3%	22	1.1%

Table 6. (con't)

County	Non-resident		Resident	
	Hunters	% Total	Hunters	% Total
Rock Island	10	0.5%	36	1.8%
St. Clair	5	0.3%	37	1.9%
Saline	15	0.8%	28	1.4%
Sangamon	13	0.7%	23	1.2%
Schuyler	76	3.8%	22	1.1%
Scott	22	1.1%	6	0.3%
Shelby	9	0.5%	32	1.6%
Stark	2	0.1%	2	0.1%
Stephenson	3	0.2%	18	0.9%
Tazewell	0	0.0%	22	1.1%
Union	40	2.0%	20	1.0%
Vermilion	9	0.5%	22	1.1%
Wabash	9	0.5%	9	0.5%
Warren	10	0.5%	13	0.7%
Washington	11	0.6%	14	0.7%
Wayne	19	1.0%	39	2.0%
White	51	2.6%	16	0.8%
Whiteside	1	0.1%	17	0.9%
Will	2	0.1%	28	1.4%
Williamson	23	1.2%	27	1.4%
Winnebago	2	0.1%	18	0.9%
Woodford	1	0.1%	8	0.4%

Figure 1. Distribution of non-resident deer hunters across Illinois, as reported by respondents to the 2006-2007 Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey. Shaded colors represent the percentage of all non-resident respondents who hunted deer in each county.

Non-Resident Deer Hunters

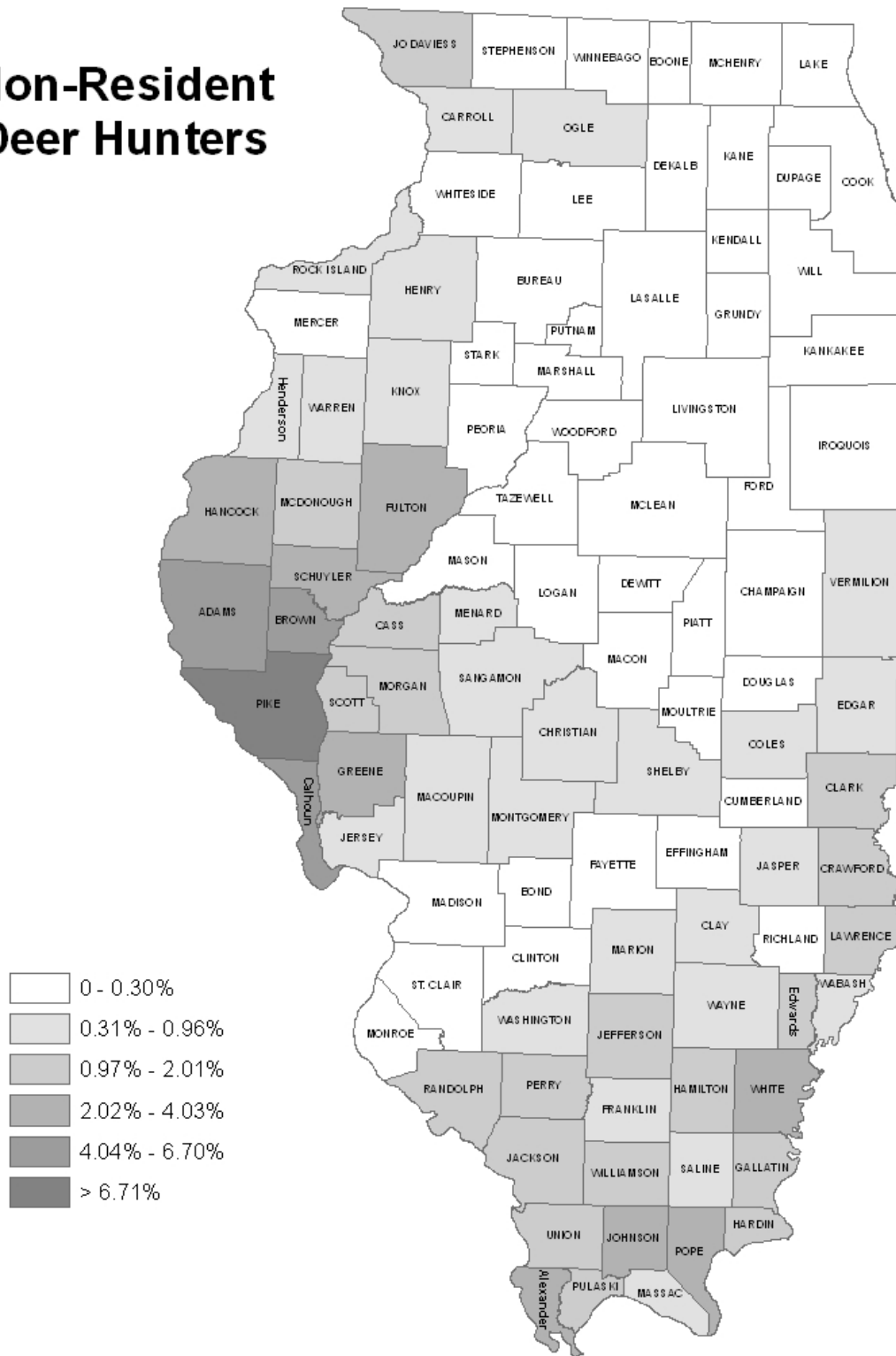


Figure 2. Distribution of resident deer hunters across Illinois, as reported by respondents to the 2006-2007 Resident Hunter Harvest Survey. Shaded colors represent the percentage of all resident respondents who hunted deer in each county.

