

## Final Proposed Filing - Coversheet

### Instructions:

In accordance with Title 3 Chapter 25 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and the “Rule on Rulemaking” adopted by the Office of the Secretary of State, this filing will be considered complete upon filing and acceptance of these forms with the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

All forms shall be submitted at the Office of the Secretary of State, no later than 3:30 pm on the last scheduled day of the work week.

The data provided in text areas of these forms will be used to generate a notice of rulemaking in the portal of “Proposed Rule Postings” online, and the newspapers of record if the rule is marked for publication. Publication of notices will be charged back to the promulgating agency.

1. A copy of this form shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, no later than 3:30 pm on the last scheduled day of the work week. 2.

**PLEASE REMOVE ANY COVERSHEET OR FORM NOT  
REQUIRED WITH THE CURRENT FILING BEFORE DELIVERY!**

1. A copy of this form shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, no later than 3:30 pm on the last scheduled day of the work week. 2.

**Certification Statement:** As the adopting Authority of this rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 801 (b) (11) for a definition), I approve the contents of this filing entitled:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule**

\_\_\_\_\_, on 6/20/2025  
/s/Andrea Shortsleeve  
(signature) (date)

**Printed Name and Title:**

Andrea Shortsleeve, Interim Commissioner  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Secretary, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Coversheet
- ☐ Adopting Page
- ☐ Economic Impact Analysis
- ☐ Environmental Impact Analysis
- ☐ Strategy for Maximizing Public Input
- ☐ Scientific Information Statement (if applicable)
- ☐ Incorporated by Reference Statement (if applicable)
- ☐ Clean text of the rule (Amended text without annotation)
- ☐ Annotated text (Clearly marking changes from previous rule)
- ☐ ICAR Minutes
- ☐ Copy of Comments
- ☐ Responsiveness Summary

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule**

2. PROPOSED NUMBER ASSIGNED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

25P014

3. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

4. PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON:

*(A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE RULE).*

Name: Hannah Smith

Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of  
Natural Resources

Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2,  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Telephone: 802-461-8187 Fax: 802-828-1250

E-Mail: hannah.smith@vermont.gov

Web URL *(WHERE THE RULE WILL BE POSTED)*:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>

5. SECONDARY CONTACT PERSON:

*(A SPECIFIC PERSON FROM WHOM COPIES OF FILINGS MAY BE REQUESTED OR WHO MAY ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS SUBMITTED FOR FILING IF DIFFERENT FROM THE PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON).*

Name: Nick Fortin

Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of  
Natural Resources

Mailing Address: 271 North Main Street, Suite 215  
Rutland, Vermont 05701

Telephone: 802-786-0040 Fax: 802-828-1250

E-Mail: nick.fortin@vermont.gov

6. RECORDS EXEMPTION INCLUDED WITHIN RULE:

*(DOES THE RULE CONTAIN ANY PROVISION DESIGNATING INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL; LIMITING ITS PUBLIC RELEASE; OR OTHERWISE, EXEMPTING IT FROM INSPECTION AND COPYING?)* No

IF YES, CITE THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE EXEMPTION:

PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE REASON FOR THE EXEMPTION:

7. LEGAL AUTHORITY / ENABLING LEGISLATION:

*(THE SPECIFIC STATUTORY OR LEGAL CITATION FROM SESSION LAW INDICATING WHO THE ADOPTING ENTITY IS AND THUS WHO THE SIGNATORY SHOULD BE. THIS SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC CITATION NOT A CHAPTER CITATION).*

10 V.S.A. §4082(a), 10 V.S.A. §4084

8. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGENCY:

10 V.S.A. § 4082(a) states that the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board is authorized to adopt rules "for the regulation of fish and wild game and the taking thereof" and that the rules "shall be designed to to maintain the best health, population, and utilization levels of the regulated species . . ." This proposed rule is directly within the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Board under 10 V.S.A. § 4082(a). In addition, under 10 V.S.A. § 4084, the Board has broad authority to adopt rules concerning wild game that establish: seasons; possession limits; territorial limits; the manner and means of taking any species; reporting and tagging of game; and restrictions on taking based upon sex, maturity, or other physical distinction of the species.

9. THE FILING HAS CHANGED SINCE THE FILING OF THE PROPOSED RULE.

10. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED WITH THIS FILING A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE, CITING CHAPTER AND SECTION WHERE APPLICABLE.

11. SUBSTANTIAL ARGUMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS WERE NOT RAISED FOR OR AGAINST THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.

12. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED COPIES OF ALL WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND SYNOPSES OF ORAL COMMENTS RECEIVED.

13. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL THE REASONS FOR THE AGENCY'S DECISION TO REJECT OR ADOPT THEM.

14. CONCISE SUMMARY (150 WORDS OR LESS):

The proposed rule amendments include substantive changes to the current deer management rule including establishing expanded archery zones, moving youth weekend back to the weekend before the regular season, reinstating the antler point restriction in Wildlife

Management Unit (WMU) D1, allowing antlerless permits to be used during the regular season, removing the archery season closure during the regular season, allowing hunters to hold two antlerless permits in different WMUs, and allowing hunters to take a conditional second buck. The Final Proposed rule also proposes to extend the muzzleloader season five days to begin the Monday following the close of the regular season.

**15. EXPLANATION OF WHY THE RULE IS NECESSARY:**

The rule is necessary to increase access to hunting opportunities and to help better manage the State's deer population and maintain an abundant and healthy deer herd.

**16. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS NOT ARBITRARY:**

The rule is explicitly authorized by statute and is consistent with the policy articulated in 10 V.S.A. § 4081 stating that an abundant, healthy deer herd is a primary goal of fish and wildlife management. The proposed rule changes are supported by research and investigation conducted by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**17. LIST OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS RULE:**

Hunters and their families, including youth hunters; Department staff including wardens; businesses that sell hunting equipment, food, gas and lodging; landowners, and other members of the public.

**18. BRIEF SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACT (150 WORDS OR LESS):**

The proposed rule will create more opportunity for deer hunting, particularly antlerless deer, by allowing the taking of antlerless deer during the regular season. The rule changes will also allow for the taking of a second buck if certain conditions are met which may encourage hunters to hunt during multiple seasons without concern about filling their buck tag prior to the regular season. This should reasonably impact businesses that sell hunting implements such as muzzleloaders, bows, arrows, crossbows and accessories. More deer hunters participating in multiple seasons are also likely to spend more money in the communities in

which they hunt. The rule will likely increase the amount of deer harvested and venison deer meat available to hunters and their families.

19. A HEARING WAS HELD.

20. HEARING INFORMATION

(THE FIRST HEARING SHALL BE NO SOONER THAN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE POSTING OF NOTICES ONLINE).

IF THIS FORM IS INSUFFICIENT TO LIST THE INFORMATION FOR EACH HEARING, PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET TO COMPLETE THE HEARING INFORMATION.

Date: 5/6/2025

Time: 06:30 PM

Street Address: Winooski Middle and High School, 60 Normand St., Winooski VT

Zip Code: 05404

URL for Virtual:

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Date: 6/8/2025

Time: 06:30 PM

Street Address: Springfield High School, 303 South St., Springfield, VT

Zip Code: 05156

URL for Virtual:

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Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual:

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Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual:

**21. DEADLINE FOR COMMENT (NO EARLIER THAN 7 DAYS FOLLOWING LAST HEARING):**

5/25/2025

**KEYWORDS** (PLEASE PROVIDE AT LEAST 3 KEYWORDS OR PHRASES TO AID IN THE SEARCHABILITY OF THE RULE NOTICE ONLINE).

Deer

Antlerless deer

buck

deer tag

deer limit

regular season

archery season

## Adopting Page

### Instructions:

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

Note: To satisfy the requirement for an annotated text, an agency must submit the entire rule in annotated form with proposed and final proposed filings. Filing an annotated paragraph or page of a larger rule is not sufficient. Annotation must clearly show the changes to the rule.

When possible, the agency shall file the annotated text, using the appropriate page or pages from the Code of Vermont Rules as a basis for the annotated version. New rules need not be accompanied by an annotated text.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule**

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

3. TYPE OF FILING (*PLEASE CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FILING FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU BASED ON THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED BELOW*):

- **AMENDMENT** - Any change to an already existing rule, even if it is a complete rewrite of the rule, it is considered an amendment if the rule is replaced with other text.
- **NEW RULE** - A rule that did not previously exist even under a different name.
- **REPEAL** - The removal of a rule in its entirety, without replacing it with other text.

This filing is **AN AMENDMENT OF AN EXISTING RULE** .

4. LAST ADOPTED (*PLEASE PROVIDE THE SOS LOG#, TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAST ADOPTION FOR THE EXISTING RULE*):

SOS Log #19-048, Deer Management Rule, effective January 1, 2020.

## Economic Impact Analysis

### **Instructions:**

In completing the economic impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated costs and benefits to be expected from adoption of the rule; estimates the costs and benefits for each category of people enterprises and government entities affected by the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; and explains their analysis concluding that rulemaking is the most appropriate method of achieving the regulatory purpose. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Rules affecting or regulating schools or school districts must include cost implications to local school districts and taxpayers in the impact statement, a clear statement of associated costs, and consideration of alternatives to the rule to reduce or ameliorate costs to local school districts while still achieving the objectives of the rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 832b for details).

Rules affecting small businesses (excluding impacts incidental to the purchase and payment of goods and services by the State or an agency thereof), must include ways that a business can reduce the cost or burden of compliance or an explanation of why the agency determines that such evaluation isn’t appropriate, and an evaluation of creative, innovative or flexible methods of compliance that would not significantly impair the effectiveness of the rule or increase the risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or those affected by the rule.

#### 1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule**

#### 2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

#### 3. CATEGORY OF AFFECTED PARTIES:

*LIST CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES, AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE ADOPTION OF THIS RULE AND THE ESTIMATED COSTS AND BENEFITS ANTICIPATED:*

Under the proposed rule, resident and nonresident hunters and their families, including youth hunters, will have increased and improved opportunities to hunt and in turn, increased opportunities to fill antlerless and buck tags. This may allow for increased harvest of venison, providing an economic benefit to families relying on venison as a food source.



The proposed later date for youth deer hunting weekend is intended to allow more participation by holding youth weekend after the conclusion of most fall youth sports.

Department staff, including Wardens, will be responsible for implementing and enforcing amended rules, but the economic impacts on the Department are anticipated to be nominal.

The proposed increased hunting and buck hunting opportunities may encourage hunters who typically only participate in the regular season to also hunt during the archery and muzzleloader seasons as well. This may provide an economic benefit to businesses selling hunting equipment, and license agents selling hunting licenses throughout the state.

The proposed increased opportunities for taking antlerless deer is anticipated to benefit Vermonters generally by providing an effective tool for managing the deer herd in the State. For deer to be healthy and productive, deer populations must be kept below the carrying capacity of the habitat through the regulated harvest of antlerless deer. Deer populations must be reduced or maintained below the limits of their habitat or the physical condition of the herd will decline, habitat damage and crop damage will increase through over-browsing, and populations will become unstable and susceptible to substantial winter mortality.

#### 4. IMPACT ON SCHOOLS:

*INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS CLEARLY STATING ANY ASSOCIATED COSTS:*

The proposed rule amendments will not impact schools.

#### 5. ALTERNATIVES: *CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE TO REDUCE OR AMELIORATE COSTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHILE STILL ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RULE.*

The proposed rule amendments will not impact schools.

#### 6. IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES:

*INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON SMALL BUSINESSES (EXCLUDING IMPACTS INCIDENTAL TO THE PURCHASE AND PAYMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY THE STATE OR AN AGENCY THEREOF):*

Small businesses that sell hunting equipment and hunting licenses are likely to benefit from the increased hunting opportunities proposed in the rule. Hunters participating in multiple seasons are likely to spend more money on food, gas, equipment, etc. at small businesses in the communities in which they hunt.

**7. SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE:** *EXPLAIN WAYS A BUSINESS CAN REDUCE THE COST/BURDEN OF COMPLIANCE OR AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE AGENCY DETERMINES THAT SUCH EVALUATION ISN'T APPROPRIATE.*

The rule does not impose requirements on small businesses and there are no anticipated burdens or costs to small businesses to comply with the proposed rule change.

**8. COMPARISON:**

*COMPARE THE IMPACT OF THE RULE WITH THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE, INCLUDING NO RULE ON THE SUBJECT OR A RULE HAVING SEPARATE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS:*

The rule is intended to support effective management of Vermont's deer herd. No rule changes will result in deer populations that continue to exceed their density objectives and numbers the habitat can support in parts of the state, leading to habitat damage, the spread of disease, and potentially unstable deer populations in the state.

**9. SUFFICIENCY:** *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

The analysis is based on an assessment of all available information, including biological information on the State's deer herd collected annually by the Department, and determines that the proposed rule changes will have a primarily positive economic impacts.

## Environmental Impact Analysis

### **Instructions:**

In completing the environmental impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated environmental impacts (positive or negative) to be expected from adoption of the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; explains the sufficiency of the environmental impact analysis. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Examples of Environmental Impacts include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on the emission of greenhouse gases
- Impacts on the discharge of pollutants to water
- Impacts on the arability of land
- Impacts on the climate
- Impacts on the flow of water
- Impacts on recreation
- Or other environmental impacts

#### 1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule**

#### 2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

#### 3. GREENHOUSE GAS: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES (E.G. TRANSPORTATION OF PEOPLE OR GOODS; BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE; LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, WASTE GENERATION, ETC.):*

The proposed rule is intended to increase harvest of antlerless deer in the state. The harvest and consumption of venison as a local source of meat is a significantly less carbon-intensive than the industrial production and shipping of meat products.

#### 4. WATER: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS WATER (E.G. DISCHARGE / ELIMINATION OF POLLUTION INTO VERMONT WATERS, THE FLOW OF WATER IN THE STATE, WATER QUALITY ETC.):*

The proposed rule will not have an impact on water quality.

5. **LAND:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS LAND (E.G. IMPACTS ON FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE ETC.):*

When deer populations exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat, there are significant impacts on both forestry and agriculture. Browsing deer can prevent the regeneration of healthy forest ecosystems and cause damage to agricultural crops. This rule is intended to reduce deer populations in areas where forest regeneration is impacted by deer or where crop damage is prevalent.

6. **RECREATION:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS RECREATION IN THE STATE:*

The proposed allowance for taking antlerless deer during the regular season and taking a second buck is intended to increase recreational hunting opportunities.

7. **CLIMATE:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE CLIMATE IN THE STATE:*

The proposed rule will not impact climate in the state.

8. **OTHER:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT OTHER ASPECTS OF VERMONT'S ENVIRONMENT:*

This proposal aims to improve the Department's ability to achieve WMU-specific deer density objectives as established in the 2020-2030 Big Game Management Plan. Overabundant deer can negatively affect other native wildlife and plant species in Vermont. Browsing by overabundant deer can reduce populations of many native wildflowers and facilitate the proliferation of invasive plant species. Changes to plant communities caused by deer browsing can have negative effects for many wildlife species. Additionally, adequate antlerless harvests are critical for effective deer management. The proposed changes increase hunters' ability to harvest more antlerless deer when and where it is necessary, while maintaining the ability to limit antlerless harvest when appropriate.

9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

The analysis is based on an assessment of all available information, including biological information on the State's deer herd collected annually by the Department,

and provides a sufficient assessment of the environmental impacts of the proposed rule.

## Public Input Maximization Plan

### **Instructions:**

Agencies are encouraged to hold hearings as part of their strategy to maximize the involvement of the public in the development of rules. Please complete the form below by describing the agency's strategy for maximizing public input (what it did do, or will do to maximize the involvement of the public).

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

**1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:**

**10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule**

**2. ADOPTING AGENCY:**

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

**3. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE AGENCY'S STRATEGY TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE, LISTING THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH THAT STRATEGY:**

The Board meetings regarding all rulemaking are open to the public and the public is allowed to comment at every Board meeting. The Board votes to initiate the rulemaking process before filing with ICAR, votes after the public comment period, and then again before final adopted rules are filed with the Secretary of State. The public is free to comment to individual Board members and to the Department at any time during the rulemaking process. In addition, the board will hold two public hearings on the rule in addition to public meetings held at the beginning of the public comment period, and have a public comment period that exceeds thirty days. The proposed rule language was posted on the Board's rulemaking website on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Department will publicize the rule amendments in social media and press releases.

**4. BEYOND GENERAL ADVERTISEMENTS, PLEASE LIST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:**

## Public Input

Board members, Department staff including wardens and biologists.

## Scientific Information Statement

**THIS FORM IS ONLY REQUIRED IF THE RULE RELIES ON SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION FOR ITS VALIDITY.**

**PLEASE REMOVE THIS FORM PRIOR TO DELIVERY IF IT DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS RULE FILING:**

### **Instructions:**

In completing the Scientific Information Statement, an agency shall provide a summary of the scientific information including reference to any scientific studies upon which the proposed rule is based, for the purpose of validity.

#### **1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:**

**10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule**

#### **2. ADOPTING AGENCY:**

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

#### **3. BRIEF EXPLANATION OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION:**

The 2024 Antlerless Harvest Recommendations provides an approximation of the Vermont deer population, evaluates deer population densities across Wildlife Management Units, and recommends antlerless harvest numbers in order to achieve population density objectives. The data included in the 2024 harvest recommendations supports the proposed increased antlerless hunting opportunities in the rule.

#### **4. CITATION OF SOURCE DOCUMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION:**

Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife 2024 Antlerless Harvest and Youth/Novice Season Recommendation

#### **5. INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE SOURCE DOCUMENTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION FROM THE AGENCY OR OTHER PUBLISHING ENTITY:**

The Antlerless Harvest Recommendations can be accessed here:



<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Vermont%20Fish%20and%20Wildlife%20Board%20Meeting%20Documents/2024-proposals/2024-Antlerless-Recommendation.pdf>

A hard copy of the Antlerless Antlerless Harvest Recommendations can be obtained by contacting Nick Fortin.

## **§ 37. Deer Management Rule**

### **1.0 Authority**

1.1 This rule is adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(b). In adopting this rule, the Fish and Wildlife Board is following the policy established by the General Assembly that the protection, propagation, control, management, and conservation of fish, wildlife and furbearing animals in this State is in the interest of the public welfare and that the safeguarding of this valuable resource for the people of the State requires a constant and continual vigilance.

1.2 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082, this rule is designed to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of the deer herd.

1.3 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4084, this rule establishes open seasons; establishes daily, season and possession limits; prescribes the manner and means of taking white-tailed deer and establishes restrictions on taking based on sex and antler characteristics.

### **2.0 Purpose.**

The purpose of this rule is to manage the white-tailed deer herd, implementing will of the General Assembly to design rules to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of the deer herd.

### **3.0 Definitions**

3.1 “Antlerless Deer” are defined as those deer without antlers or with antlers less than three (3) inches in length.

3.2 “Antler Point”: A “point” is an antler projection of at least 1" measured from the base of the point at the main beam to the tip of the point. A broken main beam shall count as a point regardless of length.

3.3 “Bait”: For the purposes of this regulation, ‘bait’ is defined as any animal, vegetable, fruit or mineral matter placed with the intention of attracting wildlife. Natural and artificial scents and lures that are not prohibited under Section 14 of this regulation and are not designed to be consumed by eating or licking shall not be bait for the purposes of this rule.

3.4 “Baiting” is the use of any animal, vegetable or mineral matter, including scents and lures prohibited under section 14 of this regulation that has the effect of enticing wildlife to a certain location.

3.5 “Board”: The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board.

3.6 “Bona fide agricultural practices”: Practices that have been employed to plant, grow and harvest an agricultural product conducted in the usual manner.

3.7 “Crossbows”: A crossbow means a device consisting of a bow mounted to a rigid stock for discharging bolts or arrows and having a mechanical means to hold and release the drawn string, which must be fired from the shoulder. A bolt means a short projectile, designed for a crossbow, that resembles an arrow. No person shall hunt wild animals or game with a crossbow if the bolt has an arrowhead less than seven-eighths of an inch at its widest point and has less than two sharp cutting edges. A crossbow shall have a minimum pull of 125 pounds, a working mechanical safety and a stock no less than 23 inches in length.

3.8 “Legal Buck”: In Wildlife Management Units C, D2, E1, E2, G, I, L, M, P, and Q a legal buck shall be any white-tail deer with at least one antler three (3”) inches or more in length; and in Wildlife Management Units A, B, D1, F1, F2, H, J1, J2, K, N, and O a legal buck shall be any white-tailed deer with at least one antler with two or more antler points one inch in length or longer.

3.9 “Novice”: A person who purchased their first hunting license within the past 12 months and is 16 years of age or older.

3.10 “Youth”: A person who is 15 years of age or younger.

#### **4.0 Antlerless Deer Permits**

4.1 An Antlerless Deer Permit is a permit issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(g) and provisions of this section that allows a person to take one antlerless deer in the wildlife management unit listed on the permit during the regular season, October muzzleloader season, or December muzzleloader season.

4.2 Annually, the Board shall determine how many antlerless permits to issue in each wildlife management unit. For a nonrefundable fee, a person may apply for an Antlerless Deer Permit. The Department shall allocate the permits in the following manner:

(a) A Vermont landowner, as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 4253, who owns 25 or more contiguous acres and who applies shall receive an antlerless deer permit in the wildlife management unit on which the land is located before any are given to people eligible under subdivision (b) of this section. If the land is owned by more than one individual, corporation, or other entity, only one permit shall be issued. Landowners applying for antlerless deer permits under this subdivision shall not, at the time of application or thereafter during the deer hunting seasons, post their lands except under the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 4710. As used in this section, “post” means any signage that would lead a reasonable person to believe that hunting is restricted on the land. If the number of landowners who apply exceeds the number of permits for that wildlife management unit, the Department shall award all permits in that wildlife management unit to landowners by lottery.

(b) Permits remaining after allocation pursuant to subdivision (a) of this subsection shall be issued by lottery. Not more than ten percent of permits may be issued to nonresident applicants.

(c) Any permits remaining after permits have been allocated pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) of this subsection shall be issued by the Department on a first-come, first-served basis. Ten percent of the remaining permits may be issued to nonresident applicants.

4.3 No person may purchase or possess more than two antlerless deer permits at one time, only one of which may be acquired pursuant to subsection 4.2(a) or (b) of this section. No person may purchase or possess more than one antlerless deer permit for an individual wildlife management unit at one time. A person may purchase additional antlerless deer permits after the person has harvested an antlerless deer.

## **5.0 Annual Deer Limit**

5.1 A person shall not take more than four white-tailed deer in a calendar year, only one of which may be a legal buck, with the following exceptions.

(a) Youth and novice hunters shall be allowed to take two legal bucks, provided that one is taken during the youth or novice season, not to exceed the annual limit of four white-tailed deer.

(b) A person shall be allowed to take one additional buck, not to exceed the annual limit of four white-tailed deer, provided they have:

- (1) Purchased a second buck tag,
- (2) Previously taken and reported an antlerless deer in the current year, and
- (3) Previously taken and reported an antlered buck in the current year that had at least one antler with 3 or more antler points.

5.2 No person shall take deer in a WMU unless they are licensed, permitted or explicitly authorized to do so by the Board rules, or procedures adopted in accordance with 10 V.S.A § 4082 (c).

## **6.0 Regular Season**

6.1 Season Dates: Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4084 for 16 consecutive days commencing 12 days prior to Thanksgiving Day.

6.2 Limit:

(a) One legal buck, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in Section 5.1 of this rule, and

(b) One antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in section 5.1 of this rule.

## **7.0 October Muzzleloader Season.**

7.1 Season Dates: For four consecutive days, commencing on the Thursday 16 days prior to the opening day of the regular season.

7.2 Limit: A person may take one antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in section 5.1 of this rule.

7.3 A person hunting under this section shall obtain a muzzleloader license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252 and must possess an antlerless deer permit.

7.4 A person shall not carry any firearms other than one single-barreled muzzleloading firearm as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 4001(33) while hunting deer during this season.

7.5 No person taking deer by means of muzzleloader may possess archery equipment or crossbow while hunting.

## **8.0 December Muzzleloader Season.**

8.1 Season Dates: For the fourteen consecutive calendar days commencing on the first Monday after the completion of the regular season.

8.2 Limit:

(a) One legal buck, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in Section 5.1 of this rule, and

(b) One antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in section 5.1 of this rule.

8.3 A person hunting under this section shall obtain a muzzleloader license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252.

8.4 A person shall not carry any firearms other than one single-barreled muzzleloading firearm as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 4001(33) while hunting deer during this season.

8.5 No person taking deer by means of muzzleloader may possess archery equipment or crossbow while hunting.

## **9.0 Archery Season**

9.1 Season Dates: October 1 through December 15.

9.2 Limit:

(a) One legal buck, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in Section 5.1 of this rule, and

(b) In Wildlife Management Units declared open by the Board to the taking of antlerless deer, a person may take one antlerless deer per archery antlerless deer tag, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in Section 5.1 of this rule.

9.3 A person hunting under this section shall obtain an archery license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252. An archery license will be valid for one deer; additional archery licenses are required for the taking of additional deer.

9.4 A person shall use only a bow and arrow or a crossbow to take deer during this season.

9.5 The holder of an archery license or a super sport license, hunting with a bow and arrow or a crossbow, may possess a handgun while archery hunting, in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4252(b), provided that the license holder shall not take game by firearm while hunting.

#### 9.6 Expanded Archery Zones

(a) Within these zones, the archery season shall begin September 15. From September 15 to September 30, only antlerless deer may be taken.

##### (b) Zone Boundaries

###### Wildlife Management Unit A

All of Wildlife Management Unit A as described in 10 App. V.S.A. § 2b.

###### Newport

All lands within the city of Newport.

###### Burlington Area

Beginning on the shore of Lake Champlain at the end of Beach Road (Shelburne T.H. #22) in Shelburne proceed south along Beach Road to Bostwick Road (Shelburne T.H. #3); then northeast along Bostwick Road to Marsett Road (Shelburne T.H. #11); then east along Marsett Road to Falls Road (Shelburne T.H. #2); then east along Falls Road to Irish Hill Road (Shelburne T.H. #2); then east along Irish Hill Road to Spear Street (Shelburne T.H. #6); then north along Spear Street to Barstow Road (Shelburne T.H. #8); then east along Barstow Road to Cheesefactory Road (Shelburne T.H. #8); then east along Cheesefactory Road to State Route 116; then south along Route 116 to South Brownell Road (Williston T.H. #5); then north along South Brownell Road to Walker Hill Road (Williston T.H. #18); then east along Walker Hill Road to State Route 2A (Saint George Road); then north along Route 2A to Interstate Highway 89; then east along Interstate Highway 89 to Oak Hill Road (Williston T.H. #1); then north along Oak Hill Road to North Williston Road (Williston T.H. #1); then north along North Williston Road to State Route 117 (River Road); then west along Route 117 to State Route 289; then north and west along Route 289 to Susie Wilson Bypass (Essex T.H. #3); then southwest along Susie Wilson Bypass to Kellogg Road (Essex T.H. #5); then west along Kellogg Road which becomes Severance Road (Colchester T.H. #7); then west along Severance Road to Blakely Road (Colchester T.H. #9); then west along Blakely Road to East Lakeshore Drive; then in a straight

line north to the shore of Lake Champlain; then west and south along the shore of Lake Champlain to the point of beginning.

#### Montpelier

All lands within the city of Montpelier.

#### Saint Johnsbury Area

Beginning at the junction of Hospital Drive (St. Johnsbury State Highway) and Interstate Highway 91 proceed east along Hospital Drive to Depot Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #85); then east along Depot Hill Road to U.S. Route 5 (Memorial Drive); then north along US Route 5 to Breezy Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #6); then east along Breezy Hill Road to Lackey Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #20); then east along Lackey Hill Road approximately 300 feet to the power line; then south along the power line to the electric substation off Higgins Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #80); then south along the power line to Interstate Highway 93; then west along Interstate Highway 93 to Interstate Highway 91; then north along Interstate Highway 91 to the point of beginning.

#### Rutland Area

Beginning at the junction of State Route 4A and U.S. Route 4 in West Rutland proceed east along U.S. Route 4 to U.S. Route 7; then south along U.S. Route 7 to North Shrewsbury Road (Clarendon T.H. #4); then east along North Shrewsbury Road to East Clarendon Road (Clarendon T.H. #8); then north along East Clarendon Road to Cold River Road (Clarendon T.H. #8); then north along Cold River Road to the Rutland Town/Clarendon town line; then east along the Rutland Town/Clarendon town line to the Mendon town line; then north along the Rutland Town/Mendon town line to U.S. Route 4; then west along U.S. Route 4 to Post Road (Rutland Town T.H. #30); then north and west along Post Road to U.S. Route 7; then south along U.S. Route 7 approximately 0.1 miles to the triple power line; then west and southwest along the triple power line to the junction west of Grove Street (Rutland City T.H. #6); then south along the double power line to the junction near the end of Evergreen Avenue (Rutland City T.H. #174); then west along the power line to the junction west of West Proctor Road (Rutland Town T.H. #6); then north along the power line to the junction north of Durgy Hill Road (West Rutland Town T.H. #12); then west along the power line to Marble Street (West Rutland Town T.H. #3); then south along Marble Street to Water Street (West Rutland Town T.H. #19); then west along Water Street to Whipple Hollow Road (West Rutland Town T.H. #4); then south along Whipple Hollow Road to Route 4A; the west along Route 4A to the point of beginning.

#### Bennington Area

Beginning at the junction of U.S. Route 7 and State Route 313 in Arlington proceed west along Route 313 to State Route 7A; then south along Route 7A to West Mountain Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #54); then west along West Mountain Road to Laclair Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #64); then west along Laclair Road to Murphy Hill Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #9); then west along Murphy Hill Road to Sally Gannon Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #13), then west along Sally Gannon Road to the New York state border; then south along the New York state border to State Route 346; then east along Route 346 to North Pownal Road (Pownal T.H. #2); then east along North Pownal Road to U.S. Route 7; then south along U.S. Route 7 to Barber Pond Road (Pownal T.H. #3); then east along Barber Pond Road to South Stream Road (Pownal T.H. #3); then east and north along South Stream Road to Gore Road (Bennington T.H. #54); then east along Gore Road to Burgess Road (Bennington T.H. #53); then north along Burgess Road to Barney Road (Bennington T.H. #52); then north along Barney Road to State Route 9, then west along Route 9 to State Route 279; then north along Route 279 to Chapel

Road (Bennington T.H. #16); then north along Chapel Road to East Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #5); then north along East Road to U.S. Route 7; then north along U.S. Route 7 to the point of beginning.

#### Brattleboro Area

Beginning at the Interstate Highway 91 bridge over the West River in Brattleboro proceed southeast along the north shore of the West River to the New Hampshire state border; then south along the New Hampshire state border to Broad Brook; then west along Broad Brook to State Route 142; then north along Route 142 to Broad Brook Road (Vernon T.H. #6); then west along Broad Brook Road to U.S. Route 5; then north along U.S. Route 5 to Guilford Center Road (Guilford T.H. #1); then southwest along Guilford Center Road to Tater Lane (Guilford T.H. #23); then north along Tater Lane which becomes South Street (Brattleboro T.H. #72); then north along South Street to State Route 9; then northwest along Route 9 to Meadowbrook Road (Brattleboro T.H. #26); then north along Meadowbrook Road to upper Dummerston Road (Brattleboro T.H. #5); then southeast along Upper Dummerston Road to Interstate Highway 91; then north along Interstate Highway 91 to the point of beginning.

### **10.0 Youth Deer Hunting Weekend**

10.1 Season Dates: Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4742a, the Saturday and Sunday one week prior to the opening day of the regular season shall be youth deer hunting weekend.

10.2 Limit: One white-tailed deer. One legal buck may be taken during the youth deer hunting weekend, or any deer if the Board has authorized the taking of antlerless deer during youth hunting weekend.

10.3 To participate in the youth deer hunt, a qualified youth must be 15 years of age or younger and have a valid Vermont hunting license and a youth deer hunting weekend license.

10.4 The youth must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two young people at one time. As used in this section, “accompany,” “accompanied,” or “accompanying” means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

10.5 No youth shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

### **11.0 Novice Season**

11.1 Season Dates: This season shall be concurrent with the Youth Deer Hunting Weekend as prescribed in 10 V.S.A. § 4742a and section 10.1 of this rule.

11.2 Limit: One white-tailed deer. One legal buck may be taken during this season, or any deer if the Board has authorized the taking of antlerless deer during youth hunting weekend.



11.3 To participate in the novice season, a qualified person must have a valid Vermont hunting license, and follow the requirements of youth hunting week-end.

11.4 The novice hunter must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a novice under this section shall accompany no more than two novice hunters at one time. As used in this section, “accompany,” “accompanied,” or “accompanying” means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the novice hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

11.5 No Novice hunter shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

## **12.0 Reporting.**

12.1 A deer carcass shall be field dressed prior to reporting in accordance with 10 V.S.A. App. § 2.

12.2 Upon request, the person harvesting a deer shall show and return to the kill site with a Game Warden.

12.3 A deer carcass may be quartered or deboned in the field prior to reporting provided all requirements of 10 V.S.A. App. § 2 and 10 V.S.A. §§ 4921 through 4925 are met. The viscera, hide, upper and lower leg bones, backbone, pelvis, and ribs may be left in the field. Evidence of sex (genitalia, antlers of deer,) must be retained for reporting. All other required biological samples must also be retained for reporting, including both central incisors of deer, during the November firearm season and novice weekend

## **13.0 Feeding of Deer.**

13.1 No person shall feed white-tailed deer at any time in Vermont except:

- (a) Under a license or permit issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4152 by the Department for bona fide scientific research, mitigation of wildlife damage or nuisance problems, or wildlife population reduction programs only; or
- (b) By planting, cultivating or harvesting of crops directly associated with bona fide agricultural practices, including planted wildlife food plots; or
- (c) By distribution of food material for livestock directly associated with bona fide agricultural practices; or
- (d) By cutting of trees or brush; or
- (e) By incidental feeding by an elevated bird/squirrel feeders (feeders must be at least five feet above the ground) providing seed, grain, fruit, worms, or suet for birds or squirrels, located within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling.

## **14.0 Baiting**

14.1 No person shall take deer by using bait. Exempted from this prohibition are:

- (a) Incidental feeding of wildlife within active livestock operations;
- (b) Standing crops planted and left standing as food plots for wildlife;
- (c) Grain or other feed scattered or distributed solely as a result of normal agricultural, gardening, or soil stabilization, and logging practices;
- (d) Vegetation or food/seed naturally deposited.

14.2 No person shall take any game or wild animal by using bait during deer seasons established under Part 4 of Title 10 or by rules of the Board, except that persons taking furbearers as authorized under 10 V.S.A. § 4252(3) may use bait in conjunction with traps being set to take furbearers.

## **15.0 The Ban of urine and other natural lures.**

15.1 Authority. The Fish & Wildlife Board finds that, in order to protect the health of white-tailed deer in Vermont, it is necessary to prohibit the use of cervid urine, blood, glands, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids for the purpose of taking or attempting to take deer.

15.2 Restricted and Permitted Uses of cervid urine, blood, glands, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids.

- (a) No person shall possess while hunting or use, for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, surveillance or scouting deer; any product that contains or purports to contain any cervid urine, blood, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids.
- (b) A person may utilize the body parts of a wild Vermont white-tailed deer legally taken or acquired by that person for coyote hunting.

## § 37. Deer Management Rule

### 1.0 Authority

1.1 This rule is adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(b). In adopting this rule, the Fish and Wildlife Board is following the policy established by the General Assembly that the protection, propagation, control, management, and conservation of fish, wildlife and furbearing animals in this State is in the interest of the public welfare and that the safeguarding of this valuable resource for the people of the State requires a constant and continual vigilance.

1.2 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082, this rule is designed to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of the deer herd.

1.3 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4084, this rule establishes open seasons; establishes daily, season and possession limits; prescribes the manner and means of taking white-tailed deer and establishes restrictions on taking based on sex and antler characteristics.

### 2.0 Purpose.

The purpose of this rule is to manage the white-tailed deer herd, implementing will of the General Assembly to design rules to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of the deer herd.

### 3.0 Definitions

3.1 “Antlerless Deer” are defined as those deer without antlers or **with** antlers less than three (3”) inches in length.

~~3.2 An “Antlerless Deer Permit” is a permit issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(g) that allows a person to take one antlerless deer during the antlerless or muzzleloader seasons.~~

~~3.3~~ 3.2 “Antler Point”: A “point” is an antler projection of at least 1” measured from the base of the point at the main beam to the tip of the point. A broken main beam shall count as a point regardless of length.

~~3.4~~ 3.3 “Bait”: For the purposes of this regulation, ‘bait’<sup>4</sup> is defined as any animal, vegetable, fruit or mineral matter placed with the intention of attracting wildlife. Natural and artificial scents and lures that are not prohibited under Section 14 of this regulation and are not designed to be consumed by eating or licking shall not be bait for the purposes of this rule.

~~3.5~~ 4 “Baiting” is the use of any animal, vegetable or mineral matter, including scents and lures prohibited under section 14 of this regulation that has the effect of enticing wildlife to a certain location.

3.6-5 “Board”: The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board.

3.7-6 “Bona fide agricultural practices”: Practices that have been employed to plant, grow and harvest an agricultural product conducted in the usual manner.

3.8-7 “Crossbows”: A crossbow means a device consisting of a bow mounted to a rigid stock for discharging bolts or arrows and having a mechanical means to hold and release the drawn string, which must be fired from the shoulder. A bolt means a short projectile, designed for a crossbow, that resembles an arrow. No person shall hunt wild animals or game with a crossbow if the bolt has an arrowhead less than seven-eighths of an inch at its widest point and has less than two sharp cutting edges. A crossbow shall have a minimum pull of 125 pounds, a working mechanical safety and a stock no less than 23 inches in length.

3.9-8 “Legal Buck”: In Wildlife Management Units C, D1, D2, E1, E2, G, I, L, M, P, and Q a legal buck shall be any white-tail deer with at least one antler three (3") inches or more in length; and in Wildlife Management Units A, B, D1, F1, F2, H, J1, J2, K, N, and O a legal buck shall be any white-tailed deer with at least one antler with two or more antler points one inch in length or longer.

3.10-9 “Novice”: A person who purchased their first hunting license within the past 12 months and is 16 years of age or older.

3.11-10 “Youth”: A person who is 15 years of age or younger.

## 4.0 Antlerless Deer Permits

4.1 An Antlerless Deer Permit is a permit issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(g) and provisions of this section that allows a person to take one antlerless deer in the wildlife management unit listed on the permit during the regular season, October muzzleloader season, or December muzzleloader season.

4.2 Annually, the Board shall determine how many antlerless permits to issue in each wildlife management unit. For a nonrefundable fee, a person may apply for an Antlerless Deer Permit. The Department shall allocate the permits in the following manner:

(a) A Vermont landowner, as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 4253, who owns 25 or more contiguous acres and who applies shall receive an antlerless deer permit in the wildlife management unit on which the land is located before any are given to people eligible under subdivision (b) of this subsection. If the land is owned by more than one individual, corporation, or other entity, only one permit shall be issued. Landowners applying for antlerless deer permits under this subdivision shall not, at the time of application or thereafter during the deer hunting seasons, post their lands except under the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 4710. As used in this section, “post” means any signage that would lead a reasonable person to believe that hunting is restricted on the land. If the number of landowners who apply exceeds the number of permits for that wildlife management unit, the Department shall award all permits in that wildlife management unit to landowners by lottery.

(b) Permits remaining after allocation pursuant to subdivision (a) of this subsection shall be issued by lottery. Not more than ten percent of permits may be issued to nonresident applicants.

(c) Any permits remaining after permits have been allocated pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) of this subsection shall be issued by the Department on a first-come, first-served basis. Ten percent of the remaining permits may be issued to nonresident applicants.

4.3 No person may purchase or possess more than two antlerless deer permits at one time, only one of which may be acquired pursuant to subsection 4.2(a) or (b) of this section. No person may purchase or possess more than one antlerless deer permit for an individual wildlife management unit at one time. A person may purchase additional antlerless deer permits after the person has harvested an antlerless deer.

## **45.0 Annual Deer Limit**

45.1 A person shall not take more than four white-tailed deer in a ~~calender~~ calendar year, only one of which may be a legal buck, with the following exceptions.

4.2(a) Youth and novice hunters shall be allowed to take two legal bucks, provided that one is taken during the youth or novice season, not to exceed the annual limit of four white-tailed deer.

(b) A person shall be allowed to take one additional buck, not to exceed the annual limit of four white-tailed deer, provided they have:

(1) Purchased a second buck tag,

(2) Previously taken and reported an antlerless deer in the current year, and

(3) Previously taken and reported an antlered buck in the current year that had at least one antler with 3 or more antler points.

5.2 No person shall take deer in a WMU unless they are licensed, permitted or explicitly authorized to do so by the Board rules, or procedures adopted in accordance with 10 V.S.A § 4082 (c).

## **6.0 Regular Season**

6.1 Season Dates: Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4084 for 16 consecutive days commencing 12 days prior to Thanksgiving Day.

### 6.2 Limit:

(a) One legal buck, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in Section 5.1 of this rule, and

(b) One antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in section 5.1 of this rule.

## **57.0 Antlerless October Muzzleloader Deer Season.**

**57.1 Season Dates:** For four consecutive days, commencing on the Thursday 16 days prior to the opening day of the regular rifle season ~~shall be the antlerless deer season.~~

**57.3-2 Limit:** A person may take one antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit. ~~A person may take additional antlerless deer if they obtain additional antlerless deer permits,~~ not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in section **45.1** of this rule. ~~No person may purchase or possess more than one antlerless deer permit at a time, or purchase a subsequent antlerless deer permit until the person has harvested an antlerless deer. If a person possesses a permit to take an antlerless deer, then the person may take an antlerless deer.~~

**57.23** A person hunting under this section shall obtain a muzzleloader license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252 and must possess an antlerless deer permit.

**57.4** A person ~~hunting with a muzzleloading firearm pursuant to this rule~~ shall not carry any firearms other than one single-barreled muzzleloading firearm as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 4001(33) while hunting deer during this season.

**57.5** No person taking deer by means of muzzleloader may possess archery equipment or crossbow while hunting.

~~5.6 No person shall take a deer in a WMU unless they are licensed, permitted or explicitly authorized to do so by the Board rules, or procedures adopted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082 (c).~~

## **68.0 Muzzleloading December Muzzleloader Season.**

**68.1 Muzzleloader Season Dates:** For the ~~nine~~ **fourteen** consecutive calendar days commencing on the first ~~Saturday~~ **Monday** after the completion of the regular rifle deer hunting season, ~~a person may take one legal buck by muzzleloading firearm.~~

### **8.2 Limit:**

(a) One legal buck, ~~not to exceed the annual limit by muzzleloading firearm, provided that they have not yet taken a buck~~ as prescribed in Section **45.1** of this rule, and

(b) ~~If the Board has authorized the taking of antlerless deer, and if a person possesses an antlerless deer permit, then the person may take an antlerless deer. No person may purchase or possess more than one antlerless deer permit and a person can only purchase a subsequent antlerless deer permit after the person has harvested an antlerless deer.~~ **One antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit**, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in section **45.1** of this rule.

**68.2-3** A person hunting ~~with a muzzleloading firearm~~ under this section shall obtain a muzzleloader license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252.

~~68.3.4~~ A person ~~hunting with a muzzleloading firearm pursuant to this rule~~ shall not carry any firearms other than one single-barreled muzzleloading firearm as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 4001(33) while hunting deer during this season.

~~68.4.5~~ No person taking deer by means of muzzleloader may possess archery equipment or crossbow while hunting.

~~6.5 No person shall take a deer in a WMU unless they are licensed, permitted or explicitly authorized to do so by the Board rules, or procedures adopted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082(c).~~

## **79.0 Archery Season**

~~79.1~~ Archery Season ~~Dates:~~ October 1 through December 15, ~~except during the regular rifle deer hunting season:~~

### **9.2 Limit:**

(a) One legal buck, ~~may be taken by bow and arrow or crossbow, during the archery season anywhere in the state;~~ not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in Section ~~45.1~~ 5.1 of this rule, and

(b) In Wildlife Management Units declared open by the Board to the taking of antlerless deer, a person may take one antlerless deer per archery antlerless deer tag, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in Section 5.1 of this rule.

~~79.2.3~~ A person hunting ~~with a bow and arrow or crossbow~~ under this section shall obtain an archery license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252. An archery license will be valid for one deer; additional archery licenses are required for the taking of additional deer.

