

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

27

DECISION

TOPIC

Iowa City Deer Management Plan for 2009-2010

The Commission is asked to approve the authorization of sharp shooting deer in Iowa City for 2009-2010 with the following stipulations: 1) take antlerless deer only; 2) removal of antlerless deer on University of Iowa properties to be done between December 19, 2009 and January 16, 2010; 3) removal of antlerless deer in the remainder of Iowa City to be done between January 11, 2009 and February 28, 2009; 4) the use of rimfire rifles shall not be allowed for lethal removal of deer; 5) an authorized agent of the DNR be allowed to observe deer removal when requested by the DNR; 6) Iowa City should strongly consider the use of bow hunting as a means of controlling deer numbers in suitable areas and only use sharp shooting in those areas where bow hunting can not be done because of access logistics.

Dr. Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
June 11, 2009

Attachment



CITY OF IOWA CITY

www.icgov.org

**OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER**

Dale E. Helling
Interim City Manager
dale-helling@iowa-city.org

Kathryn L. Johansen
Administrative Assistant
to the City Manager
kathryn-johansen@iowa-city.org

May 27, 2009

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Dr. Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Wallace State Office Building
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Dr. Garner and the Natural Resource Commission:

Please allow this letter to serve as an official request on behalf of the City of Iowa City to extend authorization to sharpshoot deer in Iowa City during the winter of 2009-2010. This request is a result of our effort to appreciate and respect many voices, and to provide the kind of deer management plan that is likely to be both accepted by and effective for our community.

At its Special Formal Council Meeting on April 20, 2009, by a vote of 7-0, Council members approved the Deer Management Plan for the winter of 2009-2010 and agreed to proceed with sharpshooting as the preferred method of deer removal. While we consider the option of bow hunting every year, it is the opinion of the City Council and the Iowa City Police Department, that sharpshooting is an acceptable means of controlling the deer herd and meets the following criteria: 1) public safety, 2) community acceptance, 3) effectiveness in maintaining the desired number of deer. We feel conducting a contracted deer kill, fixing the management and responsibility with one individual, is safe and simple. All animal meat is processed and given to local families.

In accordance with the Natural Resource Commission's June 12, 2008 decision, the removal of antlerless deer in Iowa City took place in February 2009 without incident or complaint. Of the 69 deer harvested 36 (52%) were female. Antlerless males were avoided when they could be easily identified. It is likely that $\leq 1\%$ yearling/adult males would be removed if the City-wide permit were valid starting December 1 when antlers are still visible on nearly all yearlings and adult males. As we continue to evaluate data and work with University of Iowa officials to maintain reduced densities on their property, we ask for authorization to harvest deer between December 19, 2009 – January 16, 2010 which coincides with the fall and spring semester break. A letter of support from Mr. Larry Wilson, University of Iowa Associate Director for Facilities Management, is enclosed.

For your review, enclosed you will find the 2009-2010 Deer Management Plan and City Council Resolution #09-130. Also included is the 2008-2009 Deer Management Annual Report, the 2009 Summary Report submitted by White Buffalo, Inc., along with the 2008 aerial count, and the 2008 deer-vehicle strike report.

410 E. Washington Street
Iowa City, IA 52240

Phone: (319) 356-5010
Fax: (319) 356-5009

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If you need anything further prior to your June meeting, please contact Kathi Johansen in my office at 319 356-5010. As always, we look to continue a positive relationship with the Natural Resource Commission as we move forward in managing the deer herd in Iowa City.

Sincerely,



Dale E. Helling
Interim City Manager

Enclosures

cc: Kathi Johansen – Administrative Assistant to the City Manager
Susan Dulek - Assistant City Attorney
Iowa City Police Department
Larry Wilson – University of Iowa
Willie Suchy - Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources -Deer Biologist
Greg Harris - Wildlife Depredation Biologist
Tim Thompson - Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources –Biologist II
Tom Litchfield – Deer Program Biologist, IDNR



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
Planning, Design & Construction

May 26, 2009

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Dr. Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Wallace State Office Building
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Dr. Garner and the Natural Resources Commission:

Last year, I sent a letter to you about the University's willingness to cooperate with the City of Iowa City by allowing the harvesting of deer on University property for the next three years. This letter is to confirm that the harvesting last year was without incident or complaint and that the approval of harvesting for this year and the next two years (total of 3) is still in effect. The extended approval is with the following stipulations:

1. Harvesting to be conducted during the break between fall and spring semesters when residence halls are closed and most of the students are absent.
2. The City will contact the University annually to determine the harvesting dates for that year.
3. The harvesting program remains the same with White Buffalo, Inc. harvesting by sharpshooting only (bow hunting not permitted).
4. A report is provided to the University by the City each year indicating the results of the previous year's harvesting program.
5. The University reserves the right to terminate the approval agreement if at any time the deer harvesting program is counter to University interests.

In cooperation with Iowa City's 2009-2010 harvesting program, the University will permit the harvesting of deer on University property between the dates of December 19, 2009 and January 16, 2010, which will coincide with the University's winter break and closing of the residence halls between the fall and spring semesters this year. The University looks forward to continuing to cooperate with the City to help alleviate deer/vehicle accidents and damage to landscapes on the west side of Iowa City.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Larry T. Wilson
Associate Director

- c: Dale Helling, Interim City Manager Iowa City
Kathi Johansen, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager
Doug True, Senior Vice President and Treasurer
Don Guckert, Associate Vice President and Director Facilities Management
Rod Lehnertz, Director Planning, Design & Construction
Von Stange, Director University Housing
Helen Baker, Manager University Apartments
Ted Thorn, Manager Grounds Intercollegiate Athletics

200 University Services Building
Iowa City, IA 52242-1922
319-335-1206 Fax: 319-335-1210
www.facilities.uiowa.edu

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Prepared by: Susan Dulek, Asst. City Attorney, 410 E. Washington St., Iowa City, IA 52240-319-356-5030

RESOLUTION NO. 09-130

RESOLUTION APPROVING A REVISED DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 08-122.

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 08-122 adopted a Deer Management Plan that included sharp shooting during the winter of 2008-2009;

WHEREAS, the Deer Management Plan should be revised to reference sharpshooting in the winter of 2009-2010; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to adopt a revised Deer Management Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IOWA CITY, IOWA:

The attached revised Deer Management Plan is adopted.

The City Manager is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to implement the Deer Management Plan.

Passed and approved this 20th day of April, 2009.

ATTEST: Marian K. Kan
CITY CLERK

Benjamin D. Bradley
MAYOR

Approved by
[Signature] 4-15-09
City Attorney's Office

It was moved by Wilburn and seconded by Wright the Resolution be adopted, and upon roll call there were:

AYES:

X
X
X
X
X
X
X

NAYS:

ABSENT:

_____ Bailey
_____ Champion
_____ Correia
_____ Hayek
_____ O'Donnell
_____ Wilburn
_____ Wright