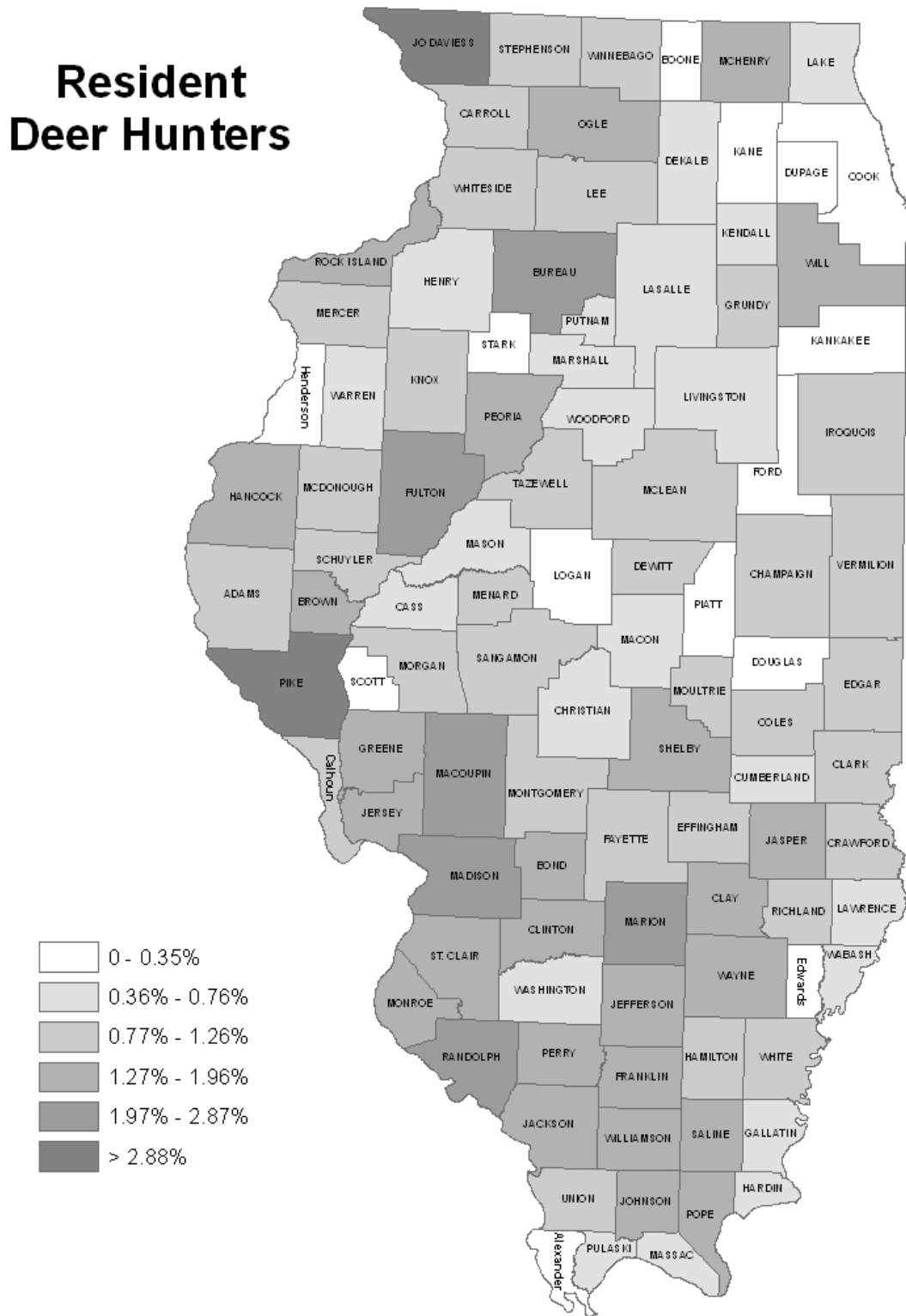


Table 7. Other states in which deer were hunted by respondents to the 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey ($n=2,278$).

State or Country	<i>n</i>	%	State or Country	<i>n</i>	%
Alabama	144	6.3%	Nevada	2	0.1%
Alaska	1	0.0%	New Hampshire	10	0.4%
Arizona	11	0.5%	New Jersey	53	2.3%
Arkansas	50	2.2%	New Mexico	7	0.3%
California	2	0.1%	New York	103	4.5%
Colorado	20	0.9%	North Carolina	71	3.1%
Connecticut	13	0.6%	North Dakota	6	0.3%
Delaware	2	0.1%	Ohio	71	3.1%
Florida	59	2.6%	Oklahoma	15	0.7%
Georgia	156	6.8%	Oregon	2	0.1%
Idaho	4	0.2%	Pennsylvania	233	10.2%
Indiana	70	3.1%	Rhode Island	3	0.1%
Iowa	57	2.5%	South Carolina	36	1.6%
Kansas	53	2.3%	South Dakota	9	0.4%
Kentucky	71	3.1%	Tennessee	118	5.2%
Louisiana	47	2.1%	Texas	61	2.7%
Maine	7	0.3%	Utah	1	0.0%
Maryland	49	2.2%	Vermont	19	0.8%
Massachusetts	12	0.5%	Virginia	48	2.1%
Michigan	140	6.1%	Washington	3	0.1%
Minnesota	16	0.7%	West Virginia	57	2.5%
Mississippi	95	4.2%	Wisconsin	75	3.3%
Missouri	137	6.0%	Wyoming	18	0.8%
Montana	19	0.8%	Canada	14	0.6%
Nebraska	7	0.3%	Mexico	1	0.0%

Table 8. Acres of land leased by a) non-resident respondents to the 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey ($n=351$) and b) resident respondents to the 2006-2007 Resident Hunter Harvest Survey ($n= 72$).

a) Non-resident Deer Hunters

Number of acres	<i>n</i>	%
0-40 acres	7	2.0%
41- 100 acres	33	9.4%
101-250 acres	108	30.8%
251-500 acres	96	27.4%
501-1000 acres	72	20.5%
1001-2000 acres	23	6.6%
More than 2000 acres	12	3.4%

b) Resident Deer Hunters

Number of acres	<i>n</i>	%
0-40 acres	11	15.3%
41- 100 acres	18	25.0%
101-250 acres	27	37.5%
251-500 acres	12	16.7%
501-1000 acres	3	4.2%
1001-2000 acres	0	0.0%
More than 2000 acres	1	1.4%

Table 9. Number of hunters allowed to access leased deer hunting lands, as reported by respondents to the a) 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey ($n=347$) and b) 2006-2007 Resident Hunter Harvest Survey ($n=73$).

a) Non-resident Deer Hunters

Number of hunters	<i>n</i>	%
1 hunter	9	2.6%
2 hunters	61	17.6%
3 hunters	55	15.9%
4 hunters	70	20.2%
5 hunters	41	11.8%
6 hunters	42	12.1%
7-10 hunters	54	15.5%
More than 10 hunters	15	4.3%

b) Resident Deer Hunters

Number of hunters	<i>n</i>	%
1 hunter	9	12.3%
2 hunters	10	13.7%
3 hunters	11	15.1%
4 hunters	12	16.4%
5 hunters	5	6.8%
6 hunters	11	15.1%
7-10 hunters	6	8.2%
More than 10 hunters	9	12.3%

Table 10. Comparison of harvest and harvest rates among non-resident hunters who a) leased land, b) hired an outfitter or c) did neither. Data are from the 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey.

a) Leased land

	Harvest	Harvest/ Hunter	Harvest/ Day
Regular Firearm ($n_{\text{hunter}}=181$, $n_{\text{days}}=722$)			
Total	112	0.62	0.16
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	68	0.38	0.09
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	16	0.09	0.02
Does	24	0.13	0.03
Buck fawns	2	0.01	0.003
Doe fawns	2	0.01	0.003
Archery ($n_{\text{hunter}}=298$, $n_{\text{days}}=3,488$)			
Total	158	0.53	0.05
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	72	0.24	0.02
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	17	0.06	0.005
Does	59	0.20	0.02
Buck fawns	5	0.02	0.001
Doe fawns	5	0.02	0.001

b) Hired outfitter

	Harvest	Harvest/ Hunter	Harvest/ Day
Regular Firearm ($n_{\text{hunter}}=195$, $n_{\text{days}}=655$)			
Total	118	0.61	0.18
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	72	0.37	0.11
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	13	0.07	0.02
Does	30	0.15	0.05
Buck fawns	3	0.02	0.005
Doe fawns	0	0.0	0.0
Archery ($n_{\text{hunter}}=542$, $n_{\text{days}}=3,595$)			
Total	208	0.38	0.06
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	95	0.18	0.03
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	21	0.04	0.01
Does	85	0.16	0.02
Buck fawns	6	0.01	0.002
Doe fawns	1	0.002	0.0003

Table 10. (con't)

c) No lease, no outfitter

	Harvest	Harvest/ Hunter	Harvest/ Day
Regular Firearm ($n_{\text{hunter}}=448$, $n_{\text{days}}=1,606$)			
Total	300	0.67	0.19
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	131	0.29	0.08
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	53	0.12	0.03
Does	88	0.20	0.05
Buck fawns	15	0.03	0.01
Doe fawns	13	0.03	0.01
Archery ($n_{\text{hunter}}=527$, $n_{\text{days}}=5,373$)			
Total	271	0.51	0.05
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	103	0.20	0.02
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	27	0.05	0.02
Does	113	0.21	0.02
Buck fawns	15	0.03	0.003
Doe fawns	13	0.02	0.002