~~7.4 Crossbows may be used as a means of take during any season that permits the use of a bow and arrow.~~

9.4 A person shall use only a bow and arrow or a crossbow to take deer during this season.

~~79.5~~ The holder of an archery license or a super sport license, hunting with a bow and arrow or a crossbow, may possess a handgun while archery hunting, in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4252(b), provided that the license holder shall not take game by firearm while hunting.

~~7.6 Unless it is uncocked, a person shall not possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4705.~~

~~7.3 The Board may establish~~ 9.6 Expanded Archery Zones

(a) Within these zones, the archery season shall begin September 15. From September 15 to September 30, only antlerless deer may be taken.

(b) ~~{Zone Boundaries}~~

#### Wildlife Management Unit A

All of Wildlife Management Unit A as described in 10 App. V.S.A. § 2b.

#### Newport

All lands within the city of Newport.

#### Burlington Area

Beginning on the shore of Lake Champlain at the end of Beach Road (Shelburne T.H. #22) in Shelburne proceed south along Beach Road to Bostwick Road (Shelburne T.H. #3); then northeast along Bostwick Road to Marsett Road (Shelburne T.H. #11); then east along Marsett Road to Falls Road (Shelburne T.H. #2); then east along Falls Road to Irish Hill Road (Shelburne T.H. #2); then east along Irish Hill Road to Spear Street (Shelburne T.H. #6); then north along Spear Street to Barstow Road (Shelburne T.H. #8); then east along Barstow Road to Cheeseactory Road (Shelburne T.H. #8); then east along Cheeseactory Road to State Route 116; then south along Route 116 to South Brownell Road (Williston T.H. #5); then north along South Brownell Road to Walker Hill Road (Williston T.H. #18); then east along Walker Hill Road to State Route 2A (Saint George Road); then north along Route 2A to Interstate Highway 89; then east along Interstate Highway 89 to Oak Hill Road (Williston T.H. #1); then north along Oak Hill Road to North Williston Road (Williston T.H. #1); then north along North Williston Road to State Route 117 (River Road); then west along Route 117 to State Route 289; then north and west along Route 289 to Susie Wilson Bypass (Essex T.H. #3); then southwest along Susie Wilson Bypass to Kellogg Road (Essex T.H. #5); then west along Kellogg Road which becomes Severance Road (Colchester T.H. #7); then west along Severance Road to Blakely Road (Colchester T.H. #9); then west along Blakely Road to East Lakeshore Drive; then in a straight line north to the shore of Lake Champlain; then west and south along the shore of Lake Champlain to the point of beginning.

#### Montpelier

All lands within the city of Montpelier.

#### Saint Johnsbury Area

Beginning at the junction of Hospital Drive (St. Johnsbury State Highway) and Interstate Highway 91 proceed east along Hospital Drive to Depot Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #85); then east along Depot Hill Road to U.S. Route 5 (Memorial Drive); then north along US Route 5 to Breezy Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #6); then east along Breezy Hill Road to Lackey Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #20); then east along Lackey Hill Road approximately 300 feet to the power line; then south along the power line to the electric substation off Higgins Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #80); then south along the power line to Interstate Highway 93; then west along Interstate Highway 93 to Interstate Highway 91; then north along Interstate Highway 91 to the point of beginning.

#### Rutland Area

Beginning at the junction of State Route 4A and U.S. Route 4 in West Rutland proceed east along U.S. Route 4 to U.S. Route 7; then south along U.S. Route 7 to North Shrewsbury Road (Clarendon T.H. #4); then east along North Shrewsbury Road to East Clarendon Road (Clarendon T.H. #8); then north along East Clarendon Road to Cold River Road (Clarendon T.H. #8); then north along Cold River Road to the Rutland Town/Clarendon town line; then east along the Rutland Town/Clarendon town line to the Mendon town line; then north along the Rutland Town/Mendon town line to U.S. Route 4; then west along U.S. Route 4 to Post Road (Rutland Town T.H. #30); then north and west



along Post Road to U.S. Route 7; then south along U.S. Route 7 approximately 0.1 miles to the triple power line; then west and southwest along the triple power line to the junction west of Grove Street (Rutland City T.H. #6); then south along the double power line to the junction near the end of Evergreen Avenue (Rutland City T.H. #174); then west along the power line to the junction west of West Proctor Road (Rutland Town T.H. #6); then north along the power line to the junction north of Durgy Hill Road (West Rutland Town T.H. #12); then west along the power line to Marble Street (West Rutland Town T.H. #3); then south along Marble Street to Water Street (West Rutland Town T.H. #19); then west along Water Street to Whipple Hollow Road (West Rutland Town T.H. #4); then south along Whipple Hollow Road to Route 4A; then west along Route 4A to the point of beginning.

#### Bennington Area

Beginning at the junction of U.S. Route 7 and State Route 313 in Arlington proceed west along Route 313 to State Route 7A; then south along Route 7A to West Mountain Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #54); then west along West Mountain Road to Laclair Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #64); then west along Laclair Road to Murphy Hill Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #9); then west along Murphy Hill Road to Sally Gannon Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #13), then west along Sally Gannon Road to the New York state border; then south along the New York state border to State Route 346; then east along Route 346 to North Pownal Road (Pownal T.H. #2); then east along North Pownal Road to U.S. Route 7; then south along U.S. Route 7 to Barber Pond Road (Pownal T.H. #3); then east along Barber Pond Road to South Stream Road (Pownal T.H. #3); then east and north along South Stream Road to Gore Road (Bennington T.H. #54); then east along Gore Road to Burgess Road (Bennington T.H. #53); then north along Burgess Road to Barney Road (Bennington T.H. #52); then north along Barney Road to State Route 9, then west along Route 9 to State Route 279; then north along Route 279 to Chapel Road (Bennington T.H. #16); then north along Chapel Road to East Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #5); then north along East Road to U.S. Route 7; then north along U.S. Route 7 to the point of beginning.

#### Brattleboro Area

Beginning at the Interstate Highway 91 bridge over the West River in Brattleboro proceed southeast along the north shore of the West River to the New Hampshire state border; then south along the New Hampshire state border to Broad Brook; then west along Broad Brook to State Route 142; then north along Route 142 to Broad Brook Road (Vernon T.H. #6); then west along Broad Brook Road to U.S. Route 5; then north along U.S. Route 5 to Guilford Center Road (Guilford T.H. #1); then southwest along Guilford Center Road to Tater Lane (Guilford T.H. #23); then north along Tater Lane which becomes South Street (Brattleboro T.H. #72); then north along South Street to State Route 9; then northwest along Route 9 to Meadowbrook Road (Brattleboro T.H. #26); then north along Meadowbrook Road to upper Dummerston Road (Brattleboro T.H. #5); then southeast along Upper Dummerston Road to Interstate Highway 91; then north along Interstate Highway 91 to the point of beginning.

#### 8.0 Regular Rifle Season

~~8.1 Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4084 for the 16 consecutive calendar days commencing 12 days prior to Thanksgiving day, a person may take by lawful means one legal buck. No person shall take a deer in a WMU unless they are licensed, permitted or explicitly authorized to do so by the Board rules, or procedures adopted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082(c).~~

### **910.0 Youth Deer Hunting Weekend**

**910.1 Season Dates:** Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4742a, the Saturday and Sunday ~~three one~~ weeks prior to the opening day of the regular ~~rifle deer hunting~~ season shall be youth deer hunting weekend.

**910.2 Limit:** One white-tailed deer. One legal buck may be taken during the youth deer hunting weekend, or any deer if the Board has authorized the taking of antlerless deer during youth hunting weekend.

**910.3** To participate in the youth deer hunt, a qualified youth must be 15 years of age or younger and have a valid Vermont hunting license and a youth deer hunting weekend license.

**910.4** The youth must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two young people at one time. As used in this section, “accompany,” “accompanied,” or “accompanying” means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

**910.5** No youth shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

## **~~10~~11.0 Novice Season**

**~~10~~11.1 Novice Season Dates:** This season shall be concurrent with the Youth Deer Hunting Weekend as prescribed in 10 V.S.A. § 4742a and section ~~910~~1.1 of this rule.

**~~10~~11.2 Limit:** One white-tailed deer. One legal buck may be taken during this season, or any deer if the Board has authorized the taking of antlerless deer during youth hunting weekend.

**~~10~~11.3** To participate in the novice season, a qualified person must have a valid Vermont hunting license, and follow the requirements of youth hunting week-end.

**~~10~~11.4** The novice hunter must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a novice under this section shall accompany no more than two novice hunters at one time. As used in this section, “accompany,” “accompanied,” or “accompanying” means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the novice hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

**~~10~~11.5** No Novice hunter shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

## **~~11~~12.0 Reporting.**

**~~11~~12.1** A deer carcass shall be field dressed prior to reporting in accordance with 10 V.S.A. App. § 2.

**~~11~~12.2** Upon request, the person harvesting a deer shall show and return to the kill site with a Game Warden.

12.3 A deer carcass may be quartered or deboned in the field prior to reporting provided all requirements of 10 V.S.A. App. § 2 and 10 V.S.A. §§ 4921 through 4925 are met. The viscera, hide, upper and lower leg bones, backbone, pelvis, and ribs may be left in the field. Evidence of sex (genitalia, antlers of deer,) must be retained for reporting. All other required biological samples must also be retained for reporting, including both central incisors of deer, during the November firearm season and novice weekend

## **~~12~~13.0 Feeding of Deer.**

~~12~~13.1 No person shall feed white-tailed deer at any time in Vermont except:

- (a) Under a license or permit issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4152 by the Department for bona fide scientific research, mitigation of wildlife damage or nuisance problems, or wildlife population reduction programs only; or
- (b) By planting, cultivating or harvesting of crops directly associated with bona fide agricultural practices, including planted wildlife food plots; or
- (c) By distribution of food material for livestock directly associated with bona fide agricultural practices; or
- (d) By cutting of trees or brush; or
- (e) By incidental feeding by an elevated bird/squirrel feeders (feeders must be at least five feet above the ground) providing seed, grain, fruit, worms, or suet for birds or squirrels, located within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling.

## **~~13~~14.0 Baiting**

~~13~~14.1 No person shall take deer by using bait. Exempted from this prohibition are:

- (a) Incidental feeding of wildlife within active livestock operations;
- (b) Standing crops planted and left standing as food plots for wildlife;
- (c) Grain or other feed scattered or distributed solely as a result of normal agricultural, gardening, or soil stabilization, and logging practices;
- (d) Vegetation or food/seed naturally deposited.

~~13~~14.2 No person shall take any game or wild animal by using bait during deer seasons established under Part 4 of Title 10 or by rules of the Board, except that persons taking furbearers as authorized under 10 V.S.A. § 4252(3) may use bait in conjunction with traps being set to take furbearers.

## **~~14~~15.0 The Ban of urine and other natural lures.**

1415.1 Authority. The Fish & Wildlife Board finds that, in order to protect the health of white-tailed deer in Vermont, it is necessary to prohibit the use of cervid urine, blood, glands, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids for the purpose of taking or attempting to take deer.

1415.2 Restricted and Permitted Uses of cervid urine, blood, glands, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids.

(a) No person shall possess while hunting or use, for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, surveillance or scouting deer; any product that contains or purports to contain any cervid urine, blood, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids.

(b) A person may utilize the body parts of a wild Vermont white-tailed deer legally taken or acquired by that person for coyote hunting.



## INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (ICAR) MINUTES

**Meeting Date/Location:** March 10, 2025, virtually via Microsoft Teams

**Members Present:** Chair Nick Kramer, Diane Sherman, Jared Adler, Jennifer Mojo, Michael Obuchowski and Natalie Weill

**Members Absent:** Nicole Dubuque and John Kessler

**Minutes By:** Melissa Mazza-Paquette

- 2:00 p.m. meeting called to order, welcome and introductions.
- Review and approval of [minutes](#) from the February 10, 2025 meeting.
- Agenda approved as drafted apart from moving the Supervised Billing proposed rule to be presented first.
- No public comments made.
- Presentation of Proposed Rules on pages 2-6 to follow.
  - 1) Supervised Billing, Agency of Human Services, page 2
  - 2) 10 V.S.A. App. § 17, Rule governing the importation and possession of cervids from chronic wasting disease endemic areas and captive hunt or farm facilities, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board, page 3
  - 3) 10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board, page 4
  - 4) 10 V.S.A. App. § 33, Moose Management Rule, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board, page 5
  - 5) 10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board, page 6
- Other business: Revisit 2024 draft ICAR guidance document after legislative session. A suggested subcommittee of Diane, Natalie and John could incorporate any necessary edits as an outcome of a publicly warned future meeting.
- Next scheduled meeting is April 14, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
- 3:11 p.m. meeting adjourned.

**Proposed Rule:** Supervised Billing, Agency of Human Services

**Presented By:** Grace Johnson

Motion made to accept the rule by Mike Obuchowski, seconded by Jared Adler, and passed unanimously except for Natalie Weill who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #7: Consider rewording – potentially removing the first sentence and including the appropriate statute.
  - b. #8: Distinguish this proposed rule as one of a larger subset known as the Health Care Administrative rules and this rule is on supervised billing and clarifies what it does.
  - c. #12: Explain why there isn't an impact.
2. Economic Impact Analysis, #3: Coincide with #10 of the Proposed Filing – Coversheet and provide clarification that there aren't additional costs due to it already being in practice.

DRAFT

**Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 17, Rule governing the importation and possession of cervids from chronic wasting disease endemic areas and captive hunt or farm facilities, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith and Nick Fortin

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Sherman, seconded by Natalie Weill, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #8: Remove ‘technical correction’ language if appropriate.
  - b. #9: Insert a parenthetical reference (CWD) for ‘chronic wasting disease’.
  - c. #13 & 14: Update per Hannah’s comment that hearings have been scheduled.
2. Economic Impact Analysis #5: Capitalize ‘the’.
3. Environmental Impact Analysis #6: Include any applicable positive impacts.
4. Public Input Maximization Plan #3: In the last sentence, clarify that it’s the proposed rule amendment or proposed rule language that will be posted.

**Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith and Toni Mikula

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Sherman, seconded by Natalie Weill, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #13 & 14: Update per Hannah’s comment that hearings have been scheduled.
2. Economic Impact Analysis #9: Correct spelling of ‘dall’ to ‘fall’.
3. Environmental Impact Analysis:
  - a. #5 and #8: Change case of first word to uppercase.
  - b. #9: Include clarification around harvest data. Add a period at the end of the last sentence.
4. Public Input Maximization Plan #3: In the last sentence, clarify that it’s the proposed rule amendment or proposed rule language that will be posted.

DRAFT



**Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 33, Moose Management Rule, Agency of Natural Resources,  
Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Sherman, seconded by Natalie Weill, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #8: Correct spelling of 'langauge'.
  - b. #13 & 14: Update per Hannah's comment that hearings have been scheduled.
2. Economic Impact Analysis: For consistency, choose to use either "nominal" or "negligible" if the intent is to quantify as too small to be measurable or meaningful.
3. Environmental Impact Analysis #8: Include any potential favorable impacts.
4. Public Input Maximization Plan #3: In the last sentence, clarify that it's the proposed rule amendment or proposed rule language that will be posted.

DRAFT

**Proposed Rule:** 10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Board

**Presented By:** Hannah Smith

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Sherman, seconded by Natalie Weill, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Filing – Coversheet:
  - a. #8: Spell out 'WMU' before parenthetical.
  - b. #12: Include 'favorably' when referring to 'should reasonably impact business...'.
  - c. #13 & 14: Update per Hannah's comment that hearings have been scheduled.
2. Public Input Maximization Plan #3: In the last sentence, clarify that it's the proposed rule amendment or proposed rule language that will be posted.
3. Scientific Information Statement #5: Include an option to obtain a hard copy as well.

DRAFT

# **Responsiveness Summary**

for

Public Comments Received  
on proposed changes to

## **10 App. V.S.A. § 37**

## **Deer Management Rule**



Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
Agency of Natural Resources  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3208  
802-828-1000

## Introduction

On February 19, 2025, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) presented proposed changes to 10 App. V.S.A. § 37 and other big game rules to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board (Board). The Board gave initial approval to the proposed changes and voted to begin rulemaking. Following review by the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules on March 10<sup>th</sup>, notice of the draft rule was posted by the Secretary of State on March 27, 2025.

Proposed changes to 10 App. V.S.A. § 37, Deer Management Rule, included:

- 1) Changing the dates of the Youth and Novice Weekend.
- 2) Establishing 8 expanded archery zones, primarily in heavily developed areas, where the archery season would begin September 15.
- 3) Reinstating the antler point restriction in wildlife management unit D1.
- 4) Allowing hunters to take two bucks per year, if certain conditions are met.
- 5) Allowing hunters to hold two antlerless permits at one time.
- 6) Removing the archery season closure during the regular season.
- 7) Allowing antlerless permits to be used during the regular season.

VFWD began accepting public comment immediately following the February 19 Board meeting, and comments were due by May 25, 2025. This provided 95 days for the public to comment, including 60 days after the rule was published by the Secretary of State. Additionally, VFWD held 5 public hearings at the dates and locations listed below. These hearings were combined with annual hearings required by 10 V.S.A. § 4081 and 10 App. V.S.A. § 2b to maximize public participation.

- March 17, Mt. Anthony Union High School, Bennington, VT
- March 18, Lakes Region High School, Orleans, VT
- March 20, Union 32 Middle & High School, Montpelier, VT
- May 6, Winooski Middle & High School, Winooski, VT
- May 8, Springfield High School, Springfield, VT

Approximately 295 members of the public participated in these hearings. Comments on this rule were provided by 250 hearing participants (see **Appendix A**). An additional 234 written comments were received outside of the hearings (see **Appendix B**).

The VFWD has prepared this responsiveness summary to address the comments that were received on the draft Deer Management Rule. Comments have been grouped and summarized by proposed change and by topic to simplify responses. All individual comments are provided in the appendices.

# Comments

## General Comments

**Comment 1: The biggest hurdle to deer management is restricted access to private land.**

**Response:** VFWD agrees that limited or restricted access to land is the single biggest challenge to effective deer management in many parts of Vermont. This cannot be addressed within VFWD's regulatory authority, and it is unlikely that regulation changes by any agency would make a significant difference. This issue will be best addressed through education and outreach to both hunters and landowners.

**Comment 2: There are too many deer and they are impacting forest health.**

**Response:** Comment noted.

**Comment 3: I disagree that there are too many deer.**

**Response:** Comment noted.

**Comment 4: Deer management should focus on improving habitat quality rather than reducing deer numbers.**

**Response:** Deer numbers must be kept in balance with the habitat we have now.

VFWD continuously works to improve wildlife habitat quality. However, approximately 80% of deer habitat in Vermont is on private land. VFWD has several staff devoted to helping private landowners improve wildlife habitat on their properties, but this does not influence enough acreage to have a significant effect on deer habitat quality at larger scales.

**Comment 5: Landowner/non-hunter concerns about expanded hunting seasons.**

**Response:** VFWD takes these comments very seriously. Access to private land for hunting is the single biggest challenge to effective deer management in much of Vermont. These comments appear to be primarily in response to news media articles on the proposed changes, and likely a misunderstanding of what was actually proposed. The only additional hunting days provided by these proposed rule changes are for the archery season in very limited areas (3% of Vermont's land area). The proposed expanded archery zones are primarily around Vermont's major cities and towns. In these developed areas, encouraging more archery hunting is one of the few options available to attempt to manage deer numbers and associated deer-human conflicts.

**Comment 6: There are too many changes at once, which is not consistent with sound scientific investigation.**

**Response:** Deer management decisions are not a scientific experiment. They are informed by science and data that have already been collected, including annual evaluations of harvest numbers. Based on past experience in Vermont and the experiences of other states, VFWD can reasonably predict the effects of these changes and is confident they will not result in unintended impacts.

**Comment 7: Petition to extend the December muzzleloader season by 5 days.**

**Response:** During the public comment period, the F&W Board received a petition to extend the December muzzleloader season by 5 days. Since the F&W Board was already engaged in rulemaking on the Deer Management Rule, the petition was incorporated as public comment on the proposed rule. The petitioner attended all 5 public hearings to seek support on the petition. Several members of the public provided comments supporting an extension of the December muzzleloader season

VFWD has a few concerns related to extending the December muzzleloader season. First, the changes included in the proposed rule, particularly the use of antlerless permits during the regular season, are the priority and will be most effective at achieving deer management objectives. The proposed extension of muzzleloader season should not be viewed as an alternative to any of the proposed changes, as it would not have a comparable effect. Second, if enacted in addition to the proposed changes, it would create a small amount of additional uncertainty about how all changes collectively would affect the deer harvest. Lastly, there is some uncertainty about the level of support among hunters or the public at large for this change.

Despite these concerns, the impact of extending the December muzzleloader season on the buck harvest or antlerless deer harvest would likely be minimal. Therefore, VFWD will take a neutral position on this petition.

**Comment 8: Various suggestions for other changes to deer hunting regulations.**

**Response:** Many commenters suggested other changes to the deer management rule that were not directly related to the proposed changes. These comments are noted, and most of the suggested changes were considered during development of the proposed changes. The proposed changes are those the Department believes would be most effective at achieving deer management objectives.

## **Moving Youth Weekend**

### **Comment 1: Hunting pressure during youth weekend affects archery hunting opportunity.**

**Response:** The proposed rule would be no different than the status quo in this regard, except that the season overlap will occur on a different weekend. Youth weekend is a priority for VFWD given its importance for hunter recruitment and biological data collection. Hunting pressure during youth weekend varies considerably from one part of Vermont to another, so impacts will be different in different areas. Archery season is currently 60 days long, and will be even longer if proposed changes pass. Sharing the woods for 2 days, even during the preferred time of the season, should not be overly burdensome.

### **Comment 2: Hunting pressure during youth weekend affects deer behavior on opening weekend of the regular season.**

**Response:** Hunting pressure during youth weekend varies considerably from one part of Vermont to another, so impacts will be different in different areas. Importantly, there are fewer than 5,000 youth weekend hunters statewide, compared to more than 20,000 archery hunters and more than 60,000 regular season hunters. So, hunting pressure during youth weekend is relatively low, and there is no evidence that it impacts deer harvests the following weekend. Youth weekend was previously the weekend before the regular season until 2020 when it was moved two weeks earlier. There has been no change in the regular season harvest since 2020 to suggest that youth weekend was previously having an impact.

### **Comment 3: Suggestions for additional/alternative changes to youth weekend.**

**Response:** Several commenters made suggestions for additional or alternative changes to youth weekend. These included establishing age limits, expanding the season to two weekends, and expanding the season to 9 days. These comments have been noted.

## **Establishing Expanded Archery Zones**

**Comment 1: It will be difficult to access land/get permission to hunt in these areas.**

**Response:** Gaining access to land will be a significant challenge for hunters choosing to hunt in these areas, and this will limit the effectiveness of these zones for controlling deer numbers. However, this is one of the few options available for attempting to control deer numbers in these areas. Any additional deer taken will be beneficial.

**Comment 2: Why not open the archery season statewide on September 15<sup>th</sup>?**

**Response:** The intent of these zones is to encourage hunting in these specific areas that most hunters would generally avoid due to the level of development and/or lack of access. More deer need to be taken in these areas to control deer numbers and minimize deer-human conflicts, and that would not happen if other, more desirable hunting areas were open at the same time.

**Comment 3: This will create conflicts between hunters and non-hunters.**

**Response:** Minimizing conflicts with non-hunters is an important consideration when crafting any hunting regulations. Encouraging additional hunting in developed areas is likely to lead to more interactions between hunters and non-hunters. It will be important for VFWD to educate and inform these communities and the hunters choosing to hunt there to ensure most of those interactions are positive.



## **Reinstate the Antler Point Restriction in WMU D1**

**Comment 1: Would like to see the antler point restriction reinstated in other WMUs/statewide.**

**Response:** Reinstating the antler point restriction in other WMUs would not have a significant effect on the number of mature bucks in those WMUs. Of the WMUs where the antler restriction was removed in 2020, only WMU D1 had a buck harvest rate that was high enough to cause a decline in mature bucks. The number of mature bucks in other WMUs has not changed, and an antler restriction is not necessary to achieve buck age structure goals in those areas.

**Comment 2: We should be able to take spikehorns. Deer hunting is about meat, not antlers.**

**Response:** There are many reasons why hunters hunt, and they are often different for each individual hunter. While nearly all hunters eat the deer they harvest, many are also interested in the opportunity to harvest older, larger bucks. Survey results from 2024 found that 68% of Vermont hunters support management to increase the number of older, larger bucks. Buck hunting regulations attempt to balance the varied interests of hunters. Where possible, VFWD is attempting to provide additional antlerless deer harvest opportunities.

## **Allow Hunters to Take a Conditional 2<sup>nd</sup> Buck**

**Comment 1: Would like to be able to take two bucks but don't want to have to take a doe.**

**Response:** This proposed change aims to reward hunters who help VFWD meet deer management objectives. In many parts of Vermont, VFWD currently struggles to meet annual antlerless deer harvest objectives. Harvesting an appropriate number of antlerless deer is necessary to maintain a healthy, sustainable deer population that is in balance with its habitat. Similarly, achieving buck age structure objectives requires that some hunters avoid harvesting younger bucks. Under the proposed rule, hunters willing to pass younger bucks and harvest an antlerless deer would be given an opportunity to take a second buck. Simply allowing any hunter to take two bucks would not achieve either of these objectives and could be counterproductive to achieving buck age structure objectives.

**Comment 2: This is too confusing/overly complicated.**

**Response:** Hunters must meet multiple conditions before they could attempt to harvest a second buck, which can seem complicated at first. However, these are optional conditions that only need to be met if a hunter wishes to attempt to harvest a second buck. If hunters are indifferent or uninterested in the second buck opportunity, this does not require any changes from how hunters currently hunt. The conditions are necessary to maintain the level of hunter selectivity for bucks that has been created by the current one buck limit, and to encourage hunters to harvest antlerless deer.

**Comment 3: Keep the one buck limit. It makes hunters more selective and prevents the overharvest of younger bucks.**

**Response:** VFWD agrees that the one buck limit has made some hunters more selective about the buck they harvest. Having some hunters voluntarily pass opportunities to harvest young bucks is an important element of effective buck age structure management. This is why the proposed change includes an antler restriction on the first buck, if the hunter would like the opportunity to harvest a second buck. The three-points-on-one-side antler restriction effectively maintains the selectivity created by the one buck limit.

The one buck limit has also caused some hunters to hunt less, or not at all during certain seasons, which means they are not available to harvest antlerless deer. The proposed rule allows hunters to spend more time afield.

**Comment 4: There should not be an antler restriction/condition on the first buck.**

**Response:** This proposed change aims to reward hunters who help VFWD meet deer management objectives. Simply allowing hunters to harvest two bucks, without any conditions, would be counterproductive to achieving buck age structure objectives. Even small increases in buck harvest rate can have a meaningful impact on the number of bucks surviving to older age classes. This

change is not intended to increase the buck harvest. It is intended to maintain – or possibly reduce – the buck harvest rate while encouraging antlerless deer harvest.

**Comment 5: How do you ensure that a hunter’s first buck has 3 points on one side?**

**Response:** VFWD will provide guidance to hunters and big game reporting agents, and adjust harvest reporting requirements as needed to ensure compliance with this regulation. VFWD is confident that the Warden Service can adequately enforce this regulation.

## **Allow Hunters to Hold 2 Antlerless Permits at a Time**

### **Comment 1: Concern about hunters using permits in the wrong WMU.**

**Response:** Enforcement challenges resulting from this proposed change are not expected to be any different from the status quo.

### **Comment 2: Why not allow a hunter to hold two permits in the same WMU?**

**Response:** Under current regulations, after a hunter harvests an antlerless deer, they may purchase another antlerless permit, if unallocated permits are available. That permit may be in the same WMU as the first permit. This will continue to be the case under the proposed rule. So, a hunter would still be able to obtain multiple permits for the same WMU, just not at the same time. The reason to not allow a hunter to hold two permits for the same WMU, at the same time, is to minimize the hoarding of permits. This may be done to prevent other hunters from harvesting antlerless deer, or “just in case” a hunter might use them. Either way, it results in a lot of permits that hunters obtain, but never attempt to fill. That results in higher permit allocations and makes it difficult to reliably predict permit fill rates.

## **Remove Archery Season Closure During Regular Season**

**Comment 1: Concern about safety with archery hunters and rifle hunters in the woods at the same time.**

**Response:** Hunting is a very safe activity, in part because most hunters are conscious of potential safety concerns. However, this change will have no impact on safety risks because it will have almost no impact on hunting behavior. Archery equipment may be used during the regular season under current regulations, and very few hunters are expected to choose to archery hunt instead of using a firearm. More importantly, many firearm hunters hunt from tree stands, or otherwise in the same way that archery hunters would hunt. The proposed rule will not change the number of hunters afield or the way they hunt.

**Comment 2: Enforcement concern about hunters shooting a doe with their rifle and claiming they shot it with their bow.**

**Response:** VFWD is confident that the Warden Service can adequately enforce this regulation.

## **Allow Antlerless Permits During Regular Season**

### **Comment 1: Concern about safety due to hunters not having to identify their target.**

**Response:** Hunting is a very safe activity, in part because most hunters are conscious of potential safety concerns. VFWD takes all concerns about safety seriously, and they are an important consideration in developing hunting regulations. However, VFWD disagrees that this proposed change would reduce the safety of hunting.

The safety of hunting is primarily a result of hunter behavior. Hunter behavior is influenced by mandatory hunter education and lessons passed down from mentors. Changing this or any other hunting regulation does not change the need to properly identify one's target and what's beyond it – a tenet that is deeply instilled in all hunters.

Harvesting both antlerless deer and legal bucks during the regular season will be a new experience for many Vermont hunters. However, it is common practice in other states, including all other northeast states, with no discernable impact on the safety of hunting.

Many older Vermont hunters remember when antlerless harvest was previously allowed during the regular season, in the 1970s and early 1980s. For several reasons, that is not an appropriate comparison to today. First, there were nearly twice as many deer hunters in Vermont in the early 1980s as there are today, and the number of antlerless permits issued at that time was much greater than would be issued today. Further, mandatory hunter education began in the late 1970s. Few hunters had been through the course then. Today, almost every hunter has taken it. Few hunters wore hunter orange then, most do now. Lastly, hunters hunt differently today. Most hunting today is stationary from a tree stand or blind. This is particularly true in the areas where deer are most abundant.

### **Comment 2: Concern that this will cause a reduction in deer numbers.**

**Response:** The goal of this change is to establish a season framework and regulatory structure that works for any management objective, whether that be to increase, stabilize, or reduce deer numbers. Antlerless harvest targets, including the number of antlerless permits available in each WMU each year, are set annually by F&W Board procedure. Antlerless permit numbers will continue to be adjusted each year based on the status of the deer population. This change would facilitate higher antlerless deer harvests when and where desired, but it would not guarantee higher antlerless harvests or a reduction in deer numbers.

### **Comment 3: This will reduce opportunity due to fewer antlerless permits issued.**

**Response:** This change is expected to result in higher success rates on antlerless permits. If an increase in the antlerless harvest is not desired in a WMU, that would result in fewer antlerless permits available. The amount of this reduction would depend on how much success rates increase. However, in some parts of Vermont there are not enough muzzleloader hunters to take all the available antlerless permits under current regulations, so this change is necessary to effectively

manage deer numbers. Additionally, while fewer hunters may get antlerless permits in some areas, the 56% of Vermont deer hunters who do not hunt the muzzleloader seasons would have a new opportunity to harvest antlerless deer.

**Comment 4: This will result in more road hunting.**

**Response:** VFWD is confident that the Warden Service can adequately enforce this regulation.

**Comment 4: This will result in more property being posted.**

**Response:** Comment noted.

**Comment 5: Do you have enough information to reliably estimate success rates?**

**Response:** Yes. VFWD has been tracking antlerless permit success rates in Vermont for decades. We can also look to other northeastern states with similar antlerless permitting systems that allow antlerless harvest during their regular firearm season to have a good idea of what to expect. VFWD and the F&W Board would likely take a conservative approach and assume relatively high success rates during the first few years under the proposed rule.

**Comment 6: Limit it to a few days rather than the entire season.**

**Response:** This approach was considered. However, VFWD believes this would limit the effectiveness of the proposed rule for achieving antlerless deer harvest objectives in some WMUs, and it would add unnecessary regulatory complexity.

**Comment 7: Make a separate antlerless season instead.**

**Response:** This approach was considered. Surveys in Vermont and elsewhere have repeatedly shown that most hunters have a limited number of days available to hunt each year. As a result, longer or additional seasons do not typically result in more days spent hunting. In Vermont, most hunters prioritize hunting during the regular season. Therefore, the simplest and most effective option is to provide antlerless harvest opportunity during the regular season.

**Comment 8: This may reduce your muzzleloader license sales.**

**Response:** The proposed rule may result in reduced participation in the December muzzleloader season due to hunters being able to fill their antlerless permit beforehand, in the regular season. This is a necessary tradeoff to achieve antlerless harvest objectives.

**From:** A Guyette <vt3132@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:38 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Deer Regulations

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I'm not sure where the overabundance of deer is, but it certainly isn't in area K; specifically, in the Bomoseen/Half Moon Pond State Park. I believe there are over 3,500 acres there. There hasn't been a mast crop there in at least 3 years and last year was very dry in the woods. There are very few deer in that area. I can see where deer may be grouped in a small area where there is water and food. That can make it look like there is an overabundance of deer in an area. I believe hunters applied for less than 500 antlerless permits in area K last year. There is a reason for that. I personally had a doe tag the last couple of years but I wouldn't shoot a doe due to so few deer.

I have noticed the absence of small deer during the hunting season. This affects the population into the future. I see a few but also see too many lone does. There is definitely an increase in the number of predators; coyotes, bear, and bobcats. I spoke to one farmer that said there were at least 10 fawns around in early summer but only 3 by the Fall. I have a coyote on camera with a fawn's hind quarters in its mouth. I have bear and bobcat on camera walking through my yard in Pittsford in the middle of the day.

When the deer herd was greatly decreased in the 1970's and 1980's, the department promised never to have a doe season during the regular rifle season again. If the habitat is decreasing due to aging forests, why doesn't the Department have a logging plan for State forests? This would create habitat and also provide income to the Department.

The current regulations create a problem for people that like to hunt. The one buck rule provides a problem for bow hunters. I know bow hunters that either don't bow hunt anymore or hunt in another state for fear of shooting a buck and ruining their rifle season. You may say, well don't shoot a buck with the bow, but that is easier said than done. I know people that have shot a buck with a bow and they say it is horrible to miss rifle season. Again, they now hunt in another state. I've been bow hunting for over 60 years, I haven't bow hunted in Vermont in the last few years.

I believe the regulations enacted in the last few years are your own worst enemy. Due to the one buck rule, you have less bow hunters and therefore less doe are shot. People are driven to hunt in other states where deer are more plentiful, so when muzzleloader season comes around, they already have at least one deer in the freezer (many times more than one). They do not hunt during muzzleloader and therefore less doe are shot.

I like your idea of being able to possess a muzzleloading doe permit for more than one area at the same time.

I'm not sure why the moose season would be lengthened, why not just have more permits?

Andy Guyette  
Pittsford, VT



**From:** Aaron Lawrence <aglawrence11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 11:31 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer and Bear Comment

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Hello,

I would advocate for expanding the archery season to September 15th statewide. This would align with nearby NH and CT.

The APR seems to be working well.

Not a fan of taking doe during rifle. I feel this could turn heavier pressured lands into a warzone. As property posting increases, lands are becoming more congested.

The bear population is very strong and feel we need more opportunity to control this and reduce domestic conflicts. Allow baiting or a spring season are two things that come to mind, even if by lottery.

Thanks.

**From:** Abram Newton <abramnewton42@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 10:35 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed New Deer Hunting Regulations

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As a young hunter of 17 and someone who aspires to be a forester, I am in full support of the new proposed antlerless regulations. In many of the forests I spend time in, I see obvious signs of overgrazing by deer. This disproportionately affects species such as red oak and sugar maple which are economically and ecologically integral to the future of our forests. I think that the implementation of the ability to harvest antlerless deer during rifle season would be wonderful and would benefit both our forests and our hunters. Antler point restrictions and other more specific controls also seem like a long needed step to create a more careful and localized impact. I hope to see the proposed regulations fully implemented in 2026.

Best,  
Abe Newton

**From:** Alice Charkes <alicecharkes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 12:56 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** hunting regulations' comments

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To the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board:

1. I vote NO to allowing hunters who obtain antlerless permits to kill antlerless deer during the regular November season.
2. I vote NO to include November as part of the archery season.
3. I vote NO to allowing hunters to kill a second legal buck during the season if they have killed one buck with three or more points on one antler and one or more antlerless deer.
4. I vote AGAINST reinstating an antler point restriction in Wildlife Management Unit D1.
5. I vote AGAINST a return to the state's youth deer hunting weekend to the Saturday and Sunday prior to the start of the regular November season.
6. I vote AGAINST the Fish and Wildlife Dept issuing 180 moose hunting permits in WMUE.

Alice Charkes  
Brattleboro VT

**From:** Alice Charkes <alicecharkes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 12:55 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** hunting regulations' comments

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To the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board:

1. I vote NO to allowing hunters who obtain antlerless permits to kill antlerless deer during the regular November season.
2. I vote NO to include November as part of the archery season.
3. I vote NO to allowing hunters to kill a second legal buck during the season if they have killed one buck with three or more points on one antler and one or more antlerless deer.
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6. I vote AGAINST the Fish and Wildlife Dept issuing 180 moose hunting permits in WMUE.

Alice Charkes  
Brattleboro VT

**From:** Alice Charkes <alicecharkes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 12:52 PM  
**To:** anr.fwpublic-comment@vermont.gov; ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** hunting regulations' comments

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To the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board:

1. I vote NO to allowing hunters who obtain antlerless permits to kill antlerless deer during the regular November season.
2. I vote NO to include November as part of the archery season.
3. I vote NO to allowing hunters to kill a second legal buck during the season if they have killed one buck with three or more points on one antler and one or more antlerless deer.
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5. I vote AGAINST a return to the state's youth deer hunting weekend to the Saturday and Sunday prior to the start of the regular November season.
6. I vote AGAINST the Fish and Wildlife Dept issuing 180 moose hunting permits in WMUE.

Alice Charkes  
Brattleboro VT

**From:** Amanda Kenyon <alee2120@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 24, 2025 11:48 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** support for deer hunting regulation changes

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I would like to see the deer hunting expansion [proposals](#) enacted. I am a resident of Brattleboro. I am not presently a hunter.

I like the proposals because I see a need for Vermonters to support their own food needs. In this time of extremely high costs of living and food, having expanded access to secure our own food locally is important to our livelihood-taking care of our own basic needs and less need to import food from out of state in an increasingly unstable economic and political environment. Deer hunting is particularly valuable because of the predator imbalance in Vermont and the damage being done to the ecosystem due to unnaturally high levels of deer.

I have an interest in learning hunting and would appreciate the regulation changes for myself and hunters already helping with the deer population and seeking to meet their family food needs. And importantly to me, as a Forest Therapy Guide who deeply loves Vermont woodlands, having balance across the species is important to the health of the lands I work and play in.

Thank you,  
Amanda

**From:** Andrea Landsberg <olokaandrea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 9:34 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Big Game Rule Change - Deer

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Hello,


I am writing to voice my support of the proposed changes to the deer management rules currently under discussion.

As a landowner of an important forest block in Addison Co, I am concerned about the impact that our local deer population is having on forest regeneration. We commonly see deer browse on saplings (such as maple, hickory) in our woods and as a result the majority of the trees are mature with a limited number of younger trees. I have seen literal 'herds' of deer (14 - 16) walking through our meadows in the winter.

I am particularly in favor of the changes regarding antlerless deer harvest - both in season expansion and especially the allowance of harvest during rifle season.

I appreciate Fish & Wildlife's efforts to modify our hunting regulations in order to keep our deer population at a level where both they, and our forests (with all their biodiversity), can be healthy.

Respectfully,  
Andrea Landsberg



**From:** ANR - FW Board Franklin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 4:12 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Doe in Rifle season

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**From:** Jeffery Bryce <jbryce1953@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 16, 2025 4:16 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Board Franklin <ANR.FWBoardFranklin@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Doe in Rifle season

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Hi Jay

I am a lifelong resident of Franklin county. I have lived in the town of Fairfield all of my life. I am writing to you to strongly oppose doe hunting in Rifle season. My area is one of the highest poaching areas already. So while there are deer, the herd is getting thinned yearly by the illegal method of poaching. We both know the number that we know about say nothing about the ones we dont know. I am well aware of the kids in town that shot and cut heads off 2 year ago. I personally found one in elm brook that had been shot and head cut off. This area draws raod hunter from all over the state now. This law will only increase illegal activity. The rest of the proposed changes I am ok with. I really would like to see 3 on one side , rather than taking any spikes. but this might be a step.

Regards

jeff bryce

ps... i have been hunting 62 years..



**From:** ANR - FW Board Franklin  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 3, 2025 12:44 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Changes to the Deer Management Regs

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**From:** Dave Robillard <[drobillard332@hotmail.com](mailto:drobillard332@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2025 12:00 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Board Caledonia <[ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Lamoille <[ANR.FWBoardLamoille@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardLamoille@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Addison <[ANR.FWBoardAddison@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardAddison@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Orange <[ANR.FWBoardOrange@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardOrange@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Bennington <[ANR.FWBoardBennington@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardBennington@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Orleans <[ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Chittenden <[ANR.FWBoardChittenden@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardChittenden@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Rutland <[ANR.FWBoardRutland@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardRutland@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Essex <[ANR.FWBoardEssex@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardEssex@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Washington <[ANR.FWBoardWashington@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardWashington@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Franklin <[ANR.FWBoardFranklin@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardFranklin@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Windham <[ANR.FWBoardWindham@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardWindham@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle <[ANR.FWBoardGrandIsle@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardGrandIsle@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Windsor <[ANR.FWBoardWindsor@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardWindsor@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Fortin, Nick <[Nick.Fortin@vermont.gov](mailto:Nick.Fortin@vermont.gov)>; Shortsleeve, Andrea <[Andrea.Shortsleeve@vermont.gov](mailto:Andrea.Shortsleeve@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Changes to the Deer Management Regs

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good afternoon,

My name is David Robillard, I am a former Vermont Fish and Wildlife board member who represented Orleans County. During my tenure, we as a board set the Big Game Management plan, that was put in place for year 2020-2030.

As part of the Big Game management plan for Whitetail deer, the Fish and Wildlife conducted a comprehensive survey of Vermont hunters. The overwhelming response from hunters was to keep and or improve the age structure of the whitetail bucks on the landscape. As such the changes that were implemented for the start of 2020 were done so with the priority being to not decrease the age structure as identified as being available for year 2018 for all hunting zones.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife department recommended lifting the APR in some zones during that time. The thought was the one buck rule maybe enough to make hunters more selective, opting for a more mature buck thus not needing the APR. Most of the zones selected had rugged terrain or large expansive woods that often make deer hunting more difficult than the lower elevation farm grounds. This applied to all zones except for D1. D1 was selected as a test ground to see if a heavily hunted zone with no APR would make the hunters be more selective with a one buck rule. As a board member that represented the majority of D1, I was against this rule change. I didn't believe this rule change would be successful and that the results would go directly against what the Whitetail big game management plan had set out to do.

Every year the APR was lifted in D1 the hunters take exceeded the 50% threshold that was set in the Big Game Management Plan as a failsafe to protect the age structure of the bucks on the landscape. After 5 years, the state has recognized the significant impact lifting the APR has made in D1 and have made the recommendation to reinstate the APR to D1. In their own data they showed an over **30% reduction** in mature bucks (3.5) available to

hunters. D1 is the only zone in the state to have this impact.

However the board decides to act with the other proposed measures presented by the state, I would implore you as a group that in keeping with the Big Game Management plan that you vote to reinstate the APR to D1.

The below is taken directly from the Big Game Management plan.

***The overarching objective is to maintain at least the 2018 proportion of mature bucks (3+ years old) in the population in each WMU. Population age structure can be difficult to estimate in some WMUs due to small sample sizes and biases associated with the bucks that hunters can legally harvest. Therefore, the simplest way to ensure the proportion of mature bucks is maintained or improved upon is to ensure that yearling bucks don't exceed 50% of the total buck harvest.***

#### ***Management Objectives and Strategies***

***5.4 Ensure that the proportion of yearlings in the total buck harvest not exceed 50% in any WMU.***

Respectfully,

David Robillard

**From:** ANR - FW Board Franklin  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 3, 2025 12:43 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Prososed Deer Hunting Concerns

---

**From:** ANR - FW Board Caledonia <ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 3:50 PM  
**To:** C.H. Thompson <chthomp@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Board Addison <ANR.FWBoardAddison@vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board Bennington <ANR.FWBoardBennington@vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board Chittenden <ANR.FWBoardChittenden@vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board Essex <ANR.FWBoardEssex@vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board Franklin <ANR.FWBoardFranklin@vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle <ANR.FWBoardGrandIsle@vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board Orange <ANR.FWBoardOrange@vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board Orleans <ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board Rutland <ANR.FWBoardRutland@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Prososed Deer Hunting Concerns

Thank you for your input Charles.

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**From:** C.H. Thompson <[chthomp@comcast.net](mailto:chthomp@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:56:00 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Board Caledonia <[ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Board Addison <[ANR.FWBoardAddison@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardAddison@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Bennington <[ANR.FWBoardBennington@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardBennington@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Chittenden <[ANR.FWBoardChittenden@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardChittenden@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Essex <[ANR.FWBoardEssex@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardEssex@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Franklin <[ANR.FWBoardFranklin@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardFranklin@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle <[ANR.FWBoardGrandIsle@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardGrandIsle@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Orange <[ANR.FWBoardOrange@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardOrange@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Orleans <[ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Rutland <[ANR.FWBoardRutland@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardRutland@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Prososed Deer Hunting Concerns

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Brad Ferland & Board Members,

I was reviewing your proposed changes on Vermont deer season, in the " Vermont Daily Chronicle " Let me start with this, I am a seventy-three-year-old Vermonter, and I started hunting with my father at the age of twelve, and still hunt today and have harvested my share of deer over the years, I clearly remember the plethora of deer I used to see every season, but I have noticed a complete decline in Vermont's deer herd, and after reading your proposed changes I was appalled at what your recommending as follows.

- **Antlerless Deer Hunting During November:** Hunters who obtain antlerless permits would be allowed to harvest antlerless deer during the regular November season, which is currently limited to antlered (buck) deer.
- **This is just asking for, shooting at what moves probability !!**
- **Extended Archery Season:** The archery season would run from October 1 to December 15, including during the November season, which currently closes for archery hunters during that time.
- **This will be another accident waiting to happen, as we all know archery hunters are in full camo, be**

it sitting in a tree or roaming the woods in pursuit, and with your doe season during the regular season is just asking for trouble !!

- **New Archery Zones:** Special additional archery hunting zones would be established, opening as early as September 15 in regions with high deer numbers.
- This is a pet peeve of mine, I just don't see the deer herd I'm used of seeing, and I blame that on two things " Doe Permits & Coyotes "Now you want to open up even more.
- **Multiple Antlerless Permits:** Hunters would be allowed to hold antlerless permits for different Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) simultaneously, instead of the current restriction of one.
- This is another pet peeve of mine if I didn't know better I would think you are trying to " eliminate " the entire deer herd,
- **Second Legal Buck:** A second buck would be permitted for hunters who have already harvested one buck with at least three points on one antler, in addition to one or more antlerless deer.
- I have deer hunted most of New England, and I've hunted out West and in some Canadian Provinces, why because of a plethora of large deer, and you can only take one..... Yes, that's why they have deer !!
- **Antler Point Restriction in WMU D1:** This restriction would be reinstated in WMU D1, where mature buck numbers are currently low.
- **Youth Deer Hunting Weekend:** The youth deer hunting weekend would return to the Saturday and Sunday before the start of the regular November season.

I'm just an old Vermonter, and enjoy being in the woods and seeing deer, but with your proposals, it appears to me that you are trying to eliminate deer hunting in the state, prove me wrong.....Keep things as they are !!

Charles H Thompson

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 10:34 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Susan H. Wright <ursus03241974@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 2:29 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:**

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Hi,

I look forward every year to hunting and get a lot of peace and pleasure in it. I don't understand why we seem to be overhunting and killing the deer. I just feel that all the proposed changes just mean the state of VT is just looking for more money. Everything seems to come to that. Hunting and fishing has become another that way also. It seems to have moved from the concern about the deer heard and wildlife to how much money can the state of VT squeeze out of us people who enjoy the sport. I believe more than 2 deer per person is an excessive in a hunting season. I know this letter won't mean anything in the large scheme of things and won't change anything but I feel like I wanted my voice to be heard.

Susan Wright

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 10:39 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

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**From:** Richard White <rpegleg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 3:41 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

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No more deer out of H!!!!!!

On Fri, Mar 14, 2025 at 11:53 AM Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
<[fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com](mailto:fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com)> wrote:



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## Public Hearings on Deer Regulations - Three Things to Know

Heading into next week's public hearings on deer, moose, turkey and importation rules, here are the top three things to know about the proposed changes to deer hunting:

1. **The proposed new regulations would let hunters use antlerless permits during the regular November season** – the goal is to make it easier to fill antlerless tags in specific areas where we know there are too many deer, not to impact the population in places where it's already in balance with the habitat. The number and distribution of antlerless permits will still be adjusted each year to ensure too many antlerless deer aren't taken.
2. **The proposed new regulations would allow hunters to take a "conditional" second buck** – if they have also taken an antlerless deer and their first buck had at least three points on one antler. The goal is to encourage hunters to hunt more while incentivizing antlerless harvest and

maintaining the selectivity created by the current one buck limit.

3. **The proposed new regulations would simplify the archery season and provide additional archery hunting opportunity in select areas** – the goal is to encourage additional archery hunting, particularly in developed areas where deer cannot be effectively managed with firearms. The rule would keep archery open during the regular November season and establish eight expanded archery zones in developed areas where the season would open on Sept 15.

**Public hearings** will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

**March 17, 6:30pm (Includes 2025 Moose Harvest Recommendation)**

Mt. Anthony Union High School

[301 Park St.](#)

[Bennington, VT](#)

**March 18, 6:30pm (Includes 2025 Moose Harvest Recommendation)**

Lakes Region High School

317 Lakes Region Rd.

Orleans, VT

**March 20, 6:30pm (Includes 2025 Moose Harvest Recommendation)**

Union 32 Middle & High School

[930 Gallison Hill Rd.](#)

[Montpelier, VT](#)

**May 6, 6:30pm**

Winooski Middle & High School

[60 Normand St.](#)

[Winooski, VT](#)

**May 8, 6:30pm**

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303 South St.

Springfield, VT

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[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)



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**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 10:39 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

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**From:** Terry Robare <tlobare@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 3:38 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

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I would vote Yes

On Fri, Mar 14, 2025 at 11:53 AM Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
<[fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com](mailto:fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com)> wrote:



---

## Public Hearings on Deer Regulations - Three Things to Know

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**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 10:39 PM  
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**From:** Tristan Klein <[tklein@kleinmasonry.com](mailto:tklein@kleinmasonry.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 2:22 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <[ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

You don't often get email from [tklein@kleinmasonry.com](mailto:tklein@kleinmasonry.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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There are not enough deer to be issuing antlerless tags please stop and let the deer population recoup  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2025, at 11:53 AM, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
<[fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com](mailto:fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com)> wrote:



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**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 1:18 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

**From:** jim pickering <jppjr503@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 12:40 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

You don't often get email from [jppjr503@gmail.com](mailto:jppjr503@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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You are decimating the deer herd. Do you really know what you're doing? Youth weekend should not be before the start of the regular season! Do not touch Zone N!

Jim Pickering  
45 plus years of hunting Southern Vermont!

On Mar 14, 2025, at 12:13, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
<[fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com](mailto:fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com)> wrote:



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**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 1:18 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

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**From:** Eric Palmer <[eric.palmer@engelberth.com](mailto:eric.palmer@engelberth.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 12:27 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <[ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

You don't often get email from [eric.palmer@engelberth.com](mailto:eric.palmer@engelberth.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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**Eric Palmer** reacted to your message:

**Eric Palmer**

*Superintendent*



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Colchester, VT 05446

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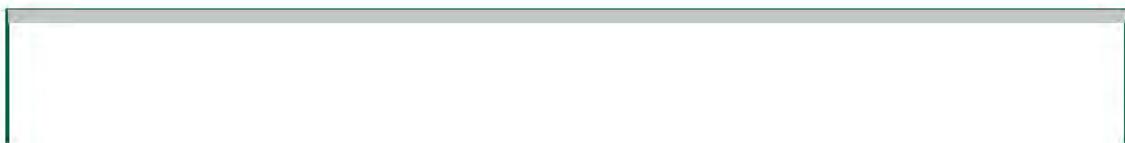
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**From:** Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department <[fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com](mailto:fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 3:53:17 PM

**To:** Eric Palmer <[eric.palmer@engelberth.com](mailto:eric.palmer@engelberth.com)>

**Subject:** Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings





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**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 1:17 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

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**From:** Arthur Stetson <astetson@ewsd.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 12:27 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

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I vote not to add any of those hope more land own post if this happens

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<[fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com](mailto:fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com)> wrote:



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**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 10:34 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Webform submission from: Contact

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**From:** pgtraverse@icloud.com <pgtraverse@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 6:33 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Contact

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Submitted on Thu, 03/13/2025 - 18:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Your Question**

Are you really serious about antler less permits with a rifle in November ????? We don't see deer now. I remember the slaughter years ago when this was allowed!! It's about time the State stops looking at the almighty dollar and starts thinking about the hunter and the wildlife in this state. My property borders the Bird Mountain Wildlife area. 1 vehicle on the road on Thanksgiving Day 2024!! Maybe you should concentrate on getting hunters to stay in Vermont rather than how many does can we kill and how much money we can make!!! ☹️

**Type of Question**

General Question

**Your Name**

Patrick G. Traverse

**Your Email**

[pgtraverse@icloud.com](mailto:pgtraverse@icloud.com)

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 8:14 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Webform submission from: Contact

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**From:** Lee@peregrinedesignbuild.com <Lee@peregrinedesignbuild.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 3:14 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Contact

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Submitted on Fri, 03/14/2025 - 15:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

### Your Question

Hi I'm writing this to give feed back on new regulations for deer hunting. I have hunted Vt every year for almost 30 years and I'm not a fan of the new regulations about shooting a buck with 3 or more on one side to get a second buck tag. I was raised on and still believe it's deer hunting not antler hunting. I have no problem passing up a spike horn but I in all the years hunting the opportunity at a 3 on one side deer have been small. I hunt very good ag areas in Fairfax but with small land and so much hunting pressure the big ones don't just roam around everyday. The thought that everyone had to shot big buck is ridiculous. It doesn't make for a healthier herd it just opens the door for more young buck doing the breeding. I am for shooting a legal buck and a doe then second tag is at least 3 on one side. The reason is I love bow hunting and would be more than happy to shoot a nice 3 or 4 pointer because of the challenges of using a compound bow not a crossbow. But if this happens I no longer can hunt the rifle season for a buck. which is a big tradition in my family with going to deer camp and hunt with the other 15 people that go. I have a lifetime rifle tag for Vt and have had years I can't use because I used my buck tag in bow season. I really hope you guys and gals don't go through with the new regulation's. Like I said the second buck tag should be the larger buck. I also have no problem shooting a doe during bow which has happened many times. I believe the whole thinking of buck rack buck is the downfall of our hunting tradition.

### Type of Question

Feedback or Suggestion

### Your Name

Lee bates

### Your Email

[Lee@peregrinedesignbuild.com](mailto:Lee@peregrinedesignbuild.com)

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 10:24 AM  
**To:** Pete  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

Peter,  
I am forwarding your email about proposed deer regulation changes to the public comment file so it is on the record.

These links will help with information about the proposed changes:

[Big Game Rule Change Summary: A Summary of Appendices §§17, 22, 33, and 37](#)

- [10 V.S.A. Appendix §17 Cervid Carcass Importation Rule - Annotated](#)
- [10 V.S.A. Appendix §22 Turkey Season Rule - Annotated](#)
- [10 V.S.A. Appendix §33 Moose Management Rule Change - Annotated](#)
- [10 V.S.A. Appendix §37 Deer Management Rule Change - Annotated](#)



John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

**From:** Pete <pgvtbbk@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 5:45 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

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Hello

Our Deer population cannot handle Doe permits during rifle season. We cannot handle the spike horn zones either. If the Doe issue passes it will be like the 1980's when you did not see a track.

Please. The herd is coming back with the 2 point on one side. I personally will Not harvest anything under 3 on one side along with all in my Deer Camp. Youth - fine -let them get a Deer.

Let the Deer grow & reproduce and get VT back on the map for "big bucks". Bring in the Hunter dollars. Economically it makes perfect sense in addition to ethical sense.

Just One man's opinion in which I know many agree.

Thanks for listening.

Peter W Groskritz



Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2025, at 12:50 PM, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
<[fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com](mailto:fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com)> wrote:



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Mt. Anthony Union High School

301 Park St.

Bennington, VT

**March 18, 6:30pm (Includes 2025 Moose Harvest Recommendation)**

Lakes Region High School

317 Lakes Region Rd.

Orleans, VT

**March 20, 6:30pm (Includes 2025 Moose Harvest Recommendation)**

Union 32 Middle & High School

930 Gallison Hill Rd.

Montpelier, VT

**May 6, 6:30pm**

Winooski Middle & High School

60 Normand St.

Winooski, VT

**May 8, 6:30pm**

Springfield High School

303 South St.

Springfield, VT

The full proposed changes for all three hunting seasons and the game meat transport regulation can be read in their entirety on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife



website under "[Active Rulemaking](#)".

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### Summary of Recommended Changes

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife

802.828.1000

[fwinformation@vermont.gov](mailto:fwinformation@vermont.gov)

[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

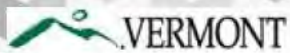


Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department | 1 National Drive Davis 2 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3702 US

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**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 10:18 AM  
**To:** Jason Sevigny  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

Jason,  
Thank you. I am adding your email to our public comment section for the record.



John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

**From:** Jason Sevigny <jasonsevigny@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 6:22 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

You don't often get email from [jasonsevigny@icloud.com](mailto:jasonsevigny@icloud.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Absolutely not on rifle doe tags!!!! Love the second buck with 3 point restrictions  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2025, at 11:53 AM, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
<[fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com](mailto:fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com)> wrote:



## Public Hearings on Deer Regulations - Three Things to Know

Heading into next week's public hearings on deer, moose, turkey and importation



rules, here are the top three things to know about the proposed changes to deer hunting:

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930 Gallison Hill Rd.



Montpelier, VT

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60 Normand St.

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**May 8, 6:30pm**

Springfield High School

303 South St.

Springfield, VT

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**Summary of Recommended Changes**

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[fwinformation@vermont.gov](mailto:fwinformation@vermont.gov)

[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)



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**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 10:02 AM  
**To:** Jay Villanti  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment; Fortin, Nick; Hall, John  
**Subject:** RE: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

Jay,  
I am forwarding your email regarding deer regulations so it is on record and sharing it with deer biologist Nick Fortin.

These links will help with information about the proposed changes:

[Big Game Rule Change Summary: A Summary of Appendices §§17, 22, 33, and 37](#)

- [10 V.S.A. Appendix §17 Cervid Carcass Importation Rule - Annotated](#)
- [10 V.S.A. Appendix §22 Turkey Season Rule - Annotated](#)
- [10 V.S.A. Appendix §33 Moose Management Rule Change - Annotated](#)
- [10 V.S.A. Appendix §37 Deer Management Rule Change - Annotated](#)



John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

**From:** Jay Villanti <javillanti@villanti.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2025 7:37 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

You don't often get email from javillanti@villanti.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

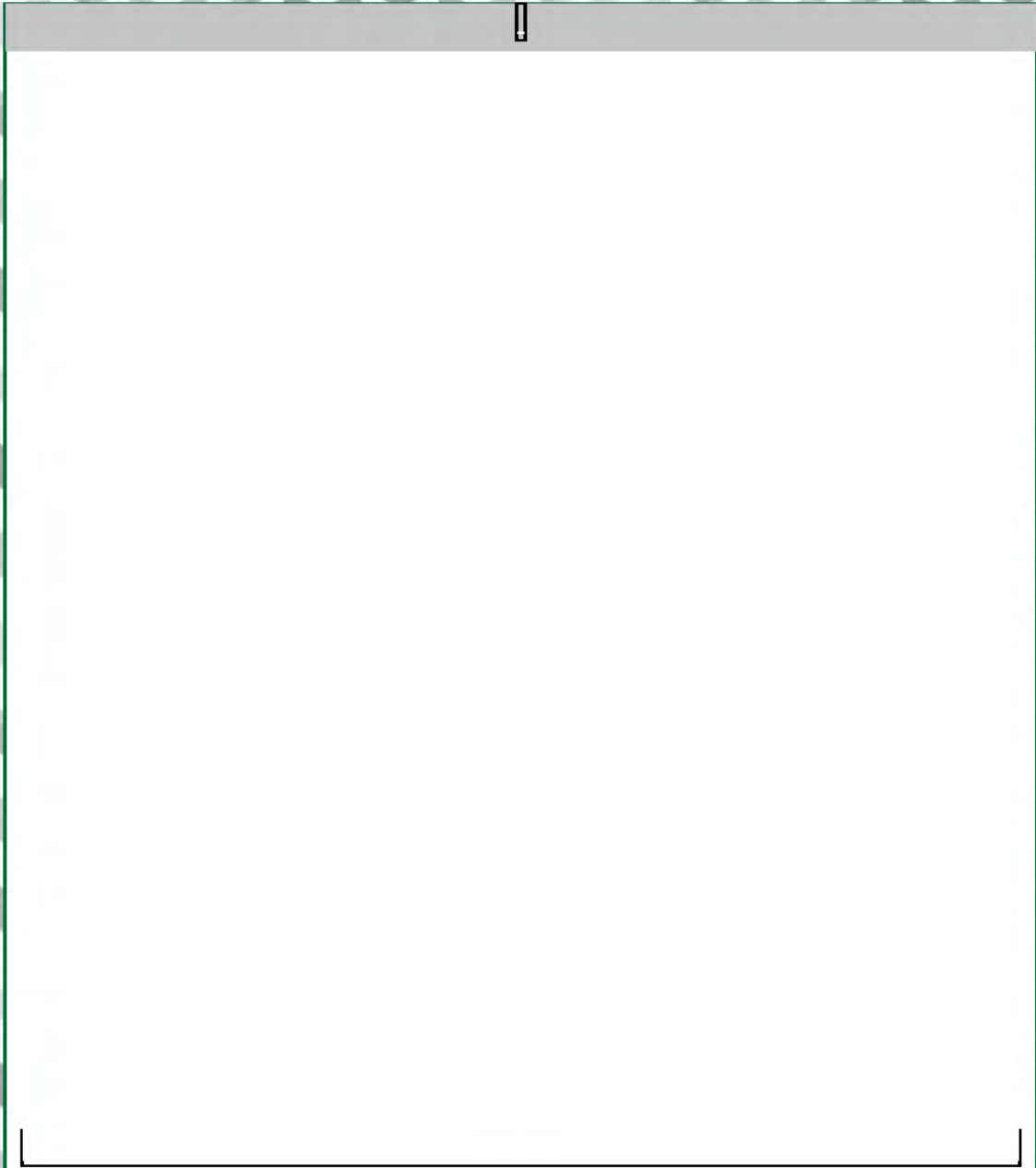
**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Has anyone considered no doe hunting in the Northeast Kingdom, even during archery season, because there are so few deer?

The other thing the kingdom needs is Quality Deer Management. Right over the border in Coaticook and Compton, there is world class whitetail hunting because of an antler restriction. 3 points one side lets the young bucks grow up so they can get big and smart. Vermont should do the same. It is a shame to see young bucks being killed so people can fill a tag. If the current trend continues, the hunting is going to be terrible again and all of the hunters will just go to New Hampshire and Maine. Mismanagement at its finest.

Jay Villanti  
Villanti Printers  
802-343-1292  
javillanti@villanti.com

On Mar 14, 2025, at 11:53 AM, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
<fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com> wrote:





## Public Hearings on Deer Regulations - Three Things to Know

Heading into next week's public hearings on deer, moose, turkey and importation rules, here are the top three things to know about the proposed changes to deer hunting:

1. **The proposed new regulations would let hunters use antlerless permits during the regular November season** – the goal is to make it easier to fill antlerless tags in specific areas where we know there are too many deer, not to impact the population in places where it's already in balance with the habitat. The number and distribution of antlerless permits will still be adjusted each year to ensure too many antlerless deer aren't taken.
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**May 6, 6:30pm**

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60 Normand St.

Winooski, VT

**May 8, 6:30pm**

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303 South St.

Springfield, VT

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**Summary of Recommended Changes**



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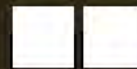
Vermont Fish & Wildlife

802.828.1000

[fwinformation@vermont.gov](mailto:fwinformation@vermont.gov)

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[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)



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**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 10:20 AM  
**To:** lindsayputnam28@gmail.com  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: Webform submission from: Contact

Lindsay,

I am forwarding your email regarding the proposed deer regulation changes to the Public Comment section so it is on record.



---

**John Hall**, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

---

**From:** lindsayputnam28@gmail.com <lindsayputnam28@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 6:21 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Contact

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Submitted on Fri, 03/14/2025 - 18:20

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Your Question**

This isn't a questionnaire. I am writing in support of all 4 proposed changes to the deer hunting season. (I don't see where to officially submit that. I hope you can get my feedback to the right place.)

**Type of Question**

Enforcement/Regulation Question

**Your Name**

Lindsay Putnam

**Your Email**

[lindsayputnam28@gmail.com](mailto:lindsayputnam28@gmail.com)



**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 8:57 AM  
**To:** coinkap@aol.com  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment; Fortin, Nick  
**Subject:** RE: Webform submission from: Contact

Chuck,

We have not proposed to allow online reporting during the regular November season. However, I will forward your email so it is on record regarding deer regulation changes.



---

**John Hall**, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

---

**From:** coinkap@aol.com <coinkap@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 7:47 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Contact

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Submitted on Mon, 03/17/2025 - 07:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Your Question**

can you make email check in during deer rifle season optional ?  
check in stations are limited.

**Type of Question**

Wildlife Questions

**Your Name**

chuck kapitan

**Your Email**

[coinkap@aol.com](mailto:coinkap@aol.com)

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 2:32 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Deer regulations comment

---

**From:** Shawn Good <fish\_and\_hunt@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 10:48 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Deer regulations comment

You don't often get email from [fish\\_and\\_hunt@hotmail.com](mailto:fish_and_hunt@hotmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I would like to provide comment on the proposal to allow the harvest of antlerless deer during the rifle season. **I SUPPORT THIS change.**

The main proposed changes to Vermont's deer hunting regulations would:

- Allow hunters who obtain antlerless permits to harvest antlerless deer during the regular November season. Currently, only antlered deer, primarily adult males called "bucks," can be harvested during the November season.

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2025 9:53 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Webform submission from: Contact

---

**From:** Fwinformation@vermont.gov <Fwinformation@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 7:48 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Contact

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Submitted on Thu, 03/20/2025 - 19:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Your Question**

Upon learning of the new proposed deer regulations. We living in zone L will lock up over 2500 acres in opposition. Also no longer spend our efforts in VT. Maine and NH will be our hunting destinations. Worst mgmt in the northeast.

**Type of Question**

Wildlife Questions

**Your Name**

Conrad carruth

**Your Email**

[carruthconrad@gmail.com](mailto:carruthconrad@gmail.com)

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 8:25 AM  
**To:** RidgeRunner  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment; Fortin, Nick  
**Subject:** RE: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

Thank you for your input regarding the proposed deer regulation changes. I am forwarding it to our Public Comment file so it will be on record.



**John Hall**, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

---

**From:** RidgeRunner <mako17455@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025 7:00 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events - Deer Regulation Hearings

You don't often get email from [mako17455@gmail.com](mailto:mako17455@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I was wondering if you could also consider the use of high powered airguns during the muzzleloader deer season?

On Fri, Mar 14, 2025, 11:53 AM Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
<[fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com](mailto:fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com)> wrote:



---

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[Bennington, VT](#)

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[Montpelier, VT](#)

**May 6, 6:30pm**

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[60 Normand St.](#)

[Winooski, VT](#)

**May 8, 6:30pm**

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303 South St.

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[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)



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**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 8:58 AM  
**To:** Robert Tanner Sr.  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events

Robert,  
I am forwarding your suggestion regarding the proposed deer hunting regulation to our Public Comment file so it will be on record.



John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

**From:** Robert Tanner Sr. <[rhtanner@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rhtanner@myfairpoint.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 5:22 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <[ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Vermont Fish & Wildlife News and Events

You don't often get email from [rhtanner@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rhtanner@myfairpoint.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I would like to make a suggestion, instead of extending the existing seasons why not have a primitive cap and ball or flintlock season like Pennsylvania does?

On Mon, 31 Mar 2025 15:28:17 -0400 (EDT), Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
<[fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com](mailto:fishandwildlife@stateofvermont.ccsend.com)> wrote:



---

**Vermont F&W News and Events**  
Learn how to be [Bear Aware](#) this Season

---

**Learn To Hunt wild turkeys with Vermont Fish & Wildlife and the National Wild Turkey Federation**

This seminar series of "Learn to Hunt" will cover turkey hunting topics such as turkey calling, shotgun patterning, scouting, and more. These seminars are for anyone interested in sharpening their spring turkey hunting skills, or learning to turkey hunt for the first time.

[Learn to Hunt: Spring Turkeys, Waterbury VT](#), April 3, 2025 6pm – 9pm

[Learn to Hunt: Spring Turkeys, Brattleboro VT](#), April 16, 2025 from 6pm – 7:30pm



[Find Out More >>](#)

---

## Hammond Cove Shooting Range will Open April 3, 2025

The Hammond Cove Shooting Range in Hartland, Vermont will open on April 3, at 10:00 a.m.

The range operates under rules set by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Range users must sign in with an onsite range safety officer and have a valid Vermont hunting or fishing license or be the guest of someone who does.

[Read More >>](#)

---

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife

802.828.1000

[fwinformation@vermont.gov](mailto:fwinformation@vermont.gov)

[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department | 1 National Drive Davis 2 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3702 US

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**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 8:35 AM  
**To:** joebouchervt@gmail.com  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: Webform submission from: Contact

Arthur,  
Thank you for your input regarding proposed deer regulations.  
I will include it in the Public Comment file for proposed regulations so it is on record.

This is a link to a report on the 2024 deer season results with the number of deer taken in each town:  
<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Library/REPORTS%20AND%20DOCUMENTS/HUNTING/HARVEST%20REPORTS/deer/2024-deer-harvest-report.pdf>

This is a video explaining the proposed big game regulation changes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ieYlc9lXrW4>



John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

---

**From:** Fwinformation@vermont.gov <Fwinformation@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 7:14 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Contact

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Submitted on Tue, 04/01/2025 - 19:14

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

### Your Question

Not really a question but would like to comment that an increase of deer hunting in the marshfield, Cabot, and Calais vt is absurd!

We have a camp in that area for near 40 years. We do not see anywhere near the deer we used to see for many years now. Even more frustrating is that we've not gotten many deer during the whole hunting season of the last ten years and I'm speaking for an average of four or five of us avid hunters!

Respectively submitted comment - please leave central VT hunting rules alone! We just don't have a lot of deer !

### Type of Question

Wildlife Questions

Your Name

Arthur Boucher

**Your Email**

[joebouchervt@gmail.com](mailto:joebouchervt@gmail.com)

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025 9:08 AM  
**To:** kgeorge24@comcast.net  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment; Fortin, Nick; Duni, Megan  
**Subject:** RE: Webform submission from: Contact

Kevin,

Thank you for your email and concern about allowing antlerless deer hunting during the regular November deer season. I will add your email to our public input file so it is on record for Board consideration and I will share it with staff.

I've been with the department since 1968, so I understand your concerns. Since the Hunter Safety Course became mandatory in 1975, Vermont hunting incidents resulting in injuries have declined dramatically. Some years we have none.

Antlerless permit numbers would be controlled just as they are now with a limited number of permits for a Wildlife Management Unit. The hunter could decide if they want to use it in the regular November season or the muzzleloader season. All of the other states here in the Northeast allow antlerless hunting during their regular firearms seasons with an excellent safety record – again because of mandatory hunter education.



---

John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

---

**From:** Kevin George <no-reply@tylervermont.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 5:56 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Webform submission from: Contact

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Submitted on Tue, 05/13/2025 - 17:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

### Your Question

I'm hoping that your proposal of the shooting antless deer in rifle season does not follow the 80s model where people shot deer when they saw brown and walked over and left it cause it's to small .We saw many dead deer in the woods and left to spoil and was a very bad idea in rifle ... should it make sense to just do it first 2-3 days in rifle and you must choose what it is you shoot ? People broke laws , people got shot it was a nightmare .. I'm old enough that I went thru that and am very concerned that it will happen again , history repeating itself . Would everyone get a doe tag? How would that work? Would it replace your muzzleloader tag? From a safety issue people seeing movement would be shooting ... the people that don't hunt that much they would love it , but for the others that do it will be a nightmare trying to harvest something that never might not have chance to grow if 5 doe was

killed in the area that was 6 doe total

**Type of Question**

License/Lottery Question

**Your Name**

Kevin George

**Your Email**

[kgeorge24@comcast.net](mailto:kgeorge24@comcast.net)

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:33 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Two bucks per year

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**From:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:32 PM  
**To:** emitt759 <emitt759@yahoo.com>; ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Two bucks per year

Thanks Steve, I'll make sure this gets included in our public comment file.

Best,  
Josh Morse  
Outreach  
802 261 0335

---

**From:** emitt759 <[emitt759@yahoo.com](mailto:emitt759@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:19 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <[ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Two bucks per year

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

My vote is for two bucks a season. One must be taken in archery season. Just my thoughts. Plenty of deer out there. Hardly ever see another hunter in the woods like we did 20/30 years ago.

Steve Fillion  
Addison, vt

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 5:33 PM  
**To:** Keith Mattison  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: Doe season

Keith,

I am forwarding your email to our Public Comment section for the proposed regulations so it will be on the record.



---

**John Hall**, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

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**From:** Keith Mattison <keithmattison52@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 5:25 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Doe season

You don't often get email from [keithmattison52@gmail.com](mailto:keithmattison52@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I just read you new suggestion for doe season for the two weeks of rifle season

I highly disagree that there are way too many deer this is not a midwestern state with a lot of feed and a lot of deer

If you keep shooting does you will have to close the season to rebuild the heard

Thank you

Keith Mattison

[Keithmattidon52@gmail.com](mailto:Keithmattidon52@gmail.com)



**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 8:13 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Deer population

-----Original Message-----

From: todd laflamme <supersport340@msn.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 7:12 AM  
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
Subject: Deer population

[You don't often get email from supersport340@msn.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi

Just reading the article about adding doe to our hunting season!

I have lived in Vermont all of my 61 years and have hunted for many of them.

We own over 100 acres in a valley of large parcel lots, you used to be able to drive around our few valleys and see multiple small groups of deer (4 or 5 or even 6 to 8) our fields in most evens would have a dozen or so and some really nice Buck. Now you can ride around for weeks and maybe here or there we 2 to 4 deer and in our fields that are great due to still being hayed, very rarely do we see deer and if we do it's maybe 2 to 4 at best.

So our feeling is we are not trying to control the deer heard (as there isn't one here) it's all about the revenue to the state! So many people that hunt spend to thousands of dollars and go to other states to hunt so they can get nice buck as they can't find them in Vermont anymore.

I would hope that if this ridiculous permit is allowed that it is in maybe a few places that do actually have deer?

I am not sure what or how our geologist determines we have to many deer? (But pretty sure they don't have accurate information?

Vermont is being ruined by out of staters coming in and taking over everything, guessing this is just another way to bring in revenue and not really about our deer population!

Pretty sure this will be ignored but it is what real Vermonsters think!

Todd

Sent from my iPad

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 1:47 PM  
**To:** MICHAEL PERRA  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: Doe Season with Rifle

Mike,

Thank you for commenting on the proposed deer regulation. I am forwarding your email to the Board's public comment section so it will be on the record.



John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

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**From:** MICHAEL PERRA <mperra@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 1:31 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Doe Season with Rifle

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

To the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board.

I'm appalled. That you are considering opening a doe season during rifle season. I'm not sure where the problem lies in the state of Vermont. With overpopulated deer. But it's not where I live in the southern part of the state. If there's a problem in certain counties. target those counties. And don't penalize the entire state of Vermont with this ridiculous rule. **Who would have thought that New York and Massachusetts would have better Fish and Wildlife rules** than the state of Vermont. This is an embarrassment to me, as a resident of this state. As an outdoors person such as myself and many other outdoor enthusiasts in the state.

With the number of people poaching deer illegally Where I live. I don't understand why the board would consider Encouraging more poaching and more illegal deer taken our local game warden doesn't even respond to calls In this area. I think it's encouraged By the board to kill as many deer as possible.

I don't see the number of deer even on private land. If we were to see "a herd of deer like 10" that is a lot.

I hope the board does **not consider** this as an option.

Mike  
Sunderland VT

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 8:17 AM  
**To:** knoxo  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: I support expanding permits for Antlerless deer in rifle season

Knox,  
Thank you for your email about deer herd management which I am forwarding to our Public Comment section so it is on the record.

-

John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

-----Original Message-----

From: knoxo <knoxo@aol.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 5:41 AM  
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
Subject: I support expanding permits for Antlerless deer in rifle season

[You don't often get email from knoxo@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My forest is not regenerating well because of excessive deer browsing of saplings.  
Therefore, I support expanding permits for Antlerless deer in rifle season.

Thank you—  
Knox Cummin  
Huntington, VT  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 5:00 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Deer

-----Original Message-----

From: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 4:56 PM  
To: ROBERT MINARD <bobnrobinm@comcast.net>; ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
Subject: RE: Deer

Robert, thanks for letting us know that hearing back is important to you on this one. I'm CCing our deer biologist Nick Fortin. Knowing that he is quite busy getting ready for public hearings, it may take him some time to reply.

I'll also forward your message to be included in our public comment records for the rule. And if you have time and the inclination, I would encourage you to come out to the deer hearing closest to you - that might be the Winooski one, since you're in Underhill.

Last thing from me: congratulations on your five pointer last year. I know your hunting experience has been frustrating, and I'm glad you had a chance to fill your buck tag.

Best,  
Josh Morse  
Outreach  
802 261 0335

-----Original Message-----

From: ROBERT MINARD <bobnrobinm@comcast.net>  
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:43 PM  
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
Subject: Deer

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good afternoon,

I have seen the proposal for longer hunting seasons. I have seen the proposal to allow shooting doe during rifle season. I have to ask, why?! I hunt in Underhill during muzzleloader and rifle seasons, since October of 2024 I have seen two deer in Vermont. Fortunately, one of them was a 5pt and I was able to fill a tag.

I have many friends that hunt that did not see a deer last year. I know several others that no longer hunt Vermont because they grew tired of not seeing deer. We all hunt different areas of the state and the experience for several seasons has been the same, very few deer seen.

In my group of hunting friends we are baffled as to where all these deer are. Is the intent to wipe out the herd, if so why? For many seasons I have believed that Vermont should at a minimum not allow doe hunting for a couple years or even shut down the hunt for a couple years to grow a herd. Are these deer on posted property? We really would like to know.

Also, the bear population has been reported to be above sustainable levels so why not introduce a spring bear hunt? Another option is to allow baiting for bear season.

I normally do not expect responses to e-mails such as this one but I really would like to know where all the deer are or how they are counted.

Thank you, Bob

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 8:39 AM  
**To:** John Helfant  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment; Drury, Charlee; Morse, Joshua; Duni, Megan; Thomas, Alison  
**Subject:** RE: Antlerless Deer Harvesting

John,  
Thank you for your email. I am forwarding it to [ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov) so it will be on the record for the Board.

This is a link to the proposed deer regulation changes:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/VFWD-Board-Documents/2025/10VSA37-Proposed-Deer-Rule-Changes.pdf>



John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

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**From:** John Helfant <vermontwhitetail@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 7:05 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** Jay Hooper <jhooper@leg.state.vt.us>; lsatcowitz@leg.state.vt.us  
**Subject:** Antlerless Deer Harvesting

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Vermont absolutely should not allow antlerless harvesting during rifle season. A very bad idea. Way to many Doe will be killed by rifle.

I'm not sure where the State gets their deer numbers from. Maybe Addison, Chittenden, Rutland and Grand Isle counties. Come to southern Washington and northern Orange county. Northfield, Roxbury, Brookfield, Braintree, Randolph. 10-15 years ago I saw way more deer and so did my game cameras. We have very few deer compared to then.

If you want to better control Doe populations then allow Archery hunting to start the first Saturday in September and allow Archery season to stay open during Rifle season, but do not allow rifle hunters to take any antlerless deer. You could also extend October Muzzleloader from 4 to 6 or 7 days. Or allow Muzzleloader hunters to take 2 Doe in October.

I do still believe that the management zones are too big. Zones should be much smaller, 3-4 towns. Some of the smaller zones might just permit 1 Doe harvest, while others 2 and yet others 3-4.

John Helfant  
East Roxbury  


**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 8:45 AM  
**To:** John Navarro  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: Doe hunt

John,  
Thank you for your email. I am forwarding it to ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov so it will be on the record for the Board. This is a link to the proposed deer regulation changes: <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvtfishandwildlife.com%2Fsites%2Ffishandwildlife%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2FVFW-Board-Documents%2F2025%2F10VSA37-Proposed-Deer-Rule-Changes.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CANR.FWPublicComment%40vermont.gov%7Cc099d0191c1e4dfdfec08dd5734ec35%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C638762606985110312%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiwlLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMmIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbGlzIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wzNdP6GK11UeGE%2FT1h6GOuMUUPhq8NOblZHp0zrnGtA%3D&reserved=0>

John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

-----Original Message-----

From: John Navarro <jnavarro195050@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 6:41 PM  
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
Subject: Doe hunt

[You don't often get email from jnavarro195050@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Sent from my iPhone I believe that letting doe hunting would be a big mistake. Last time this happened I found dead does that hunters never tracked after shot . Seems that these hunter's never looked for theses does. If they didn't drop they just waited for another. This is terrible . They just shot anything that they run into. This would be a big mistake. John Navarro I've been hunting in the state of VT since 1963. Think about what your doing.



**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 9:31 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Extended hunting season

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**From:** Michelle Leever <michfourne@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 7:15 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Extended hunting season

You don't often get email from [michfourne@outlook.com](mailto:michfourne@outlook.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello,

I oppose extending hunting season. Shooting young deer and mothers is cruel, as many are still raising their young. The deer need time to fatten up for the winter months, and having them hounded and chased for even longer is heartless.

Also, extending hunting season is interfering with non hunters ability to enjoy the outdoors. We are already restricted from access to woods and other public areas during hunting season. It is not right that only hunters get to enjoy the outdoors in the Fall. For example, our local town forest does not allow trail biking during hunting season, and it is too dangerous to be walking in the woods with hunters. Fall is the best time of year, and to have more time restricted for the rest of us to enjoy the outdoors is not right.

Thank you,  
Michelle

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 1:43 PM  
**To:** Patrick Finnie  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment; Fortin, Nick  
**Subject:** RE: A couple of ?

Pat,  
Thank you for your email. I am forwarding it to [ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov) so it will be on the record for the Board.

This is a link to the proposed deer regulation changes:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/VFWD-Board-Documents/2025/10VSA37-Proposed-Deer-Rule-Changes.pdf>

Deer ages should be available on our website in mid-April.

A deer age listed as 1 is really 1 ½. 2 is 2 ½.



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**John Hall**, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

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**From:** Patrick Finnie <pat.finnie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 1:29 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** A couple of ?

You don't often get email from [pat.finnie@gmail.com](mailto:pat.finnie@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I just looked up the data from my recent harvests and found that the age for the doe I harvested in 2024 was not yet recorded. When can I expect this info ? Also, when it is stated that a deer is 2, 3, whatever, years old, does that in fact mean, 1 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 1/2 years old ? Afterall a deer that is born in May is whatever and 1/2 in November . And one more thing , I read in VDC that there is a recommendation to have an antlerless season during rifle season ? I am vehemently opposed to this. I am old enough to remember the last couple of times this was done, and in my opinion the woods are less safe when this is allowed. I can only imagine extra shooting going on when some hunters don't have to look for antlers and instead shoot at tails, or brown things in the woods . If you want the antis to have something to rant about, give them safety issue .

Thanks,  
Pat Finnie,

Adamant, Vt.  
05640

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 9:54 AM  
**To:** Shawn Kilburn  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: Chittenden county.

Shawn,

Thank you for your email. I am forwarding it to [ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov) so it will be on the record for the Board.

This is a link to the proposed deer regulation changes:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/VFWD-Board-Documents/2025/10VSA37-Proposed-Deer-Rule-Changes.pdf>



**John Hall**, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

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**From:** Shawn Kilburn <skilburn68@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 1, 2025 12:53 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Chittenden county.

You don't often get email from [skilburn68@gmail.com](mailto:skilburn68@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I've read the article on extended hunting. Allowing for antelopeless deer to be taken during regular rifle season and two buck limits instead of one.

The article points a chittenden county with the most deer per square mile issue. Now I've hunted my entire life. I would love to hunt chittenden county but unless you know someone your out of luck. 99% of any hunting land is POSTED. I feel if the state wants more deer killed in the chittenden county do not allow the land owners to post it. Just saying.

If you might pass this on to those that could change this please do.

I've had to resort

To national forests for hunting. There the woods are big and the deer per square mile aren't many.

I'm also considering not hunting in this state all together. Thinking of going out of state where there isn't so much POSTED land.

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 9:12 AM  
**To:** tlaporte.tl@gmail.com  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment; Fortin, Nick  
**Subject:** RE: Fish & Wildlife Contact Us Notification (VT Outdoors)

Thomas,

Thank you for your email. I am forwarding it to [ANR.FWPUBLICcomment@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWPUBLICcomment@vermont.gov) so it will be on the record for the Board.

One of the proposed changes is to allow two legal bucks per year.

This is a link to the proposed deer regulation changes:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/VFWD-Board-Documents/2025/10VSA37-Proposed-Deer-Rule-Changes.pdf>



John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

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**From:** anr.webmaster@vermont.gov <anr.webmaster@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 2, 2025 8:40 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Fish & Wildlife Contact Us Notification (VT Outdoors)

<b>Message from VIC Mobile Application</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Thomas LaPorte
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:tlaporte.tl@gmail.com">tlaporte.tl@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Comment:</b>	Can you propose a law to shoot two buck? Any season combined to harvest two buck( archery,rifle or muzzleloader season s)

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 5, 2025 9:01 AM  
**To:** Raymond Kirby  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: PROPOSAL TO ADD DOE SEASON INTO RIFLE SEASON HUNTER COMMENTS

Ray,  
Thank you for your email. I am forwarding it to [ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov) so it will be on the record for the Board.

This is a link to the proposed deer regulation changes:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/VFWD-Board-Documents/2025/10VSA37-Proposed-Deer-Rule-Changes.pdf>



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John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

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**From:** Raymond Kirby <ray62scout@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 3:56 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** Raymond Kirby <ray62scout@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** PROPOSAL TO ADD DOE SEASON INTO RIFLE SEASON HUNTER COMMENTS

You don't often get email from [ray62scout@comcast.net](mailto:ray62scout@comcast.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good afternoon.

I see that you, the Fish and Wildlife Board, is proposing doe hunting during rifle season. You seem to think that there are too many deer, so you want to thin the herd. There is already a 4 deer bag limit. What happens when we have a winter like this winter which results in a lot of dead deer.

I'm an older Vermont hunter, and I can remember when the doe season was in rifle season. Yes, a lot of deer were shot. I also remember being in the woods and finding several dead deer that had been shot and left because the hunter realized after shooting them that they weren't big enough.

Years ago my wife and I used to spot and count 30 to 40 deer on a ride just before dark. Now we are lucky to see 5. I believe that there are not as many deer as you people seem to think when proposing doe hunting during rifle season, and I think you are wrong to do this. I believe you should changed the law back to 3 deer. I also believe you will lose muzzleloader license sales as a result. I wish that if you wanted to change something, you would change it back to the 2 buck rule. You seem to think there are too many people who get 2 bucks, but how many people get none? It's got to be in the thousands. I realize that you are going to make the change you want, to change to add doe hunting during rifle season no matter what hunters think, but I wanted to give my input.

Thank you.

Ray Kirby

**From:** ANR - FW Information  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025 1:57 PM  
**To:** Tom Valley  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Public Comment; Fortin, Nick; Hall, John  
**Subject:** RE: New Wildlife Rules

Tom,  
Thank you for your email which I am forwarding to our Public Comment file so it will be on record and to deer biologist Nick Fortin.



John Hall, Information Specialist  
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Outreach Division  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

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**From:** Tom Valley <tvalley7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025 1:29 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** New Wildlife Rules

You don't often get email from [tvalley7@gmail.com](mailto:tvalley7@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

To whom it may concern:

I was just reading about the upcoming proposals for Whitetail hunting in the state of VT. Overall these look pretty interesting.