Table 11. Comparison of harvest and harvest rates among resident deer hunters who a) leased land and b) who did not lease land. Data are from the 2006-2007 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

a) Leased land

	Harvest	Harvest/ Hunter	Harvest/ Day
Regular Firearm ($n_{\text{hunter}}=64, n_{\text{days}}=287$)			
Total	54	0.84	0.19
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	14	0.22	0.05
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	2	0.03	0.007
Does	27	0.42	0.09
Buck fawns	6	0.09	0.02
Doe fawns	5	0.08	0.02
Archery ($n_{\text{hunter}}=55, n_{\text{days}}=1,358$)			
Total	60	1.09	0.04
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	17	0.31	0.01
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	8	0.15	0.006
Does	27	0.49	0.02
Buck fawns	5	0.09	0.004
Doe fawns	3	0.05	0.002

b) No lease

	Harvest	Harvest/ Hunter	Harvest/ Day
Regular Firearm ($n_{\text{hunter}}=896, n_{\text{days}}=3,718$)			
Total	757	0.84	0.20
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	225	0.25	0.06
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	109	0.12	0.03
Does	292	0.33	0.08
Buck fawns	71	0.08	0.02
Doe fawns	60	0.07	0.02
Archery ($n_{\text{hunter}}=585, n_{\text{days}}=12,936$)			
Total	483	0.83	0.04
Bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	115	0.20	0.009
Bucks with < 4 antler points per side	55	0.09	0.004
Does	219	0.37	0.02
Buck fawns	57	0.10	0.004
Doe fawns	37	0.06	0.003

Table 12. Willingness to harvest different types of deer in Illinois of respondents to the a) 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey and b) 2006-2007 Resident Hunter Harvest Survey.

a) Non-resident Deer Hunters

I am willing to harvest...	1 deer of this type		>1 deer of this type		0 deer of this type		I am not sure.	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Buck with ≥ 4 antler points per side	1,052	56.9%	583	31.5%	177	9.6%	37	2.0%
Buck with <4 antler points per side	545	28.4%	290	16.6%	830	47.4%	86	4.9%
Doe	631	34.4%	987	53.8%	189	10.3%	29	1.6%
Buck fawn	42	2.4%	35	2.0%	1,598	91.5%	71	4.1%
Doe fawn	130	7.4%	219	12.5%	1,320	75.3%	83	4.3%

b) Resident Deer Hunters

I am willing to harvest...	1 deer of this type		>1 deer of this type		0 deer of this type		I am not sure.	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Buck with ≥ 4 antler points per side	568	47.1%	487	40.3%	94	7.8%	58	4.8%
Buck with <4 antler points per side	434	37.8%	354	30.8%	278	24.2%	83	7.2%
Doe	406	33.3%	743	60.9%	44	3.6%	27	2.2%
Buck fawn	158	14.4%	178	16.3%	639	58.4%	119	10.9%
Doe fawn	186	16.8%	304	27.4%	512	46.2%	106	9.6%

Table 13. At what point during the season respondents to the a) 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey and b) 2006-2007 Resident Hunter Harvest Survey are willing to harvest deer of different types in Illinois.

a) Non-resident Deer Hunters

I will harvest this deer ...	anytime during the season		25% of season has passed		75% of season has passed		at no time		I am not sure.	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Buck with ≥ 4 antler points per side	1,425	76.9%	73	3.9%	147	7.9%	165	8.9%	43	2.3%
Buck with < 4 antler points per side	539	30.0%	102	5.7%	271	15.1%	815	45.4%	69	3.8%
Doe	1,095	59.6%	132	7.2%	391	21.3%	171	9.3%	49	2.7%
Buck fawn	45	2.5%	4	0.2%	51	2.9%	1,633	91.8%	45	2.5%
Doe fawn	204	11.5%	23	1.3%	154	8.7%	1,347	75.7%	51	2.9%

b) Resident Deer Hunters

I will harvest this deer ...	anytime during the season		25% of season has passed		75% of season has passed		at no time		I am not sure.	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Buck with ≥ 4 antler points per side	993	81.9%	34	2.8%	79	6.5%	70	4.0%	36	3.0%
Buck with < 4 antler points per side	649	55.5%	66	5.6%	138	11.8%	259	22.2%	57	4.9%
Doe	958	78.2%	84	6.9%	135	11.0%	23	1.9%	25	2.0%
Buck fawn	249	22.3%	28	2.5%	125	11.2%	626	56.1%	87	7.8%
Doe fawn	346	30.9%	41	3.7%	150	13.4%	504	45.0%	80	7.1%

Table 14. Harvest restrictions faced by deer hunters in Illinois. Data from the a) 2006-2007 Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey ($n=1,500$) and b) 2006-2007 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n=254$).

a) Non-resident Deer Hunters

Harvest restriction	<i>n</i>	%
No harvest of bucks with <4 antler points per side	440	29.3%
No harvest of buck fawns	352	23.5%
No harvest of any fawns	244	16.3%
Must harvest doe before buck	27	1.8%
Other restrictions	357	23.8%
No harvest of bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	40	2.7%
No harvest of any does	40	2.7%

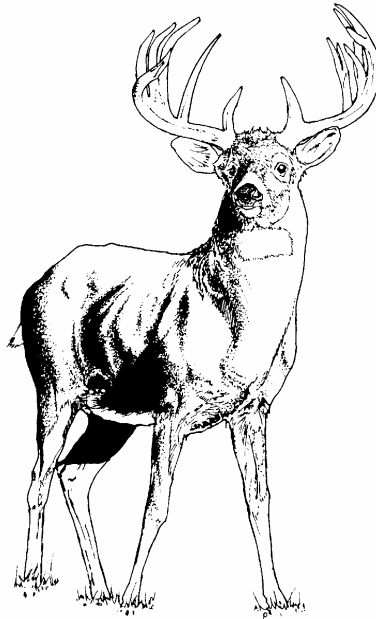
b) Resident Deer Hunters

Harvest restriction	<i>n</i>	%
No harvest of bucks with <4 antler points per side	76	30.0%
No harvest of buck fawns	58	22.8%
No harvest of any fawns	45	17.7%
Must harvest doe before buck	38	15.0%
Other restrictions	18	7.1%
No harvest of bucks with ≥ 4 antler points per side	14	5.5%
No harvest of any does	5	2.0%

Appendix A. 2006-2007 Illinois Non-resident Deer Hunter Survey instrument and results summary.

**Non-resident Deer Hunters in Illinois:
a survey about the 2006-2007 deer hunt**

Results Summary



Your additional comments are welcome, but please write them on a separate sheet of paper to receive

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

All of your responses will be kept confidential.
Please return this survey in the postage-paid envelope provided.



Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
and
Illinois Natural History Survey



ILLINOIS
NATURAL
HISTORY
SURVEY

The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary. This study is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Fund through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

Deer hunting activity in Illinois. Please answer the following questions about your hunt during the 2006-2007 deer seasons in Illinois. By answering these questions, you will provide needed information about deer harvest by non-resident hunters and allow us to continue to provide the type of deer hunting experiences you come to Illinois to enjoy.