- Hunting does during rifle season: I must say I am not in favor of this. I am 60 years old and have experienced those "if it is brown it is down days". The woods get pretty wild and with a number of grandchildren we have getting into the woods it just seems like too much.
- Allow archery during rifle: I feel like archery season is so long....However this would be a better option that using rifles and muzzleloaders to shoot does during rifle.
- Creating special additional archery zones with September 15th opening: I guess this makes sense if there are those zones that are so overpopulated. I have had a camp with 350 ac in WMU C for over 20 years and we have certainly not witnessed an overpopulation of does which is why our camp is reluctant to shoot them.
- Allow hunters to hold 2 antlerless permits from different WMU's: I guess this would be fine for those so called overpopulated areas. It is just hard to know where those does are actually taken from.
- Allow hunters to take a second buck if the first buck has 3 or more points and one or more antlerless deer: NOW, this is interesting. Many of our camp forgoes (10) archery season since the one buck option came into effect as we generally like to shoot bucks and enjoy the comradery of camp during rifle season. Most of us 50 plus all bought crossbows and now they sit on a hanger not being used.
- Reinstate antler point restrictions in WMU D1: I think we should reinstate in all WMU's, in fact I would love to see restrictions set to 3 points on a side across the state. In 2 to 3 years we would see some epic buck hunting in our state! Our camp is in WMU C in Cambridge near the intersection of RT 108 and 109. Since the



spike horn buck were put on the chopping block most of our young bucks get smoked. We had one camp in our area shoot 5 spikes 2 years ago. Internally in our camp we try to shoot 3 on a side. I mentor a youth hunter each year and allow them to shoot a doe or spike. There is sooo much pressure in our area the deer get pushed really hard.

- Return the states youth deer hunting to the weekend prior to start of regular rifle season: I agree with this one as this is arguably the single best time to hunt deer in VT. I have 3 children that had the fortune to hunt during this time frame and it is a pretty special time of the year. Now their children and my grandchildren are starting to get into the hunt which is awesome.

One other item I would like to note is can the state facilitate a process to get excess venison to homeless shelters or food shelves. I and I know a lot of others who would start to take does again if we could distribute the meat to those in need. If our family all tagged out we would not be able to eat all the meat we harvest. This is one of the biggest reasons I stopped shooting does. I just did not want to shoot a deer just to shoot one. In my 20's, 30's and 40's I had a different attitude and tried to fill all my tags. Now in my 60's I am much more selective. I know your jobs are not easy trying to satisfy a range of hunters. It seem a lot of older folks like to shoot any buck while the younger hunters (my 30 something children) want to shoot bigger rack bucks. Again, I would love to see you give 3 on a side a try.

Sincerely

--

Tom Valley

**From:** arthur spellman <mnstrm2@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 12:00 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer hunting proposed rules change

You don't often get email from mnstrm2@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello.....In brief, I see only 2 choses in reducing the population, if indeed that's the problem. 1 allow Does to be taken with a rifle/shotgun during the regular season or 2 bring back/reintroduce their Predator's. The latter here would definitely take more time but, would be effective. Personally I would chose #2. Let nature do it's thing. Reintroduce the Bob cats, Coyotes, wolves, Canadien lynx etc... If they became a problem with a farmers live stock, allow them to shoot them on their property. Night Scoops are readily available . I hope this helps and good luck... If you have any questions for me, please reach out. Art

**From:** Bartholomew Howes <barthowesvt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2025 5:45 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Fwd: Does during rifle

You don't often get email from [barthowesvt@gmail.com](mailto:barthowesvt@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I sent the below email to the board, but want to include it in the public comments and ensure that my point is hunting access due to posted land is your problem. You need to work with legislation to find ways of correcting that before you can manage the deer herd. This new law of shooting does with rifle will definitely increase the amount of posted land, thereby exacerbating the actual problem of limited hunting access due to posted lands. I don't get me wrong, I love shooting does and being able to do it with a rifle would be fun, but that's not our problem in this state and will have more negative impacts than positive.

Thanks

Bart Howes  
Readsboro VT

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bartholomew Howes** <[barthowesvt@gmail.com](mailto:barthowesvt@gmail.com)>  
Date: Wed, Feb 26, 2025 at 8:08 AM  
Subject: Does during rifle  
To: <[ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov)>, <[ANR.FWBoardBennington@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardBennington@vermont.gov)>, <[dave.adams@vermont.gov](mailto:dave.adams@vermont.gov)>, <[nick.fortin@vermont.gov](mailto:nick.fortin@vermont.gov)>

Hi all,

I wanted to reach out to everyone in regard to an article VTDIGGER had in regard to allowing does to be killed during rifle season. I have mixed feelings on this as an avid hunter of both VT (lived here my whole life) and MA. I've hunted over 30 years here.

First and foremost I will say the biggest hurdle to hunters and herd management is access to private land due to so many lots being posted. (I have to surmise this may be what Nick talked about in changes to Land Use). One of the more impactful pieces of this is all the large parcels of land in the current use program that is posted. Why don't we start by working with that organization to change their laws so that the people who get the lowered land evaluation from current use cannot post their land. (equals lower property taxes or a tax break essentially) That is exactly what happens when a parcel gets a lower evaluation, the grand list goes down and therefore the price everyone pays per \$100k goes up. I truly believe that access to hunting is the real concern here as this also causes higher densities in these areas due to the lower (maybe zero) hunting pressure. There are numerous blocks of 100+ acres down here in Southern VT that have those yellow signs all over. While I've checked and they are not "legally posted" through the town, VT's law on trespassing still applies and we could be ticketed for that.

So that brings the second proposal. Work with legislation to change the no trespassing law to mirror that of legally posted and make people register every year with the town clerk.

Now that is how I recommend we start by bringing back the hunting opportunities we once had as an open state

back in the 90's.

If us hunters can't bring the densities down with increased opportunities of these posted current use lands, then shooting does with a rifle is an acceptable change. But I would follow suit with what MA does, where there is ZERO killing of does in any season without a permit. This way you have the opportunity to start year one on the conservative side and get a good idea of success rates and adjust in year two.

I just feel that trying to give out the same number of doe permits now issued to muzzleloaders to rifle hunters may be detrimental. If the route following MA is not the way you go then very little tags should be given out in rifle (IE you make a separate rifle tag) for at least a few years to ascertain what is needed.

But again the real problem is the sheer quantity of posted lands, whether legally posted or not. You cannot fix the herd management problems until you fix the land use problems. Those are my thoughts.

PS

DO NOT EVER ALLOW WOLVES TO BE REINTRODUCED INTO THE STATE OF VT. There will be so many negative repercussions of that from wolf interactions with people, pets, livestock, etc. Do not make that mistake.

Sincerely

Bartholomew Howes

Readsboro VT

**From:** Becky Manning <emanning@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 13, 2025 11:00 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** antlerless harvest recommendation

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I would like to see more feasible permitting of professional sharpshooters on private property, in addition to reintroduction of deer predator species and limits on coyote hunting as a necessary means to protect forest habitat.

As a very poor second, I support permitting does to be hunted by rifle despite the terrible experiences we have had with local (SW VT) hunters (drunk, shooting from the road, widespread littering - beer cans, etc.)

~ Becky

**From:** Ben MacKinney <mackinney09@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 11:22 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Deer Reg Changes

You don't often get email from mackinney09@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello,

I oppose harvest of antlerless deer during rifle season.

I oppose holding multiple doe permits in 2 units simultaneously, assuming that the permits will be harder to draw. If draw odds are the same, then I would support this.

I support archery season going through rifle season assuming there is a one buck limit. If there is a 2 buck limit then I oppose archery going through rifle.

I support reinstating point restrictions in all units. No one wants to shoot spikes anymore. I own property in G and J1. It's absurd that I can shoot spikehorns in one but not the other. Spikehorns should be for youth only.

Rules should be changed to allow quartering of game. Dragging a heavy deer several miles on bare ground is extremely difficult. I hunt in the west, packing game is much more practical.

Permanent posting with purple paint should also be illegal.

Thank you,  
Ben MacKinney





**From:** Ben Wilcox <ben.r.wilcox@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 12:23 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer hunting proposed regulation changes

[You don't often get email from ben.r.wilcox@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I have some concern over the enforcement of the second buck rule. How is this going to be enforced with online checking? One could and surely will report a 4 point having 3 on one side and one on the other it just say the deer had more points than it really did. I also don't believe three in one side is stringent enough as there are plenty of 1.5 yo and 2.5 year old 5 and 6 points.

I propose that all bucks would have to be checked at a tagging station and it be four points to a side to ensure the the hunter actually "earns" a second buck by targeting a larger deer.

Thanks,  
Ben  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Bernie Charland <charlandbernie82@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 23, 2025 1:54 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment

You don't often get email from charlandbernie82@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Over the last 30 years of hunting deer I have seen less big bucks I think we should stop shooting dose I think we should go back to not shooting anything less than a three-point on one side and let our younger ones grow up since I was a kid almost 50 years ago the laws of change so much on hunting you can't even really find Big racks anymore I really think shooting doe is not the answer

**From:** Beth Hayden <bethany.hayden@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 10:00 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comment on proposed deer regulations

You don't often get email from bethany.hayden@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello,

I like that there are changes to the regulations but I don't know that I'll be able to take advantage of them. We've got an access problem. I'm disappointed that there's nothing to address/improve access in the new regulations. It's hard to find a place to hunt in Chittenden County. Sure, there's a few WMUs but everyone goes there. The few farms I have access to are usually really crowded.

I'd like to see some sort of incentives for the farms that are posted to open up to more hunting.

Respectfully,  
Beth Hayden  
Fairfax

**From:** Bill Freeman <y\_nott29@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 8:21 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Declining deer population in zone N

[You don't often get email from y\_nott29@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning, I wasn't able to go to the meeting in Bennington on 3/17....but a few of my friends did... They had mentioned that the biologists are starting to realize that zone N deer population has declined compared to other zones in Vt....are these the same biologists that back around the year 2000 were saying that coyotes don't bother healthy deer? When they told me that I asked them, then why am I seeing them chasing healthy doe and buck? They had no answer... I'm glad they are starting to see a decline in zone N although there's been a major decline in the past 6-7 years and a slow but steady decline since around 2013... I've been hunting zone N for 54 years and I have seen a significant decrease in the numbers... mother nature's food crops are still there, I see piles of acorns left over from the year past, beech nuts too when they produced. There are no more deer runs, they all disappeared.. I'm not in the mountains to kill any deer, I won't kill a doe because of the lack of deer and I won't kill any buck small bucks...it's been sometime since I've harvested a buck in Vt....nowadays I consider myself lucky to even see a deer while hunting in the mountains...I know quite a few young men that don't hunt anymore because they don't like not seeing deer... I can only imagine at the rate things are going in zone N that eventually there will be a major and I mean major drop in hunting license sales because us older hunters will be gone and there will only be a small handful of upcoming hunters... I don't know how to fix the issue, I do believe that the one of the problems is killing does and their fawns..and although you don't believe coyotes bother healthy deer, I'm a firm believer your dead wrong! I've actually watched 2 coyotes crawl through the high grass and snatch a few day old fawn from her hiding spot.... One more thing, upping the free hunting license age from 65 to 66 isn't kind either... But I kinda understand though.....its probably because of lack of hunters.....just remember we're not gonna be around for ever....

Bill Freeman  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** Bill Freeman <y\_nott29@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:03 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Zone N

[You don't often get email from y\_nott29@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Sorry there is one suggestion I do have.... I'm not sure how many biologists there were in Vt state back in the late 60s and early to mid 70s but things seemed to be working out well not only for both residents and nonresidents hunters but also, revenue for the state For the restaurants, grocery stores and more... If we went back to having that many biologist, just think, you wouldn't have the huge pay roll of paying them, you wouldn't have to keep increasing the hunting licenses, it would probably take about 5 years to start to get back to a healthy deer herd and ya might just get a lot more interest in hunting from some possible upcoming youth hunters..  
Just a thought..

Bill Freeman  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** bill garrison <bgarrison835@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 8:36 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comments

[You don't often get email from bgarrison835@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Sent from my iPhone I am in full support of all the proposed regulation changes except for allowing hunters to take a second buck. The one buck per year limit was a huge step forward towards improving sex ratio, buck age class structure, and availability of mature bucks for those of us who prefer to hunt exclusively for them. The resulting improved buck age class structure and sex ratio from one buck limit also improves the natural selection process and genetic effectiveness of the rut from a herd health standpoint. Please don't take a step backward by changing this rule. Thank you for all you do. I have the utmost confidence in you, our state wildlife managers

**From:** Bill Risso <billrisso@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 16, 2025 2:08 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** hunting regulations comments

You don't often get email from billrisso@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I would like to register my support for all 4 proposed changes to the hunting regulations currently being discussed.  
W. L. Risso, South Strafford



**From:** Bill Swett <wwswett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 23, 2025 7:37 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** New deer hunting proposals

You don't often get email from wwswett@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

#1. I agree a 2Nd buck can be taken but not tie it into first getting an antlerless deer, and a 1st buck with 3 or more points on one side.

The main reason is simple.

If anyone already has two deer in their freezer, they dont have room for a third. Many cant afford a chest freezer.

That said, I think VT should go back to when a buck had to have 2 legal points on one side, or perhaps 3. That doesnt mean theres fewer bucks for our youth to take. It just means the chances of taking a buck thats both heavier(more meat), and

has a small rack, and not a spikehorn, more attainable.

Shooting spikehorns gains noone anything, except less older bucks to hunt, period.

So whether a VT hunter can take 1, or 2 bucks, at least have a 2 pt. min. on one side the rule.

Yes, archery should start earlier, but statewide, not just select zones.

A lot of VT archery hunters are going to NH or other states that open before VT. Keep them here, buying gas, groceries, the youth that are in school and only have a weekend to hunt, here, not elsewhere.

The number of archery deer taken is minimal, regardless of zones. Its a, nonintrusive, quiet way to hunt.

Encourage more to archery hunt by expanding all archery tag potential.

No to filling Antlerless tags during rifle season. For one reason. Often, groups, big or small, put on drives, just to fill tags. We dont need this during the short, 2 week, rifle season.

Archery in rifle would be fine, but no antlerless.

That would encourage the shooting at ANY DEER THEY SEE, as more than likely they have both a buck, and antlerless tag. It would result in less than discriminate shooting, a "BROWN IS DOWN", attitude, and whether you believe it or not, when people group hunt, it only takes one or two in a larger group to encourage PARTY TAG shooting, legal in some states, not in VT. Dont encourage that possibility!

Keep rules simple. Not a bunch of exceptions. If a zone doesnt have a lot of does, an antlerless tag holder is more than likely looking for a larger than a spike buck, but, if they take an occasional antlerless deer, probably later in the season, if they havent yet taken a buck, the doe population will not be affected enough to say so.

Too many VT hunters leave VT for more, better opportunities.

Do all you can to provide all fall opportunities, to hunt deer in VT, and a 2Nd buck tag would go a long way in making that happen.

Thanks for the work on improving on the hunting opportunities in our own state.

Ive been a VT hunter for nearly 60 years. My biggest bucks have all been taken the past 25 or so years.



**From:** Brad Perry <brad@daylandsurveying.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 6:39 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** New proposed hunting changes

[You don't often get email from brad@daylandsurveying.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I support all of the deer management/ hunting season changes.

- I especially like the idea of the ability to hold a doe permit in multiple wildlife management areas. This is a great idea.

Thank you,  
Brad Perry  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Braden DeForge <bradendeforge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025 7:54 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Support for proposed changes to antlerless deer harvest

You don't often get email from bradendeforge@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hi,

I am writing to support change in rules to allow for changes to antlerless deer harvests in VT. As a hunter in VT for several years and someone who cares a lot about ecosystem function and health, I must support this change. We have the data to suggest that not only is this change important but it is necessary for the carrying capacity of our landscapes.

Thanks,

Braden

**From:** Bradley Stephenson <bstephenson3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025 5:54 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Favor new regulations expanding hunting

You don't often get email from bstephenson3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I support the new regulations that would allow more hunting in the future. There are too many deer and some are starving during winter. They also damage forests if they are out of balance.

I support more hunting and changing regulations that support hunters and help keep deer populations in check.

**From:** Brian Moody <fordogsfarm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 3:33 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Deer Hunting Regulations

You don't often get email from fordogsfarm@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Thank you for accepting comments via email,

I am unable to attend any of the nearby in person sessions.

I want to say that I am strongly opposed to allowing the harvesting of antlerless deer during rifle season . I say this out of concern for safety. My friend, Bruce Merriam, was shot by a 'hunter' during the 2023 rifle season. The 'hunter' claimed to have seen antlers. At 60 yards, using a scope, he was simply shooting at movement. I fear more situations like this will occur if all you need to see is a deer. I know other states allow the harvesting of does with a rifle. However, Vermont continues to see more productive deer habitat with posted signs. We don't have large tracts of land where hunters can spread out and not worry about avoiding others. Yes, we have significant WMA's and conserved lands but not all are productive deer habitat. In some areas of the state, the WMA's and conserved land actually congests hunting pressure due to the lack of access to private lands. Personally, there is a significant safety concern on and around my property. There is a large group of 'hunters' as many as thirteen who ignore my neighbors posted signs as they enter the woods and 'push' the hillside. I have found where they have left dead does as they obviously don't care what they shoot. I am an avid hunter but will not enter that hillside which includes my property when this group is there. I will be posting my land and will ask my adjoining neighbors, who have yet to post their land, if I can assist them in posting theirs. It will not stop this group unless we decide to contact a warden but may deter some level of road hunting. I wear an orange hat and vest but I fear for hunters leaving the woods at dusk only to have someone again shooting at movement. Granted, this could occur with a muzzleloader but obviously the distance would be significantly reduced. The state's data noted that the majority of deer hunters only hunt the rifle season. This may be indicative of the decline in hunting interest and an aging group of hunters but I could be wrong.

I would suggest trying some of the other recommendations first. Allow for antlerless permits in two WMU's. The purchase of unused permits prior to harvesting an antlerless deer. I would suggest lengthening the early antlerless muzzleloading season and starting the regular muzzleloading season immediately after the rifle season. Weather conditions during the existing time frame of the late muzzleloading season can keep hunters out of the woods. With the additional buck proposal, hunters would have to harvest an antlerless deer during the early archery season or the early muzzleloading season. This would be an incentive for more hunters to hunt outside of the rifle season.

If the harvesting of antlerless deer with a rifle is going to exist, I know some states have specific antlerless days for the use of a rifle. Not sure of the effectiveness of achieving the desired harvest numbers by designating certain days within a WMU but it would give hunters a sense of what to consider when choosing a place to hunt if they knew what days an antlerless deer could be harvested.

Many people, including my neighbor, have an aversion to shooting antlerless deer and others just don't grasp the biological need. I would suggest the state needs to do a better job of informing the general public on factors affecting the deer herd. There may need to be some tax incentive to keep private land open. I am convinced that limited access is a significant problem in managing the deer herd.

Thank you,  
Brian Moody

--

**From:** Bruce Bayliss <rbrucebayliss@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 12:20 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE changes to deer hunting regulations

[You don't often get email from rbrucebayliss@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a land owner on Snake Mountain in Weybridge. We have about 135 acres of woodland that I manage. Briefly, I am very much in favor of taking doe during the regular rifle season. From my observation we have too many deer and they are impacting the understory of the forest. It seems like anything below their reach is eaten. This as you know prevents the ability for other wildlife to survive and increase. I am in the process of replanting some areas with oak for future generations and have to protect them with growing tubes otherwise they would simply be eaten.  
Sincerely,  
Bruce Bayliss



**From:** Bruce Hutchins <brucethutchins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 7:31 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Antlerless hunting and antler restriction

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I first need to say I am for controlling the site population in hopes of changing the buck to doe ratio as well as reduce the pressure on the available food.

I do want to say I do not want to have a doe season during the regular rifle season as I feel much safer without does being taken during the rifle season.

I also would wish for the two points on a side antler restriction instituted state wide once again.

Thank you,

Bruce T Hutchins

**From:** Bruce Therrien <btherrien77@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 11:13 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Opposition to Proposed Changes to Doe Tags in Rifle Season

You don't often get email from [btherrien77@gmail.com](mailto:btherrien77@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Fish and Wildlife Board Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed change to allow the use of doe tags during the November rifle season.

Full disclosure; this is my second comment, but since my 1st comments in Mid-March, the composition of the Board has changed, there have been 5 public hearings, the video release of the Departments presentation, and some changes to what I am hearing for top objections.

**Decreased Opportunity** – The Department is always talking about increased opportunity; more tags, more seasons, more hunters, etc..etc.. It was mentioned at least 6 times in several of the public meetings. The Department has acknowledged that a rifle season doe permit system would greatly increase success rate, and so to avoid a “slaughter” like the 70’s, the # of permits issued would be significantly reduced. Fewer hunters receiving doe tags is a lost opportunity from the existing system. The Department currently issues around 23,000 permits (opportunities) to harvest 3500 doe. How many of those 23,000 hunters will lose opportunity when the permits are reduced to account for the higher success rate with a November rifle, keeping the harvest at 3500... If you want a higher success rate, and you want to provide opportunity, it seems so obvious that party permits meet both objectives.

**Increased Road Hunting = More Posted Land** – Unfortunately road hunting remains widespread. Bucks are not as common or as visible as doe, so the problem is not huge. With a December doe season, that poor ethic still exists, but a muzzleloader is a single shot with an effective range of 100-150yds. Additionally in most years, many of the crop fields are covered by snow and does have also become less visible due to earlier season pressures, snow covered crops etc.,.The current doe season does not exacerbate road hunting issue. If you approve doe permits in rifle season, with 5 shot long range rifles & green crops, it’s sad but true that road hunting will increase exponentially. That in turn will lead to more posted land, and the whole issue you are trying to solve snowballs.

**Safety-** Please don't be so naive as to think that the “brown it’s down” mentality doesn't exist today. The difference is that today's doe season is with a single shot muzzleloader. That, versus a 5 shot semi-auto is a huge difference. Many/most MZ hunters are selective with their shots, and don't sling lead at anything brown and moving. Most MZ hunters, that have taken on the extra expense of buying a MZ and a MZ tag, are more "serious" and typically more experienced. There are not nearly as many 1st time hunters or 12-16 year old kids out there in MZ season as there are in rifle season. We need new hunters, I am simply asking you to picture the avg years of experience, level of demonstrated gun safety, and level of ethics you see in November vs December. You will never convince me they are "the same".

**Wrong Tool for the Problem** - I see the need for doe hunting and I have seen the effects in certain areas where deer are bordering on over-population. However, it seems the Dept acknowledges that the primary problem is lack of hunting access in the Champlain Valley, Islands, and Franklin County. Regulation changes aren't going to solve for that. Consider some public outreach to landowners in those counties, or change the Land Use funding such that the land has to be open for hunting. Why am I paying someone’s property tax who doesn’t allow access and isn’t even properly managing the land by allowing deer to over-populate and harm the landscape? At the very least,

since F&W and Land Use are both under the ANR umbrella, let's get some of the Land Use Foresters educating the public (their clients) on the sequence and negative effects of Posting= Too Many Deer = Over Browsing = Mismanagement of your forest= Loss of your taxpayer funding. **Or, if you need a higher success rate in certain counties, allow party permits for doe.** Many states do it, and in effect Vermont does it on moose tags. Doe tags could be filled by any member of the hunting party, as long as they are within 500 yards of the permit holder etc....

**Social Issue?** - I haven't wrapped my head around the fact that a 2 day youth season has a 20%-25% success rate, and a 9 day MZ Doe Season has a 15% success rate? It could be suggesting that hunters still really don't care about doe hunting to "try" very hard. It's very possible that the root of the problem is education on deer management and doe harvest. It's no secret that the 70's November doe hunts devastated our deer herd, and it's going to take multiple generations before hunters warm back up to the idea of doe harvest as an effective tool. There is a large contingent of hunters that do not "support" doe harvest, but for 40ish years they have been quiet and accepting of archery and muzzleloader doe harvests, as long as the traditional sacred 16 days of November remain bucks only. The Dept has better tools in the toolbox to deploy without attacking that tradition.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my comments. I and many others worked hard last year to help defeat S.258 and to keep this Board structured as it is. Not every proposal the Dept makes is a good idea, and often not the "best" idea. We need common sense Board Members who know 1st-hand how things play out in the field, and to amend or reject Dept proposals that are off-track. We are counting on you to fulfill the role of "check and balance".

Bruce Therrien  
Residing in Washington County  
Hunting in Washington, Lamoille, Caledonia, and Essex Counties

**From:** Carbonetti, Richard <rcarbonetti@landvest.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 6, 2025 12:52 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comments on VT F&W Proposed Deer Mgt. 2025 Rules

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

To Whom it May Concern,

As a consulting forester with 47 years of experience managing forests in Vermont and across the northeast it is my view that VT F & W be enabled to manage the white-tailed deer population to regulate it back to the carrying capacity of our forests. Currently in much of Vermont and with warmer and less snowy winters more prevalent, soon across all of Vermont we simply have a deer population that is outstripping the forest resources of Vermont leading to unsustainable forest structures and composition.

The updated proposal by VT F & W is a sensible approach to effectively start what will be a decades long process to return the deer population to a level that will prevent the deer from negatively impacting the forest. Without the department's efforts to reduce the overall deer population the following negative impacts on our forest will accelerate:

- Regeneration failures of native tree and shrub species due to over browsing by deer.
- Increased presence of invasive plants as the native plants are removed by over browsing and easily replaced by the less palatable invasives.
- Increased illnesses from ticks due to increased invasives in the understory creating habitat for the small mammals that carry the ticks that are the disease vectors to humans.
- Loss of biodiversity due to the loss of native shrubs and Forbes in the understory from over browsing and replacement by invasives or simply conditions that lead to barren understories.
- Loss of habitat for native ground nesting songbirds and other wildlife species.

Many years ago, here in the NEK we came to the Fish & Wildlife board with a similar issue related to the massive overpopulation of moose. At that time several foresters, me included, in conjunction with wildlife biologists testified that there were simply too many moose. That excessive population was having an enormous negative impact on the forest resources of our region. It took several years of outreach to the Board but finally an effective level of moose permits led to a dramatic reduction of the herd from over 4 moose per square mile to a more sustainable level. Unfortunately, that effort came too late for many areas of our forest and sadly for the moose as well. We are still recovering in the forest with many stands finally regenerating and the understory returning to a more natural native condition. However, it was not just the forest that suffered, so did the moose. That level of moose numbers in conjunction with warmer winters led to a massive increase in the native moose tick population causing significant mortality in moose, especially calves. This should be a lesson for deer management as well. Wildlife populations out of balance with their habitat have a broad array of negative natural resource impacts.

As a manager of +/- 100,000 acres in all counties of the state I and our team of licensed professional foresters have seen the damage caused by an overpopulation of deer. There is often little we can do to overcome this damage as we see regeneration failures, increased invasives, more ticks and an ecosystem out of balance. Hunting is the only reasonable way to positively reduce the herd. Further, using the recommendations of VT F & W to enhance the number of hunters long term will serve to support the management of numerous other game species. As a forester and a sometime albeit unsuccessful hunter I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is to the forests of Vermont that we find the means to reduce the deer population so that it is in balance with the carrying capacity of our forests.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

My regards,

**Richard G. Carbonetti ACF CF (He/Him/His)**  
**Senior Advisor, Forest Resources Division**  
**Licensed Forester ME 348, NH 243, VT 148.0122206**

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[rcarbonetti@landvest.com](mailto:rcarbonetti@landvest.com)

**From:** Chris Howland <Chris.Howland@da.kyocera.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 9:56 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Changes

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Hello,

My name is Chris Howland and I'm 59 with a lifetime of hunting deer and turkey in Vermont. First I want to thank all the Game Wardens, Wildlife Conservation people, and the Biologists who do an amazing job with the birds and animals in our state.

My opinion on the proposed changes to our seasons and laws is that I sincerely hope the state has all the needed data in place to justify an open doe season in particular. Does our population of does right now justify a season for them? Will it effect our herd in a positive way in say 5 or 10 years down the road? I trust we are out there in the forests and can see our deer population?

I know as hunters we are checking our birds and deer in via an online portal if there are no big game check in stations. I have participated in this as well. Unfortunately, there are unethical hunters out there who are tempted or are not checking in their kill via the online portal with the state. You hate to think that is happening, but I'm sure it does. I bring it up because I wonder if the data from birds and big game being "checked in" that way could possibly skew the data we have on our kills.

Thank you  
Chris Howland  
Richmond, Vermont

**From:** Chris Masson <crmasson@canaanschools.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 4, 2025 10:38 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Quick thoughts on Deer Season Regulations

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Good Morning.

I just reviewed the new regulations and have a couple suggestions. If we want to reduce the deer herd, lengthen the season right into January. This would be particularly beneficial to those of us that love to track deer. With the climate changing and snow coming later and later in the season, a longer deer season will give trackers more time in the woods and, if allowed or limited to shooting does, reduce the deer herd. This could also give VT students a healthy activity during Christmas vacation. Massachusetts has a muzzleloader season that goes until December 31st. VT should do something similar. Keep VT hunters here in VT and maybe get a few from other states.

I don't want to read or hear about hiring professional hunters. That's crazy. VT is full of hunters. Figure out a way to use us to get the desired results. Again, this could be as simple as lengthening the seasons and continued increased bag limits on does.

I noticed a 10% limit on muzzleloader permits for nonresidents? Get rid of this. If you want to reduce the deer herd and increase revenue, the more hunters the better.

I like the idea of changing the date of youth weekend. It has been coinciding with NH and that reduced the amount of time my youth and I were in the woods together.

I appreciate the ability to take does in E with a bow. It's a good time and they taste great.

Thank you.

--

Christopher R. Masson, M. Ed.  
Science and Diversified Agriculture/Natural Resources Teacher  
Canaan Schools  
Canaan, Vermont 05903  
(802) 266-8910 office  
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**From:** Chris O <chriso72@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 9:57 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** I Support Deer Management Rule Change - Public Comment

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Good morning,

I am writing in support of the proposed changes to 10 V.S.A. Appendix §37 Deer Management Rule Change as they are posted on the Board Rules page of the VT Fish and Wildlife Department website on the morning of 2/26/25.

As a laborer in the forestry sector carrying out the work thoughtfully prescribed in Forest Management Plans by licensed foresters, I spend much of my time in the woods evaluating and attempting to improve the health of the forests in our state most typically on lands in WMUs K, L, M, N, O, P, and Q, although primarily in M, O, and Q. The combination of weather extremes, changing climate, diseases and invasive plant pressures are taking a toll on the health of our forests. The deer population is yet another pressure that we have a much greater direct influence over than we do on many of these other concerns. And we need to relieve that additional pressure by undertaking more active measures that reduce the deer population. Allowing antlerless permits to be used during the regular season and expanding archery season dates in the forests adjacent to our more densely populated cities and towns are great steps in that direction.

Many of the forest understories I see are some combination beech root sprouts from declining and diseased beech, striped maple and a variety of invasive plants with the occasional stunted and gnarled native hardwood sapling unsuccessfully trying to zig zag its way above browse height. The health of our forests depends in no small part upon more active management of the deer herd and the only way we are going to see that reduction is by reducing the many needless obstacles to taking antlerless deer, such as additional archery or muzzleloader licenses and the knowledge and experience to use them effectively. I applaud the 'baby step' taken a few years ago in making those changes for antlerless deer, but it's time to take more effective steps. I understand that public opinion can be a potent challenge, but I appreciate the work that the department has been undertaking over the past several years.

Thank you for your careful consideration and all the work you do to keep our fish, wildlife, and forests ecosystems healthy.

Chris Olsen

  
Dummerston, VT

**From:** Chris VT <chrisllemay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 11:15 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Extended hunting seasons.

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I have been a Vermont hunter and fisherman for many years. I understand a need to reduce the deer population, but would prefer to see increased bag limits, more doe hunting, etc. instead of extending the season.

The reason being safe access to the woods for others besides hunters. Between the Youth hunting season, regular deer season, archery/primitive weapons seasons there is already a significant portion of the year when many Vermonters/and tourists feel that they cannot be safely in the woods. The woods are for all, and I think that the current seasons already limit that access more than enough.

Thanks,  
Chris Lemay

**Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after - Henry David Thoreau**

**You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are now and change the ending. - C.S. Lewis**

**"Happiness lies not in finding what is missing, but in finding what is present." - Tara Brach**

**Discipline is choosing between what you want now, and what you want most. - Abraham Lincoln**

**"Everybody's got a plan until they get punched in the mouth" - Mike Tyson**

**"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." - Will Rogers**

**From:** Connolly, Abigail  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 12:11 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: [ANR.FWBoard] Comment on Proposed Deer Regulation Changes  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

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**From:** Bruce Therrien <btherrien77@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 12:14 PM  
**To:** anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov  
**Subject:** [ANR.FWBoard] Comment on Proposed Deer Regulation Changes

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Dear Board Members,

I want to thank you for the fine job that you all do. I, along with many others, fought hard last spring to ensure that the Board continued in it's current role and makeup. From what I am hearing, there are no major threats advancing in Legislature this spring. That's great news. Sportsmen and Sportswomen united last spring at a level that has not been seen in many years. Sadly, the Dept seems set on putting us at odds with one another over a crazy amount of deer regulation changes. In the event that I can't make it to a public hearing, or am not heard, I want to address 1 specific change in detail here in this email. I am 1000% against the taking of does during the November rifle season. I am not alone in this position, 99% of the people I talk to feel the same way, and I'll do my part to get them to write their own comments or attend a meeting. It's a challenge, as I am sure you all see it as well; it is hard to convince the vast majority of license holders that their voice really does matter.

### **Major reasons to object to November doe hunting;**

1. **Safety** - I started hunting on my own in the early 70's. I experienced Novembers of "if it's brown it's down". It was scary. I believe there was at least 4 fatal shootings in 1973 or 1974. Please don't be so naive as to think that mentality doesn't exist today. The difference is that today's doe season is with a single shot muzzleloader. That, vs a 5 shot semi-auto is a huge difference. Many/most MZ hunters are selective with their shots, and don't sling lead at anything brown and moving. Most MZ hunters, that have taken on the extra expense of buying a MZ and a MZ tag, are more "serious" and typically more experienced. There are not nearly as many 1st time hunters or 12-16 year old kids out there in MZ season as there are in rifle season. I am not at all knocking new or inexperienced hunters, or recruitment. I am simply asking you to picture the avg years of experience, level of demonstrated gun safety, and level of ethics you see in November vs December. You will never convince me they are "the same".
2. **Scientific Method of Investigation** - I spent a lot of time and ink last spring defending the working model of the Dept and citizen Board. My argument went something like this; The Board must continue as people with real-world, in the field, experience. They don't need a "degree" in anything. We have a highly-paid and highly-educated staff of SCIENTISTS in the Dept. Their proposals should be science-based, and the Board interprets how those proposals play out in the real-world. I now look like a bit of a fool bragging on the Depts scientific approach to the Antis, when here the Dept is breaking every rule of sound scientific investigation with a catalog of changes. I don't care if you are a biologist, an engineer, a chef, a mechanic, or a cement mason; everyone knows that when you have a problem you change 1 or possibly 2 inputs, to see if they have the desired effect on the output of interest. This is Science101, or Troubleshooting 101. What the Dept is proposing is not a scientific experiment at all, it's a shotgun approach, or should I say semi-auto rifle approach. With all of these changes that the Dept is proposing, any measurable result will be so confounded that it will be impossible to state with any confidence what change was effective (or even needed). Let's look

at the other input variables a little closer;

- Winter severity - Out of everyone's control of course but has to be one of the harder winters we have seen in a while. What impact did that alone have on the doe and fawn population? Did mother nature solve part of the problem for us?
- Earn a buck - great idea and the doe component will push a lot of guys to harvest a doe in bow season, or after filling a Nov rifle tag, they will quickly fill a doe tag in MZ to get the 2nd buck tag. Many people who never bother to shoot a doe have been talking about this strategy over the last 6 weeks. This alone is likely to have a big impact on doe harvest. You will never know if you also add the November variable; i.e. did they shoot a doe because it was rifle season or would they have shot one anyway early in MZ to earn their 2nd buck tag?
- 2 tags in 2 different WMU - Makes sense as many hunters move around to different WMUs. This increases opportunity and could drive up the December doe harvest. A lot of us don't prioritize the "doe zone" if our friends are hunting another zone.
- Additional archery zones with Sept 15 - Another change with potential for a significant impact
- Give a few of these changes a chance to work, or be proven ineffective, before proposing a bomb like November doe hunting.

3. **Deer Wounding and Recovery** - Single shot MZ drives careful shot selection, and additionally we typically have snow for tracking any wounded game. Both of those are less likely in early November.
4. **Wrong Tool for the Problem** - I am not against doe hunting, I see the need for it and I have seen the effects in certain areas where deer are bordering on over-population. However, it seems the Dept acknowledges that the primary problem is lack of hunting access in the Champlain Valley, Islands, and Franklin County. Regulation changes aren't going to solve for that. The Dept wants to use a hammer to solve for a stripped screw. It doesn't make sense. The only way to solve access is to remove the Land-Use tax break for landowners that choose to post their land. Why am I paying taxes for someones posted land? I won't go on that rant here as I understand it' Legislative.
5. **Opening the Legislative Pandora's Box** - I could be wrong or rusty on this but I believe that November doe hunting would take a Legislative action. Do we want to risk putting anything related to our 16 day November Deer season in front of the Legislature? Doesn't that potentially open up the risk of debate, amendments, and changes in the Legislature? Why take on that risk? We ousted the Head Anti Rep Bray but believe it or not he had some friends that are still lurking in the halls of Montpelier. Keep the 16 day Nov season out of Legislative hands!
6. **Possible Backfire** - We (Vermonters) have evolved a lot over the last 50 years in how we think about doe hunting and the need for herd management/reduction. Doe harvest (with MZ) is pretty widely accepted now even by those who don't participate in the lottery. But consider that the tradition of Nov rifle season and bucks only might be so cherished that you awake the sleeping majority. Now we have this big public dispute about the so called slaughter of female deer on display for all to see. People who have been quietly buck hunting in November and minding their own business about the doe harvest of others come to life and start calling their legislators, asking for the deer herd control to be returned to the Legislature. Coincidentally, the Legislature would just happen to have a bill in their hands. It could happen, and it would be to the detriment of us all. Again, it is simply not worth the risk.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my comments, no need to respond. Those that follow the process know that the Board is not a rubber stamp of the Dept, and we are counting on you to fulfill the role of "check and balance" we all fought for, when the Dept goes as far off course as they have with Nov doe hunting. It is exactly times like this, when we need an experienced Board of hunters, fishers, and trappers that will apply common sense.

Best regards,  
Bruce Therrien

Former F&W Board Member 2004-2007

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**From:** Connolly, Abigail  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 8:57 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: VT deer and Moose proposed Reg changes  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

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**From:** Noel, Paul <Paul.Noel@partner.vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 8:35 AM  
**To:** Tyler Pelland <tpell83@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** F&W Board <anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [ANR.FWBoard] VT deer and Moose proposed Reg changes

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Thanks Tyler for the note. I am forwarding it to the rest of the Board.

Regards  
Paul

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**From:** Tyler Pelland <[tpell83@gmail.com](mailto:tpell83@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 2:24 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Board Orleans <[ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** VT deer and Moose proposed Reg changes

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello **Paul**, I'm writing in regards to my thoughts on the proposed regulation changes as I cannot make the public hearing. Some background on myself: I was born and raised in Addison county VT (Monkton) and I have been an avid hunter, trapper, fisherman and archer since I was 9 starting with small game and eventually getting very passionate about tracking and still hunting mature whitetail bucks on public lands. I hunted mostly in the **Green Mt.** National Forest and **A. Johnson Lumber Company** lands growing up. I now spend most of my hunting season in Maine, NH and the ADKs mostly because of the large amount of public lands to roam without much hunting pressure. I deer hunt on average 30 +/- days of the season. I mostly hunt VT during the late muzzleloader season in the green mts or on Industrial timberlands of Essex county.

For work I'm a consulting forester for private landowners. I have been doing this for 12 years now and have worked for companies like E.B Campbell Forest Management and Landvest before starting my own business from Craftsbury VT in 2020. I have clients in most counties and have seen first hand the areas of high deer densities and agree we

need to reduce the doe population in those areas. I remember the 1990's where I would see 25 does a season and no bucks. I think muzzleloader doe season laws and one buck has certainly helped balance the herd in some areas, although hunting pressure seems to be the key factor in getting heavier older deer. Essex county is somewhat crowded

these days with technology making people feel safer traveling deeper into the woods **and lack of publicly accessible private lands.**

**In my experience as a private lands consulting forester, the overpopulation seems to exist more on properties**

that are posted and restrict hunting access. This leaves me to believe that the primary problem in high deer density areas is lack of public access. I assume the majority of private posted lands are being hunted by families or a select few friends of the ownership. This scenario commonly has a do not kill the does policy as they are the "live bait" for an opportunity to kill a buck during the rut. Selling more doe tags is not going to solve the problem. There needs to be incentives for hunters on these posted properties to kill a doe. Maybe an earlier archery season where hunters need to harvest a doe before a buck....?

A partial solution would be to get FP&R into this conversation as they could change some rules with the UVA program to incentivize landowners to open up posted properties for hunting.

Increasing hunter opportunities with extra tags and different seasons will likely only reduce the herd in public access areas. In my opinion, hunting does with a rifle would only significantly reduce the population on public lands where the populations are already somewhat balanced. We could also do more timber sales on state lands to increase the carrying capacity and have better hunting opportunities on public lands... Look out for standing trees though!

I believe in 1 buck a year with no antler restrictions because this works in other northeastern states and I believe antler restrictions put more pressure on the 2-3 yr old bucks not letting more of them get to 4 when they become way more difficult to harvest for the avg. hunter resulting in more "mature" bucks. Example, a hunter passes up spike to shoot a 4 pt or 2-3yr old deer following the same doe. Many hunters would have shot the spike letting the mid age deer get older. I like having the youth season early but we could give them a few more days to work around poor weather. Maybe give the kids a whole week with two weekends... Kids are a great chance to kill more does and we need more youth hunters! Private landowners generally will let a kid take a doe during a youth hunt but not so for adults.

MOOSE, I think if the intent is to reduce the moose population we need to move the rifle season during the peak rut (Oct. 1). Maybe extend archery to cover more of the early rut (Sept. 15). Although, more money from increased lottery and license sales to achieve the same result is a better financial approach in a time of difficult budget balancing...

I would really like to see more F&W staff, biologists, and more game wardens. It's alarming to me when all deer do not need to be weighed in at a check station where important data is collected. In Maine, every other deer has a tooth pulled and their antler bases measured. I assume this combined data with weight tells us something about the quality of habitat and carrying capacity... Why can't VT partner with UVM or another school to do the data organizing to get a better sense of our local herd numbers, age and health? I'm not confident in the small sample size we currently have. Is there statistical data available for our population estimates? I believe populations vary drastically within management units. Maybe we need to re-delineate these units?? Sorry to rant but I think this is important stuff! Keep up the good work.

Thanks for reading.

--

**Tyler Pelland**

Pelland Forestland Management, LLC

VT Forester License #: 148.0128956

VT TSP #: 22-24294

VT Tree Farm Inspector # 98162

**802-989-3831 (C)**

**802-586-7765 (H)**



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**From:** Connolly, Abigail  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 1:14 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: [ANR.FWBoard] Fw: Proposed changes  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

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**From:** Bailey, Brian <Brian.Bailey@partner.vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 7:41 AM  
**To:** 'anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov' <anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** [ANR.FWBoard] Fw: Proposed changes

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**From:** Warren <[talk2us2day@comcast.net](mailto:talk2us2day@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 5:07:35 AM  
**To:** Bailey, Brian <[Brian.Bailey@partner.vermont.gov](mailto:Brian.Bailey@partner.vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Proposed changes

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Brian  
The deer population in VT cities might be at overpopulation but everywhere else has a low population. The proposal for a second buck should not include harvesting a doe first. This only demonstrates how much lack of effort the F&W spend in the actual woods and observes the deer population. It also demonstrates how they keep pushing doe harvesting for primarily the increase in revenue! Too many state employees to support and this is what we get vs efficiency. This only shoots the second buck rule into those that want to spend the money and time to process the 3 deer vs buying meat at the grocery store. You'll have a select few that may but the majority won't bother. Another way for F&W to shoot themselves in the foot and loose revenue.  
Good luck with the slow spiral down.  
Warren Davey  
Forester, Environmental Scientist, Hunter and avid sportsman

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**From:** Connolly, Abigail  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 11:02 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: [ANR.FWBoard] Comment on Proposed Deer Regulation Changes  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

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**From:** Bruce Therrien <[btherrien77@gmail.com](mailto:btherrien77@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 12:14 PM  
**To:** [anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov](mailto:anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov)  
**Subject:** [ANR.FWBoard] Comment on Proposed Deer Regulation Changes

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Dear Board Members,

I want to thank you for the fine job that you all do. I, along with many others, fought hard last spring to ensure that the Board continued in it's current role and makeup. From what I am hearing, there are no major threats advancing in Legislature this spring. That's great news. Sportsmen and Sportswomen united last spring at a level that has not been seen in many years. Sadly, the Dept seems set on putting us at odds with one another over a crazy amount of deer regulation changes. In the event that I can't make it to a public hearing, or am not heard, I want to address 1 specific change in detail here in this email. I am 1000% against the taking of does during the November rifle season. I am not alone in this position, 99% of the people I talk to feel the same way, and I'll do my part to get them to write their own comments or attend a meeting. It's a challenge, as I am sure you all see it as well; it is hard to convince the vast majority of license holders that their voice really does matter.

### **Major reasons to object to November doe hunting;**

1. **Safety** - I started hunting on my own in the early 70's. I experienced Novembers of "if it's brown it's down". It was scary. I believe there was at least 4 fatal shootings in 1973 or 1974. Please don't be so naive as to think that mentality doesn't exist today. The difference is that today's doe season is with a single shot muzzleloader. That, vs a 5 shot semi-auto is a huge difference. Many/most MZ hunters are selective with their shots, and don't sling lead at anything brown and moving. Most MZ hunters, that have taken on the extra expense of buying a MZ and a MZ tag, are more "serious" and typically more experienced. There are not nearly as many 1st time hunters or 12-16 year old kids out there in MZ season as there are in rifle season. I am not at all knocking new or inexperienced hunters, or recruitment. I am simply asking you to picture the avg years of experience, level of demonstrated gun safety, and level of ethics you see in November vs December. You will never convince me they are "the same".
2. **Scientific Method of Investigation** - I spent a lot of time and ink last spring defending the working model of the Dept and citizen Board. My argument went something like this; The Board must continue as people with real-world, in the field, experience. They don't need a "degree" in anything. We have a highly-paid and highly-educated staff of SCIENTISTS in the Dept. Their proposals should be science-based, and the Board interprets how those proposals play out in the real-world. I now look like a bit of a fool bragging on the Depts scientific approach to the Antis, when here the Dept is breaking every rule of sound scientific investigation with a catalog of changes. I don't care if you are a biologist, an engineer, a chef, a mechanic, or a cement mason; everyone knows that when you have a problem you change 1 or possibly 2 inputs, to see if they have the desired effect on the output of interest. This is Science101, or Troubleshooting 101. What the Dept is proposing is not a scientific experiment at all, it's a shotgun approach, or should I say semi-auto rifle approach. With all of these changes that the Dept is proposing, any measurable result will be so confounded

that it will be impossible to state with any confidence what change was effective (or even needed). Let's look at the other input variables a little closer;

- Winter severity - Out of everyone's control of course but has to be one of the harder winters we have seen in a while. What impact did that alone have on the doe and fawn population? Did mother nature solve part of the problem for us?
- Earn a buck - great idea and the doe component will push a lot of guys to harvest a doe in bow season, or after filling a Nov rifle tag, they will quickly fill a doe tag in MZ to get the 2nd buck tag. Many people who never bother to shoot a doe have been talking about this strategy over the last 6 weeks. This alone is likely to have a big impact on doe harvest. You will never know if you also add the November variable; i.e did they shoot a doe because it was rifle season or would they have shot one anyway early in MZ to earn their 2nd buck tag?
- 2 tags in 2 different WMU - Makes sense as many hunters move around to different WMUs. This increases opportunity and could drive up the December doe harvest. A lot of us don't prioritize the "doe zone" if our friends are hunting another zone.
- Additional archery zones with Sept 15 - Another change with potential for a significant impact
- Give a few of these changes a chance to work, or be proven ineffective, before proposing a bomb like November doe hunting.

3. **Deer Wounding and Recovery** - Single shot MZ drives careful shot selection, and additionally we typically have snow for tracking any wounded game. Both of those are less likely in early November.
4. **Wrong Tool for the Problem** - I am not against doe hunting, I see the need for it and I have seen the effects in certain areas where deer are bordering on over-population. However, it seems the Dept acknowledges that the primary problem is lack of hunting access in the Champlain Valley, Islands, and Franklin County. Regulation changes aren't going to solve for that. The Dept wants to use a hammer to solve for a stripped screw. It doesn't make sense. The only way to solve access is to remove the Land-Use tax break for landowners that choose to post their land. Why am I paying taxes for someones posted land? I won't go on that rant here as I understand it' Legislative.
5. **Opening the Legislative Pandora's Box** - I could be wrong or rusty on this but I believe that November doe hunting would take a Legislative action. Do we want to risk putting anything related to our 16 day November Deer season in front of the Legislature? Doesn't that potentially open up the risk of debate, amendments, and changes in the Legislature? Why take on that risk? We ousted the Head Anti Rep Bray but believe it or not he had some friends that are still lurking in the halls of Montpelier. Keep the 16 day Nov season out of Legislative hands!
6. **Possible Backfire** - We (Vermonters) have evolved a lot over the last 50 years in how we think about doe hunting and the need for herd management/reduction. Doe harvest (with MZ) is pretty widely accepted now even by those who don't participate in the lottery. But consider that the tradition of Nov rifle season and bucks only might be so cherished that you awake the sleeping majority. Now we have this big public dispute about the so called slaughter of female deer on display for all to see. People who have been quietly buck hunting in November and minding their own business about the doe harvest of others come to life and start calling their legislators, asking for the deer herd control to be returned to the Legislature. Coincidentally, the Legislature would just happen to have a bill in their hands. It could happen, and it would be to the detriment of us all. Again, it is simply not worth the risk.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my comments, no need to respond. Those that follow the process know that the Board is not a rubber stamp of the Dept, and we are counting on you to fulfill the role of "check and balance" we all fought for, when the Dept goes as far off course as they have with Nov doe hunting. It is exactly times like this, when we need an experienced Board of hunters, fishers, and trappers that will apply common sense.

Best regards,

Bruce Therrien  
Former F&W Board Member 2004-2007

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**From:** Connolly, Abigail  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:58 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Petition to F+W Department for inclusion in 2025

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**From:** k law <[nedappleman@gmail.com](mailto:nedappleman@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 10:18 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Board Caledonia <[ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Addison <[ANR.FWBoardAddison@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardAddison@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Lamoille <[ANR.FWBoardLamoille@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardLamoille@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Orange <[ANR.FWBoardOrange@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardOrange@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Bennington <[ANR.FWBoardBennington@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardBennington@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Orleans <[ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Chittenden <[ANR.FWBoardChittenden@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardChittenden@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Rutland <[ANR.FWBoardRutland@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardRutland@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Essex <[ANR.FWBoardEssex@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardEssex@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Washington <[ANR.FWBoardWashington@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardWashington@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Franklin <[ANR.FWBoardFranklin@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardFranklin@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Windham <[ANR.FWBoardWindham@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardWindham@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle <[ANR.FWBoardGrandIsle@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardGrandIsle@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Board Windsor <[ANR.FWBoardWindsor@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardWindsor@vermont.gov)>; ANR - FW Information <[ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov)>; Shortsleeve, Andrea <[Andrea.Shortsleeve@vermont.gov](mailto:Andrea.Shortsleeve@vermont.gov)>; Austin, John <[John.Austin@vermont.gov](mailto:John.Austin@vermont.gov)>; Fortin, Nick <[Nick.Fortin@vermont.gov](mailto:Nick.Fortin@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Petition to F+W Department for inclusion in 2025

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Dear Honorable F+W Board Members--

Below is a petition which was received when I was a F+W Board Chair. More than 350 people signed this petition at that time. Mark Scott received this petition and asked Bert Saldi, the petitioner spearheading the issue, to delay the petition until the next cycle in 2020 for deer season revisions. Unfortunately, this petition never was brought forward and no Board action occurred. This was unacceptable.

The concept of this petition is to start the muzzleloader season on the Monday after the end of the 16-day rifle season. Nick Fortin's stated desire to increase the doe kill would be supported with this action, and because it is a Monday-Friday extension, the modest increases in the deer kill statewide would not stress our herd or our managers.

I know a few people will try to argue that the Board would need to restart the process if any additions are made. This is not true. Small changes and oversights can be made after the process has begun. Feedback can still be received, and at times special on-line meetings suffice for gathering feedback. I know when we passed a furbearer rule change while I was the Board Chair, we made minor changes at the end related to underwater cage traps that were not a part of the first vote. It is a part of the process. As well, you have plenty of time, even if you skipped the March meeting opportunity. You do not need to get this all tied together until August.

The petition looks like this:

**This is a petition to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board to enact a regulation change to the muzzleloader**

**late deer season for an additional (5)**

**days to start the following Monday after the (16) sixteen day regular rifle deer season ends.**

**Note: The next day, on Monday.**

**This will make a Total of (14) Fourteen days for the late season Muzzleloader hunt.**

Please reach out to Bert Saldi and myself to confirm receipt.



Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Barre, VT 05641-0956

[REDACTED]

Thank you  
The Vermonter !!  
Bert Saldi

And Kevin Lawrence, Former Board Chair at [REDACTED]

**From:** Connolly, Abigail  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 8:30 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Deer Regulation Comment  
**Attachments:** D1 Antler Proposal.docx; ATT00001.txt

**From:** cedric alexander <[cedalexander@gmail.com](mailto:cedalexander@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 25, 2025 8:07 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Board Orleans <[ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** ANR - FW Board Caledonia <[ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardCaledonia@vermont.gov)>; Fortin, Nick <[Nick.Fortin@vermont.gov](mailto:Nick.Fortin@vermont.gov)>; [dave.sausville@vermont.gov](mailto:dave.sausville@vermont.gov) <[dave.sausville@vermont.gov](mailto:dave.sausville@vermont.gov)>; Austin, John <[John.Austin@vermont.gov](mailto:John.Austin@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Deer Regulation Comment

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Thank you,  
Cedric Alexander  
Cabot, VT

May 25, 2025

Dear Mr. Noel,

Thank you for spending time on the phone with me back in March, and for saying hello later that night at the public deer meeting in Orleans. I have much appreciation for the tremendous amount of time Board members dedicate to serving the State of Vermont, with countless rules, regulations, and other issues to deal with throughout the year.

You suggested I put down some thoughts in writing and offered to pass them on to the rest of the Board - thank you. As you may recall, I am very supportive of all the ambitious Big Game Rule Changes proposed by VDFW to the Board on 2/19/25 ... except for one: the return to a prohibition of shooting spikehorns in WMU D1.

I have been hunting in what is now WMU D1 since 1967, when I was 11 years old hunting snowshoe hare on my grandfather's dairy farm in Glover. I subsequently have spent many years deer hunting with firearms and bows on D1 properties, mostly owned by my parents, 2 brothers, a sister, and first and second cousins. My concerns are shared by many of my relatives and other hunters I have spoken with, and include the following points:

1. I try to put a bullet or broadhead in a deer to end its life, hopefully quickly and humanely, because it is one of the best food choices I can make as a human to sustain my life and the lives of my family with the least possible environmental impact. I call this living lightly off the land, and know it is a much better ecological choice than consuming beef raised in North Dakota that used to be home to free-ranging bison, or broccoli grown on arid lands in California at the expense of a depleted Colorado River and all the local ecosystems it once supported.
2. It is entirely natural for me to take a spikehorn deer, for the same reasons wild predators such as timber wolves and catamounts, along with the Abenakis, would have done for thousands of years – spikehorns are part of the most numerous age class (besides fawns) and like any yearling deer are very tender. Likewise, the early European settlers of Vermont, including my Great-g-g-g grandfather Elijah Stone who settled in Glover in 1804, would have been delighted to take a yearling deer, no matter if it was a spikehorn, fork horn, or whatever.
3. The goal of maintaining at least 50% of harvested bucks in age classes greater than yearling is arbitrary, with no scientific basis. The only reason it exists is the “trophy hunting” mentality, once the realm of wealthy aristocrats, but which grew more popular in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, largely driven by commercial interests. VDFW reports that surveys of Vermont hunters show 74% are “interested in managing for older, larger deer”. Deer antlers are a beautiful example of nature's artistry, and large, symmetrical racks hanging on a wall are particularly pleasing to gaze at, especially if it brings back memories of a special day in the woods. Therefore, it is not surprising that many hunters would answer the survey question the way they did. But such a response does not necessarily mean the

hunter is willing to sacrifice their personal choice of taking a spikehorn, especially when it might be the only buck they see throughout the season.

4. The 2020-30 Deer Management Plan also reports that, for setting deer density goals, the “Big Game Survey suggests the upper limit of social acceptance has not been reached in most areas”. However, the science showed the ecological carrying capacity of the land was exceeded in many areas, and so “Responsible deer management dictates that ... habitat must be considered before public preferences.” For this issue, VDFW did not set goals purely by perceived public referendum, but felt obligated to set goals contrary to “Population Preferences” of the survey. Why did VDFW not show similar leadership for the trophy hunting goal? Because of, unfortunately, poor leadership in the past from a pleasant fellow but basically single-issue, short-range thinking Commissioner who was personally into trophy hunting.
5. For over 40 years we have known from scientific surveys that American society does not support trophy hunting. Kellert (1980) showed that anti-hunting sentiment varied depending on the reason for hunting. 85% of Americans supported hunting for meat, and 64% supported hunting for recreation and meat. Only 18% supported “hunting for a trophy”, and 80% disapproved. This high disapproval rate continues across the country today, including in at least two more recent surveys conducted here in Vermont.

Several “Objectives and Strategies” in Vermont’s current Big Game Plan are significantly aided by public support for hunting, including:

3.4 “Work with landowners and land managers to encourage hunting ...”

5.3 “Maximize opportunity to harvest a deer.”

5.6 “Maximize the accessibility of hunting to recruit, retain, and reactivate new and existing hunters.”

The F&W Board members know as well as anyone the challenges Vermont has faced from anti-hunting groups, especially over the past decade, including petitions and proposed legislation to change the very makeup of the board. Vermont currently enjoys the support for hunting from the majority of non-hunters, but runs the risk of moving more and more non-hunters into the anti-hunting groups. I worry that reinstating the spikehorn rule in D1 sends a message to non-hunters that will hurt us all in the long run.

I urge the Board to have a longer vision for the future of hunting in Vermont and send a message not only to would-be antihunters, but to our young hunters that hunting is not all about “the rack”.

Thank you,

Cedric Alexander

Cabot, VT

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**From:** Connolly, Abigail  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2025 10:17 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Deer changes  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt



**Abigail Connolly (she/her)** | Principal Assistant to the Commissioner  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources | Department of Fish & Wildlife  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2 | Montpelier, VT 05620  
802-828-1454 (o) | 802-636-7414 (c)  
[abigail.connolly@vermont.gov](mailto:abigail.connolly@vermont.gov)  
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**From:** Noel, Paul <[Paul.Noel@partner.vermont.gov](mailto:Paul.Noel@partner.vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 23, 2025 4:51 PM  
**To:** F&W Board <[anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov](mailto:anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** [ANR.FWBoard] Fw: Proposed Deer changes

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**From:** Matt Breton <[mattbreton@gmail.com](mailto:mattbreton@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 23, 2025 7:13 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Board Orleans <[ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardOrleans@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Deer changes

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Paul,  
Wanted to reach out and thank you for your work on the F&W Board. Appreciate the time and thoughtfulness you put into it.  
Watched some of the recent Board meeting with the proposed deer changes. Big shift that sounds like it should happen. I'd like to state that I'm generally in favor of the proposed changes. I wasn't in favor of the APR for D1, but Nick made a good case for it. If I was going to oppose one thing, it would be the second buck tag.  
Thanks and hopefully see you at a deer meeting soon.  
Matt

Matthew Breton  
Charleston, VT

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William Sargent

[REDACTED]  
N. Bennington, Vt. 05257

2/16/2025

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, Vt. 05602

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony this evening concerning deer regulation changes for the upcoming season. I also would like to thank our new Lieutenant Governor John Rodgers, Commissioner Andrea Shortsleeve, Biologist Nick Fortin, Board member Neil Hoag and several of my local Representatives for taking the time in the past month to meet with me and discuss wildlife management issues in Bennington County.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm a 1974 UVM School of Forestry graduate and have worked as a forester and land manager in southern Vermont continuously since then. My wife and I live in Shaftsbury.

In mid- January, Nick Fortin was gracious enough to spend most of a morning sitting with me to try to figure out what has changed in Zone N in the past four years or so. I had prepared some notes for Nick and a long list of questions that we went over. I'm sure that we never figured out exactly what is going on in N, but I think we agreed that the deer population has fallen to a critical point and that we need to cut back on the antlerless harvest. I'll go so far as to say I'd like to see the Board cut way back on antlerless permits in N for several years. Hunters must be limited in the number of deer they can take. That I realize, will take a statewide change.

What is my reasoning for making these drastic changes? I think first we must eliminate what we are sure are not the problems.

- Feed is not a limiting factor. The old browse lines I used to see while working marking timber are gone. Regeneration of timber species is generally growing nicely and isn't an issue in N.
- Deer yards have hardly been used. Most of the time the deer in N go to a south or west facing slope to take advantage of a warmer mini climate. They may take



advantage of small pine stands to get out of the wind. In the past 4+ years we haven't had any bad winters and in fact have had a couple that were totally open. That should have caused our population to begin to rise but I believe the opposite has happened.

- Although several diseases that affect deer are knocking on our doorstep, that has not been an issue...yet.
- There has been a loss of farmland over a longer period of time but much of the food loss to deer has been replaced by growth of oaks that have reliably produced acorns at least every other year.

So, what is the cause of the significant drop in the deer population in N? I'll begin by saying that I believe we have slightly overharvested the antlerless population since the implementation of the use of crossbow and the larger deer limit. This has a sort of snowball effect. One year by itself isn't a big problem but if it happens several years in a row, it becomes a big problem. The other major contributor to the deer population drop is I believe predation. Both bear and coyote population levels are at a historic high. 50+ years ago I rarely saw a bear (although there were plenty) and never saw a coyote. Both have adapted well; populations have jumped to record levels and are now major predators of young fawn. I have numerous trail camera pictures of these two predators carrying dead fawns. Scat found after fawn drops frequently has deer hair in it. I believe we must recognize this as a major problem and must be willing to realize its significance and weigh it heavier into our projections for future harvests.

Again, for the lack of any other scientific evidence, please be extremely cautious in the allocation of any antlerless permits in Zone N. I'll even go so far as to ask for a cutback in the deer harvest statewide. The same problems that we are seeing in N, are beginning to have an impact on other management zones within the state.

In closing, I would like to encourage the Board to do all in its power to help the Commissioner fill the position of Wildlife Disease Specialist. We need to find funding. I realize bird flu isn't a huge problem yet for our wildlife populations but I'm nervous about the potential for future problems. We must develop a monitoring program immediately. I'll continue to advocate for this wherever I can.

Sincerely,

William Sargent

**From:** Corey, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Corey@partner.vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 14, 2025 9:17 PM  
**To:** 'anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov'  
**Subject:** [ANR.FWBoard] Fw: Proposed Deer management rule change opinion  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

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**From:** Schuyler Lamphere <[slamphere@gmail.com](mailto:slamphere@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 2:46 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Board Franklin <[ANR.FWBoardFranklin@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWBoardFranklin@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Deer management rule change opinion

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Hi Jeff,

My name is Schuyler Lamphere and I'm writing to express my disagreement with the proposed Deer management rule changes. I am a business owner and own a few hundred acres in Franklin County of which I have never posted. My land has remained open for anyone to recreate on up to this point.

#### **Allow the opportunity for a 2nd buck tag:**

**I'm opposed to this - More pressure for no gain**

You are probably correct that it won't result in a substantial increase of buck harvest but it's still going to kill more bucks and going to keep more hunters in the woods longer which puts more pressure on the buck population. There shouldn't be an opportunity for an individual to kill multiple bucks in this state. Its too small of a state, its too much pressure on our buck population, and I don't see where this is going to be the golden ticket to achieving doe harvest goals on parcels where it is needed.

I heard a wildlife official make the statement that the buck to doe ratio state-wide was 2.4:1 and in higher density areas like franklin county it is more like 2.6:1. I would like to see the data to support this statistic because in my opinion, this is an absurd claim. Midwest states like Illinois work hard to try to achieve a 3:1 ratio, Franklin county Vermont is a long way off from that. There is too much posted land that is owned by folks that don't agree with doe harvest at all and far too much pressure/advantage on bucks. Technology advancements in the last 20 years has been tipping the scale in the hunter's advantage which only depletes our resource. I often hunt the more remote areas of the state with larger tracts of state land and lower deer densities, and in these areas from my observation I would guess the buck:doe ratio is getting closer to that 3-4:1, but not in the higher density areas.

#### **Extending antlerless harvest to regular season:**

**I am opposed to this. This does nothing to address the problem.**

Your problem is - Access to parcels where deer numbers are high so you can apply management strategy where it is needed.

We already have an issue with less than ethical hunters in this area. This rule change would invite more opportunity for similar behavior. I believe it will lead to the posting of more private land which we can not afford to have if you want to manage the deer herd effectively. You are already trying to manage 100% of the deer herd on a small percentage of the land. I own part of this small percentage.

I have young kids that are going to be starting to hunt soon and now I'm starting to feel like I will need to protect it so that they can have a positive hunting experience. If your plan to reduce doe numbers WMA wide is to massacre my land so that a few will spillover from the posted land then I WILL be posting my land. Its not fair to my kids for their hunting experience to be tainted by poor management practices.

**Some areas for improvement:**

-The department needs to make an effort to open up land for people to hunt. People need access to these problem areas if you want to increase the harvest there. They claim it's not possible but I haven't seen an effort being made. There's no doubt it will be difficult, but there is no "easy way" out here.

-Habitat improvement: As a landowner in the Land-Use program I am required to keep a forest management plan updated and keep my land productive. The state has not been holding themselves to the same rules. If it is the "Right" thing to do for the land and animals then why are they not participating. As I stated above, I hunt the larger tracts of state owned/managed land and in the last 30+plus years we have seen a significant shift in the deer hunting of these areas. The land has grown too mature so there is very little feed or cover. Majority of deer have migrated down off those bigger mountains to the AG areas for access to habitat and feed. The state is in control of alot of acreage that if managed properly could pull deer back up onto the hills so there is a more even disbursement.

**I have no issue with the other changes that are being proposed.**

**Thanks, Feel free to call me anytime**  
**Schuyler**



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<https://list.vermont.gov/mailman/listinfo/anr.fwboard>

**From:** Cory Curtis <corycurtis1981@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 4:12 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Antlerless deer and moose proposals

You don't often get email from corycurtis1981@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Shooting off antlerless deer during the November rifle season would be irresponsible and detrimental to the herd. The early antlerless muzzleloader season should be utilized better for what it was created to do. HARVEST DOE! If the state wants to harvest more antlerless deer then stop giving them out to landowners that refuse to use them and just choose to burn the tag to save a doe. Happens every year. To enforce this, if some one goes two consecutive years without filling an antlerless tag then make them ineligible to get one for another two years and give them instead to the people that do consistently fill them every year.

DO NOT extend the regular moose season to a 9 day season unless the states goal is to total wipe out the moose herd!!! If we get one year with cold weather so the moose move a lot most of the 180 permits will get filled. NO MOOSE TAGS SHOULD BE FOR ANTLERLESS! TAKE OUT BULLS ONLY! In e1 and e2 antlered bulls outnumber antlerless moose at a rate of at least 3 bulls to every cow. One cow may or may not produce one calf in the spring then be lucky if it survives the bear predation or its first winter. One bull can breed 6-8 cows if he can find them(which he can't) so if you want to control and manage a better herd ALL tags should be for bulls only! This is not rocket science and just because a family has a hate for moose, blaming them for driving the deer out of the lewis pond area years ago is no reason to put so much pressure on the already stressed herd.

Cory Curtis  
Island pond, VT  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Craig Newton <feedvt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025 1:46 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Thoughts on Proposed Deer Hunting Regulation

[You don't often get email from feedvt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,  
I am a 73 year old native Vermonter who has hunted since I could carry a gun. For the past decade, having had more time, I generally shoot 2-4 Vermont deer per season. I do agree there are too many does in the Champlain Valley.

My wife and I generally eat the equivalent of one deer. Because I can afford it, I pay for cutting and processing the surplus and we give it away. Most hunters probably not willing to do that. On top of that, unfortunately, the food shelves in the state are not allowed to accept donations of venison, even if package professionally. I believe that hunters would shoot more does if there was a Fish & Wildlife sponsored program enabling for the processing of venison that could then be offered to those in need. Other states do this successfully. I bet requests for financial support to offset some of the expenses for this program would be well received.

On the subject of shooting a second buck, I am not in favor of the that. Expand the doe season first, and implement my above processing recommendation, then reevaluate.

**From:** Craig <clantagne51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 4:14 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer regulations.

[You don't often get email from clantagne51@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I was hoping that the board and Fish and wildlife department put some consideration in doing something in these new regulations that would benefit your senior hunters. I am 73 and still love to hunt and fish but it is getting harder each year to fill a tag. I would think you could allow us to shoot a deer during rifle season buck or doe. Only one deer could be taken during this season and it would count toward your season total but not the buck or doe rules. It could be fashioned after the youth weekend rules but be for seniors over 70 or 75 years of age. It sure would make a lot of senior hunters happy and really would not cut into the herd that much.

Thank you for you time and efforts in these matters.

Craig Lantagne

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Dan Randall <drandallvt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 1:34 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Rule Changes

[You don't often get email from drandallvt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good afternoon,

Thank you for listening to the feedback of the Vermont hunters.

Please consider extending the muzzleloader season to begin the last weekend of October through the start of the normal rifle season. This would be consistent with NH and give hunters a better opportunity of harvesting a mature buck as they begin the seeking phase of the rut.

The December season has much less ideal hunting conditions and many of the surviving mature bucks have experienced more hunting pressure and are less active.

Please confirm receipt of this message.

Thank you again for your willingness to accept feedback.

Dan Randall



**From:** David Jareckie <djareckie@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 6:17 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** No to Rifle Doe Permits

You don't often get email from djareckie@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I am a firm NO in regard to the proposal for the use of centerfire rifles for hunting antlerless deer during Vermont's Rifle Deer Season. As a 57 year old Vermonter I lived through the previous use of rifle antlerless permits early in my hunting career. I can clearly remember how quickly Vermont's deer herd was decimated. It took many years for the deer herd to recover in the areas I hunted.

As a young hunter I went several years without seeing a single deer even after the use of rifles was banned for the killing of antlerless deer. How will we recruit new hunters when deer again become scarce?

Please do not repeat this mistake.

David Jareckie  
Bennington, VT

**From:** David Pezzetti <pezproperty@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 10:30 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed Changes to White Tail Deer Regs.

[You don't often get email from [pezproperty@comcast.net](mailto:pezproperty@comcast.net). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To F&W Dept.,

I'm writing to air my concerns on a couple of the proposer changes.

Youth/Novice Weekend change:

Novice- I still feel that anyone who is in the deer woods with a firearm needs to complete the Hunter Safety Course first. Without firearm experience and course instruction, these individuals can not and are not prepared to enter the woods safely in the presence of others or in the excitement of firing at an animal. That said,

Youth- I still feel if a youth has a successful hunt, they should then join the ranks of regular deer season regulations. That said, I feel the youth weekend should remain on the dates already set, and not moved to the weekend before regular deer season.

Doe Harvest Method changes:

I truly believe, as I lived and hunted through the doe harvesting period during rifle season, and after....and boy, did it negatively the landscape of the deer population. It decimated the herd in many areas, and to this day have not recovered. I hunt Pittsfield, Stockbridge, Mendon, Chittenden, Shrewsbury, Wallingford, Mount Holly and West Rutland areas, and have so for over 45yrs. In almost all of these areas, there has been unequivocally no habitat devastation, as there just aren't enough deer to cause damage. These areas could support a large amount of deer without concern of habitat destruction. Prior to the doe season during rifle, these areas held good numbers of deer without concern of damage and most of these areas have become overgrown and non-food producing forests. Without the reduction in the deer population, these woods would have been browsed on to actually help maintain it for more browsing, instead of them becoming over grown to produce no browse for them to feed on. For these reasons, I strongly oppose this recommendation.

Possibility to harvest 2 Buck change:

I feel this incentive alone will accomplish your doe reduction goals without devastating the herd in areas that can't afford it. I can get on board with this, and I know other hunters will as well, from conversations I've had.

Thank for your time in listening to my comments and thoughts on these changes. I truly hope all communication from experienced hunters from all areas is taken into consideration when the final decision are made.

Best Regards,  
David Pezzetti  
VT only hunter for 45+yrs.

**From:** David Rhodes <rhodesd195@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 22, 2025 5:03 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Whitetail deer season

You don't often get email from rhodesd195@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Dear vt fish and wildlife dept.

I'm e-mailing you in regards to doe's being take during bow, and antherless permits E-1, wildlife management unit doesn't have a herd large enough to support this, and will be harmful for our herd. I live right in deer wintering grounds the numbers don't support a antlerless season of any size. I like if the department would have E-1 unit a no doe taking restriction. Between vehicles, coyotes,bears and mortality rate there's enough negative against them, no does in E-1 period would greatly help the herd up here. E-mail me or call anytime 802 822 5201 thank you. Sincerely David Rhodes

.

**From:** David Wiedaseck <davidwiedaseck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 1:51 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on updates to Deer

You don't often get email from davidwiedaseck@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

I respectfully submit the following comments for your review of the 2025 Deer Hunting regulations. Please consider opening up a doe tag for rifle season in Winham county. Since hunters can take 3 doe by archery or muzzleloader I do not believe that allowing the taking of a doe by rifle will substantially affect the deer population. I just don't want to do archery hunting or acquire another firearm. As a rifle hunter I am only allowed to take a single buck, however my tree farm only has about 1 buck, but I am overrun with doe. On novice weekend I was eligible for an antlerless deer, but the only deer I saw was too small and no buck. Since the end of rifle season I have about 6 doe consistently running around my 36 acre farm and I haven't seen the buck since hunting season started. I can only imagine this will be a more substantial problem when 6 turn into 12 in the spring. The deer herd on my land is overgrazing the available food supply and making it difficult to regrow the timber after a tree harvest. We just don't have enough hunters interested in taking a doe via archery or muzzleloader in my area.

Thank you.

David Wiedaseck  
[REDACTED]  
Newfane, VT 05345

**From:** Dean McPhee <mrbigbuck114@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 4:18 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** My opinion on new proposals

You don't often get email from mrbigbuck114@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good afternoon,

Just want to voice my opinions about the proposals. I am hoping that you people are taking into consideration the thousands of acres that are posted to hunting. There is a lot of private land that I know owners will not let you hunt. For example 700 acres that I use to hunt is now posted, private land is becoming more and more scarce to hunt on. People of today do not allow hunting on their property because they do not like hunting. As far as antlerless hunting during rifle season, I am opposed to it. My concern is that public land (government and state) that I have hunted for 52 years, I have seen an increase in the number of hunters. I have spoken to many hunters through the years who say that they have had to switch to hunting public land because the land they once hunted is posted. They can no longer hunt it. So what I'm saying is that doe hunting will hurt the public land during rifle season simply because of what I just explained. You have archery season, muzzle loading season, youth & novice weekend and a special 4 day muzzle loading season and I believe that there are enough antlerless deer harvested during them seasons in the public land. You have allowed hunters to harvest 3 antlerless deer, which I am opposed to. Two deer would be sufficient (1buck, 1doe), in my opinion. Let's not forget this is VT, a severe winter could reduce deer numbers significantly. In the end I am just asking you to take this into consideration.

I do agree with the expanded archery zones in developed areas.

I have heard that people who receive antlerless permits this year will not have to hunt in a specific zone, I am opposed to this. There are some places that need more doe shot than other places. You should leave it the way it has been for years.

When it comes to habitat for wildlife, VT has to be the worst on trying to create habitat. Our agriculture land has diminished rapidly through the state (farms going out of business). The state needs more logging on public land, they need to drop a lot of the regulations for the loggers. It is a shame to walk the woods and see the mature timber just destroyed by weather events, it is just laying on the ground to rot. Very little undergrowth grows. You people know as well as everyone, that when an area is logged it brings good habitat. I hope you take that into consideration.

Last but not least, in my opinion some hunters -new age hunters and you people- are trying to make a big thing with a small state and a small deer herd. It doesn't look like it is going to happen. If you could find one system that works and leave it. The system that you have right now works in most ways.

It would be appreciated if you could have some meetings in Rutland County, some of us can't make the meeting after having to work all day and drive for an hour or more.

Thank you for your time,

Dean McPhee

**From:** DENNIS YOUNG <dy12@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2025 7:15 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** proposed changes

You don't often get email from dy12@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

This is my vote on changes : #1== No #2 Yes = #3 No = #4 No . Vt hunter for 60 yrs! Thank you, Dennis Young

**From:** Devin Lumbra <dev.lumbra@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 1, 2025 9:35 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Hunter Public Comment

You don't often get email from dev.lumbra@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Topic #1: Allowing Antlerless Permits for Harvest During the November Rifle Season\*\*

Comment #1: I disagree with the proposal to permit the harvest of antlerless deer during the regular November season. This change could lead to an unsustainable deer population in regions that are already struggling to maintain balance. For instance, areas in WMU-B like Highgate, Franklin, Sheldon, and Fairfield—are prime candidates for increased antlerless harvesting, while other regions like Colchester, Essex, Milton, and Georgia exhibit lower deer densities and may not be capable of supporting this surge in hunting pressure.

I believe it would be more beneficial for the state to explore avenues to enhance recreational opportunities in high-density deer populations. Particularly in areas that are heavily posted against hunting. One suggestion could be the introduction of an electronic land posting system. This would enable hunters by providing them with access to parcels of land in these high-density regions, improving deer management practices while simultaneously boosting their chances of a successful harvest due to the increased deer population in those areas.

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Topic #2: Archery Season Extension from October 1 to December 15\*\*

Comment #2: I support the adjustment to extend the archery season through the regular November timeframe. Utilizing a bow—a weapon characterized by its lower capacity—during the rifle season should have negligible impacts on the overall deer herd while granting archers valuable additional time to pursue their sport.

---

Topic #3: Creation of Special Additional Archery Hunting Zones with a September 15 Opening Date\*\*

Comment #3: I support the establishment of specific archery zones with a September 15 opening date in areas where deer populations are high. Hunter participation in our state has been on a decline. Allowing early hunting opportunities during milder weather can attract more individuals to bow hunting, especially those who may shy away from colder conditions. Furthermore, this approach serves to alleviate overpopulation issues in these areas, contributing to a healthier deer population.

---

Topic #4: Allowing Two Antlerless Permits from Different Wildlife Management Units\*\*

Comment #4: I have no objections to the proposed change that would allow hunters to hold two antlerless permits from different Wildlife Management Units concurrently. This flexibility could enhance hunting opportunities while supporting effective deer management across various regions.

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Topic #5: Allowing Harvest of a Second Legal Buck Under Certain Conditions\*\*

Comment #5: I disagree with the suggestion to permit hunters to harvest a second legal buck. I would prefer the state prioritize the growth of larger deer. I believe that our quantity limits and existing antler restrictions are gradually leading us toward that goal, and this proposal could undermine our progress.

---

Reinstating an Antler Point Restriction in Wildlife Management Unit D1\*\*

Commentary: No comments provided.

Return of Youth Deer Hunting Weekend Prior to the Regular November Season

Commentary: No comments provided.



**From:** devon craig <dcraig3052@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 16, 2025 6:49 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed deer hunting rule changes

You don't often get email from dcraig3052@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I am in agreement with the proposed rule changes !

Thank you !

**From:** Diana Todd <diana.r.todd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2025 9:40 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** I support proposed changes to allow more deer to be taken

You don't often get email from diana.r.todd@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

As a landowner in Halifax, Vermont, I support the proposed changes that allow hunters to take more deer, especially to take antlerless deer. Deer browse is negatively impacting Vermont's forests, including mine. The young trees that spring up after a timber harvest are being eaten over and over, year after year, with many trees never getting above deer nose height. With fewer people actively hunting compared to past decades, we need to allow each hunter to take more deer. Taking bucks won't impact the population much, but taking does will. Too many deer results in sterile forests with no understory other than invasive species that the deer won't eat. I've seen this first hand in other states, and I don't want it to happen here in Vermont.

- Diana Todd -

Halifax, Vermont

**From:** Dillan Jerry <jerrydillan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 3:44 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Deer Regulations

You don't often get email from jerrydillan@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

State of Vermont,

The new regulations proposed are long overdue in specific areas where the deer destroy local gardens and independent food sources like berry bushes. High population and constant doe sighting have me feeling the population in Vermont is more than thriving. Myself a 30 year resident and 20 year hunter approve of these changes and feel as if they could even be increased with enough support from the right people!

Sincerely,

Someone who doesn't cry when eating a tag instead of a harvest.

**From:** dmtimber98@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:51 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed new regulations

[You don't often get email from dmtimber98@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello, as an avid, lifelong hunter and Vermonter , it would be great to see a longer rifle season, every state around us has much longer seasons and it seems to work just fine for them. There are many hunters that I know that have jobs where vacation time is awarded by seniority. So they don't get any time off to deer hunt, because other guys they work with, get the time during the season. I also think this would spread out the amount of hunters in the woods at a given time. Definitely think being able to archery hunt , with your archery tag , during rifle season is a great idea. But do not think being able to shoot does with a rifle is a good idea. I remember as a kid , that law getting abused. Maybe just the 1st weekend? Please do not change the dates of muzzleloader. Being a tracker , that's the best opportunity to have snow and to have less hunters in the woods. I also think extending the rifle season from the end of rifle to muzzleloader week would be great !

Hunting primarily in e2 I know for sure , there is not a significant number of deer. As far as the rest of the state, it's pretty difficult to manage a deer herd on posted land. That is a problem that should addressed. Especially , because most of it is in current use.

Thank you for your time

Dave Murray.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Douglas <dougrndhill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 5:11 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment

You don't often get email from dougrndhill@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I think that too many antlerless bucks are already being harvested without allowing hunters to take 2 legal bucks. As far as area D1 is concerned a serious look at the hundreds of acres of very good deer habitat that was and still is being converted to farm land with zero input from fish and wildlife. Thanks

**From:** Eesha Williams <eeshawilliams@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:23 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Hi-- I live in VT. There are too many deer. Please hire professional hunters to reduce the number of deer in VT. Thanks.

[You don't often get email from eeshawilliams@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi-- I live in VT. There are too many deer. Please hire professional hunters to reduce the number of deer in VT. Thanks.

**From:** eli\_appleton@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 2:34 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Big Game Regulations Public Comment

You don't often get email from eli\_appleton@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good Afternoon,

I am reaching out this afternoon to express my opinion on the proposed big game regulations. Overall I like the changes. The biggest issues I have are with the opportunity to harvest 2 bucks and for allowing antlerless permits to be used during rifle season. I do not think hunters in vermont should be allowed to kill more than 1 buck at this time. I hunt all over wmu's H, D1, and D2. I run many trail cameras and overall spend a ton of time in the woods compared to your average vermont hunter. I think leaving it at 1 buck is the way to go because it forces hunters to be more selective and prevent the overharvest of our younger bucks. I understand there is a push to get the buck to doe ratio in a better place and allowing the harvest of 2 bucks seems to go against this. As for the harvesting of does, I feel like we are already allowing for too many does to be killed especially in the wmu's that I hunt. I am not seeing an overabundance of does that the state is claiming. I understand that urban areas are experiencing an overabundance of does, but for the majority of the state, this doesn't seem to be the case.

I would love to see a bag limit of 2 deer annually: either 2 does or a buck and a doe regardless of the season. Then use the special antlerless permit to target specific areas.

Thanks,  
Eli Appleton  
Glover, VT

**From:** Elizabeth Harrison <eharrison.nes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 26, 2025 10:43 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer and our woods.

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I approve of all the suggested changes in the new regulations regarding controlling the deer population.

Liz Harrison

Elizabeth R Harrison, NC

Nutrition Education Services

[eharrison.nes@gmail.com](mailto:eharrison.nes@gmail.com)

Mobile: [REDACTED]



**From:** Elizabeth Wood <littlegoat1@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:42 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Cc:** Eesha Williams  
**Subject:** too many deer

You don't often get email from littlegoat1@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Dear ANR,

I am a vegetable farmer in Dummerston, Vermont. The deer are tremendously over-populated and negatively impact my livelihood. We need to allow hunting of does, and eliminate hunting of coyotes and other top predators. Hunting season for deer also needs to be year-round.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Wood

エリザベス恵ウッド  
Elizabeth Wood  
New Leaf CSA Farm  
802-254-2531  
[www.NewLeafCSA.com](http://www.NewLeafCSA.com)

**From:** Ellen Zabkar <e.zabkar92@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 2, 2025 12:03 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** New Regulations

You don't often get email from e.zabkar92@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

The only new regulation I do not agree with would be the two legal buck rule. I think the rule should remain one buck for the season.

**From:** Ells, Mark <mells@capecod.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 3:39 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comments on the proposed Deer Regulation changes

You don't often get email from mells@capecod.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulation changes.

My comments are related to the second buck allowance in the regulations. I would allow for two legal bucks to be taken each annual deer hunting season. No more than one legal buck can be taken during each of the three primary sub-seasons, archery, rifle, muzzle loader with a limit of two legal bucks during the annual deer hunting season. So, for example if I take a buck in archery and then in rifle, I have reached my legal limit in that annual deer hunting season. Antlerless permits should stand alone and separate from the limits on legal bucks. I would also charge an additional fee similar to the antlerless permit for the second buck permit regardless of which sub season the buck is taken.

Mark Ells



**From:** ERIC HUBBARD <hubbardej@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 2, 2025 4:40 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer Hunting

You don't often get email from hubbardej@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello,

I'll try to keep this short; I can only imagine the amount of e-mails you're getting lately. After reading the article on Vermont's growing deer herd and the Departments Ideas for going forward I have some thoughts and ideas to share. Having a healthy Deer population is not only good for the deer it's good for all of us, in the last 20 years Vermont fish and wildlife has done a fantastic job! I started hunting in 1990 and I have seen quite a difference in the amount and quality of the deer we have. But now it seems that we have too many deer, not enough hunters, and not enough Doe's being taken each year. I understand the difficulty in balancing what is best for the herd, What makes the hunters happy, and what will generate revenue for the state.

Some states also have too many doe's and they have a "Earn a Buck tag" program where the hunter is required to take a doe before they can take a buck. Maybe we don't need to go quite that drastic.

How about a reverse lottery? Were a set number of hunters are randomly selected. These hunters would be required to take a doe first to earn their buck tag. This year and this year only. Next year it would be a different group of selected hunters. Think of it kind of like how people are selected for jury duty.

Just my 2 cents, Thank you.

Eric Hubbard  
Swanton, VT

**From:** Euber, Jim  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 10:08 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** deer hunting proposed changes

Good morning,

As a long time VT resident and outdoorsman I would like to contribute my thoughts on some of the proposed deer hunting regs.

I personally do not want to see doe eligible for harvest during the traditional bucks-only rifle season. Nor do any of my close hunting friends. I'm a 50 year old avid hunter who owns 50 acres of woodland property in Chittenden county. Although I spend most of my time hunting larger wilderness areas (in state and out) I do not post my property but most definitely will if this law passes. I will not allow doe to be harvested on my property during the rifle season. There are already ample opportunities and seasons set on the books to harvest doe with bow and muzzleloader.

If some areas have too high of a concentration of deer (not anywhere I hunt or on land I own) then you need to find a way to incentivize private land owners to allow hunting access in those specific areas. I say this because high deer densities is definitely not a statewide problem and shouldn't be managed as if it were. I'm sure you know this.

It appears VT needs to take more of a regional approach to deer management than it does. Which obviously is a complex and difficult model to manage. I just don't see killing more doe, in the ever shrinking areas non-land owners currently have access to hunt, as the best approach. It will simply eventually lead to a less enjoyable hunting experience in those areas already open to hunting while the posted highly controlled high deer density areas continue to show higher than desired populations of deer.

Yes, there are large chunks of public land or commercial privately owned land in VT. But those landscapes are generally "big woods" with low deer densities where these proposed new regs make no sense.

I don't support any of the current changes in deer hunting regs.

Thank you.

Jim Euber  
Westford, VT

**From:** Eva Gillilan <emgillilan@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 4, 2025 7:30 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to Vermont's deer hunting regulations

You don't often get email from emgillilan@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello,

I would like to express my disappointment with the proposed changes.