1. What type of permits did you purchase to hunt deer in Illinois during the 2006-2007 deer seasons? Report the total number of either-sex, antlerless and combination permits you purchased and count each as one permit, even if it allowed you to harvest more than one deer. Please also report the number of days and the county you hunted most often for each permit type you purchased in Illinois. Count part of 1 day spent hunting as 1 whole day. *(Please fill in the table below.)*

<i>Permit type</i>	<i>n</i>	Average Number of permits	Average Number of days hunted	County hunted most often
Landowner archery	178	1.30	9.03	See Table 6a
Landowner firearm	115	1.55	3.90	See Table 6a
Regular firearm	721	1.32	3.54	See Table 6a
Muzzleloader only	194	1.27	3.40	See Table 6a
Archery	1,184	1.27	9.02	See Table 6a
Late-winter antlerless	22	1.23	2.18	See Table 6a

2. What type of deer did you harvest in Illinois during the 2006-2007 deer seasons? Report the total number of each type of deer you harvested during each season you hunted in Illinois. Skip any season in which you did not hunt deer in Illinois. *(Please fill in the table below.)*

<i>Season</i>	<i>n</i>	Total Reported Harvest				
		Adult bucks with \geq 4 antler points on 1 side	Adult bucks with < 4 antler points on 1 side	Adult does	Buck fawns	Doe fawns
Archery	1,362	271	64	256	25	20
Regular firearm	836	270	85	145	19	16
Muzzleloader only	194	49	15	27	10	3
Late-winter antlerless	22	0	2	4	2	1

3. For how many years have you hunted deer in Illinois? *n* = 1,899 Ave. **4.73 years**

4. Did you also hunt deer in a state other than Illinois in 2006-2007? (*Please check one.*) *n* = 1,907

84.9% Yes

15.1% No (*Please skip to question 6.*)

5. In which other states did you hunt deer in 2006-2007? (*Please indicate.*)

_____ **See Table 7** _____, _____, _____

6. Please estimate how much your deer hunting trips to Illinois cost, in total (including license, outfitting or leasing fees, lodging, food, etc.). If you shared costs with other hunters, please report only the portion you personally paid. (*n* = 1,850)

I spent **Ave. \$2,142.00** to hunt deer in Illinois for **Ave. 8.6** days during the 2006-2007 deer seasons.

Access to hunting land in Illinois. We are interested in what types of land non-resident hunters use in Illinois and how they gain access to that land. Please answer the following questions to help us learn about the type of land on which you hunt deer in Illinois.

7. On what type of land did you hunt in Illinois during the 2006-2007 deer seasons?
(*Please check one for each season.*)

Season	<i>n</i>	Private land only	Public land only	Both public and private land	I did not hunt during this season.
a. Archery	1,504	75.5%	6.2%	7.3%	11.0%
b. Regular firearm	1,128	66.1%	3.9%	3.1%	26.9%
c. Muzzleloader only	684	25.1%	2.2%	1.8%	70.9%
d. Late-winter antlerless	549	5.5%	0.4%	0.2%	94.0%

8. How difficult was it for you to find a place to hunt deer in Illinois during each of the following seasons? (*Please check one for each season.*)

Season	<i>n</i>	Very difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not at all difficult	I did not hunt during this season.
a. Archery	1,503	7.3%	24.8%	56.4%	11.6%
b. Regular firearm	1,150	6.9%	19.6%	44.9%	28.7%
c. Muzzleloader only	738	3.7%	8.4%	18.3%	69.6%
d. Late-winter antlerless	602	2.2%	1.3%	5.5%	91.0%

9. During the previous 5 years, have you lost free access to deer hunting lands in Illinois due to another hunter leasing the land? (*Please check one.*) ***n* = 1,867**

19.8% Yes

54.8% No

25.4% I have not hunted deer in Illinois in the previous 5 years.

10. Who owned the land on which you hunted deer during the 2006-2007 deer seasons? (*Please check all that apply.*) ***n* = 2,089**

10.7% I hunted on public land.

5.5% I hunted on private land I own.

27.8% I hunted on private land owned by a friend or member of my family.

11.9% I hunted on private land owned by a person I did not previously know.

13.6% I hunted on private land I leased.

29.5% I hunted on private land I hired an outfitter to access.

1.1% Other (*Please indicate.* _____)

11. Did you lease any land on which you hunted deer in Illinois during the 2006-2007 deer seasons? (*Please check one.*) ***n* = 1,862**

18.1% Yes

81.9% No (*Please skip to question 18.*)

12. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, what type of compensation did you give the landowner in exchange for permission to hunt on the land? (*Please check all that apply.*) ***n* = 399**

4.0% I did not pay for my lease in any way.

83.2% I paid the landowner money.

4.0% I worked on the land or for the landowner.

5.3% I gave the landowner venison.

3.5% Other (*Please indicate.* _____)

13. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, during what hunting season was the lease in effect?
(Please check all that apply.) **n = 549**

- 35.7% Archery season
- 19.0% Regular firearm season
- 8.2% Muzzleloader only season
- 4.4% Late-winter antlerless season
- 31.5% All deer hunting seasons in 2006-2007
- 1.3% Other (Please indicate. _____)

14. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, what was the length of your lease? (Please check one.)
n = 351

- 0.6% One day
- 23.1% A portion of the season in which I leased the land (more than 1 day)
- 15.1% The entire season in which I leased the land
- 23.4% All deer hunting seasons in 2006-2007
- 31.3% One full year
- 6.6% Other (Please indicate. _____)

15. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, how many total acres of land did your lease grant you permission to hunt? **n = 351**

I leased **Ave. 589 acres** of land to hunt deer in Illinois.

16. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, how many hunters (including yourself) had access to the land under your lease? **n = 347**

Ave. 5 hunters had access to my leased land during my lease period.

17. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, how much money did you pay in leasing fees, in total? If you leased land individually, as opposed to part of a group of hunters, please skip part b.

a. I personally paid **Ave. \$1,435** to lease hunting land in Illinois. **n=240**

b. My hunting party paid **Ave. \$6,005**, in total, to lease hunting land in Illinois. **n=241**

18. Would you be willing to pay money to lease land to hunt deer in Illinois in the future? (Please check one.)

n = 1,875

- 51.0% Yes
- 24.9% No
- 24.1% I am not sure.

19. Did you contract with an outfitter during any of your deer hunts in Illinois in 2006-2007? *(Please check one.)* **n = 1,877**
36.6% Yes
63.4% No

20. If you paid outfitting fees to hunt deer in Illinois in 2006-2007, how much did you pay in outfitting fees, in total? If you shared costs with other hunters, please indicate only the amount you personally paid. **n = 657**

I paid Ave. \$2,045 for outfitting services in Illinois.

Motivations to hunt deer in Illinois. Deer hunters come to Illinois for many reasons and many non-resident hunters have the opportunity to hunt in states other than Illinois. Please answer the following questions to help us learn about why you chose to come to Illinois to hunt deer, as opposed to other states.

21. Which of the following items is the **most important** reason you came to Illinois to hunt deer during the 2006-2007 deer seasons? *(Please check all that apply.)* **n = 2,372**
- 58.1% I expected to harvest a trophy buck in Illinois.
 - 2.7% I expected to harvest more deer in Illinois than my home state.
 - 15.7% I have friends and/or family who hunt in Illinois.
 - 3.5% I am a former Illinois resident.
 - 0.2% I was not able to hunt white-tailed deer in my home state.
 - 11.6% I had access to private hunting lands in Illinois.
 - 2.0% I had access to public (state or federal) hunting lands in Illinois.
 - 3.7% Non-resident deer hunting licenses/permits were available and affordable in Illinois.
 - 2.7% Other *(Please indicate. _____)*

22. Many parts of a deer hunt are important to hunters' judgment of the quality of a hunt. How important to you are the following characteristics of deer hunting and the deer herd in Illinois? (*Please check one for each item.*)

	<i>n</i>	Very Important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	I am not sure.
a. The number of deer I see	1,890	40.1%	54.6%	5.3%	0.1%
b. The number of trophy deer I see	1,894	70.7%	24.7%	4.5%	0.1%
c. My access to private hunting land	1,848	64.2%	25.4%	8.1%	2.3%
d. My access to public hunting land	1,796	24.3%	25.4%	41.8%	8.5%
e. The price of hunting licenses	1,869	56.6%	35.7%	6.7%	1.0%
f. The availability of deer permits	1,873	76.0%	20.5%	2.8%	0.6%
g. The number of hunters I see	1,860	54.0%	34.1%	10.9%	1.1%
h. Length and structure of seasons	1,866	46.7%	44.0%	8.2%	1.1%
i. The quality of the deer herd	1,892	87.1%	12.0%	0.8%	0.1%
j. The number of deer I harvest	1822	13.6%	49.6%	36.5%	0.4%