2024 was a year that Northern Vermonters started seeing deer moving around in decent numbers. Not surprising, given the fact that we had easy winters in 2022 and 2023.

Winter of 2024-25 was much different. As was the significant deer kill of the hunting seasons in 2024.

Have you looked at the number of +200 pound bucks that **were** harvested in Northern Vermont in '24? Perhaps you WERE doing something correctly.

Most of your proposed changes are ludicrous.

My family generally does not participate in muzzleloader hunting. We do however purchase antlerless permits to prevent someone else from having one. That's how we feel about that topic.

Usually, isn't rifle season during prime mating season? So your plan is to increase antlerless muzzleloader during this time?!

We own a significant amount of land in Fletcher, VT. We're one of 2 landowners on the road from Cambridge to Fairfield that does not post their land. That could change in a heartbeat thanks to the F & W Board. So you answer all those questions from people that wonder why so much land is posted.

I do not have numbers and averages and all the ways biologist are supposed to use for checking on health of the deer herd. We have observations, walking and working in our woods.

Thank you for your time,  
Eva M Gillilan

**From:** Eve Norris <enorris@pcconstruction.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:39 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Cc:** Darwin Norris  
**Subject:** changes to hunting regulation

You don't often get email from enorris@pcconstruction.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thank you for outlining the 'why' for the changes but I do not understand how making significant changes to the hunting of doe's and adding an additional antlered deer will solve the need to harvest more does in small sections of the state (Champlain Valley listed as one. I would think much of the on going hunting now, actually take place outside of Chittenden, and so the changes will not impact the few areas you are trying to impact.

Thank you,  
Eve

**Eve Norris**

**From:** Fortin, Nick  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:29 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Deer proposal.

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**From:** Todd K <hike211@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:06 AM  
**To:** Fortin, Nick <Nick.Fortin@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** ANR.FWPubliccommentcomment@vermont.gov  
**Subject:** Deer proposal.

You don't often get email from [hike211@yahoo.com](mailto:hike211@yahoo.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Im 59 yrs old . lived in VT my entire life. hunting since 10 yrs old . I am And many of my friends are opposed to having Doe permits ... At least down here in Southern Vt Zones O ,Q We have seen the Overkill OF DOES during the 1980's rifle season doe permits ..Just terrible .. There was no deer to found after years of this .. finally in the 90'S WE STARTED TO SEE DEER . I went to John Buck , Scott Darling .. The Deer Biologists at That time ,, with 600 resident , non resident signatures in favor of the spike horn law, before social media ... WE have all seen the results of this . Body weights are now to where 200lb deer and are being harvested in every part of the state ..Thats progress ... however I don't see deer very many deer now I accept that .. I used to pass up several bucks a season not any more . however my chances of getting a nice buck have increased over the yrs , even my doe sightings have diminished I hunt all deer seasons ... have for 50 yrs ... There is now many DEAD AREAS where deer numbers have diminished , New Hampshire And Massachusetts has many , many of these ares where hunters go in and shoot everything . Nothing to hunt for yrs to come,, Pure Dead zones .. talk about loosing hunter interest?

My belief is that there is now a current Overkill of Does in southern Vt ... I have met Several; Non resident Land Owners who used to hunt here that no longer have interest for they see no deer .... One guy sold his deer camp in Newfane said he was ashamed to have said he had such property .... I have no input for other parts of this state .. but perhaps the The state needs to make smaller WMA Zones micro manage .. Increase archery season to 15 sep in all ares not just town limits ... before deer get pushed onto larger posted , non firearm areas. TO MENTION DOE PERMITS IN RIFLE SEASON IS A DIRTY PHASE .. For Us old timers who saw THE OVERKILL ... Your Biologist Numbers are OFF

Todd Kinsman Vernon



**From:** Fred Waite <fred.waite3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 9:53 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Concerning the new laws changes

You don't often get email from fred.waite3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hi, my name is Fred Waite III and I'm a very avid deer hunter, coming from a long line of Vermonters who look at hunting as a way of life. I strongly disagree with the new laws proposed, at least in the areas I hunt. I hunt in the units I and J1 in the Hancock/Granville areas, with that being said, I can tell you there is not enough deer to implement these new laws proposed. It is hard enough to see a deer in the woods, let alone one that law requires 3 points on a side. In addition, shooting more does in this area would hurt it more than help. In my opinion, people that think these new rules would help our deer herd are very wrong, it would hurt it. Just like how the state screwed up the moose population in these areas that I hunt, I used to see moose all the time now I don't see any, great job. The state funded oversight of the moose population killed off the moose herd and now want to do the same with deer. Also I'd like to see the laws go back to the way they use to be let us shoot 2 bucks of your chose and one doe. One of my concerns with all these changes it's going to discourage young/new hunters and possibly make them not wanna hunt because it's so hard to find a legal buck in this state to harvest. I just want my young kids when old enough to enjoy the hunt tradition like I did growing up but these new laws would hurt the Vermont deer hunting. Lastly, I'd like to say that in order to expand the deer season in the areas you highlighted, you have to get these liberal idiots in those areas to actually let hunters on their property or it's a waste of time. Just my opinion, but also that of my father, Fred Waite Jr, he doesn't do emails. I hope you consider what I've said and really think about.

Best regards,  
Fred Waite III

**From:** furnace@myfairpoint.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 5, 2025 4:54 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** proposed deer regs

You don't often get email from [furnace@myfairpoint.net](mailto:furnace@myfairpoint.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

1. As a hunter who lives and hunts in D1, I am disappointed to see the antler restriction rule back on the table. I wish the trophy hunters' agenda would not handicap those of us who are more than happy to get some venison in the freezer, regardless of if it's a spikehorn or an 8-pointer.
  2. I think the one-buck limit should stay in place. I feel it gives those hunters who have yet to get a buck a better chance to fill their buck tag during a particular year.
  3. I love archery season, but I have concerns about allowing bow hunting, and doe tags, during rifle season.
- I understand the objective is to increase the doe kill, but I think using rifle season as the means will create the potential for fraud, as well as possible safety issues due to bullets flying around at a higher pace.

Thanks for your time, Wes in Glover, VT

**From:** George Terwilliger <gterwilliger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 8:07 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comments regarding proposed changes to antlerless harvest

You don't often get email from gterwilliger@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I strongly support allowing the shooting of doe during the regular season. I am 67 years old and have hunted in VT all my life. I live on Brattleboro and can clearly see the habitat damage from too many deer on my 25 acres of land. We need to help the land and to put more venison on our tables.

George Terwilliger

**From:** Gerald Papineau <gpapineau62@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 30, 2025 5:54 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** 2024 antlerless harvest recommendation

You don't often get email from [gpapineau62@gmail.com](mailto:gpapineau62@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am in support of all of the proposed changes from the department. Thank you for all of your efforts.

**From:** Grace Lafferty <gracelafferty374@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2025 10:20 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I strongly agree on getting antlerless deer on regular season.i do not see any bucks all doe all the time .thank you

**From:** Heinz Werner <heinz.werner@att.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2025 8:39 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes for Deer Hunting

[You don't often get email from heinz.werner@att.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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To whom it may concern:

I know our hunting camp that has six members is opposed to the changes allowing a hunter to kill more than one buck during rifle season. We all bow, rifle, and muzzle load each year and the current limit is enough. Note that we are on the border of zone I/L and there may be seasons where we do not kill one deer in camp. The current population in the state is already low and killing more does is not the answer. We would be against changing the regulations in this area.

Heinz Werner  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** IVANA ARGENTI <sancho444@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 5:51 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Muzzleloader season

[You don't often get email from sancho444@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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I am writing in support of the extension of the Muzzleloader season.

Thank you

Ivana Argenti

Barre Vt

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Jack Dudley <woodcockone@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 2:06 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** proposed regulation

You don't often get email from woodcockone@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I am a landowner in Irasburg but I am not a deer hunter. Nevertheless deer are over eating every available bud on our 187 acres so growing trees has been severely restricted. Anything to create more deer harvest would be most beneficial.

Jack Dudley  
Irasburg



**From:** James Hull <shalzy6@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 11:20 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** proposed deer change

You don't often get email from shalzy6@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I disagree with the new rules. I hunt in unit B. We have seen a decline in deer population due to the antlerless deer permits

I see about 1/3 of the deer that i used to see. The state gives out too many antlerless permits in unit B. Allowing doe harvest doing rifle is not good. Its nice to see deer when in the woods. Thanks,  
James

**From:** Jamey Fidel <jfidel@vnrc.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 25, 2025 8:00 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comments from VNRC  
**Attachments:** VNRC Comments on Deer Management Rule Change.pdf

You don't often get email from jfidel@vnrc.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Please accept the attached comments from VNRC on the proposed deer management rule change.

Thanks,

Jamey Fidel (he/him)  
General Counsel/  
Forest and Wildlife Program Director  
Vermont Natural Resources Council  
(802)-223-2328 ext. 117  
[jfidel@vnrc.org](mailto:jfidel@vnrc.org)





May 23, 2025

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
Agency of Natural Resources  
1 National Life Drive, Dewey Building  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3208

Re: Big Game Rule Change Recommendations

Dear Fish and Wildlife Department,

Please accept the following comments from the Vermont Natural Resources Council on the proposed changes to deer management regulations in Vermont.

In general, VNRC does not typically comment on hunting regulations since we do not have in-house expertise on big game management; however, we have been sponsoring Forest Roundtable meetings since 2006, and deer over browse and forest regeneration has been a hot topic. The Forest Roundtable includes a broad array of stakeholders representing conservation and forestry interests, state agencies, federal land management agencies, landowners, and other non-profit organizations. Within the Forest Roundtable, the ecological effects of a burgeoning deer population have been frequently discussed and the Department's leadership and staff have engaged in proactive discussions and provided updates at Forest Roundtable meetings. Past meetings have featured a discussion of the socioecological systems at play when considering deer impacts on forest ecology.

We recognize the value of hunting as a wildlife management tool for species that have become overly numerous due to a lack of predators and other factors. Deer in Vermont fall within that category and management of deer populations through hunting is appropriate. Department data indicates the deer population is above management goals in eight units. High deer density can have profound impacts on forest health and many of these impacts are already being felt here in Vermont. White-tailed deer may influence forest health and diversity by reducing the presence and abundance of ecologically and commercially important tree species through preferential browsing which can contribute to failing forest regeneration. Deer can also influence forests indirectly by altering habitat availability for birds and wildlife and other forest-dependent organisms.

Additionally, white-tailed deer have been known to contribute to the proliferation of invasive plant species through preferential browsing of native herbs and dispersal of invasive seeds<sup>1</sup>. A 2017 study<sup>1</sup> analyzing interactions between deer density and northern forest understory composition found decreasing tree seedling abundance with increasing deer densities. Decreasing seedling abundance can have reverberating consequences throughout the forest ecosystem including reduced landscape diversity and structural complexity, which limits habitat availability to both game and non-game wildlife species.

Nick Fortin will be coming to our next Forest Roundtable meeting on May 28 to provide a presentation, and we are eager to learn more about the proposed regulations. While we do not have specific recommendations at this time regarding the proposed rule changes, since comments are due on May 25, we would like to register our general support for strategies to maintain healthy deer populations that are in balance with our forested ecosystems. Due to warmer winters, deer populations are rising, and overpopulation of deer can lead to a host of imbalances on the landscape. Because of the critical importance of maintaining healthy forests for the multitude of values they provide we understand there is a need to adjust deer management to support forest resiliency.

Sincerely,



Jamey Fidel  
Forest and Wildlife Program Director  
Vermont Natural Resources Council

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<sup>1</sup> Russell, M.B. et al. 2017. "Interactions between white-tailed deer density and the composition of forest understories in the northern United States". Forest Ecology and Management. [https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2017/nrs\\_2017\\_Russell\\_001.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2017/nrs_2017_Russell_001.pdf)

**From:** Jeff Smith <smittyjr85@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 12:13 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** I welcome the new proposed laws

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I think these proposed laws would encourage me to hunt more. Hunting with a rifle and getting a doe permit would be awesome and the chance off 2 buck tags would be great. And not to get off topic but some Big Bore Air Rifle rules and laws should be a topic. I want to hunt whitetail with my 50cal Air Rifle but there are no laws for it or against it.

**From:** Jeff Smith <smittyjr85@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 7, 2025 8:29 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Pro Doe tags for rifle season.

You don't often get email from smittyjr85@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I would totally be on board with the harvesting of doe with a rifle. Been wishing for that rule my whole life. I've always wished I could harvest a doe during rifle season and I've been hunting for 31 years

**From:** Jeremy Knepper <jrknepper@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025 8:43 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Deer Harvesting

You don't often get email from jrknepper@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello.

My concern with the proposed deer harvesting rules are associated with where I live in Vermont, and what I view as lower deer density in relation to the valley areas. I live and hunt in the Bolton area, within the Green Mountain range. If a doe is allowed to be harvested during rifle season, I worry our respective deer population will decrease too much (within the Green Mountains).

I do appreciate and am supportive of allowing a second buck to be harvested within the year. As an archery hunter, and a rifle hunter, there's a constant uncertainty on harvesting a buck during archery season when you know it will effectively eliminate your ability to hunt rifle season.

My proposals, to simplify the proposed rules:

**\*\*Open archery on Sep15 statewide, allowing more hunters more time to harvest deer. Bow season is fun and difficult, give us more time in the woods, effectively reducing our overall deer population in a less dramatic way.**

**\*\*Allow a second buck - one in rifle season, one in archery season. Do not require an antlerless deer harvest to become eligible for a second buck, just make it one per season/method.**

**\*\*Do not allow doe during rifle season, or restrict this option to very limited (valley) areas with statistically higher (and concerning) populations. My experience tells me the Green Mountain area deer population is not too high, and an extended bow season would drive a gentler doe population reduction rate statewide.**

**\*\*Allow archery during rifle season, as you've proposed. It's the favorite style of hunting for many, so allowing it to continue during rifle gives us a choice of method.**

**\*\*One other consideration - postpone the start of rifle season by one week, while keeping the same amount of rifle hunting days within the season. As a solo hunter, I rely on tracking and stealth, which requires snow, and our snow season seems to be starting later in the hunting season.**

Thank you for your consideration and service to Vermont hunters.

Jeremy Knepper - Bolton, VT

**From:** jewelkay@myfairpoint.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 30, 2025 2:49 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Commenting on New Deer Regulation

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Thank you for taking comments from those of us who could not attend the meetings.

I have 3 reasons for not shooting antlerless deer during the regular rifle season.

Safety: The old saying of "brown and down" will be on everyone's mind. If a small deer is shot and killed, it will likely be left to try for a bigger deer.

Posting Property: I am sure this will increase posting by 20-30% of currently unposted land.

Anti..: This will certainly give the anti's something more to fight against.

Thank you for reading, Stuart Kinney



**From:** Jim Bellinghiri <jbellinghiri@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 7:15 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Hunting Regulation Proposals

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

1-I am in favor of harvesting one doe during rifle season. Our buck/doe is out of proportion. We'll get closer to the 1000 antlerless tags being filled.

2- I am not in favor of increasing the number of bucks. The one buck harvest rule is producing quality antlered deer in zone A.

3-I am in favor of expanding the fall archery season.

Thanks.


**From:** Jim Moser <moserjim985@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 10, 2025 11:31 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer Public comment

[You don't often get email from moserjim985@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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I'm writing to say I favor adding 5 days to the beginning of the late muzzleloader season. I'd like the late season to start the day after rifle season ends.

I'd also favor being able to have two antlerless tags at once in different districts. I normally hunt 1 1/2 hrs from home. On days I can't go there I could hunt with another tag close to home.

Jim Moser  
Windsor, VT  


**From:** Jim <jlintereur@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2025 8:05 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Deer Hunting Regulations

You don't often get email from jlintereur@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I'm in favor of the new regulations but have one suggestion. I'm 72 and obviously have limited time left where I'll be able to hunt. I would ask that the 3 point limit for a second buck be rescinded for hunters over a certain age. I've hunted during the November rifle season for 60 years and would like the opportunity to continue even if I shoot a buck during archery season. The odds of a hunter of my age shooting two bucks is pretty damn low. Thanks, Jim Lintereur

**From:** Joe Mack <joemack802@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 25, 2025 9:31 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer proposal

You don't often get email from joemack802@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Dear Board Members,

I want to first thank you all for the job you do. I am very much against the taking of doe during the November rifle season. I'm not against the harvest of does as a management tool but I believe this idea of taking does during rifle season is completely wrong for several reasons. I am 36 years old and was born and raised in the state of Vermont. I grew up in a hunting family and began hunting myself when I was 8 years old. I have enjoyed almost 30 years of hunting within Vermont and have had the privilege of traveling out of state to deer hunt for over a decade.

Unfortunately I find more pleasure hunting out of state since Vermont implemented the 1 buck per year rule. I am an avid bow hunter but felt like I was being penalized if I was to harvest a buck during bow season as I would have to miss rifle season. Rifle season in Vermont was always like a holiday, going to camp and hunting with friends and family but with the new rule of only allowing 1 buck I found myself either missing rifle season due to early success during bow or electing to skip bow hunting to preserve my tag for rifle season. I am in support of the earn a buck proposal as I believe it will encourage more successful hunters to target does when they might not otherwise due so. Giving them the incentive to earn a buck by harvesting a doe first will likely increase the number of does harvested. This is one alternative to the proposed doe kill during rifle season. I believe taking a small first step such as the earn a buck approach would be much more beneficial than taking a giant leap forward with doe permits during rifle. I have spoken with many older hunters who were hunting during the 60's when the state allowed doe permits during rifle season and they said it had a devastating effect on the deer herd. Many of these people don't have the computer skills to articulate an argument against the proposal of doe permits during rifle season but strongly oppose the idea. Other factors that support my opposition to the proposal are as listed.

1: Lost Opportunity: The Department is always talking about increased opportunity; more tags, more seasons, more hunters, etc. The Department said that a rifle season doe permit system would greatly increase success rate, and in order to avoid a "slaughter" like the 70's, the number of permits issued would be significantly reduced. Fewer hunters receiving doe permits is a lost opportunity from the existing system. The Department currently issues around 23,000 permits (opportunities) to harvest 3,500 doe. How many of those 23,000 hunters will lose opportunity when the permits are reduced to account for the higher success rate with a November rifle, keeping the number at 3,500.

2: Road Hunting- More Posted Land: Unfortunately road hunting remains widespread. Bucks are not as common or as visible as doe, so the current problem isn't terrible but it will greatly increase if they allow the harvesting of doe during rifle season. With a December doe season, the poor ethics still exists, but a muzzleloader is a single shot with an effective range of 100-150 yards. Additionally in most years, many of the crop fields are covered by snow and doe have all become less visible. If you allow doe permits during rifle season with a multi shot, long range rifle along with standing crops and green fields it only makes sense that road hunting would greatly increase. Doe are much more patterned to fields that time of year and will be easy picking for unethical road hunters. Land owners will not like this increase in road hunting, shooting deer in their fields and some cases yards will without a doubt lead to more posted land. This in return will again reduce opportunity for Vermont hunters.

3: Safety- Please don't be so naive to think the "brown it's down" mentality does not exist today. The difference is that today's doe season is with a single shot muzzleloader. That, versus a 5 shot semi-auto is a huge difference. Many muzzleloader hunters are selective with their shots and only have 1 bullet opposed to several. There are also a lot more hunters in the woods during rifle season compared to muzzleloader. More people/more shots fired compared to less people/less shots fired would increase safety concerns. Most muzzleloader hunters who have taken on the extra expense of buying a muzzleloader tag, are more serious and typically more experienced. There

are not as many 1st time hunters/ inexperienced hunters or kids in the woods during muzzleloader season as there is during rifle season. Compare the average years of experience, level of demonstrated gun safety, and level of ethics you see in the woods in November vs December. You will never convince me they are the same.

4: Wrong Tool for the Problem- I see the need for doe hunting and have seen the effects incertain areas where deer are bordering on over population. However it seems the Department acknowledges that the primary problem is lack of hunting access in those areas. Regulations arent going to solve that problem. You can give out as many doe permits as you want and allow the use of rifles to harvest them but it wont do any good if you cant hunt the areas that need to be reduced. More permits or allowing rifles will have no effect on the deer population in those areas but in return will only hurt the population/ reduce opportunity for hunters in the surrounding area. For example, the city of Montpelier has a high population of doe. You can give out as many permits as you want for WMU H in hopes to reduce that number but reality is that most of the areas within the city are unhuntable. Therefore the people with the H permits tend to fill them in the areas of the WMU which does not have a high population but hunters have access to the land. The Department should consider public outreach to landowners in those areas or change the Land Use program. It does not make any sense for land owners to get a tax break for "land use" when in fact they dont allow the use of their land and can post their property. I believe the earn a buck approach would have a positive effect on the harvest of does. You'd have experienced/ successful hunters now targetting does in order to earn a buck tag when they otherwise wouldn't be harvesting doe. If you wanted to take it one step further and focus on the high density areas you could make the hunters have to harvest their "earn a buck, doe" in specific areas. Hunters would then have to take the initiative to gain hunting access in these areas and successfully harvest a doe in order to earn the additional buck tag- directly targetting the areas you want to reduce the deer numbers. I appreciate you taking the time to read my comments. We are counting on you to fulfill the role of "check and balance". It is times like this when we need an experienced Board of hunters, fishers, and trappers that will apply common sense.

Joe Mack, Washington County

(This is also on behave of many older friends and family who feel the same as I do but aren't able to send an email)

**From:** John Audette <jraudette86@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 12:09 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment

You don't often get email from jraudette86@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I find it perplexing that these efforts in deer management appear very short sighted. My belief is, efforts should focus much, much more on habitat improvements. State land deer habitat is largely, for lack of a better term, abysmal. Improvements are so easily attained, but apparently, the scrutiny encountered by the logical remedies are too much for some to bear. Private lands can also be improved often, if incentives are offered with some education. It's really not that difficult. Someone in position must simply get a pair. All this microregulation need not apply should the right steps be taken. Thanks for this opportunity to share some of my thoughts.

**From:** john beerworth <jcb2107@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 3, 2025 5:58 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer Propoals

[You don't often get email from jcb2107@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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After reading your proposals for changes to future deer seasons I applaud the progressive thinking and new ideas. As a retired resident hunter I never liked the one buck rule and think the second tag is a great idea and a new source of revenue for F&W. The proposal to fill the doe permits in rifle season is, in my experienced opinion, the wrong approach to your ultimate goal. There are parts of Vt. That hold too many deer and the need to harvest does in those areas is legitimate. However the majority of these overpopulated areas are on posted private land. Opening up the doe permits during the firearms season will not have a big impact on your ultimate goal of impacting overpopulated areas but will have a damaging affect to state and unposted lands, where overpopulation is not currently a problem.

My suggestions on solving the posted land issue would be twofold:

- 1) landowners in the land use tax break program are not allowed to post their land, opening up access to areas that are currently overpopulated
- 2) a walk on program that rewards the landowners for every tag filled by hunters who have asked for permission to hunt at designated times throughout the deer seasons, by turning in a tag to the landowner Thanks for listening

**From:** Josh Brunelle <brunelle.josh8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 11:41 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** 2025 season changes

[You don't often get email from brunelle.josh8@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Good morning,

to whom it may concern I believe unit B would benefit to the suggested changes as I've been hunting since 2011 and I've seen the doe population in my area grow to the point I've seen more does in the last 3 years be a ratio roughly 5-1 just in the area I hunt of sheldon/fairfield area. I believe it may be a good time for hunters who are unsuccessful to find a legal buck to still harvest a deer for their season.

Thank you for your time!

Josh

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** joyal@myfairpoint.net  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 2:30 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Fwd: Comment on antlerless deer permits

You don't often get email from joyal@myfairpoint.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Comment on antlerless deer permits

Date: Mon, 24 Mar 2025

To whom it may concern:

The head of the deer and moose hunting in Vermont have been over estimating the number of deer and moose in Vermont. Seasons have been extended and more people have been added by allowing different ways and lower ages to take deer. For example, using crossbows and now letting youths to use crossbows. The numbers have only stayed the same or gone down.

In the 80's doe were over harvested and there were four times as many deer. If Nick Fortin, Vermont's deer biologist, gets his way the same thing will happen again. In E1 and E2 the amount of deer has not improved in the last twenty years and there has not been a doe season since the over harvest years ago, but last year they added a doe season. With less deer and more predators every year there never should have been a doe season.

The moose harvest was the lowest ever and what does Nick want to do, ( extend the season by 4 days ). Don't over do it !

Some places probably could use a doe season, and rifle season should also be used to make it fair for every hunter. However I'm afraid too many does would be taken

Thank you,

Rick Joyal

Rick Joyal

**From:** Keith Mattison <keithmattison52@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 4:21 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Doe hunting

[You don't often get email from keithmattison52@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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I am old enough to remember when this state actually had deer I truly believe that you shoot way to many deer with your four bag limit now We do not live in Midwest where there are a lot of deer and many of the states have antler size restrictions so there deer get a chance to grow up to be trophy size So I would like to see you cut back on the number of deer shot per year it used to be you shot one deer and that was it so we had a good health deer population which with the way you are going we will never see that again and instead of of have a lot of hunters in this state there will be more and more going out of state  
Thank you Keith Mattisonfrom my iPhone

**From:** Keith Mattison <keithmattison52@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 3:20 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Doe

[You don't often get email from keithmattison52@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

If you move forward with shooting what few does we have by left I think you are going to find more and more land will be postedmy iPhone

**From:** Kevin Norris <klnorris.kn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 16, 2025 7:23 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** 2024 antlerless harvest recommendation

You don't often get email from klnorris.kn@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I think the proposals are EXCELLENT.

I was not a fan of a single buck in the calendar year... however I do support the 3 on a side MIN in order to apply for a 2nd buck tag.

Allowing

**1) use antlerless permits during the regular November season = I SUPPORT.**

**2) allow hunters to take a "conditional" second buck = I SUPPORT**

**3) simplify the archery season- keep archery open during the regular November season =.** My only concern here... although it should never happen,

Is from a safety aspect. Being an archer also... I really don't want to be in a tree stand during rifle season....  
"Mistaken as game(bear) or have someone  
errantly shooting at a higher target and I am in the backdrop.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kevin Norris  
Essex Vermont 05452  


**From:** Khasey Gilbert <gilbertkhasey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 11:30 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Proposed Regulations.

You don't often get email from gilbertkhasey@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

To the members of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board,  
I would like to recommend an idea that is slightly different from your proposal listed below.

- 
- 
- Allow hunters to harvest a
- second legal buck during the season if they have already harvested one buck with three or more points on one antler and one or more antlerless deer. Currently, hunters can only harvest one buck per year.
- 

Although this may seem like an exciting alternative to help the deer population and get more/ bigger bucks, I recommend doing almost the complete opposite. I feel like Vermont's Fish and Wildlife Board should fully close the whole buck season for a year. Instead, Hunters will be allowed to obtain a maximum of three doe tags per season if they use them. I feel this change will make the average Vermont buck's body and antler size increase. Hunters then will have more opportunities to shoot bigger bucks and more luck finding a trophy buck in this state. It will be important to track the results of the first year and see if another year is necessary.

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read my proposal.  
Sincerely, Khasey Nolette.

**From:** Kyla Graham <kylagraham38@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:04 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Extend muzzleloader season

You don't often get email from [kylagraham38@gmail.com](mailto:kylagraham38@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good evening,

I was unable to make the public hearing today, but I would like to express our support from my entire family for extending the muzzleloader season. I would even go so far as to suggest extending it through the end of the calendar year as other states do.

Thank you,

Kyla Graham

**From:** Lachlan Francis <lach.francis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 9:01 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public comment regarding proposed changes

You don't often get email from lach.francis@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello there,

With one exception (detailed below), I am writing in **strong support of the proposed hunting regulation changes** proposed by our biologists at F&W. As a supporter of science-based management, I fully trust that they know what's best for our deer herd. And as a young person and still novice hunter who got started during Covid, I think allowing the taking of does during rifle season will allow more beginning hunters like me to find success within their first few seasons, hopefully keeping them coming back for a lifetime - and passing the tradition down.

My only concern with the proposed rule changes is the overlap of deer archery with deer rifle season. Like it or not, many archery hunters I know do not typically wear blaze orange, given they are accustomed to having the woods to themselves and have a much shorter effective range. As a rifle hunter, I would then be concerned about sharing the woods with folks who I might not be able to see. I also know very few archery hunters who don't also hunt with a rifle.

Thank you for all you do at Fish & Wildlife to keep our herds, fisheries, and habitats in good shape, providing excellent recreational opportunities for Vermonters and maintaining healthy ecosystems for our wildlife.

Lachlan Francis  
Westminster, VT

**From:** Larry McEnany <lw.mac@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 5:50 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Muzzleloader

[You don't often get email from lw.mac@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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I support this change to late season muzzleloader hunt. LM Sent from my iPad - Larry McEnany



**From:** Larry McEnany <lw.mac@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 25, 2025 11:52 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Extending muzzle season

[You don't often get email from lw.mac@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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I Larry McEnany of 88 Camp St, Barre, Vt. am totally in favor of extending the muzzle season.  
Sent from my iPad - Larry McEnany

**From:** Larry McEnany <lw.mac@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 25, 2025 12:02 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Extending muzzleloader season

[You don't often get email from lw.mac@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I Ivana Argenti, of [REDACTED] Barre, Vt. am in favor of extending the muzzle loader season.  
Sent from my iPad - Larry McEnany

**From:** Laura Champagne <xanadu162.lc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 23, 2025 11:59 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public comment

You don't often get email from xanadu162.lc@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I don't think we should allow more than one buck. And feel that we should be going back to the 3 points nothing less.

The bucks are thinned out!

The doe are also thinning down. The coyotes need to be managed better. They are packing up and populating and taking the deer down.

I had a few fawns born and now only see one and that was before all the snow.

The coyote herd needs to be considered. This makes hunters not be selective because the deer population is getting diminished.

**From:** Lawrence Pyne <lpyne@together.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:11 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Cc:** Patterson, Robert  
**Subject:** Deer hunting proposals

[You don't often get email from lpyne@together.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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To: The VT F&W Board

From: Lawrence Pyne, Weybridge, VT

I support carefully regulated antlerless deer hunting and would like to comment on the proposed deer season changes now before the Board.

-- Re. antlerless hunting (by permit) during the November rifle season: As someone who is old enough to remember the last time antlerless deer could be taken during rifle season -- when the attitude was, "if it's brown, it's down" -- I do not support this change, at least not at this time. Rifle season is when the most hunters are afield, particularly new and casual hunters, and I believe the requirement to positively identify a legal buck before shooting has contributed to the admirable safety record that we now enjoy. I encourage the Board to hold off on this proposal and see if other changes can increase the antlerless harvest during the bow and muzzleloader seasons.

-- Re. allowing hunters to hold antlerless permits in two different WMUs: I strongly support this change. As someone who lives near the dividing line between two WMUs with surplus antlerless permits, and who hunts in both WMUs, allowing hunters like me to hold more than one antlerless permit would almost surely increase the antlerless harvest during muzzleloader season.

-- Re. allowing hunters to take a second legal buck if they have already taken one buck with three or more points on one antler and at least one antlerless deer: I am opposed to this change. I believe the one-buck-per-year limit that was enacted several years ago has helped significantly improve the age distribution of our buck population.

-- Re. returning youth season to the weekend before the start of the November rifle season: I support this change. I have mentored youth hunters during both the original November season and the current October season, and I can attest that the November season is a much more productive time to introduce youngsters to deer hunting and it would help boost the antlerless harvest.

-- Re. proposed changes to the archery season dates and the creation of special early-season archery zones: I support both changes.

Thank you for considering my comments.

**From:** Liner, Jillian <Jillian.Liner@audubon.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 25, 2025 4:51 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Audubon Vermont Comments on Draft Deer Management Rule Change (10 V.S.A. Appendix § 37)  
**Attachments:** Audubon Vermont's Comments on Deer Rule 5.25.25.pdf

You don't often get email from jillian.liner@audubon.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello,

On behalf of Audubon Vermont, please find attached our comments on the proposed changes to the Deer Management Rule (10 V.S.A. Appendix § 37).

As an organization committed to science-based wildlife conservation, we appreciate the Department's efforts to align deer population management with habitat health and ecological resilience. Our comments reflect the importance of these changes not only for forest regeneration, but also for the birds and other wildlife that depend on healthy, structurally diverse forest ecosystems across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input, and for your continued commitment to sustainable and science-informed wildlife management in Vermont.

Sincerely,  
Jillian

\*\*\*\*\*

**Jillian Liner**

Interim Executive Director  
Director of Conservation  
607.262.0006  
Pronouns: she, her, hers

**Audubon Vermont**

255 Sherman Hollow Road  
Huntington, Vermont  
[vt.audubon.org](https://vt.audubon.org)



255 Sherman Hollow Road  
Huntington, VT 05462  
Tel: (802) 434-3068

May 24, 2025

Interim Commissioner Andrea Shortsleeve  
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
1 National Life Drive, Dewey Building  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3208

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept Audubon Vermont's following comments on the **Proposed Changes to the Deer Management Rule (10 V.S.A. Appendix § 37)**.

Audubon protects birds and the places they need—today and tomorrow—throughout the Americas, using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. Audubon's programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners have a wingspan reaching millions of people each year, informing, inspiring, and uniting communities in conservation action.

Audubon Vermont supports science-based wildlife management and recognizes deer hunting as both a deeply valued tradition for many Vermonters and a tool for managing deer populations and maintaining forest health. Vermont's forests provide habitat for hundreds of species, including over 100 breeding bird species such as Bicknell's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Ruffed Grouse, and American Woodcock. Because healthy, structurally diverse forests are critical to sustaining bird populations and biodiversity, we are deeply invested in how deer are managed across the state.

Many forest bird species depend on complex habitat structures that include a robust understory of young trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. Research has shown that when deer densities exceed eight per square kilometer, forest bird populations decline<sup>1</sup>—primarily due to excessive browsing pressure that suppresses regeneration and understory growth. Overabundant deer also reduce plant diversity and overall habitat quality.

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<sup>1</sup> David S. DeCalesta, *Effect of White-Tailed Deer on Songbirds within Managed Forests in Pennsylvania*, 58 J. WILDLIFE MGMT. 711–18 (1994); William J. McShea & John H. Rappole, *Managing the Abundance and Diversity of Breeding Bird Populations through Manipulations of Deer Populations*, 14 CONSERVATION BIOLOGY 1161–170 (2001); Clark S. Rushing et al., *Long-Term Variation in White-Tailed Deer Abundance Shapes Landscape-Scale Population Dynamics of Forest-Breeding Birds*, 456 FOREST ECOLOGY & MGMT. (2020).

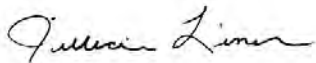
Audubon Vermont commends the Department for the thoughtful and science-informed changes proposed in the Draft Deer Management Rule. These strategies may offer meaningful progress in addressing the ecological impacts of overabundant deer.

Allowing the harvest of antlerless deer during the regular November season is a critical step. As Interim Commissioner Shortsleeve noted, population growth is primarily driven by the number and dispersal of does.<sup>2</sup> This, along with extending the archery season, increasing antlerless permits, and focusing management in high-density areas, will hopefully better balance deer numbers with forest health goals.

We also strongly support the Department's continued use of an adaptive management approach—grounded in data collection and monitoring—to guide future decisions. Using both harvest data and forest health indicators will be essential for evaluating outcomes and adjusting strategies. Hunting, when used as a responsive management tool, can play a key role in restoring and sustaining balanced ecosystems and high-quality bird habitat.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Deer Management Rule Change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jillian Liner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Jillian Liner, Interim Executive Director  
Audubon Vermont

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<sup>2</sup> *Fish and Wildlife Board Invites Public Comment on Proposed Changes to Deer, Moose and Turkey Hunting Regulations*, VT. FISH & WILD DEP'T (Feb. 26, 2025), <https://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/press-releases/fish-and-wildlife-board-invites-public-comment-proposed-changes-deer-moose-and-turkey-hunting-regulations>.

**From:** Lisa inVermont <lisainvermont@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 24, 2025 12:41 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Changes to Deer hunting proposed for 2025-2026

You don't often get email from lisainvermont@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I would like to give my opinion about the proposed changes to deer hunting, especially opening up hunting to does for the regular rifle season and extending archery season. If the Champlain Valley is where the deer are more numerous, make the changes for that area of Vermont, not the entire state. It was unclear in the proposal if this is what you intend to do. I live and hunt in J2. I am aware of most of the deer that travel around and through my property. I also have witnessed (over the last 25 years) that there are people who hunt here that do not follow the regulations. I have also witnessed a fisher cat run down a fawn, coyotes dragging the carcass of a deer across my field in winter, and overheard jokes in social situations about guys who jack deer and take them without worrying about how many they've taken. That could be just 'trash talk' but if someone is willing to talk about it at a barbecue, there's a good chance it is happening. And what happens to the fawns when the does are killed? The fawns are likely not to survive either. We just came through a rather difficult winter; some deer probably succumbed to the difficulty of travelling in deep snow and a lack of mast. Beech bark disease is decimating the beech trees, with less beech nuts every year. The apple trees did not produce well last year, even less food for the deer in my area. What I am trying to point out is that there are already enough pressures on the deer here, we don't need to increase deer hunting to include does. I also don't believe there are accurate counts of the deer herd in all areas of Vermont. Please only make changes for the areas of Vermont where there is a proven problem with overpopulation.

Lisa Kuhn  
Corinth, Vermont



**From:** lynda goldsmith <lyngold054@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 7, 2025 5:39 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** NO antlerless permits during regular season

[You don't often get email from lyngold054@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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As a landowner I do not support Vermont Fish & Wildlife's recommendation for antlerless permits during regular season in 2025. Therefore archery season should be closed during regular season as always. Finally, I do not support the taking of a second buck. I do not believe the deer population as evidenced on my land supports these increases in the harvest of 2025.

**From:** Lynn Dunklee <billandlynn664@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 16, 2025 9:28 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Deer Regulations

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I would like to see the current antler restrictions remain the same. Also I do not think that allowing to take two bucks is a good idea, As I hunted in both J2 O during both muzzleloader seasons and regular season and did not see any bucks.

Sincerely  
Bill Dunklee  
Barnet

**From:** Marcel Gravel <mj.gravel86@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 8:40 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer Regulations

You don't often get email from mj.gravel86@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good evening,

The only people that should be shooting does with a gun are children and novices hunters. We already do not see enough deer on stand with our current regulations, and shooting does from 250 yards with a .270 isn't going to help the overall deer IMO.

I do however like the idea of if you are going to get another buck tag that your first one has to have 3pts on one side. We shouldn't be able to shoot spike horns, but that's not why we are here. Having to shoot a buck with 3 or more points on one side is a good idea to let these deer see a breeding season and reduces the odds of these 3 inch spikes biting the bullet there first year.

Thanks for sending this out.

**From:** Mark Chamberlin <patmark2@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 10:54 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer comment

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I think that more opportunities to take deer is good. But I would like to see more expansion in the share the meat programs. I feel that more hunters would take an additional deer if they knew that it would go to a good cause if they decided they already had enough venison in their freezer.

**From:** Mark Le Beau <mark.d.lebeau@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025 2:21 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Pro doe hunting during rifle season

You don't often get email from mark.d.lebeau@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello,

If you are soliciting comments, I support the concept of hunting does during rifle season.

Respectfully,

Mark Le Beau

**From:** Mark Noble <marknoble4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:05 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Hunting Regulations Comment

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hi all,

I support the new regulations for the most part. But the one area of concern is doe tags for rifle season and I agree with the idea since I travel to NY to be able to use a doe permit during the rifle season. The issue I have is the goal is for these tags to be used, correct? So Hunting in NY I pass up young bucks waiting for a bigger one but also pass up does in the process and have ultimately passed up perfect opportunities to kill a harvest a doe in a perfect setting, then either not harvesting a doe or having to decide on taking a shot on a running deer or unethical shot situations. So in all I would like to see the Doe tags allocated that they must be filled before they are allowed to harvest a buck, and especially one must be filled before a 2nd buck is allowed to be taken by a hunter.

I feel Vermont needs to have the deer herd buck to doe ratio come into check, this will take stress of the bucks having to breed longer and more does and also allows hunters to see young bucks active and wait for a mature buck.

I hope my thoughts will be taken into consideration. I believe earn a buck style program could have success in helping the deer herd of Vermont.

Mark Noble

**From:** Mark Riley <markrileyjr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 2:38 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Deer Hunting Changes

[You don't often get email from markrileyjr@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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My name is Mark Riley, Jr and a resident of Pomfret, VT. I am writing to encourage all board members to approve ALL of the proposed deer hunting changes proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Department. I appreciate all that you do. I think it's important to also recognize the effort put forth by Nick Fortin and the rest of the team.

Thanks again for your time.

Mark Riley  
Pomfret, VT  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Mark Winslow <mark@papillon-ag.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 1, 2025 6:37 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comment on Deer Hunting Regulations

You don't often get email from mark@papillon-ag.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

To Whom it May Concern,

As a longtime deer hunter and landowner in two different hunting zones I would like to comment on proposed changes to deer hunting in Vermont. First, if antlerless permits are needed, during the regular November rifle season and muzzle is a great time to allow them. Get rid of the early antlerless muzzle season. Please move youth back to the weekend before November rifle season, that is when it needs to be. The archery proposed rules are all good ideas. **ABSOLUTELY ALLOW HUNTERS TO TAKE A SECOND BUCK WITH 3 OR MORE POINTS!!!** This one buck rule has ruined a fun muzzleloader season for hunters that have already shot a buck during regular rifle or bow.

Our farm sits on both I and K zones in one parcel. We have always had to have choose one or the other which greatly limits our hunting on our own land. **The proposed rule of allowing hunters to hold two antlerless permits from different WMU at the same time is an excellent idea.**

Thanks.

Mark Winslow

**Winslow Farms, LLC**

336 Winslow Lane

Pittsford, Vermont 05763

802-236-4080



**From:** Mark <250predator@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 9:41 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to hunting for 2026

You don't often get email from 250predator@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

For the most part I agree with the new proposed changes to hunting across the board with a couple of exceptions. I do feel doe harvest with rifles is good idea and many of other states offer same thing. I feel we should allow the shooting of does with rifles but should reduce allowable number of deer per person to 2 or 3 a year with one buck and one doe or at least change the allowable amount depending on the county etc. I know of hunters in my area that currently shoot multiple bucks and only use there tag on the biggest one. I feel if number of allowable deer per person doesn't change it will be slaughter fest for does with rifles. As it is, down in my area of Shoreham/whiting we have many people jacking deer. Also I feel youth/novice deer hunting the weekend prior to November rifle scares the deer too much and decreases successfulness for many hunters as it scares the deer. I feel youth should only be allowed to harvest does which would help save some bucks and allow more does harvested. I know I've had increased success with harvesting deer opening weekend of rifle since youth/novice was pushed farther in advance. Thank you and I look forward to hearing the outcome of proposed changes.

**From:** Mason Vliet <Mason@deerassociation.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025 11:00 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Cc:** Catherine Appling-Pooler  
**Subject:** Comment on Proposed Changes to Hunting Regulations  
**Attachments:** V3 LH\_VT Proposed Deer Hunting Regulation Changes\_Public Comment\_04.21.2025.pdf

You don't often get email from [mason@deerassociation.com](mailto:mason@deerassociation.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Dear Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department,

Please see NDA's attached comments on VT's proposed changes to deer hunting regulations. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,  
Mason Vliet



**Mason Vliet**  
NDA Policy Fellow  
239.963.5548  
**National Deer Association**  
**DEERASSOCIATION.com**



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Attn. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board  
1 National Life Drive  
Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620

To the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board:

On behalf of the National Deer Association (NDA) I am writing to provide our comments in support of the proposed changes to deer hunting regulations in Vermont. We are a national non-profit conservation organization with the mission to ensure the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting. We represent over 150,000 members nationwide, including hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals – many of whom live in Vermont.

The NDA strongly supports state efforts to align hunting regulations with biological data and sound wildlife management principles. The proposed changes reflect a proactive approach to managing Vermont's deer population that prioritizes long-term sustainability, adaptive management in specific regions, and expanded harvest opportunities for hunters. We believe these updates will enhance the state's ability to manage local population dynamics, reduce negative impacts on habitat, and maintain healthy age and sex structures in the deer herd. We also recognize that effective deer management depends on a strong partnership between wildlife managers and the public. By making these updates, Vermont is improving flexibility and access for hunters while also helping to ensure that harvest strategies are targeted and effective in areas where deer numbers exceed ecological or social carrying capacities. These goals are consistent with NDA's mission and with best management practices in deer management.

NDA applauds the state's continued emphasis on public input and transparency in this process. Effective wildlife management depends not only on solid science, but also on trust and collaboration between wildlife agencies and the citizens they serve. These regulatory proposals demonstrate Vermont's commitment to both principles.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment on the proposed changes. We encourage the Board to adopt these changes and appreciate your attention to managing Vermont's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Catherine Appling Pooler  
Director of Policy

**From:** Matt Langlais <mattlanglais@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 3:36 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** VT Deer Season Changes

You don't often get email from mattlanglais@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Please accept my support for the proposed changes to the VT deer season. I especially support the provision for harvesting antlerless deer during the traditional rifle season. Portions of Zone D2, where I live, work and hunt, simply have too many deer causing damage to our forest resources and agricultural crops. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. Sincerely, Matt Langlais, Burke VT

**From:** Matt Metcalf <mattmetcalfv@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 8:46 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Hunting regulations

You don't often get email from mattmetcalfv@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Unfortunately you can issue all the permits you want but unless hunters have access to the land where the deer are we can't get them. We must do something to get landowners to allow hunting because if the trend continues we won't have any land to hunt on.

**From:** Matthew Smith <smithmatthew722@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:20 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer season changes for 2026

You don't often get email from smithmatthew722@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I understand that these measures may be needed in parts of the state but K zone is not one of them. The deer herd is completely decimated by meat hunters who are taking advantage of the antlerless killing opportunities. You'll see the lack of quality deer being taken in this zone is dipping. This is because so many come here to take an antlerless deer. It's over hunted and the amount of permits is way too high. 500 may even be too high. If these changes are going to be made. The amount of permits needs to be cut down greatly in this zone as it will be hammered with more hunters with permits than there is deer in the zone. Please consider cutting the permits down and keeping these changes out of K zone. There is no abundance of deer here.

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

**From:** mayasarada <mayasarada@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:08 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** opposed to lengthening hunting season

You don't often get email from mayasarada@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

We are opposed to lengthening or expanding hunting season in Vermont. Residents complain that they rarely see wildlife anymore, and that hunters and trappers are creating unsafe trails for families with children and dogs. We would also like to see an end to the use of rat poison which is causing secondary poisoning of raptors, foxes, and fishers. And we would like to see an end to the use of lead sinkers by fishermen, to protect raptors, otters, and other fish-eating wildlife from lead poisoning. Thank you for keeping wildlife alive and healthy, instead of selling out to "recreational" killing and injuring of wildlife.

Sincerely,

Brian and Maya Drummond

25 years in hospitality here in Southern Vermont

The Londonderry Inn

8 Melendy Hill Road

South Londonderry, VT 05155

mayasarada@gmail.com

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

**From:** Melissa Patnode <angelez4me2@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 16, 2025 9:32 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer Regulations

You don't often get email from angelez4me2@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good Evening,

In regard to the deer regulations, I would like to see at least one year of being able to hunt spike horns. I hunt in WMA area B. Over the year there have been more and more spike horns around and less bucks over the years. If we could thin out the spike horns, it would bring back bucks in this area. I am hoping this is something that might be put in the regulations.

Sincerely  
Melissa Patnode



**From:** Melville Traber Jr <dtraber@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 1:28 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed regulations

You don't often get email from dtraber@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I believe these proposed regulations will lead to more unregulated hunting (poaching and illegal harvest). Allowing archery to run into rifle season means more hunters in camouflage not orange with an adverse effect on hunter safety.

If they wanted to increase the doe harvest why do you make a person purchase a antlerless license application and then offer one at an additional cost when not selected?

Melville Traber Jr  
dtraber@comcast.net  
[REDACTED]  
North Bennington, Vt 05257  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Michael Betourney <mikebetourney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:04 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** New proposed deer regulations  
**Attachments:** IMG\_5330.JPG

You don't often get email from mikebetourney@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello,

I have been hunting deer in this state for over 60 years.(Addison County) One of the reasons your license sales keep declining is because you are killing to many does! I could go on and on and tell you why I think this, but I know it would do no good from past experiences attending meetings! If you think there are too many deer in Addison County for the habitant, I welcome someone to come and show me them?  
I will let the attached picture express my feelings.

Sincerely,  
Michael Betourney  
Salisbury Vt

I grew up deer hunting with no cell camera or cellphone.  
I climbed up in a wooden latter stand made by my dad.  
You shot the first buck you seen , be it a spike or 8 point.  
There was no "target buck". No social media shaming.  
You drug it out by hand unless you were rich enough to afford a 3 wheeler.  
You took it usually to a country store and checked it in.  
Always some old hunters gathered around the tailgate congratulating you.  
Those were some of the best days I ever had!  
I feel sorry for the ppl who will never experience this.



**From:** Michael Fish <michael.fish0188@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:29 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer hunting changes

[You don't often get email from michael.fish0188@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

The Champlain valley has limited locations on public land. There seemingly is no collaboration between the state and land owners, to secure property to hunt especially in zone A, where nearly all of the property is posted.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Michael McDonnell <mikemcdonnell.watershed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 10:33 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer hunting regulation changes

You don't often get email from mikemcdonnell.watershed@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I think the expanded opportunities sound great. I'm all for it.

I'm a lifelong rural person in middle age who somehow never got into hunting (or rather never made time for it) until the 2023 season. Perhaps it was a midlife crisis of sorts.

I live in Rochester VT where the low deer density and near-complete cover make deer encounters rare indeed. Many local veterans have told me they've commonly gone a whole season without seeing a deer. Needless to say, 2023 was an exercise in frustration and disappointment and I ended up feeling very far from any type of success.

2024 started in a similar way, with the feeling that I wasn't even close in terms of how and where I was hunting. It makes you feel foolish and want to quit. After a while I was able to remind myself of the main reason I got out there in the first place- as a way to force myself to slow down, take my time, be observant, and be patient. I don't have any those things in my normal work, family, and recreational life. At that point I accepted just being out there as success, and decided I was ok with the learning process, even if it took years...and it certainly seemed like it would. I began to notice more things, see more sign, and get other clues that I was getting warmer, so to speak. On the last Saturday of rifle I connected with a beautiful mature buck who was probably no more surprised than I was when we met with just a few minutes of legal shooting light remaining. It was an electric experience that I'll never forget.

I have 3 kids and I'd like to see them take a crack at hunting too, and maybe not let half their life go by, like I did, before they discover how fun and rewarding it can be to be out there, let alone the chance to bring home the meat, which they all love. Still, the barriers to entry are significant here. The weather and terrain is a challenge, and the difficulty of finding deer here makes it quite an uphill battle mentally...it just doesn't feel like it could possibly work...and usually it doesn't. Any regulation changes that would increase the opportunities and odds for a successful experience for novices (whether youth or adult) would go a long way toward not only managing the deer herd but also sustaining and potentially growing the hunting demographic.

Thank you, Mike McDonnell

**From:** Michael Pluta <mjpfalconhillinv@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2025 9:36 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Antlerless Deer

You don't often get email from mjpfalconhillinv@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

**Sirs:**

**I fully support the concept of letting "Regular Gun Season" hunters use antlerless permits. Carrying capacity of land is a serious issue in our hunting area of Florence. When will decision be made? Can we get multiple permits?**

**MJPluta, MPA DSI**

**[REDACTED]**

**N. Chittenden, VT. 05763**

**From:** Michael Poster <mposter01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:23 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer regulation

You don't often get email from mposter01@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I'd like to weigh in on the benefits of deer regulation and increased hunting permits. Since moving to VT 15 years ago, I've seen a steady rise in the deer population in my neighborhood, a proportionate reduction in native plant species, and an increased black legged tick population. Please don't let what happened in Pennsylvania, happen here in Vermont. It is irreversible.

Michael Poster, Dummerston  
[mposter01@gmail.com](mailto:mposter01@gmail.com)

**From:** Mike Cole <holes88@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 11:32 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer management

[You don't often get email from holes88@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello, I wasn't able to make the meeting so I wanted to give you my opinion. I live in readsboro vt. Here there are not the deer population problems that I see in your plan to allow rifle hunters to harvest does. Actually where I hunt I've seen a considerable decline due to one family that shoots 5-10 does a year down the road from my house now that there is a four deer limit and they can use a cross bow so there small children that are starting to hunt are adding to this problem. I don't see how allowing bow hunters to just shoot doves in any zone is considered management, why not issue tags for any season?

The other problem I see is posted land. Allowing hunters to shoot more doves isn't going to fix the problem of over population where you can't hunt. It would be beneficial and in line with the Vermont I grew up in to encourage people not to post their land and allow it to be open. You could do this through the current use program and land trust. Make not posting a requirement as they get a tax break to be in those programs so they should remain open to Vermonters. They also tend to be large tracks of land.

Then there's the fact that land owners that think allowing more doves to be killed is already having a negative impact will post even more land furthering you from managing anything.

Thanks,  
Mike Cole

Please note I've got a new email address, mcole7067@gmail.com



**From:** Mike Dunbar <dunbar300wsm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 8:29 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** New regulations

[You don't often get email from dunbar300wsm@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I would agree with all the proposed rules except shooting doe during regular rifle with rifles.... The second buck after shooting a doe is great as long as it's 3 points on a side!!!!

Mike Dunbar  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Mike Haskins <mhaskins802@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 8:20 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer Season Feedback

You don't often get email from mhaskins802@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I have been deer hunting for about 45 years now. For as many years as I can remember I take all of rifle season off. I still hunt and track deer so I cover a lot of territory. I hunt many different parcels of land covering many thousands of acres. I primarily hunt in the G and F2 zones. At one time there was definitely too many deer. When the deer regulations went in that allowed a bag limit of 4 deer, expanded deer seasons and added I can definitely see the impact its having on the deer. I would also say allowing everybody to hunt with cross bows is having a big impact. The 2024 season I saw even less deer than the year before. It's to the point now it's pretty hard to find deer. Everything I have been mentioning up to now has led to this. It's to the point I'm not going to purchase a muzzleloader permit because its not worth it. I'm contemplating even reduction my rifle season and concentrate on another state. I can go over to Keene Valley in NY and see deer no problem and bigger bucks.

I hear the State mostly judges the deer population on antler size of the 1 yr olds and body weight of fawns. I personally believe this is flawed and we are way overestimating the deer herd. I talk to hunters who hunt all over VT and it's the same everywhere. There are less and less deer every year. It's hard to get new hunters interested because they get bored because they don't see deer. Let's rely more on what hunters are saying in their surveys. There might be quite a few deer in hard to hunt pockets because of postings and houses but overall the deer herd is way down.

I'm old enough that I was hunting back in the days you could shoot a doe with a rifle with a permit. Considering the deer herd size this is a very bad idea. I'm also very concern for hunters safety. I really don't want hunters out in the woods shoot at all the deer tails they see. Today, there are also a lot more house and posted land. I'm very afraid this will lead to more landowners not liking deer hunters as people will be shooting near houses more and on private land.

I personally love to see less deer seasons. Lower the limit back to 2. Go back to not shooting spike horns in all zones. I know Foresters and loggers. I haven't meet a Forester yet that told me they see over browsing. I talk to loggers who tell me they don't see many deer and they are out in the woods every day. No what else we don't see? I see very few if any coyotes now. The coyote population is tied to the deer population. That is a another indicator of the size of our herd. I love to still hunt in VT but it's getting to the point it's not worth my time. Maybe I should join all the other VT hunters who go to Ohio and other places. Pretty soon my grandchildren will have a tough time spotting a deer. This past year was huge apple crop and in place a heavy mast crop. Yet I could go in these area and see very little activity.

Please don't continue to kill off the VT Deer herd. The direction we are going we won't have much left.

**From:** mike nevius <mike02army@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 4, 2025 3:52 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer season changes

You don't often get email from mike02army@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good afternoon,

I am in favor of a 2nd buck tag with the conditions of harvesting an antlerless deer and buck with the 3 point rule prior to getting the 2nd buck tag as long as it's still legal to take a spike in certain units, I know some people don't care about harvesting multiple deer or how big it is so they should still have the opportunity to do so.

I'm also in favor of harvesting doe during rifle, at least conditionally. What about just opening weekend or just the last weekend or whatever makes people happy.

Lastly thank you for the job you guys do, I know it can be thankless.

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

**From:** Morse, Joshua  
**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2025 9:54 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: media inquiry

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**From:** Conrad Carruth <carruthconrad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 8:00 PM  
**To:** Morse, Joshua <Joshua.Morse@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** media inquiry

You don't often get email from [carruthconrad@gmail.com](mailto:carruthconrad@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Learning of the new deer regulations many of us in zone L will no longer hunt in VT and lock up hundreds of acres. Nick Forton should be fired.

**From:** MS MacDon <macdonaldmstone@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 26, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Hunting Regulations

You don't often get email from macdonaldmstone@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Gentlefolk:

I own 469 acres of managed forest in South Newfane, and would like to go on record as favoring the changes to the hunting regulations as proposed by the Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation and supported by the Windham Regional Woodland Association. The current overpopulation of white-tailed deer is causing significant damage to Windham County's hardwood saplings, and the proposed modifications would assist in reducing that overpopulation while ensuring a sustainable number of these beautiful animals.

For the good of the forests that are so important to Vermont, I hope that you will enact the proposed changes.

Sincerely yours,  
Margaret Stone MacDonald  
South Newfane, Vermont  
Member of the Windham Regional Woodlands Association

**From:** murdock@shoreham.net  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 2:43 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comment - Proposed Deer Hunting Regs

You don't often get email from murdock@shoreham.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I fully support the ability to fill doe tags during the regular November season.

With that said, I do not support expanding archery season, I would rather see additional tags available during the regular season.

Reign in these extended archery and muzzleloader seasons and make those tags available during the regular season and allow hunters to use whatever they want. With the proliferation of cross bows, and modern scoped inline muzzleloaders, preferential seasons are not justified.

I also do not support the taking of a second buck, and would prefer that the annual limit be reduced, not increased.

Gary Murdock  
Orwell, VT.

**From:** Neil Pelsue <pelsuejr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 27, 2025 2:00 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes for Whitetail Deer Hunting

You don't often get email from pelsuejr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

1. Do not allow antlerless hunting during the rifle buck season! It is not safe.
2. OK to bring Youth deer hunting weekend back to just prior to regular rifle season.
3. If you want to reduce the deer herd, lengthen the rifle season and/or the antlerless seasons, but do not combine the two.
4. Good strategy to modify hunting limits within the WMUs according to the deer population and habitat characteristics.

Thank you.  
Neil Pelsue

**From:** NEVIUS, MICHAEL <MICHAEL.NEVIUS@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 9, 2025 5:57 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** comments

You don't often get email from michael.nevius@cbp.dhs.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good morning,

What about allowing pistol use during muzzle or bow? you can shoot a muzzle loader 200 yards now, a bow 50 or 60 yards and a pistol maybe 25. Just a thought. I stopped buying a bow tag when the state went down to a 1 buck program, my family is mostly rifle and muzzle hunters and i didn't want to give up those seasons encase I got lucky during bow. With the proposed rules of 3 points on a side and a doe to earn a 2<sup>nd</sup> buck tag I think the impact will be minimal. For the muzzle loader lottery lets say I get a tag for WMU B, and then there are left over tags, I should be able to buy another tag, why let it go to waste and the chances of tagging a 2nd doe in a 9 day season are pretty slim as it is. I do like taking doe during rifle as long as its only for a season or to see what the harvest is like. Thank you for all you do.

Respectfully,

Michael Nevius  
CBP Officer  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Champlain, NY Port of Entry  
phone: (518) 536-0655  
michael.nevius.cbp.dhs.gov



**From:** Nick Jordan <nickjordanx@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 9:57 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comment on Proposed Updates to Deer Management Rules


You don't often get email from nickjordanx@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello,

I am an outdoorsman and landowner in Bennington. I am unable to attend the public hearing, but am reaching out by email as I would like to express my support for the proposed changes to the deer management rules 10 V.S.A. Appendix §37. Specifically, the allowance of antlerless deer to be taken during the regular season and the allowance of taking a second buck under certain conditions both would serve to increase the coming harvest, a need which was indicated in the most recent harvest report and recommendations to the state.

I can personally attest that such changes would increase my time spent hunting, and likely result in myself harvesting more deer than in previous years under the current rule set. I expect that this is the case for many other hunters in our state as well. While statistics show that participation in outdoor sports has been decreasing over recent years, I am confident that the proposed changes will serve to motivate new hunters to enter the field for the first time and encourage other folks to get out and fill tags where they might have otherwise abstained. By making the antlerless harvest more attainable for the average person (by allowing it during regular season), surely we will see a hunting season that both achieves a total harvest closer to the goal number of deer taken and that motivates more people to get involved in the conservation of our beautiful state!

Thank you,  
Nick Jordan  
  
Bennington, VT

**From:** Nick Neverisky <nickneverisky@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 3:09 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed deer hunting regulation changes (support)

You don't often get email from nickneverisky@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello,

I support VFW's proposal for changes to the deer hunting regulations. I trust that your staff have made a thoughtful data driven evaluation of management objectives and how to achieve them. Further, if management objectives for habitat and deer herds can be met while increasing hunter opportunity (which the proposed changes appear to support), all the better. If there were a tension between hunter opportunity and sustainable resource management I'd favor sustainable resource management every time - but in this case the proposal seems like a win-win.

Nick

**From:** Nick Neverisky <nickneverisky@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 9:59 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Landowner antlerless permits and posting prohibition: publish

You don't often get email from nickneverisky@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Re: the proposed antlerless permits for landowners: "Landowners applying for antlerless deer permits under this subdivision shall not, at the time of application or thereafter during the deer hunting seasons, post their lands."

I recommend that the location of these lands be published on the Fish and Wildlife website. The prohibition on landowners posting these lands has little effect on public access if the public does not know where these lands are. To make this aspect of the rule equitable (i.e., beneficial to community members beyond those who happen to be friends of the landowner, and who might be granted access anyway), this information should be public. Without this information (and access) being public, the prioritization of landowner permits is a giveaway to Vermonters in the enviable position of owning relatively large areas of huntable land.

**From:** Nick Santerre <nicksanterre@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 3:33 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer season

[You don't often get email from nicksanterre@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I strongly disagree with the proposed doe hunting with rifle. It seems to be overkill, I think you're under estimating the amount of people like myself, who will be shooting a doe to earn second buck tag. A lot of people I know don't shoot doe usually but now they will to earn buck tag. I think you should try that first for a year or two and see what the numbers are before getting crazy and using doe tags in rifle. Thank you Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Nick <eckerracz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 11:44 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** regulation change

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I am strongly in favor of allowing rifle hunting of doe. I have no fixed opinion about the other regulatory changes. However, I support applying the same standards to youth hunters as are in force for adults. There is no reason to allow a youth to shoot an immature deer. It trains them to take skippers, which is not a sensible ethic or management standard. They are also more likely to discard a young animal when they are adults and in search of a larger rack. I also strongly oppose the current Landowner Permit season which is restricted to muzzleloaders. These weapons are modern rifles, totally different from a real muzzleloader. Why should a landowner have to buy a second expensive weapon to hunt on his own land? This requirement only subsidizes the firearm industry. It has no basis in effective or responsible game management.

Nicholas Ecker-Racz  
Glover

**From:** paul cousino <cousinopaul@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:01 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** New Deer Regulations..Proposal

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Concerning the Antlerless permits for rifle season. While being a hunter in Vermont for over 40 years i can confidently assure you the deer numbers in the F1 and F2 Zones and even the northern parts of K( where i now live) are not thriving. I cannot speak of the rest of area K...or and other WMU in the State. I try to hunt everyday of the gun season hoping to find a mature a buck. I generally hunt where i grew up in Addison County...and where i have lived for the last 10 years Florence Vt..also hunting in Brandon & Pittsford area. I do not hunt out of state. Concerning Addison county. The deer herd is virtually depleted compared to what it was just 6 to 8 years ago..(which isn't great either) but the laws were more reasonable with fewer antlerless permits. I have never seen so few deer as i have in the last few years. The ones I do encounter..are most often motherless yearlings. I have not seen ANY groups of 2 or more adults in several years while hunting. As far as the deer kill numbers. Several factors affect the true count. I do not believe the state is taking into consideration the people that are NOT reporting there kill. With the new online reporting law that came into effect with covid..people are given an easy opportunity to just bring the deer home and report it themselves. And deciding to not.. report a deer..ads up real quick. The licenses themselves are not protection for the herd, just the opposite. They invite slaughtering and cheating ..you can print them yourself. Now..a hunter can tag their game and bring it home. Reprint their license..or grab a photocopy of the 10 they already have, and go right back hunting without reporting anything. Printing your licenses and buying online is fine and good...but issue the big game TAGS from Town clerks on acertain day or 2days of amonth..or a VDFW system where . as soon as your purchase your license..your tags get sent...lightly laminated. They print out the red laminated transport tags already that some people use. Print out rolls of numbered tags..that are issued by the town clerk and /or the statewide system with your info. This would certainly help get some much more true and accurate numbers of the kill..as it would close some big doors for illegally taken deer. Many more deer are being killed then what is reported. I would bet the number is double. Poaching is a major problem..and always has been..but these licenses have made it..so anybody and everybody can get away with it. Its not fair for the animals or fair chase legit hunters. The same can be said in my home area of K as well..when I first moved here 10 years ago..I would see deer around 6 or 8 together..now yearlings only.. and one or two here and there. Since crossbow became legal for everyone..the numbers have dropped off a cliff..between to many tags..and the deer be hunted by many people in the long early season..lots of deer are being killed that are unaccounted for..many that are never recovered. Some people kill and fatally wound deer and never recover them and do it deer after deer. There's so many variables that getting an accurate kill total is impossible without closing some big doors first in my opinion. Also..At this point I don't think that ANY doe permits should be issued for rifle season and limits should be broken down further by zones to reduce existing permit numbers. The deer are just not out there. The champlain valley should have not more then a 2 deer limit..and that's pushing it. You have to still take into consideration..the poaching as well. I write this based on what I have seen throughout my lifetime. I myself cannot stand a poacher. Period. Last year alone I called Operation game thief twice. Both times I was told to call the State Police. I said no..im calling you..i will not call them they are busy. The girl that took my call at Operation Game Thief had no idea what she was doing whatsoever. Last year alone during the month of November there were gunshots after dark... between 6pm and 8pm within earshot, at least 10 times in the area where i live. All may have not have been poaching..but many were. Please stop the online reporting immediately. And even more importantly fix the tags so that they are not printable from home. Make a two piece tag. Once the tag is separated that tag better be on a deer. If you are caught with your tag in 2 pieces..without a deer you're in trouble. Until the licensing is shored up from cheating no more permits should be issued in my opinion. Addison County as whole is devastated..places you could normally see a small herd of 8 to 14 deer you see none. Respectfully. and Wholeheartedly..Paul

Cousino..Pittsford Vermont.

**From:** Paul St Gelais Jr <9xblackbear@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2025 2:52 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** antlerless permits during regular rifle season

You don't often get email from 9xblackbear@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello, I recently ran across your article on possibly having an antlerless season during the regular rifle season. This brings back memories from when I was a youngster. The old guys at camp would get very excited when they sometimes drew a permit. Well, many years have passed by and now I am one of the old guys. This article excited me very much as I will be 70 this year. I don't get out in the woods like the old days but still enjoy playing the game and have been very successful thru the years. Here is a thought of mine that may or may not be of interest.

I was thinking that maybe allowing hunters over the age of 65 to automatically be able to get the permit "if they apply", which could be used in any of the WMU's within the state.

I'm not saying something like this would work but this would be great for us old timers that are still out chasing these deer around even thou we can't get around like we did in the old days.

Please give it some thought in your discussions.

THIS HAS MY INTEREST and I am sure there is many hunters that feel the same.

THANKS, Paul



**From:** Paul St. Gelais <paulstgelais55@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2025 10:12 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Antlerless permits during VT. Regular rifle season for deer.

You don't often get email from paulstgelais55@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello, I just ran across the article on changes to the deer season which struck my interest. Particularly the antlerless permits during the regular rifle season. I can remember back as a young hunter when this was in effect and the older hunters in camp loved it when they would draw a permit. I myself am now one of those older hunters and would welcome such a change. I am turning 70 this year and finding it harder to get into the woods like I did in the past. I would like to throw something at you that may be of interest. How about maybe issuing an antlerless permit to hunters age 65 and older. This may or may not be a good idea but something that crossed my mind while reading your article. Give it some thought.

Thanks

**From:** Peterrweeks <peterrweeks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 12:16 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Support for deer regulation changes

[You don't often get email from peterrweeks@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Thank you for the summary of proposed changes to the deer hunting regulations. I live in Montpelier and I'm primarily a bow hunter. I cannot make the public hearing but wish to send my support for the changes.

Thank you for all the work you do to manage Vermont's wildlife!

Peter Weeks

**From:** PHYLLIS A. WELTZ <phweltz@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 10:34 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** I support the proposed changes

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**The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently taking comments on the following Proposed Changes**

- **Move youth weekend to the weekend before the regular season**

The youth weekend is important for the recruitment and retention of youth hunters and for the collection of biological data on the deer herd. The Department believes that moving the season back to early November will help to maximize participation and harvest during this season.

- **Allow antlerless permits to be used during the regular rifle season**

This would likely result in increased permit fill rates due to the additional hunting days as well as the greater effectiveness of rifles.

- **Allow archery hunting during the regular season.**

Hunters will be allowed to fill their antlerless permit with both archery or rifles during the regular season. Allowing hunters to hold two antlerless permits at a time

- **Allow hunters to take a conditional second buck**

The Department recommends allowing hunters to take one additional buck, provided they first: 1) obtain a second buck tag, 2) harvest an antlerless deer, and 3) harvest a first buck with at least three points on one antler.

- **Establish eight expanded archery zones**

These are areas where deer are overabundant or at risk of becoming overabundant. Most are developed areas around major cities and towns.

- **Turkey hunting**

Adjust Fall Archery Season Dates to Coincide with the Deer Archery Season Prior to the Regular Deer Season.

Phyllis A. Weltz

**From:** Ray Gonda <gonda05403@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 22, 2025 6:43 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer Season Proposals

You don't often get email from gonda05403@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Dear Sirs,

I support hunting antlerless in or after the regular rifle season. However originally being from PA (45 yrs ago) the antlerless season there, then, would be anywhere from 1 to 3 days following the regular bucks only rifle season. The number of days allowed would depend on estimates of the "bucks taken" count during that rifle season. The advantage I see to that is: it gives extra days of hunting to avid hunters. But more importantly, i feel a sense of unease when hunters can fire at any deer they see - which I feel can lead to carelessness - shoot, then look later. Possibly other critters will get shot including humans.

I support any effort to allow bow hunting (including crossbow) in places, not now permitted to hunt, such as within municipal boundaries, albeit where safety can be maintained. Being in South Burlington, I could assist with publicity using social media to support such an initiative. There may be many others like myself who have had their ornamentals, berry bushes, and fruit trees damaged or destroyed.

Respectfully,

Ray Gonda  
South Burlington, VT



**From:** Ray Wells <raywells175@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 9:23 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed new hunting regulations:

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

My name is Ray wells and I live in Saint Johnsbury. I am native born Vermonter and have hunted , fished and did trap in the Northeast Kingdom. I wish to comment on some of the proposed changes. The proposals that I do not comment on , I am okay with.

1. The expansion of the archery hunting zones to include city and towns where there are numbers of deer within their residential areas. I believe, this could become a real problem.

The arrow ,as we all know , kills by hemorrhage and has no shocking power. About the only true knock down on contact would be a spinal hit which , in my mind , is not a very ethical shot. In so saying, an arrow shot deer is pretty apt to go away and could end up in someone's yard that is against hunting and there die. The hunter ( hunters ) and probably Vermont F&W then have a major problem on their hands. Enough said !

2. The allowing of antlerless permits in November rifle season is a definite no from my perspective. This will simply solidify the old adage that " Brown is Down". When a person is allowed to shoot any deer many will not stop to identify what they are shooting just shoot and look. Also helps out the road hunters who just ride to spot their quarry. Absolutely not on this proposed change !

3. Hunters having the right to carry two antlerless tags at the same time I flat disagree with! Yes I am aware that there can be only one per a wildlife management area .

I have for a long time have been of the impression that our deer herd is green and the more I see reg changes that are pushing permits , I know I'm right and I'm not alone on this feeling. Sorry !,

4. Being able to shoot a second buck with having to shot an antlerless deer and a buck with at least three legal points on one beam. I do not agree with this either. I don't know what other state your are trying to copy but one legal buck is enough. This is another way of moving antlerless tags by dangling another opportunity out there for the greedy.

In closing I grew up hunting in the late 50's and early 60's. We had a one deer limit. I was taught to positively identify what I was shooting at and no forgiveness on this issue. If I screwed up I was none hunting for the year. I learned very well.

I personally feel that a two deer limit is ample but I know some of your thoughts are coming from hunters who watch to much of the southern and western boys hunting. Who don't hunt , they just kill.

Thank you ; Ray Wells

**From:** Ric Santa Maria <rsantamaria@roundtree.bz>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2025 9:30 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Harvesting Doe Deer

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Harvesting Does is a very useful deer management tool. The problem with it in Vermont is access to the areas that need doe management.

Vermont is heavily posted. The pockets of land that are accessible to most hunters are over harvested.

Does have a home range. In my experience ( I am 66 and have hunted deer for over 50 years ), doe deer do not migrate from the home range they are born in. I have witnessed public land areas that are surrounded by posted lands ( that by county statistics should be doe harvested ) turned into very low deer population areas.

In my opinion, doe harvesting is a valuable tool, but until the State has access to private lands managed by controlled permit, doe management looks better on paper than in practice and will over harvest public lands. I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback.

Best,  
Ric Santa Maria

**From:** Robert Pike <pikestaxidermy@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 4:17 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer management changes

You don't often get email from pikestaxidermy@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

To whom it may concern,

I want to start by stating that I am a full-time taxidermist serving many customers primarily in Franklin, Grand Isle, and Chittenden counties. Since the proposed changes were announced I've spent many days thinking about the potential changes and I have been surveying my customers for their opinions.

I have found that there is almost zero support for the proposal of a second buck tag, as many have stated they want Vermont to remain a one buck state. I have also discovered most all, including myself would like there to be a 3 point on one side rule. With a two deer statewide bag limit, all seasons/weapons, with the exception of early muzzleloader remaining antlerless only, one buck, one antlerless. As many feel this will help with the antlerless harvest because "meat hunters" will be more apt to take the doe while waiting on a buck, especially during rifle season. With the antlerless tag being given with the buck tag when we purchase our annual hunting license. In addition many have pointed out they think implementing a DMAP program, for private lands in specific towns would help bring a better balance to the herd than the current lottery format, as the private lands are where these issues of overabundance are not on the public lands. By breaking WMUs down to towns in most opinions seems like it would be better management. Use the islands for example, Alburgh cannot be managed the same way as Isle La Motte. I hope the board will consider these suggestions as they're not my opinions alone.

Thank you for your time,

Bob Pike  
Pike's Taxidermy

**From:** Rodrica Tilley <rtilley01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 8:37 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer management in Vermont

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

I have sent my views to you previously but never received any acknowledgement of receiving them.

I and my husband witnessed our former home of 38 years succumb to deer overpopulation. That was in rural forest/ pasture lands of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. Our woods were cleared of saplings and all regenerative undergrowth by what grew to be large herds of browsing white-tailed deer.

I did not know anyone who hadn't hit or been in a vehicle that hit a deer. Some of these accidents were fatal to humans as well as deer. many were disabling to the human occupants. At best, the deer became a nuisance to drivers, forest managers, farmers and gardeners.

When my husband and I retired and moved to Dummerston , VT 15 years ago we saw many fewer deer here than we were used to in PA. That has changed. We now see most of our neighbors' acreage posted with "No hunting" signs. While not hunters ourselves, we have always welcomed hunters in hopes of restoring some balance in the deer population of southern Vermont. We regularly see does with three fawns. We love the wildlife that uses our land from the mama bear with 3 cubs to the foxes, birds and chipmunks.

We have had bucks rubbing the bark off our young trees and killing them. This is common every year. So is browsing of our native plants that we have cultivated to replace acres of bittersweet and barberry which we have removed in our time here.

i am in favor of all the changes you are proposing to curb the growth of our deer herd now rather than later.

Rodrica Tilley

[REDACTED]  
Dummerston, VT 05301



**From:** Roger Dufresne <radufres@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 3, 2025 7:31 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** new proposed rules

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

A) NO Antlerless deer during rifle season with a rifle.

Tried in the past with major issues.

B) Allowing bow hunting in rifle season is fine.

C) 2 buck limit.

Definitely for it.

However we are not for the proposed requirements.

I have talked with several hunters and we believe that:

1) No doe should be required for a 2nd buck. Most vermonters love the opportunity to hunt bucks and most families do not need to shoot 3 deer.

2) We do believe in the antler restriction except with a change .

The first or 2nd buck must have 3 antlers on one side.

If the first buck has only 2 antlers on one side, the second buck must have at least 3 antlers on one side. This gives many hunters who hunt only in vermont and like to hunt bow, rifle and muzzleloader more opportunities.

Also, for us hunters that sometimes go a few years between bucks it allows us to shoot a buck with only 2 antlers on one side and then still give us the ability to keep hunting with less pressure of filling a 2nd buck tag.

D) If more Doe need to be shot, start Antlerless muzzleloader the Monday after rifle season and or increase the early antlerless muzzleloader season.

Thanks,  
Roger Dufresne

**From:** RON HORTON <ronhorton21@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 9:13 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer hunting

You don't often get email from ronhorton21@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Nick Fortin,

Years ago I thought I'd be a hunter. I bought a 30-30 and all the gear, marched out into the woods, and sat there freezing my butt off, all the while knowing I'd never shoot one because I'd never want to field dress it. For me it was a pre-realization. However, for many that realization only comes after they shoot a deer, or many deer without the success of tracking the injured animal after the shot.

When I moved back to Vermont, after chasing my company around the country for 30 years, I moved to Jay. The first year there, my wife was out in the back yard with our dog when two rounds landed three feet from them. That's when I posted my land, and the ten acres I caretake for my neighbor.

There are many responsible hunters, but I fear for every one of them there are three to five who just want to shoot something, anything, anywhere.

I feel opening the season up to female deer will only add to the number of rounds falling by other spouses' feet. The inexperienced or drunk hunters now don't have to worry about horns. Just point and shoot, or don't point, just shoot.

There have to be better ways to control the deer population. I don't feel opening it up is something I want to see.

And, for God's sake, stop calling it "harvesting!" You harvest fruit. You harvest corn. You harvest bone marrow. You just kill deer and other animals. You're just trying to make it sound like a non-violent taking of something out of the woods. Who do you think you're fooling?

I doubt my concerns will hold any water. And I doubt any of the "public meetings" are going to sway your decision at all. It's bad enough we have a criminal in chief doing any damned thing he wants no matter what the public wants. Now it seems we have Fish and Wildlife following suit. I hope I'm wrong on the latter.

Ron Horton  
Jay

**From:** Rupert LaRock <rupertlarock@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 1:43 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Antlerless rifle tags.

[You don't often get email from rupertlarock@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I strongly disagree with allowing antlerless tags with a rifle. I own and manage 510 acres for QDM here in Vermont. I run 30 cameras year around and have the data to support why I disagree. I have been managing the property for 13 years and have not harvested a doe. I also have not seen the doe numbers increase due to a heavy bear population, coyotes, bobcats and some neighbors that shoot doe. Fawn mortality is very high. I plant over 20 acres of year round food and my neighbors are doing so as well. We are not even close to being over browsed. We don't even have enough deer to completely eat what we plant. We don't shoot small bucks and the management is working. My family has killed 12-13 bucks over 3.5 years old since we have been doing our own management plan. The thought of this rule change is absolutely ridiculous. VFW is not trying to have better hunting they are just trying to reduce the deer population in my opinion. This plan will hurt the hunting more than it will help and the state will loose even more hunters.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Ryan Robbins <constitutionallycorrect55@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 6:58 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** 2024 antlerless harvest recommendation

[You don't often get email from constitutionallycorrect55@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Hello All,

My name is Ryan Robbins and I have been hunting in Vermont my whole life. I have loved every beautiful, amazing, terrible, cold moment of it. I am so glad for the work that you all do managing our deer herd and sustaining the sport that we all love.

However, I am apprehensive about the suggested changes. I live in G and do most of my hunting in G and J1. For the last 3 years I have hunted about 30 days a year. I have spent a lot of time in the woods. And I have yet to see the deer herds that could handle a mass slaughter of does as currently proposed. I also have yet to see mature bucks survive the rifle season. This year I had 10-12 nice bucks on camera pre rifle season across 12 cameras and only 1 of them survived rifle season. Adding a second buck tag would be disastrous. I also saw a mass kill off of young bucks that I pass all day but impatient hunters kill on sight. The only thing protecting these young bucks is the promise of an older buck tomorrow. Taking away that incentive for patience will devastate our herd.

The combination of a mass kill off of does and a serious kill off of the younger bucks will ruin hunting in this amazing state. Please don't implement either of these policies.

Thank you,

Ryan Robbins



Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Sampson Alley <sra78@cornell.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 4:42 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Commentary on Proposed Regulation Changes

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good afternoon,

I am writing to comment about your proposed regulation changes, particularly the first:

*"Allow hunters who obtain antlerless permits to harvest antlerless deer during the regular November season. Currently, only antlered deer, primarily adult males called "bucks," can be harvested during the November season."*

There are three considerations I would like to bring up, arguing against this change:

**1. Vermont's Unique Hunting Access, which Enables Road Hunting:** Contrary to most states, Vermont hunters can automatically, *and without permission*, hunt on almost any private land unless posted otherwise. This caters very well toward road hunters, who in other states would be forced to ask permission at every private parcel before hunting it. Here, they can just drive the roads and as long as there are no Posted signs visible - blast away. If we open up rifle season to include does, there will be an absolute massacre of does performed by road hunters.

**2. Vermont's Forest-to-Field Ratio:** Given that Vermont is approximately 80% forest and 20% cleared - often times deer filter out of large forest basins to feed on the nutritious greens that fields have to offer. Does that spend most of their time on our desolate and rugged ridgelines will become easy pickings when they drop into fields - if allowed to be hunted by rifle.

**3. Safety, Safety, Safety:** Vermont has a high concentration of hunters, and incorporating the "brown is down" mentality into rifle season by allowing doe harvest will increase the risk of hunting accidents. Under the current regulations rifle hunters go through a decision making process something like the following: 1. Is that something?, 2. Is that a deer?, 3. Does it have antlers?, 4. Legal buck? (In areas with point restrictions). Even now accidents happen in rifle season, such in [Elmore in 2023](#).

Incorporating doe harvest will shorten the decision making process to: 1. Is that something?, 2. Is that a deer?, 3. Bang.

I'm afraid this will lead to significantly more hunting accidents in our woods.

Thank you for your time and for lending your ear.

Sam

**Sampson Rooney Alley**

**Cornell University '20**

Agriculture Finance

(802)-371-7939 | [sra78@cornell.edu](mailto:sra78@cornell.edu)

**From:** Samuel Schneski <schneski@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 9:40 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed update to deer season in Vermont

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Congratulations on your proposal to allow the harvesting of antlerless deer during the regular hunting season with a rifle. I think it's a great idea and has been a long time coming. I've heard through the grapevine that the board may not be interested in this scientifically based approach. It's a shame that there may be potential for the decision makers to vote to not approve a change in wildlife (and forest) management approaches based on out-of-date cultural values despite robust scientific data telling them otherwise. I hope they can come around to see the importance of voting to approve this change. At the very least, a plan 'B' may be to allow a two-day or one-day doe only rifle season, after late muzzleloader, to those who didn't fill their doe tag during the muzzleloader season(s).

Thanks for the great work you are doing!

Sam Schneski,  
Guilford, VT

**From:** Sandy's Email <sandybender2010@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 2, 2025 8:54 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Hunting Season extension comment

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to comment on your proposal to extend the deer hunting season.

First of all, I am a native Vermonter and grew up in a family of deer hunters, so I understand managing the herds and allowing hunters access to the woods.

We've lived in Johnson since 1991, and generally enjoy the peace and quiet - except when turkey or deer season starts.

What I find is that the hunters who live around me, in Johnson, have gotten to be so irresponsible and disrespectful of property owners I've gotten soured on the amount of days that they have access to the woods at present. We ended up posting our 160 acres, after I found trash on our trails, stray and unclaimed arrows in my horse pasture, and people who I had not given permission to on our property. One jerk told me he had a "right to be on your property because you're in current use".

Did posting solve the problem? No! What happens now, every year, is that one of the local hunters will say they shot a deer on someone else's property, but it ran onto ours (yeah, sure) and they need to come over here to chase it down because "it's my right." Then a dozen locals appear from my woods "on the hunt" and swarm all over our property, uninvited. I have trails I maintain and like to walk on with my dogs and horses, and I also have a short term rental that has guests all through October and I have to monitor when they go out on OUR property and make sure they have all the orange.

Frankly, I am sick of it!

We used to have a lot of deer around here, now they have been mostly obliterated, as even 70 pound little guys are shot by hunters. It's gotten ridiculous, I've even had a hunter pull out the "interfering with the hunt" bullshit. They have deer tags for every member of the family to slap on 5-7 deer during the season. If anything, the deer herd needs to be allowed to build back up here. If you don't believe me, talk to our logger who has been implementing our Forestry Plan. He was born here and is disgusted by what is happening and the lack of deer.

The last thing these hunters around here need are more dates they can strut around in the woods and shoot things.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Sandy Bender

**From:** Scott Castine <scott@wesfieldconstruction.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 10, 2025 4:23 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment; Fortin, Nick  
**Subject:** Proposed deer management changes

[You don't often get email from [scott@wesfieldconstruction.com](mailto:scott@wesfieldconstruction.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Regarding the new deer management proposals being proposed Please consider the following viewpoints .

The proposals to allow doe harvesting during the November season with rifles and second buck tag are in my opinion detrimental ,not necessary , and will not have an evenly distributed effect for the following reasons.

1)modern muzzle loading weapons are equally as accurate and able to take deer as center fire firearms at ranges up to and in excess of 150 yards. Far beyond typical distances in the Vermont landscape. Combined with modern optics and inline capabilities they are essentially single shot rifles . Separate seasons for each weapon type allow better control in the pursuit and harvest of either buck or doe within the perspective season without over pressuring the herd structure. As successful hunters leave the woods it decreases stress on both remaining hunters and deer . Hunters can then if so choosing attempt to harvest a second deer as the seasons progress.

2) the decline in acceptance of doe harvesting among hunters in certain areas is a direct result of a reduction in deer sightings and opportunities in those areas. Hunters observe first hand the deer sign or lack of within an area and base their assessment of the herd on this as well as , trail camera photos, and communication with others . This decrease in sightings is in no small part due to the increase in inaccessible land from over posting which restricts herd management in tens of thousands of acres state wide. Areas with public access such as state land , town forests , and privately owned none posted property receive more pressure and higher impact from regulations allowing such aggressive harvests of doe while neighboring private lands can deny it entirely at the owners discretion. Private land owners in opposition to these proposed changes that have not yet posted their property may well decide to do so compounding the problem. Farms and other agricultural based lands along with human influenced green spaces and the forests directly abutting them have a higher carrying capacity in summer months during fawn rearing , but can suffer from over browsing in winter if realistic herd management is denied.Again they can be managed at the owners discretion or not at all in many cases resulting in no improvement from the effects of newly instated regulations and management goals while just a few miles away public and privately owned land allowing access bare the brunt of over harvest resulting in “dead zones” not worthy of hunting efforts for decades to come. This discourages both new and existing hunter participation. Given the knowledge that a deers home range consists of approximately 1 square mile , the deer within the boundaries of private inaccessible land do not migrate to the areas of accessible land hardest hit by aggressive harvesting . Hunting practices targeting doe harvest are concentrated to those accessible lands while hunting for quality older age bucks is reserved for areas offering opportunities on restricted lands not in favor of taking antlerless deer. The statistical data reporting harvest totals may look to be achieving objectives but neglect to show the uneven effect on the herd and hit and miss result.

3) generous bag limits exists currently as does the ability to use a wide range of weaponry. Rulings allowing cross bows for all hunters not just those with physical restrictions. Today’s modern archery and crossbow equipment along with advancements in muzzle loading weapons are extremely effective adding to a hunters odds of success .

4) as seen in years past a high doe kill within rifle season combined with a negative natural cycle such as poor mast crop yield, prolonged harsh winter, or wet and icy conditions in late winter more typical in recent years given climate fluctuations can cause high mortality and poor fawn health and have long lasting impacts.

5) the second buck tag proposal does little if anything to assist with herd health and population balance. It allows already successful hunters to compete for remaining bucks with those still working to fill their first tag and increases pressure on the remaining deer of both sexes . It also is in conflict with the management statement of fish and wildlife to improve the buck to doe ratio and age structure of the mature buck population . Again , with the current generous bag limits it seems both unnecessary and counterproductive.