23. How did the following characteristics of your deer hunt in Illinois in 2006-2007 match the expectations you had prior to hunting in Illinois? (*Please check one for each item.*)

	<i>n</i>	exceeded my expectations.	met my expectations.	was below my expectations.	I am not sure.
a. The number of deer I saw...	1,861	16.4%	54.6%	28.7%	0.2%
b. The number of trophy deer I saw...	1,861	12.3%	36.9%	50.0%	0.8%
c. My opportunity to harvest deer...	1,854	12.4%	55.2%	31.8%	0.5%
d. My opportunity to harvest trophy deer...	1,851	8.5%	36.0%	53.9%	1.6%
e. The number of deer I harvested...	1,814	2.7%	44.3%	48.7%	4.2%
f. My access to private land...	1,813	10.0%	66.6%	13.7%	9.7%
g. My access to public land...	1,719	2.9%	29.8%	14.8%	52.5%
h. The number of hunters I saw...	1,826	16.5%	61.4%	13.4%	8.7%
i. The quality of the deer herd...	1,856	17.5%	58.8%	21.8%	1.9%

24. How would you rate your overall deer hunting experience in Illinois in 2006-2007? (*Please check one.*) **n = 1,864**

- 21.5% Excellent
- 33.8% Above average
- 28.6% Average
- 10.4% Below average
- 5.2% Poor
- 0.5% I am not sure.

25. Would you return to Illinois to hunt deer in the future? (*Please check one.*) **n = 1,882**

- 86.8% Yes
- 1.6% No
- 11.6% I am not sure.

Willingness to harvest deer in Illinois. Hunters choose to harvest deer of different types based on their opportunity, expectations and values. Please tell us about which types of deer you are willing to harvest to assist us in properly managing Illinois's deer herd.

26. Please indicate your willingness to harvest deer of the following types.
(*Please check one for each item.*)

	<i>n</i>	I am willing to harvest 1 deer of this type.	I am willing to harvest more than 1 deer of this type.	I am unwilling to harvest a deer of this type.	I am not sure.
a. Adult buck with ≥ 4 antler points on 1 side	1,849	56.9%	31.5%	9.6%	2.0%
b. Adult buck with < 4 antler points on 1 side	1,751	31.1%	16.6%	47.4%	4.9%
c. Buck fawn	1,746	2.4%	2.0%	91.5%	4.1%
d. Doe fawn	1,752	7.4%	12.5%	75.3%	4.7%
e. Adult doe	1,836	34.4%	53.8%	10.3%	1.6%

27. Please indicate when you are willing to harvest deer of the following types. (*Please check one for each item.*)

I would harvest an...	<i>n</i>	anytime during my season.	when 25% of my season has passed.	when 75% of my season has passed.	I would not harvest this deer.	I am not sure.
a. adult buck with \geq 4 antler points on 1 side	1,853	76.9%	3.9%	7.9%	8.9%	2.3%
b. adult buck with $<$ 4 antler points on 1 side	1,796	30.0%	5.7%	15.1%	45.4%	3.8%
c. buck fawn	1,778	2.5%	0.2%	2.9%	91.8%	2.5%
d. doe fawn	1,779	11.5%	1.3%	8.7%	75.7%	2.9%
e. adult doe	1,838	59.6%	7.2%	21.3%	9.3%	2.7%

28. Did the owner or manager of the land you hunted in Illinois during the 2006-2007 seasons require you to harvest deer according to some criteria (*For example: no harvest of buck fawns, must harvest does, etc.*)? (*Please check one.*) ***n*=1,857**

43.7% Yes

56.3% No (*Please skip to question 30.*)

29. If you were required to harvest deer according to some criteria, what were those criteria? (*Please check all that apply.*) ***n*=1,623**

7.6% I was allowed to harvest any deer I was able or willing to harvest.

3.5% I was not allowed to harvest a buck until I had harvested a doe.

27.1% I was not allowed to harvest a buck with fewer than 4 antler points on 1 side.

2.1% I was not allowed to harvest a buck with 4 or more antler points on 1 side.

21.7% I was not allowed to harvest a buck fawn.

15.0% I was not allowed to harvest a fawn of any sex.

2.5% I was not allowed to harvest a doe of any age.

20.2% Other (*Please indicate.* _____)

Deer management in Illinois. The IDNR must balance concerns of many people when deciding how to manage deer in Illinois. We measure hunters' and non-hunters' satisfaction with our decisions in order to manage deer in a way that is acceptable to all people concerned. Please assist us in this process by answering the following questions.

30. Based on your experiences in Illinois, how would you rate the number of deer in the county you hunt most often? *(Please check one.)* **n=1,860**

- 9.5% Too many deer
- 72.2% About the right number of deer
- 12.5% Too few deer
- 5.9% I am not sure.

31. How would you like to see the number of **deer** change in the next 5 years in the Illinois county you hunt most often? *(Please check one.)* **n=1,865**

- 4.5% Increase greatly
- 38.1% Increase somewhat
- 46.0% Stay the same
- 7.0% Decrease somewhat
- 0.7% Decrease greatly
- 3.8% I am not sure.

32. Based on your experiences in Illinois, how would you rate the number of **deer hunters** in the county you hunt most often? *(Please check one.)* **n=1,864**

- 15.5% Too many deer hunters
- 65.1% About the right number of deer hunters
- 2.7% Too few deer hunters
- 16.7% I am not sure.

33. How would you like to see the number of **deer hunters** change in the next 5 years in the Illinois county you hunt most often? *(Please check one.)* **n=1,862**

- 0.6% Increase greatly
- 8.1% Increase somewhat
- 59.6% Stay the same
- 16.9% Decrease somewhat
- 1.8% Decrease greatly
- 13.0% I am not sure.

34. How would you rate the quality of the deer herd in the Illinois county where you hunt most? *(Please check one.)* **n=1,867**

- 21.4% Excellent
- 43.1% Above average
- 28.9% Average
- 4.7% Below average
- 0.4% Poor
- 1.6% I am not sure.

35. Overall, how would you rate Illinois DNR deer management? (*Please check one.*) **n=1,866**

- 23.2% Excellent
- 41.3% Above average
- 27.6% Average
- 2.2% Below average
- 1.1% Poor
- 4.6% I am not sure.

Information about you. The following questions provide important information to help us understand more about the people who come to Illinois to hunt deer. Please tell us about yourself by completing the following questions. All responses will be kept confidential.

36. As of October 1, 2006, what was your age?

n=1,868

Ave. 44 years

37. Please indicate your state of residence. _____ **See Table 1** _____

38. What is your approximate annual household income? (*Please check one.*) **n=1,815**

- 1.9% Less than \$20,000 per year
- 9.4% \$20,000 to \$39,999 per year
- 20.0% \$40,000 to \$59,999 per year
- 19.4% \$60,000 to \$79,999 per year
- 16.1% \$80,000 to \$99,999 per year
- 19.1% \$100,000 to \$149,999 per year
- 14.0% Over \$150,000 per year

39. Are you **98.4% male** or **1.6% female**? (*Please check one.*) **n=1,916**

40. How would you describe the area where you currently live? (*Please check one.*)

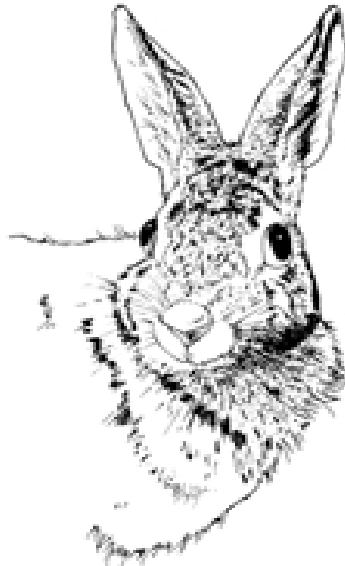
n=1,869

- 16.9% Rural setting, on a farm
- 29.1% Rural setting, not on a farm
- 12.7% Rural subdivision
- 15.7% Suburban area at the edge of a town or city
- 10.8% Within a small town (Population less than 25,000)
- 7.3% Within an urban area (Population between 25,000 and 100,000)
- 7.6% Within a metropolitan area (Population greater than 100,000)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, (217) 782-7616 or the Officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey: 2006-2007 Seasons Results Summary



Your comments are welcome! Please write them on a separate sheet of paper to receive

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

All of your responses will be kept confidential.
Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided.



Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
and
Illinois Natural History Survey



ILLINOIS
NATURAL
HISTORY
SURVEY

The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary. This study is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Fund through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

Hunting Activity and Harvest in Illinois. Please provide the following information to allow IDNR biologists to monitor game species harvest and conserve wildlife populations in Illinois.

1. Did you hunt any wildlife species in Illinois between February 2006 and January 2007?

n = 1,744

89.0% Yes

11.0% No (*Please skip to question 3.*)

2. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois for the following species during the last hunting season (February 1, 2006-January 31, 2007). Include only game harvested and days you personally hunted in Illinois. Count only game you retrieved; do not count animals you were not able to retrieve or animals that were trapped. **Do not count days hunted or harvest on licensed shooting preserves or controlled hunting areas.** Count part of 1 day as 1 day.

Species	<i>n</i>	Average Number of Days Hunted	Average Number Harvested	County Hunted <u>Most Often</u>
Rabbit	305	4.8	5.4	
Quail	154	5.4	8.0	
Pheasant	238	4.3	3.1	
Dove	374	4.1	24.1	
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge	3	2.7	1.3	
Woodcock	7	1.7	0.4	
Snipe	3	1.7	3.0	
Rail	2	2.0	6.0	
Crow	39	3.2	8.6	
Ground Hog (Woodchuck)	20	7.7	4.3	
Gray Squirrel	302	8.8	13.4	
Fox Squirrel	342	8.0	8.4	
Turkey – Spring	543	4.5	0.6	
Turkey – Fall Shotgun	100	2.6	0.5	
Turkey – Fall Archery	157	16.8	0.1	
Deer – Regular Firearm Season	1013	4.1	0.9	
Deer – Muzzleloader-Only	206	2.4	0.4	
Deer – Archery Season	676	22.3	0.8	
Deer – Late Winter Firearm	346	2.1	0.3	
Raccoon	51	10.3	12.2	
Red Fox	11	4.8	0.9	
Gray Fox	4	5.3	2.0	
Coyote	218	7.2	1.7	
Opossum	10	14.8	7.1	

3. Did you hunt on a licensed shooting preserve or controlled hunting area between February 2006 and January 2007? *n* = 1,744

19.6% Yes
80.4% No (*Please skip to question 5.*)

4. Please report your hunting effort and harvest on licensed shooting preserves or controlled hunting areas in Illinois between February 1, 2006 and January 31, 2007 for the following species. Include only game harvested and days you personally hunted in Illinois. Count only game you retrieved; do not count animals you were not able to retrieve. Count part of 1 day as 1 day.

Species	<i>n</i>	Average Days Hunted	Average Harvest	County Hunted <u>Most Often</u>
Quail	64	3.5	15.6	
Pheasant	262	3.7	8.3	
Doves	44	2.7	12.6	
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge	4	1.3	3.3	
Chuckar Partridge	33	2.3	7.0	
Turkey	21	5.2	0.2	

5. Do you own a dog which you use to hunt upland game (pheasants, quail, partridge, etc.)? (*Please check one.*) *n* = 1,717

17.4% Yes
82.6% No

6. Where did you purchase your 2006 hunting license or habitat stamp? (*Please check one.*) *n* = 1,729

5.4% DNR regional or central office
34.0% Chain retail store (e.g. Wal-mart, Dick's SportingGoods)
27.8% Independent retail store (e.g. local bait shop, local grocery)
31.8% IDNR website
0.2% Over the phone
0.9% Other (*Please indicate.*_____)

7. Did you encounter any problems purchasing your 2006 hunting license or habitat stamp? (*Please check one.*) *n* = 1,729

7.7% Yes
92.3% No (*Please skip to question 9.*)

8. Please describe any problems you encountered while purchasing your hunting license or habitat stamp in the space below. *n* = 119

- 14.3% Staff at store were not familiar with new licensing computer system
- 10.9% DNR software was slow and not easy to navigate
- 10.1% Confusion with laws and procedures, retailers could not answer questions
- 10.1% Machine malfunction, system would not work at the store
- 6.7% Could not get license to print
- 5.9% Store was out of stamps
- 5.0% Was disconnected from the website
- 37.0% 44 miscellaneous answers

9. Who owned the land on which you hunted during 2006-2007? (*Please check all that apply.*) *n* = 2,197

- 18.4% I hunted on public land.
- 18.1% I hunted on private land I own.
- 51.0% I hunted on private land owned by a friend or family member.
- 4.8% I hunted on private land owned by a person I did not know.
- 4.3% I hunted on private land I leased.
- 1.2% I hunted on private land I hired an outfitter to access.
- 2.4% Other (*Please indicate _____*)

10. How difficult was it for you to find a place to hunt in Illinois during each of the following seasons? (*Please check one for each season.*)

Season	<i>n</i>	Very difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not at all difficult	I did not hunt these species.
a. Deer hunting	1,535	12.5%	18.2%	53.1%	16.2%
b. Small game hunting (squirrel, rabbit, etc.)	1,333	7.9%	13.1%	33.2%	45.9%
c. Upland bird hunting (pheasant, partridge, quail, etc.)	1,285	13.8%	14.8%	20.1%	51.4%
d. Turkey hunting	1,314	10.5%	13.4%	30.4%	45.7%
e. Dove hunting	1,224	7.5%	10.9%	23.4%	58.1%
f. Waterfowl hunting	1,214	10.2%	9.6%	16.0%	64.2%
g. Furbearer hunting (fox, raccoon, etc.)	1,114	3.9%	3.7%	11.5%	81.0%

11. Did you lease any land on which you hunted in Illinois during 2006-2007? Please do not consider licensed shooting preserves or commercial hunt clubs. (*Please check one.*) *n* = 1,706

- 6.2% Yes
- 93.8% No (*Please skip to question 14.*)

12. If you did lease land to hunt in Illinois, which species did your lease give you access to hunt? (*Please check all that apply.*) **n = 264**

- 24.6% Deer
- 18.2% Turkeys
- 9.8% Small game (squirrel, rabbit, etc.)
- 9.8% Upland birds (pheasant, partridge, quail, etc.)
- 9.1% Doves
- 12.9% Waterfowl
- 3.8% Furbearers (fox, raccoon, etc.)
- 11.7% All species I wanted to hunt
- 0.0% Other (*Please indicate.*_____)

13. If you did lease land to hunt in Illinois, how much money did you pay in leasing fees, in total? If you leased land individually, as opposed to part of a group of hunters, skip part b.

a. I personally paid Ave. \$797.90, to lease hunting land in Illinois.
n = 72

b. My hunting party paid Ave. \$2,478.01, in total, to lease hunting land in Illinois.
n = 68

14. Did you contract with an outfitter in Illinois during 2006-2007? Please do not consider licensed shooting preserves or commercial hunt clubs. (*Please check one.*) **n = 1,666**

- 1.1% Yes
- 98.9% No (*Please skip to question 17.*)

15. If you did hire an outfitter to hunt in Illinois, which species did your outfitting services allow you to hunt? (*Please check all that apply.*) **n = 29**

- 31.0% Deer
- 17.2% Turkeys
- 0.0% Small game (squirrel, rabbit, etc.)
- 24.1% Upland birds (pheasant, partridge, quail, etc.)
- 3.5% Doves
- 24.1% Waterfowl
- 0.0% Furbearers (fox, raccoon, etc.)
- 0.0% All species I wanted to hunt
- 0.0% Other (*Please indicate.*_____)

16. If you paid outfitting fees to hunt in Illinois in 2006-2007, how much did you pay in outfitting fees, in total? If you shared costs with other hunters, please indicate only the amount you personally paid.

n = 17

I paid Ave. \$302.65 for outfitting services in Illinois.

Upland Game Hunting outside Illinois. To better serve Illinois hunters, we are interested to learn how many resident hunters hunt upland game in other states and why they do so. Please answer the following questions to help increase upland hunting opportunities in Illinois.

17. Did you hunt upland game (partridge, quail, woodcock, rabbits, doves or grouse) in a state other than Illinois in 2006-2007? (*Please check one.*) **n = 1,703**

7.3% Yes
92.7% No (*Please skip to question 22.*)

18. In which other states did you hunt upland game in 2006-2007? **n = 153**

_____, _____, _____

19. For which upland game species did you hunt in another state? (*Please check all that apply.*)
n = 225

38.7% Pheasants	8.0% Doves
6.2% Partridge	8.0% Ruffed grouse
14.7% Quail	5.3% Sharptail grouse
12.9% Rabbits	2.7% Prairie chicken
3.6% Woodcock	0.0% Other (<i>Please indicate.</i> _____)

20. On what type of land did you hunt upland game in another state? (*Please check all that apply.*)

n = 170

29.4% Public land
5.9% Private land I own
45.3% Private land on which I had permission to hunt
5.9% Private land which I leased to hunt
10.0% Private land leased by the state to provide open hunting access
3.5% Other (*Please indicate.* _____)

21. Which of the following items are the **most important** reasons you went to another state to hunt upland game during 2006-2007? (*Please check all that apply.*) **n = 401**

16.0% I expected to harvest more animals in the state in which I hunted.
8.5% I was not able to hunt my preferred species in Illinois.
5.5% I was not able to hunt any upland game in Illinois.
14.0% I have friends and/or family that hunt in the state in which I hunted.
4.2% I am a former resident of the state in which I hunted.
14.5% I had access to private hunting lands in the state in which I hunted.
11.2% I had access to public (state or federal) hunting lands in the state in which I hunted.
8.5% Non-resident licenses were available and affordable in the state in which I hunted.
15.5% The upland game populations are larger in the state in which I hunted.
2.2% Other (*Please indicate.* _____)

Deer Hunting in Illinois. Many Illinois hunters participate in deer hunting every year. We are interested in learning about your motivations to hunt deer and your willingness to harvest different types of deer. This information will help ensure the IDNR is able to effectively manage deer and provide satisfying deer hunting experiences in Illinois.

22. Did you hunt deer in Illinois in 2006-2007? (Please check one.) *n* = 1,723

71.6% Yes

28.4% No (Please skip to question 46.)

23. For how many years have you hunted deer in Illinois?

n = 1,249 Ave. = 19.59 years

24. What type of deer did you harvest in Illinois during the 2006-2007 deer seasons? Report the total number of each type of deer you harvested during each season you hunted. Skip any season in which you did not hunt deer in Illinois. (Please fill in the table below.)

Season	<i>N</i>	Adult bucks with ≥ 4 antler points on 1 side	Adult bucks with < 4 antler points on 1 side	Adult does	Buck fawns	Doe fawns
Archery	676	<i>n</i> = 119 Ave. 0.20	<i>n</i> = 58 Ave. 0.09	<i>n</i> = 185 Ave. 0.38	<i>n</i> = 59 Ave. 0.10	<i>n</i> = 42 Ave. 0.07
Regular firearm	1,013	<i>n</i> = 252 Ave. 0.25	<i>n</i> = 123 Ave. 0.12	<i>n</i> = 302 Ave. 0.33	<i>n</i> = 77 Ave. 0.08	<i>n</i> = 61 Ave. 0.06
Muzzleloader only	206	<i>n</i> = 14 Ave. 0.07	<i>n</i> = 13 Ave. 0.06	<i>n</i> = 33 Ave. 0.18	<i>n</i> = 9 Ave. 0.04	<i>n</i> = 4 Ave. 0.02
Late-winter antlerless	346	<i>n</i> = 3 Ave. 0.01	<i>n</i> = 2 Ave. 0.01	<i>n</i> = 70 Ave. 0.22	<i>n</i> = 19 Ave. 0.05	<i>n</i> = 10 Ave. 0.03

25. Please estimate how much your deer hunting trips in Illinois cost, in total (including license, outfitting or leasing fees, lodging, transportation, food, etc.). If you shared costs with other hunters, please report only the portion you personally paid.

I spent Ave. \$381.90 (*n* = 1,119) to hunt deer in Illinois for Ave. 16.5 (*n* = 1,060) days during the 2006-2007 deer seasons.

26. On what type of land did you hunt in Illinois during the 2006-2007 deer seasons? (Please check one for each season.)

Season	<i>n</i>	Private land only	Public land only	Both public and private land	I did not hunt during this season.
a. Archery	959	61.5%	4.0%	11.7%	22.8%
b. Regular firearm	1,153	80.8%	6.9%	4.1%	8.2%
c. Muzzleloader only	741	31.2%	1.5%	0.7%	66.7%
d. Late-winter antlerless	824	45.4%	2.2%	1.5%	51.0%

27. How difficult was it for you to find a place to hunt deer in Illinois during each of the following seasons? (Please check one for each season.)

Season	<i>n</i>	Very difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not at all difficult	I did not hunt during this season.
a. Archery	986	9.6%	18.0%	49.2%	23.2%
b. Regular firearm	1,143	12.6%	18.6%	60.5%	8.2%
c. Muzzleloader only	801	5.7%	7.0%	22.5%	64.8%
d. Late-winter antlerless	830	6.5%	9.8%	34.6%	49.2%

28. Who owned the land on which you hunted deer during the 2006-2007 deer seasons? (Please check all that apply.) *n* = 1,536

12.6% I hunted on public land.

21.5% I hunted on private land I own.

57.8% I hunted on private land owned by a friend or member of my family.

3.2% I hunted on private land owned by a person I did not previously know.

4.2% I hunted on private land I leased.

0.2% I hunted on private land I hired an outfitter to access.

0.5% Other (Please indicate. _____)

29. Did you lease any land on which you hunted deer in Illinois during the 2006-2007 deer seasons? (Please check one.) *n* = 1,224

6.0% Yes

94.0% No (Please skip to question 36.)

30. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, what type of compensation did you give the landowner in exchange for permission to hunt on the land? (Please check all that apply.)

n = 103

8.7% I did not pay for my lease in any way.

60.2% I paid the landowner money.

16.5% I worked on the land or for the landowner.

12.6% I gave the landowner venison.

1.9% (Please indicate. _____)

31. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, during what hunting season was the lease in effect? (Please check all that apply.) *n* = 133

18.8% Archery season

21.1% Regular firearm season

11.3% Muzzleloader only season

9.8% Late-winter antlerless season

37.6% All deer hunting seasons in 2006-2007

1.5% (Please indicate. _____)

32. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, what was the length of your lease? (*Please check one.*)
n = 73

- 0.0% One day
- 6.8% A portion of the season for which I leased the land (more than 1 day)
- 19.2% The entire season for which I leased the land
- 9.6% All deer hunting seasons in 2006-2007
- 60.3% One full year
- 4.1% (*Please indicate.* _____)

33. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, how many total acres of land did your lease grant you permission to hunt? *n* = 72

I leased Ave. 237.7 acres of land to hunt deer in Illinois.

34. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, how many hunters (including yourself) had access to the land under your lease? *n* = 73

Ave. 5.5 hunters had access to my leased land during my lease period.

35. If you did lease land to hunt deer in Illinois, how much money did you pay in leasing fees, in total? If you leased land individually, as opposed to part of a group of hunters, please skip part b.

a. I personally paid Ave. \$697.62 to lease hunting land in Illinois. *n* = 53

b. My hunting party paid Ave. \$5,425.00, in total, to lease hunting land in Illinois.
n = 46

36. Would you be willing to pay money to lease land to hunt deer in Illinois in the future? (*Please check one.*) *n* = 1,222

- 17.9% Yes
- 54.4% No
- 27.7% I am not sure.

37. Did you contract with an outfitter during any of your deer hunts in Illinois in 2006-2007? (*Please check one.*) *n* = 1,216

- 0.6% Yes
- 99.4% No (*Please skip to question 39.*)

38. If you paid outfitting fees to hunt deer in Illinois in 2006-2007, how much did you pay in outfitting fees, in total? If you shared costs with other hunters, please indicate only the amount you personally paid. *n* = 3

I paid Ave. \$583.33 for outfitting services in Illinois.

39. Did the owner or manager of the land you hunted in Illinois during the 2006-2007 seasons require you to harvest deer according to some criteria (*For example*: no harvest of buck fawns, must harvest does, etc.)? (*Please check one.*) *n* = 1,179

13.1% Yes

86.9% No (*Please skip to question 41.*)

40. If you were required to harvest deer according to some criteria, what were those criteria? (*Please check all that apply.*) *n* = 330

23.0% I was allowed to harvest any deer I was able or willing to harvest.

11.5% I was not allowed to harvest a buck until I had harvested a doe.

23.0% I was not allowed to harvest a buck with fewer than 4 antler points on 1 side.

4.2% I was not allowed to harvest a buck with 4 or more antler points on 1 side.

17.6% I was not allowed to harvest a buck fawn.

13.6% I was not allowed to harvest a fawn of any sex.

1.5% I was not allowed to harvest a doe of any age.

5.5% Other (*Please indicate.* _____)

41. How willing are you to harvest the following deer? (*Please check one for each item.*)

	<i>n</i>	I am willing to harvest 1 deer of this type.	I am willing to harvest more than 1 deer of this type.	I am unwilling to harvest a deer of this type.	I am not sure.
a. Adult buck with \geq 4 antler points on 1 side	1,207	47.1%	40.3%	7.8%	4.8%
b. Adult buck with < 4 antler points on 1 side	1,149	37.8%	30.8%	24.2%	7.2%
c. Buck fawn	1,094	14.4%	16.3%	58.4%	10.9%
d. Doe fawn	1,108	16.8%	27.4%	46.2%	9.6%
e. Adult doe	1,220	33.3%	60.9%	3.6%	2.2%

42. When are you willing to harvest the following deer? (*Please check one for each item.*)

I would harvest an...	<i>n</i>	any time during my season.	when 25% of my season has passed.	when 75% of my season has passed.	I would not harvest this deer.	I am not sure.
a. adult buck with \geq 4 antler points on 1 side	1,212	81.9%	2.8%	6.5%	5.8%	3.0%
b. adult buck with < 4 antler points on 1 side	1,169	55.5%	5.6%	11.8%	22.2%	4.9%
c. buck fawn	1,115	22.3%	2.5%	11.2%	56.1%	7.8%
d. doe fawn	1,121	30.9%	3.7%	13.4%	45.0%	7.1%
e. adult doe	1,225	78.2%	6.9%	11.0%	1.9%	2.0%

43. Many parts of a deer hunt are important to hunters' judgment of the quality of a hunt. How important to you are the following characteristics of deer hunting and the deer herd in Illinois? (*Please check one for each item.*)

	<i>n</i>	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	I am not sure.
a. The number of deer I see	1,249	60.4%	35.1%	3.9%	0.6%
b. The number of trophy deer I see	1,233	36.8%	41.0%	21.6%	0.6%
c. My access to private hunting land	1,229	74.8%	14.9%	8.2%	2.1%
d. My access to public hunting land	1,214	37.0%	26.6%	30.3%	6.1%
e. The price of hunting licenses	1,232	43.3%	38.6%	16.7%	1.4%
f. The availability of deer permits	1,240	75.9%	19.6%	3.8%	0.7%
g. The number of hunters I see	1,234	54.5%	34.3%	9.2%	2.0%
h. Length and structure of seasons	1,238	67.6%	28.1%	2.9%	1.4%
i. The quality of the deer herd	1,242	80.8%	16.1%	2.4%	0.6%
j. The number of deer I harvest	1,217	23.7%	47.2%	27.7%	1.4%

44. How did the following characteristics of your deer hunt in Illinois in 2006-2007 match the expectations you had prior to hunting in Illinois? (*Please check one for each item.*)

	<i>n</i>	exceeded my expectations.	met my expectations.	was below my expectations.	I am not sure.
a. The number of deer I saw...	1,228	12.7%	53.4%	33.1%	0.8%
b. The number of trophy deer I saw...	1,214	8.0%	29.7%	59.4%	3.0%
c. My opportunity to harvest deer...	1,221	11.1%	58.6%	29.6%	0.8%
d. My opportunity to harvest trophy deer...	1,206	6.1%	27.9%	61.5%	4.5%
e. The number of deer I harvested...	1,204	5.0%	50.3%	42.3%	2.4%
f. My access to private land...	1,203	12.2%	61.3%	20.0%	6.4%
g. My access to public land...	1,161	4.5%	41.6%	17.3%	36.6%
h. The number of hunters I saw...	1,195	18.4%	59.1%	13.2%	9.3%
i. The quality of the deer herd...	1,215	10.7%	59.3%	26.3%	3.7%

45. How would you rate your overall deer hunting experience in Illinois in 2006-2007? (*Please check one.*) **n = 1,250**

- 14.6% Excellent
- 25.3% Above average
- 38.1% Average
- 14.7% Below average
- 6.6% Poor
- 0.6% I am not sure.

Information about you. The following questions provide important information to help us understand more about the people who hunt in Illinois. Please tell us about yourself by completing the following questions. All responses will be kept confidential.

46. As of October 1, 2006, what was your age? **n = 1,723 Ave. 49.9**

47. Please indicate your county of residence. _____

48. What is your approximate annual household income? (*Please check one.*) **n = 1,579**

- 6.7% Less than \$20,000 per year
- 18.3% \$20,000 to \$39,999 per year
- 24.2% \$40,000 to \$59,999 per year
- 17.4% \$60,000 to \$79,999 per year
- 12.4% \$80,000 to \$99,999 per year
- 13.4% \$100,000 to \$149,999 per year
- 7.6% Over \$150,000 per year

49. Are you **95.8% male or 4.2% female?** (*Please check one.*) **n = 1,744**

50. How would you describe the area where you currently live? (*Please check one.*) **n = 1,722**

- 15.4% Rural setting, on a farm
- 21.8% Rural setting, not on a farm
- 10.4% Rural subdivision
- 10.0% Suburban area at the edge of a town or city
- 25.7% Within a small town (Population less than 25,000)
- 10.3% Within an urban area (Population between 25,000 and 100,000)
- 6.3% Within a metropolitan area (Population greater than 100,000)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!

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