A few suggestions to these points are:

If a rifle season doe harvest is adopted the hunter should have a buck or doe option not both. This allows for those happy to harvest any deer or in pursuit for meat only the opportunity . It also allows bucks to mature to a more desirable age structure



should the individual hunter make that decision. While not completely addressing the concerns stated above it does place the decision on the individual hunter as to how to use there tag .

A need exists to Incentivize opening access for hunters on privately owned lands to allow proper , wide spread results of herd management within its wmu regulations . This could be through property tax credits funded through license and permit fees such as crossbow permits for users without a medical exemption , Revenue from the habitat stamp fund, A small increase in the hunting license fees and or the revenue from the Antlerless lottery itself , Trespass permits and fees for access similar to western states .

A penalty to second residence land holders and those not involved in agricultural uses as a primary source of income who own 25 acres or more who deny access but wish to benefit from current use tax reductions . Perhaps the same for residents who benefit from current use provisions and chose to deny hunting. Open access or pay for restricting it .

Education is needed for those holding lands that are over browsed and closed to hunting . When observed by foresters and reporting observations to the state. The state employed representatives , biologists, foresters, and other department professionals need to work towards acceptance and allowance of game management practices for herd health and balance state wide .

Biologist utilization of data obtained by hunters when in the field through mandated observation reports similar to those required for trapping could be a good tool. A future license is not obtainable unless the report is first completed. This tool would help biologists view data throughout a wmu , town by town observed by the boots on the ground , area by area and used to better manage zones within a wmu avoiding negative impact to certain areas for the betterment of all .

In closing , I appreciate the hard work of all our fish and wildlife professionals in trying to balance wildlife management, herd health, habitat improvement and avoid rivalry and opposition of different viewpoints , however I as do many others feel it is time to educate, incentivize, and if necessary penalize those land locking our natural renewable resources we as citizens have a right under state constitutional law to hunt and harvest.

Sincerely

Scott Castine ,

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Scott Stearns <sstearns@anwsd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 12:06 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer proposals

[You don't often get email from sstearns@anwsd.org. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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My opinion on proposal's as a land owner in Ferrisburg is we do not have the deer you claim there is. Unlike the state I have been working on making the habitat better for the wildlife, I have spoken with neighboring farms about this as well and if you make these changes we will all be posting our property and allowing no hunting at all. My opinion

**From:** Seth Coleman <scoleman42381@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025 9:56 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to deer hunting regulations

You don't often get email from scoleman42381@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good morning,

I am AGAINST the proposal to shoot does during the VT regular November rifle season and also AGAINST allowing the harvest of a second buck under any circumstances. Please find other ways to enhance the opportunity to shoot does during archery and muzzleloader. I agree that there are pockets of doe over population on certain private lands but in my opinion your proposals will greatly diminish public land hunting opportunities in the future.

Thank you,

Seth Coleman  
Lifelong Swanton, VT Resident (43 years)

**From:** Sharon <sharon@kismetplace.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 4, 2025 11:32 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer Hunting Season

You don't often get email from sharon@kismetplace.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I do NOT support an increase of the hunting season for the following reasons.

1. This proposal ONLY does NOT support wildlife enjoyment outside of killing them.
2. The deer population is NOT going up in Williston. I live adjacent to Catamount Rec Center and over the past 5 years it has gone from routinely, multiple times a week to now hardly ever seeing deer or even seeing tracks. I hear guns in the woods on private property near my home year round.
3. Extending the weeks with hunters in the woods, means weeks where all other recreational uses are prevented from safe enjoyment.

Sharon Gutwin

**From:** Spencer Dole <spencer.dole12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 12:56 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Support for Antlerless Permits in Rifle Season

You don't often get email from spencer.dole12@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good afternoon,

My name is Spencer Dole and I am a resident of Burlington, Vermont. I am 30 years old and have been an avid deer and turkey hunter since the age of thirteen when I could go out for youth weekend.

I am writing today in full support of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department new rule proposal to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board to allow antlerless permits to be used during the regular rifle season. Having spent hundreds of hours in the woods scouting and hunting over the years, I can anecdotally say I have seen the number of doe grow. In places I used to see maybe 6-8 I now see double or triple that.

I hope the board moves forward with this recommendation. I thank you for your time.

Best,

Spencer Dole

( [REDACTED] )

Burlington, VT

**From:** Sterling Pelsue <waterfowlguy802@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 9:31 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer season regulation changes

[You don't often get email from waterfowlguy802@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Hello, my name is Sterling Pelsue and I am a lifelong Vermonter and avid hunter who has spent his life hunting Vermont and many other states. I am writing to voice my opinion on the upcoming regulation changes for the Vermont deer season. VOTE NO for allowing hunters to use antlerless permits during rifle season! There's many reasons why this is a bad idea.

#1 it will create unsafe hunting conditions in areas already crowded as some people will just shoot at the first thing they see moving because they don't have to identify it as a legal deer

#2 it will make the woods an absolute maylay for the first week of season resulting in an unhealthy harvest number of deer for 1-2 years untill the herd is drastically reduced in which you will see a significant decrease in harvest numbers the years following ( kind of like what happened in the 80s when the state allowed does during rifle)

#3 the only acceptable way to increase a doe harvest at a sustainable rate would be to make rifle season a "either sex" tag one and done where hunters could choose to shoot a doe OR a buck and be done for rifle season, increasing doe harvest numbers at a sustainable rate.

I agree with the changes for the muzzleloader permits to allow us to hold permits for more than one zone at a time however I think it would be more effective and efficient if instead of giving out permits for each zone, make 1 permit applicable for multiple zones, that would be easier to ensure the distribution of permits evenly accross all the hunters in the state while making it easier for hunters to fill antlerless tags.

It cracks me up that you "biologists " think we have too many deer, have you ever been hunting in ANY other state outside of Vermont that actually has a deer herd worth hunting? I highly doubt it if you believe that we have a huge problem on our hands and this is the way to solve it. The problem is not lack of hunters or the lack of does being killed, the problem is the vast majority of lands where all these deer are, are areas that cannot be hunted!! I've lived in the Champlain valley all my life and I can tell you the amount of posted land has increased ten fold in the last ten years, people moving here buying up lots of land posting it and not allowing anyone to hunt, farms buying hundreds of thousands of acres and posting it all and not allowing people to hunt. Take SHELBURNE FARMS for example! They own a ton of land, absolutely riddled with deer and hunting there is next to impossible!! These are the problem areas that need to be addressed, making lands more accessible to hunters and giving landowners incentives to allow ethical hunting practices will help far more than these changes proposed. You do not take any of these factors into account when coming up with these new changes. As an avid outdoorsman who has finally started to see a positive change in our deer herd over the last few years I strongly urge you to NOT ALLOW DOE HARVESTING DURING RIFLE SEASON!! Sincerely

Sterling Pelsue

**From:** stumpjumper802 <stumpjumper802@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 25, 2025 11:03 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes to Deer, Moose, Turkey and Importation Regulation!!

You don't often get email from [stumpjumper802@gmail.com](mailto:stumpjumper802@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

To; Fish and Wildlife Dept and Fish and Wildlife Board.

I do not support harvesting of does during the 16 day regular Rifle deer season.

I do support the taking of does in over populated areas in other season, but not in wmu E1, E2 and D2.

Never has been a over population of does in these three wmu's

You're Just as apt to see a buck as you are a doe!!

Importation Rules: please don't include Maine or NH in this proposed Rule Change.

I would like to see Vermont go back to the "Two-Buck Rule" and have to take a doe to get your 2nd Buck!!

Thank you  
The Vermonter  
Bert Saldi

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** stumpjumper802 <stumpjumper802@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 3:08 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Changes to Deer, Moose, Turkey and Importation Regulation!!

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Clarification to the last paragraph.

I would like to see Vermont go back to the "two-Buck Rule" and (NOT) have to take a doe to get your 2nd Buck.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: stumpjumper802 <stumpjumper802@gmail.com>  
Date: 5/25/25 11:02 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov  
Subject: Proposed Changes to Deer, Moose, Turkey and Importation Regulation!!

To: Fish and Wildlife Dept and Fish and Wildlife Board.

I do not support harvesting of does during the 16 day regular Rifle deer season.  
I do support the taking of does in over populated areas in other season, but not in wmu E1, E2 and D2.  
Never has been a over population of does in these three wmu's  
You're Just as apt to see a buck as you are a doe!!

Importation Rules: please don't include Maine or NH in this proposed Rule Change.

I would like to see Vermont go back to the "Two-Buck Rule" and have to take a doe to get your 2nd Buck!!

Thank you  
The Vermonter  
Bert Saldi

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



**From:** Terry Judkins <terryjudkins34@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:26 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** New laws

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I've hunted vermont and d1 for my entire life I believe changing the law to even 3 points would help the area in general. Also I am in agreement with the second buck tag being available only if you harvest a doe! I like that alot as we need to get doe numbers down especially in d1 area, before the season if you ride around you will see upwards of 30-50 antlerless deer and very few male deer. I'm in agreement with all the updates and think it will help improve things and let our habitat recover from over grazing. One thing I think the state should consider is getting more people to plant food plots and select cutting. If you look at neighboring states and how they log places off the regeneration of these places tree growth makes all the difference, just something I believe vermont should consider. Hope this all helps. Sincerely, Terry Judkins

**From:** thomasrobbins664@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:52 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** 2024 antlerless hunting recommendation

You don't often get email from thomasrobbins664@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good morning,

My name is Tom Robbins and I have been hunting in Vermont for the last 30 years. We moved here 30 years ago to raise our family and to enjoy the beauty and adventures of the Vermont outdoors. A big part of our Vermont adventure has been hunting and fishing.

I am very concerned about the proposal to allow hunters to harvest does during rifle season. I question the reasoning that is driving this proposal because it seems to me that if the ~70,000 rifle deer hunters in Vermont are allowed to shoot most of the ~140,000 deer it will quickly decimate the deer herd. Hunters might enjoy the opportunity to shoot most of the deer that they encounter but that enjoyment will be short lived. I suspect within a few years that this rule will be rescinded and then serious restrictions will need to be added to allow the deer herd to recover.

If the doe herd needs to be reduced bowhunting and muzzleloader seasons are already in place. These seem to be an effective tool and they add countless hours of outdoors adventure and a lot of money flowing to the state. Allowing rifle hunters to shoot does will see to it that the herd gets decimated and puts it all at risk.

Thank you,

Tom Robbins



**From:** Timothy Schaal <timothy.schaal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 7:46 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to deer hunting regulations

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I am in favor of all three proposed change.

Tim Schaal

[REDACTED]

White River Jct., VT

Age: 57, Avid dee hunter in VT for 45 years

**From:** Todd K <hike211@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 7:09 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Cc:** Fortin, Nick  
**Subject:** Fw: Failure Notice

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----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "mailer-daemon@yahoo.com" <mailer-daemon@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "hike211@yahoo.com" <hike211@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 9:06:27 AM EDT  
**Subject:** Failure Notice

Sorry, we were unable to deliver your message to the following address.

<[anr.fwpubliccommentcomment@vermont.gov](mailto:anr.fwpubliccommentcomment@vermont.gov)>:

550: 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. For more information see <https://aka.ms/EXOSmtpErrors>  
[DS4PEPF0000016F.namprd09.prod.outlook.com 2025-05-21T13:06:19.949Z 08DD966E0CFC616F]

----- Forwarded message -----

Im 59 yrs old . lived in VT my entire life. hunting since 10 yrs old . I am And many of my friends are opposed to having Doe permits ... At least down here in Southern Vt Zones O ,Q We have seen the Overkill OF DOES during the 1980's rifle season doe permits ..Just terrible .. There was no deer to found after years of this .. finally in the 90'S WE STARTED TO SEE DEER . I went to John Buck , Scott Darling .. The Deer Biologists at That time ,, with 600 resident , non resident signatures in favor of the spike horn law, before social media ... WE have all seen the results of this . Body weights are now to where 200lb deer and are being harvested in every part of the state ..Thats progress ... however I don't see deer very many deer now I accept that .. I used to pass up several bucks a season not any more . however my chances of getting a nice buck have increased over the yrs , even my doe sightings have diminished I hunt all deer seasons ... have for 50 yrs ... There is now many DEAD AREAS where deer numbers have diminished , New Hampshire And Massachusetts has many , many of these ares where hunters go in and shoot everything . Nothing to hunt for yrs to come,, Pure Dead zones .. talk about loosing hunter interest?

My belief is that there is now a current Overkill of Does in southern Vt ... I have met Several; Non resident Land Owners who used to hunt here that no longer have interest for they see no deer .... One guy sold his deer camp in Newfane said he was ashamed to have said he had such property .... I have no input for other parts of this state .. but perhaps the The state needs to make smaller WMA Zones micro manage .. Increase archery season to 15 sep in all ares not just town limits ... before deer get pushed onto larger posted , non firearm areas. TO MENTION DOE PERMITS IN RIFLE SEASON IS A DIRTY PHASE .. For Us old timers who saw THE OVERKILL ... Your Biologist Numbers are OFF

Todd Kinsman Vernon

**From:** Tom Mauhs-Pugh <tmauhspugh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 1:53 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed new regulations

[You don't often get email from tmauhspugh@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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I support the following proposed regulations:

- \* Allowing antlerless deer permits to be used during the rifle season in select WMUs.
- \* Allow the conditional taking of a second buck in select WMUs.
- \* Simplify and expand the archery season.

I live on 71 acres in Poultney. Although there is active hunting in my area, including on my land and neighboring lands (by myself and others), there remains an overpopulation of deer such that there is little forest regeneration except for black birch and beech. Although my property is well stocked with mature maple, oak, black cherry, ash, and hickory, there is almost no regeneration of these species. On most days, I observe groups of 5-7 deer browsing in the field beside my home. At times there are 8-10. Every year we see 3 or more fawns frequenting our fields. I have seen groups of deer as large as 15 on a field within a mile of my place.

We love watching the deer, but there is simply an imbalance.

Tom Mauhs-Pugh  
Poultney, VT

**From:** Tom <ledgeroad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 7:39 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed antlerless deer hunting regulations

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hi! I'm a hunter and forest land owner in Windham County. I am all in favor of changing the regulations to allow more antlerless and antlered deer to be harvested. The deer population in our zone is just too high. We have a lot of oaks in our woods but I'm hesitant to cut them because there has been absolutely no oak regeneration in the past 40 or 50 years. I think I have seen on our lands just one oak tree under 5" diameter. Plenty of black birch which the deer don't like to eat. I forget the number our forester George Weir has quoted that would allow oak regeneration but it's probably 1/4 the deer per square mile we currently have. This is not Germany but there the foresters tell the landowners that they have to take x amount of deer off their lands in order for the forest to be healthy. It's clear from the lack of oak regeneration and the dearth of spring wildflowers that we have too many deer on the landscape. Thanks for everything you folks do to give us healthy forests and fields. Tom Prunier [REDACTED]

**From:** Tom <ledgeroad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 27, 2025 9:31 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Antlerless deer hunting proposals.

You don't often get email from ledgeroad@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thank you for your work trying to manage the deer population and reduce their impact on our forests. I approve all of your proposals to reduce the number of deer. I would also suggest that land owners who don't post their property be allowed an extended season to hunt with a rifle to harvest an antlerless deer.

We own 80 acres of managed woods that have suffered from many years of too many deer. We have almost no oak or sugar maple reproduction. We don't have an oak tree under 12" dbh . What oak we have I don't want to cut because any young oak seedlings will be destroyed by deer browsing.

Thank you, Tom Prunier  
Westminster

**From:** Trevor White <trevorwhite1991@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:11 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Hunting season proposal

You don't often get email from trevorwhite1991@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Good morning,

To whom it may concern. I am all for the proposal suggested For hunting season being extended or adding Antlerless deer to the regular season. I did have a proposal to suggest. I am a disabled Vermont resident with a spinal cord injury confined to a wheelchair. I have a great passion for hunting. I find it difficult every year to be able to make it to the November rifle hunt because of the cold and snow, due to my injury my body has a hard time handling it my body does not regulate temperature like a normal individual and also being in a wheelchair I have difficulty getting around after the snow gets here. So I do not spend very much time in the woods when the temperature start to dip hunting season is basically over for me and I can only imagine people similar to my disability have the same difficulties. I would like to suggest if possible, adding a mobility impaired hunting weekend earlier in the season, To allow disabled individuals that cannot handle the extreme cold and snow to be able to enjoy the ability to rifle hunt, it can also help with the concern of over population allowing mobility impaired individuals to take part in the harvest. Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I hope it can be taken into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Trevor White



**From:** Tovar Cerulli <tovar.cerulli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 10:35 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Questions re: proposed deer rule changes  
**Attachments:** 10VSA37-Proposed-Deer-Rule-Changes-TCcomments.pdf

You don't often get email from tovar.cerulli@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I've posed 5 brief questions in comments on the attached pdf.

Thank you,

Tovar Cerulli  
Marshfield, VT

## Changes Included in this Document

1. Move Youth Weekend back to the weekend before the regular season.

*See section 11*

2. Establish Expanded Archery Zones

*See section 10.6*

3. Allow antlerless permits to be used during the regular season.

*See sections 4.1 and 7.2*

Currently only allowed during the Antlerless Season (October Muzzleloader) and (December) Muzzleloader Season.

4. Allow hunters to hold two antlerless permits at a time.

*See section 4.3*

Only one acquired through the lottery, and only one per WMU at a time.

5. Remove the closure of archery season during the regular season.

*See section 10.1*

This was an enforcement concern that no longer applies if antlerless permits can be used during the regular season.

6. Reinstate the antler restriction in WMU D1.

*See section 3.8*

7. Allow hunters to take a second buck if certain conditions are met.

*See section 6.1(b)*

Hunters must first harvest an antlerless deer and their first buck must have 3+ points on one antler.

98. Miscellaneous changes for consistency and clarity.

## § 37. Deer Management Rule

### 1.0 Authority

1.1 This rule is adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(b). In adopting this rule, the Fish and Wildlife Board is following the policy established by the General Assembly that the protection, propagation, control, management, and conservation of fish, wildlife and furbearing animals in this State is in the interest of the public welfare and that the safeguarding of this valuable resource for the people of the State requires a constant and continual vigilance.

1.2 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082, this rule is designed to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of the deer herd.

1.3 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4084, this rule establishes open seasons; establishes daily, season and possession limits; prescribes the manner and means of taking white-tailed deer and establishes restrictions on taking based on sex and antler characteristics.

### 2.0 Purpose.

The purpose of this rule is to manage the white-tailed deer herd, implementing will of the General Assembly to design rules to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of the deer herd.

### 3.0 Definitions

3.1 “Antlerless Deer” are defined as those deer without antlers or antlers less than three (3”) inches in length.

~~3.2 An “Antlerless Deer Permit” is a permit issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(g) that allows a person to take one antlerless deer during the antlerless or muzzleloader seasons.~~

~~3.3~~ 2 “Antler Point”: A “point” is an antler projection of at least 1” measured from the base of the point at the main beam to the tip of the point. A broken main beam shall count as a point regardless of length.

~~3.4~~ 3 “Bait”: For the purposes of this regulation, ‘bait’<sup>4</sup> is defined as any animal, vegetable, fruit or mineral matter placed with the intention of attracting wildlife. Natural and artificial scents and lures that are not prohibited under Section 14 of this regulation and are not designed to be consumed by eating or licking shall not be bait for the purposes of this rule.

~~3.5~~ 4 “Baiting” is the use of any animal, vegetable or mineral matter, including scents and lures prohibited under section 14 of this regulation that has the effect of enticing wildlife to a certain location.

~~3.6~~ 5 “Board”: The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board.

3.7-6 “Bona fide agricultural practices”: Practices that have been employed to plant, grow and harvest an agricultural product conducted in the usual manner.

3.8-7 “Crossbows”: A crossbow means a device consisting of a bow mounted to a rigid stock for discharging bolts or arrows and having a mechanical means to hold and release the drawn string, which must be fired from the shoulder. A bolt means a short projectile, designed for a crossbow, that resembles an arrow. No person shall hunt wild animals or game with a crossbow if the bolt has an arrowhead less than seven-eighths of an inch at its widest point and has less than two sharp cutting edges. A crossbow shall have a minimum pull of 125 pounds, a working mechanical safety and a stock no less than 23 inches in length.

3.9-8 “Legal Buck”: In Wildlife Management Units C, ~~D1~~, D2 E1, E2, G, I, L, M, P, and Q a legal buck shall be any white-tail deer with at least one antler three (3") inches or more in length; and in Wildlife Management Units A, B, ~~D1~~, F1, F2, H, J1, J2, K, N, and O a legal buck shall be any white-tailed deer with at least one antler with two or more antler points one inch in length or longer.

3.10-9 “Novice”: A person who purchased their first hunting license within the past 12 months and is 16 years of age or older.

3.11-10 “Youth”: A person who is 15 years of age or younger.

#### **4.0 Antlerless Deer Permits**

4.1 An Antlerless Deer Permit is a permit issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(g) and provisions of this section that allows a person to take one antlerless deer in the wildlife management unit listed on the permit during the regular season, antlerless season, or muzzleloader season.

4.2 Annually, the Board shall determine how many antlerless permits to issue in each wildlife management unit. For a nonrefundable fee, a person may apply for an Antlerless Deer Permit permit. The Department shall allocate the permits in the following manner:

(a) A Vermont landowner, as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 4253, who owns 25 or more contiguous acres and who applies shall receive an antlerless deer permit in the wildlife management unit on which the land is located before any are given to people eligible under subdivision (b) of this subsection. If the land is owned by more than one individual, corporation, or other entity, only one permit shall be issued. Landowners applying for antlerless deer permits under this subdivision shall not, at the time of application or thereafter during the deer hunting seasons, post their lands except under the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 4710. As used in this section, “post” means any signage that would lead a reasonable person to believe that hunting is restricted on the land. If the number of landowners who apply exceeds the number of permits for that wildlife management unit, the Department shall award all permits in that wildlife management unit to landowners by lottery.

(b) Permits remaining after allocation pursuant to subdivision (a) of this subsection shall be issued by lottery. Not more than ten percent of permits may be issued to nonresident applicants.

(c) Any permits remaining after permits have been allocated pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) of this subsection shall be issued by the Department on a first-come, first-served basis. Ten percent of the remaining permits may be issued to nonresident applicants.

4.3 No person may purchase or possess more than two antlerless deer permits at one time, only one of which may be acquired pursuant to subsection 4.2(a) or (b) of this section. No person may purchase or possess more than one antlerless deer permit for an individual wildlife management unit at one time. A person<sup>1</sup> may purchase additional antlerless deer permits after the person has harvested an antlerless deer.

## **45.0 Annual Deer Limit**

45.1 A person shall not take more than four white-tailed deer in a calendar~~calendar~~ year, only one of which may be a legal buck, with the following exceptions.

4.2(a) Youth and novice hunters shall be allowed to take two legal bucks, provided that one is taken during the youth or novice season, not to exceed the annual limit of four white-tailed deer.

(b) A person shall be allowed to take one additional buck, not to exceed the annual limit of four white-tailed deer, provided they have:

(1) Purchased a second buck tag,

(2) Previously taken and reported an antlerless deer in the current year, and

(3)<sup>2</sup> Previously taken and reported an antlered buck in the current year that had at least one antler with 3 or more antler points.

5.2 No person shall take deer in a WMU unless they are licensed, permitted or explicitly authorized to do so by the Board rules, or procedures adopted in accordance with 10 V.S.A § 4082 (c).

## **6.0 Regular Season**

6.1 Season Dates: Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4084 for 16 consecutive days commencing 12 days prior to Thanksgiving Day.

6.2 Limit:

(a) One legal buck, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in Section 6.1 of this rule, and

(b) One antlerless deer per<sup>3</sup> antlerless deer permit, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in section<sup>4</sup> 5.1 of this rule.





## **57.0 Antlerless October Muzzleloader Deer Season.**

# Summary of Comments on Questions re: proposed deer rule changes

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Page: 5

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	Number: 1	Author: Tovar	Subject: Comment on Text	Date: 2/26/2025 11:30:57 AM -05'00'
Does this mean they can purchase the second after using the first? Or that they can purchase more even after using one or both of the first two?				
	Number: 2	Author: Tovar	Subject: Comment on Text	Date: 2/26/2025 11:11:07 AM -05'00'
As I understand, this means that a hunter could take a buck with 3+ points on one side and then take a forkhorn (or spikehorn, depending on the unit). But they could not do the opposite. Is there a reason to prohibit the opposite (smaller buck first; larger buck second)?				
	Number: 3	Author: Tovar	Subject: Comment on Text	Date: 2/26/2025 11:29:56 AM -05'00'
Would the total number of antlerless permits issued be reduced in many WMUs? Given that more people hunt in the regular season than in muzzleloader seasons, it seems likely that there would be a higher rate of take per hundred permits issued.				
	Number: 4	Author: Tovar	Subject: Comment on Text	Date: 2/26/2025 11:31:36 AM -05'00'
5.1? The section is referred to as 6.1 throughout.				

57.1 Season Dates: For four consecutive days, commencing on the Thursday 16 days prior to the opening day of the regular rifle season ~~shall be the antlerless deer season.~~

~~57.3~~ 2 Limit: A person may take one antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit. ~~A person may take additional antlerless deer if they obtain additional antlerless deer permits, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in section 46.1 of this rule. No person may purchase or possess more than one antlerless deer permit at a time, or purchase a subsequent antlerless deer permit until the person has harvested an antlerless deer. If a person possesses a permit to take an antlerless deer, then the person may take an antlerless deer.~~

~~57.2~~ 3 A person hunting under this section shall obtain a muzzleloader license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252 and must possess an antlerless deer permit.

~~57.4~~ A person hunting with a muzzleloading firearm pursuant to this rule shall not carry any firearms other than one single-barreled muzzleloading firearm as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 4001(33) while hunting deer during this season.

~~57.5~~ No person taking deer by means of muzzleloader may possess archery equipment or crossbow while hunting.

~~5.6~~ No person shall take a deer in a WMU unless they are licensed, permitted or explicitly authorized to do so by the Board rules, or procedures adopted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082 (e).

## **68.0 Muzzleloading December Muzzleloader Season.**

~~68.1~~ Muzzleloader Season Dates: For the nine consecutive calendar days commencing on the first Saturday after the completion of the regular rifle deer hunting season, ~~a person may take one legal buck by muzzleloading firearm.~~

### 8.2 Limit:

(a) One legal buck, not to exceed the annual limit by muzzleloading firearm, provided that they have not yet taken a buck as prescribed in Section 46.1 of this rule, and

(b) ~~If the Board has authorized the taking of antlerless deer, and if a person possesses an antlerless deer permit, then the person may take an antlerless deer. No person may purchase or possess more than one antlerless deer permit and a person can only purchase a subsequent antlerless deer permit after the person has harvested an antlerless deer.~~ One antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in section 46.1 of this rule.

~~68.2~~ 3 A person hunting with a muzzleloading firearm under this section shall obtain a muzzleloader license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252.

~~68.3~~ 4 A person hunting with a muzzleloading firearm pursuant to this rule shall not carry any firearms other than one single-barreled muzzleloading firearm as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 4001(33) while hunting deer during this season.

~~68.4~~ 5 No person taking deer by means of muzzleloader may possess archery equipment or crossbow while hunting.

~~6.5~~ No person shall take a deer in a WMU unless they are licensed, permitted or explicitly authorized to do so by the Board rules, or procedures adopted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082(c).

## **79.0 Archery Season**

79.1 Archery Season Dates: October 1 through December 15, except during the regular rifle deer hunting season:

### 9.2 Limit:

(a) <sup>1</sup>One legal buck, may be taken by bow and arrow or crossbow, during the archery season anywhere in the state; not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in Section ~~46.1~~ of this rule, and

(b) In Wildlife Management Units declared open by the Board to the taking of antlerless deer, a person may take one antlerless deer per archery antlerless deer tag, not to exceed the annual limit as prescribed in Section 6.1 of this rule.

~~79.2~~ 3 A person hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow under this section shall obtain an archery license as provided in 10 V.S.A. § 4252. An archery license will be valid for one deer; additional archery licenses are required for the taking of additional deer.

~~7.4~~ Crossbows may be used as a means of take during any season that permits the use of a bow and arrow.

9.4 A person shall use only a bow and arrow or a crossbow to take deer during this season.

79.5 The holder of an archery license or a super sport license, hunting with a bow and arrow or a crossbow, may possess a handgun while archery hunting, in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4252(b), provided that the license holder shall not take game by firearm while hunting.

~~7.6~~ Unless it is uncocked, a person shall not possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4705.

~~7.3~~ The Board may establish 9.6 Expanded Archery Zones

(a) Within these zones, the archery season shall begin September 15. From September 15 to September 30, only antlerless deer may be taken.

(b) {Zone Boundaries}





Number: 1

Author: Tovar

Subject: Comment on Text

Date: 2/26/2025 11:14:37 AM -05'00'

Does this mean that a bowhunter could not take two bucks in accordance with 5.1? If so, why compel hunters who want to take two bucks to take at least one with a rifle or muzzleloader?

#### Wildlife Management Unit A

All of Wildlife Management Unit A as described in 10 App. V.S.A. § 2b.

#### Newport

All lands within the city of Newport.

#### Burlington Area

Beginning on the shore of Lake Champlain at the end of Beach Road (Shelburne T.H. #22) in Shelburne proceed south along Beach Road to Bostwick Road (Shelburne T.H. #3); then northeast along Bostwick Road to Marsett Road (Shelburne T.H. #11); then east along Marsett Road to Falls Road (Shelburne T.H. #2); then east along Falls Road to Irish Hill Road (Shelburne T.H. #2); then east along Irish Hill Road to Spear Street (Shelburne T.H. #6); then north along Spear Street to Barstow Road (Shelburne T.H. #8); then east along Barstow Road to Cheeseactory Road (Shelburne T.H. #8); then east along Cheeseactory Road to State Route 116; then south along Route 116 to South Brownell Road (Williston T.H. #5); then north along South Brownell Road to Walker Hill Road (Williston T.H. #18); then east along Walker Hill Road to State Route 2A (Saint George Road); then north along Route 2A to Interstate Highway 89; then east along Interstate Highway 89 to Oak Hill Road (Williston T.H. #1); then north along Oak Hill Road to North Williston Road (Williston T.H. #1); then north along North Williston Road to State Route 117 (River Road); then west along Route 117 to State Route 289; then north and west along Route 289 to Susie Wilson Bypass (Essex T.H. #3); then southwest along Susie Wilson Bypass to Kellogg Road (Essex T.H. #5); then west along Kellogg Road which becomes Severance Road (Colchester T.H. #7); then west along Severance Road to Blakely Road (Colchester T.H. #9); then west along Blakely Road to East Lakeshore Drive; then in a straight line north to the shore of Lake Champlain; then west and south along the shore of Lake Champlain to the point of beginning.

#### Montpelier

All lands within the city of Montpelier.

#### Saint Johnsbury Area

Beginning at the junction of Hospital Drive (St. Johnsbury State Highway) and Interstate Highway 91 proceed east along Hospital Drive to Depot Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #85); then east along Depot Hill Road to U.S. Route 5 (Memorial Drive); then north along US Route 5 to Breezy Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #6); then east along Breezy Hill Road to Lackey Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #20); then east along Lackey Hill Road approximately 300 feet to the power line; then south along the power line to the electric substation off Higgins Hill Road (St. Johnsbury T.H. #80); then south along the power line to Interstate Highway 93; then west along Interstate Highway 93 to Interstate Highway 91; then north along Interstate Highway 91 to the point of beginning.

#### Rutland Area

Beginning at the junction of State Route 4A and U.S. Route 4 in West Rutland proceed east along U.S. Route 4 to U.S. Route 7; then south along U.S. Route 7 to North Shrewsbury Road (Clarendon T.H. #4); then east along North Shrewsbury Road to East Clarendon Road (Clarendon T.H. #8); then north along East Clarendon Road to Cold River Road (Clarendon T.H. #8); then north along Cold River Road to the Rutland Town/Clarendon town line; then east along the Rutland Town/Clarendon town line to the Mendon town line; then north along the Rutland Town/Mendon town line to U.S. Route 4; then west along U.S. Route 4 to Post Road (Rutland Town T.H. #30); then north and west

along Post Road to U.S. Route 7; then south along U.S. Route 7 approximately 0.1 miles to the triple power line; then west and southwest along the triple power line to the junction west of Grove Street (Rutland City T.H. #6); then south along the double power line to the junction near the end of Evergreen Avenue (Rutland City T.H. #174); then west along the power line to the junction west of West Proctor Road (Rutland Town T.H. #6); then north along the power line to the junction north of Durgy Hill Road (West Rutland Town T.H. #12); then west along the power line to Marble Street (West Rutland Town T.H. #3); then south along Marble Street to Water Street (West Rutland Town T.H. #19); then west along Water Street to Whipple Hollow Road (West Rutland Town T.H. #4); then south along Whipple Hollow Road to Route 4A; then west along Route 4A to the point of beginning.

#### Bennington Area

Beginning at the junction of U.S. Route 7 and State Route 313 in Arlington proceed west along Route 313 to State Route 7A; then south along Route 7A to West Mountain Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #54); then west along West Mountain Road to Laclair Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #64); then west along Laclair Road to Murphy Hill Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #9); then west along Murphy Hill Road to Sally Gannon Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #13), then west along Sally Gannon Road to the New York state border; then south along the New York state border to State Route 346; then east along Route 346 to North Pownal Road (Pownal T.H. #2); then east along North Pownal Road to U.S. Route 7; then south along U.S. Route 7 to Barber Pond Road (Pownal T.H. #3); then east along Barber Pond Road to South Stream Road (Pownal T.H. #3); then east and north along South Stream Road to Gore Road (Bennington T.H. #54); then east along Gore Road to Burgess Road (Bennington T.H. #53); then north along Burgess Road to Barney Road (Bennington T.H. #52); then north along Barney Road to State Route 9, then west along Route 9 to State Route 279; then north along Route 279 to Chapel Road (Bennington T.H. #16); then north along Chapel Road to East Road (Shaftsbury T.H. #5); then north along East Road to U.S. Route 7; then north along U.S. Route 7 to the point of beginning.

#### Brattleboro Area

Beginning at the Interstate Highway 91 bridge over the West River in Brattleboro proceed southeast along the north shore of the West River to the New Hampshire state border; then south along the New Hampshire state border to Broad Brook; then west along Broad Brook to State Route 142; then north along Route 142 to Broad Brook Road (Vernon T.H. #6); then west along Broad Brook Road to U.S. Route 5; then north along U.S. Route 5 to Guilford Center Road (Guilford T.H. #1); then southwest along Guilford Center Road to Tater Lane (Guilford T.H. #23); then north along Tater Lane which becomes South Street (Brattleboro T.H. #72); then north along South Street to State Route 9; then northwest along Route 9 to Meadowbrook Road (Brattleboro T.H. #26); then north along Meadowbrook Road to upper Dummerston Road (Brattleboro T.H. #5); then southeast along Upper Dummerston Road to Interstate Highway 91; then north along Interstate Highway 91 to the point of beginning.

#### 8.0 Regular Rifle Season

8.1 Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4084 for the 16 consecutive calendar days commencing 12 days prior to Thanksgiving day, a person may take by lawful means one legal buck. No person shall take a deer in a WMU unless they are licensed, permitted or explicitly authorized to do so by the Board rules, or procedures adopted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082(c).

### **910.0 Youth Deer Hunting Weekend**

**910.1 Season Dates:** Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4742a, the Saturday and Sunday ~~three-one weeks~~ prior to the opening day of the regular ~~rifle deer hunting~~ season shall be youth deer hunting weekend.

**910.2 Limit:** One white-tailed deer. One legal buck may be taken during the youth deer hunting weekend, or any deer if the Board has authorized the taking of antlerless deer during youth hunting weekend.

**910.3** To participate in the youth deer hunt, a qualified youth must be 15 years of age or younger and have a valid Vermont hunting license and a youth deer hunting weekend license.

**910.4** The youth must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two young people at one time. As used in this section, “accompany,” “accompanied,” or “accompanying” means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

**910.5** No youth shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

## **1011.0 Novice Season**

**1011.1 Novice Season Dates:** This season shall be concurrent with the Youth Deer Hunting Weekend as prescribed in 10 V.S.A. § 4742a and section ~~9101.1~~ of this rule.

**1011.2 Limit:** One white-tailed deer. One legal buck may be taken during this season, or any deer if the Board has authorized the taking of antlerless deer during youth hunting weekend.

**1011.3** To participate in the novice season, a qualified person must have a valid Vermont hunting license, and follow the requirements of youth hunting week-end.

**1011.4** The novice hunter must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a novice under this section shall accompany no more than two novice hunters at one time. As used in this section, “accompany,” “accompanied,” or “accompanying” means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the novice hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

**1011.5** No Novice hunter shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

## **1112.0 Reporting.**

**1112.1** A deer carcass shall be field dressed prior to reporting in accordance with 10 V.S.A. App. § 2.

**1112.2** Upon request, the person harvesting a deer shall show and return to the kill site with a Game Warden.

12.3 A deer carcass may be quartered or deboned in the field prior to reporting provided all requirements of 10 V.S.A. App. § 2 and 10 V.S.A. §§ 4921 through 4925 are met. The viscera, hide, upper and lower leg bones, backbone, pelvis, and ribs may be left in the field. Evidence of sex (genitalia, antlers of deer,) must be retained for reporting. All other required biological samples must also be retained for reporting, including both central incisors of deer, during the November firearm season and novice weekend

### **1213.0 Feeding of Deer.**

1213.1 No person shall feed white-tailed deer at any time in Vermont except:

(a) Under a license or permit issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4152 by the Department for bona fide scientific research, mitigation of wildlife damage or nuisance problems, or wildlife population reduction programs only; or

(b) By planting, cultivating or harvesting of crops directly associated with bona fide agricultural practices, including planted wildlife food plots; or

(c) By distribution of food material for livestock directly associated with bona fide agricultural practices; or

(d) By cutting of trees or brush; or

(e) By incidental feeding by an elevated bird/squirrel feeders (feeders must be at least five feet above the ground) providing seed, grain, fruit, worms, or suet for birds or squirrels, located within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling.

### **1314.0 Baiting**

1314.1 No person shall take deer by using bait. Exempted from this prohibition are:

(a) Incidental feeding of wildlife within active livestock operations;

(b) Standing crops planted and left standing as food plots for wildlife;

(c) Grain or other feed scattered or distributed solely as a result of normal agricultural, gardening, or soil stabilization, and logging practices;

(d) Vegetation or food/seed naturally deposited.

1314.2 No person shall take any game or wild animal by using bait during deer seasons established under Part 4 of Title 10 or by rules of the Board, except that persons taking furbearers as authorized under 10 V.S.A. § 4252(3) may use bait in conjunction with traps being set to take furbearers.

### **1415.0 The Ban of urine and other natural lures.**

1415.1 Authority. The Fish & Wildlife Board finds that, in order to protect the health of white-tailed deer in Vermont, it is necessary to prohibit the use of cervid urine, blood, glands, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids for the purpose of taking or attempting to take deer.

1415.2 Restricted and Permitted Uses of cervid urine, blood, glands, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids.

(a) No person shall possess while hunting or use, for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, surveillance or scouting deer; any product that contains or purports to contain any cervid urine, blood, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids.

(b) A person may utilize the body parts of a wild Vermont white-tailed deer legally taken or acquired by that person for coyote hunting.

**From:** Tyler Maynard <tyle413@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 6:22 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Deer Hunting Changes

You don't often get email from tyle413@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hi Brad,

First and foremost, I write this email with respect and gratitude for your efforts on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board. Bridging the opinions of a diverse state with a storied and rigid hunting culture—while striving to do what is best for stakeholders and constituents—is neither an easy task nor a financially motivated one. For your dedication, time, and expertise, I am truly grateful to have individuals like you representing Vermont’s outdoors community.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recently proposed deer management regulations. While I fully respect the analysis and expertise of Vermont’s deer biologists—and acknowledge that, even on my best days, I am far from an armchair biologist—I do have concerns regarding the proposed solutions. As a lifelong Vermonter and passionate deer hunter, I would like to share my perspective.

From my initial analysis, the proposed regulations appear to have two primary goals:

- 1.) Improve the doe-to-buck ratio
- 2.) Decrease the overall herd

I believe the State of Vermont’s use of antler diameter as a metric is the correct approach to evaluating the quality of whitetail deer hunting opportunities. However, while I agree with the overarching goals, I respectfully disagree with the proposed methods to achieve them.

In the simplest terms, I believe that extending Vermont’s hunting opportunities—rather than expanding the existing ones—would be a more effective approach. Specifically, to reduce the overall doe population, I believe the best course of action would be to extend the early doe season from three days to a full week, encompassing two full weekends. Anecdotally, I know many Vermont hunters who would like to participate in the early doe season but are unable to do so due to work and family constraints.

Just as importantly, I have concerns about opening doe harvest during the regular season for several reasons:

- 1.) It increases opportunities for poaching.
- 2.) It adds additional stress to the herd due to the already high hunting pressure.
- 3.) Most importantly, public perception. The anti-hunting community already views opening weekend as a “war zone.” Increasing the harvest during this period will likely exacerbate this perception. While I lack empirical data, I strongly believe that the decline in access to private land over the past several decades is highly correlated with the decline in hunting license sales. Protecting access should be the number one priority for Vermont sportsmen and women.

In summary, I believe a steady release from the dam is far more beneficial than a rapid release in several areas, including public perception, herd stress, and availability of sportsmen and women. Additionally, I see long-term benefits to extending rather than expanding hunting opportunities, such as enticing out-of-state hunters to Vermont while their seasons are closed and incentivizing Vermont hunters who typically travel out of state during peak season to

purchase licenses and hunt in Vermont during “non-prime” periods.

I understand that diagnosing the issue is much easier than finding the right remedy in the public eye, but I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to consider my perspective. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns in more detail and further articulate the nuances of my position.

Best regards,

--

Tyler Maynard

E: [tyle413@gmail.com](mailto:tyle413@gmail.com)

C: [REDACTED]



**From:** Tyler Thygesen <tylerthygesen@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 8:43 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** New rule changes

[You don't often get email from tylerthygesen@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Why are we evening bringing this up? All the rules we currently have are working and seeing some positive signs of a better herd and buck herd. Further more why do we need more doe hunting? Look back in the 70s and 80s to see the negative affects of doe seasons with a rifle, the decimated the herd to a level that took 20 years for it to rebound. All your doe management needs to be done with youths and bowhunters before the doe are bred. All you will do it kill the management efforts of the last 20 years. I strongly oppose this new rules!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** William Agnew <essentialarborist@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 12:13 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed deer hunting regs

[You don't often get email from essentialarborist@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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I'm on board with all three proposals. Speaking as an amateur hunter (ie, almost no success at it!) I really am not motivated by antlers. I'd just like to eat some of my own harvested venison, and, maximize the opportunity to get outside deer hunting. I also think the current permit system is mostly a way for the department to generate revenue; as someone who grudgingly purchases them they're a major disincentive in my decision whether or not to deer hunt every year (in combination with above, "limited success").

I think perhaps VF&W needs a paradigm switch, to include managing hunter populations as well as hunted ones.

Bill Agnew  
Charlotte  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** William Kropelin <william.kropelin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2025 1:05 PM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Deer Hunting Regulations Changes

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I am in favor of increasing hunter opportunities to harvest antlerless deer. I base my opinion on the fact that deer browsing is so detrimental to establishing sugar maple regeneration in my woodland. I believe the deer population is too high.

Thank you.

Bill Kropelin,  
Cambridge, VT

**From:** Wyatt Wilson <wyattawilson87@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:13 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to deer regulations

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To whom it may concern.

I have been an active hunter for over 25 years. Mostly hunting Area B and C. Whitetail deer and turkeys primarily. Throughout my years of hunting I have seen a positive change. Since the spikehorn rule was adopted I personally have been able to see more buck, better buck, and hunting success for me and my family/friends has steadily increased. It's a welcome change from my early days.

After reading the proposal for changes to antlerless deer regulations I am writing to express my concerns. I will first state I am 100% against allowing antlerless permits to be filled during the regular season.

Not only does this dramatically increase safety concerns but also I fear that over harvesting is inevitable. And antlerless deer taken in the regular season are far more likely to be bred already thus the taking of 1 doe is potentially taking 2 or 3 deer.

I do understand the need for certain zones to be able to take more doe. But it should not be allowed in the regular season. Nor should archery season extend into the regular season. Safety being a huge and obvious concern for both of those issues as well as the taking of a bred doe. I have long disagreed with doe permits in muzzleloader season. The only time I have personally been concerned for my safety in the woods has been when does are aloud to be taken. The unfortunate and disgusting term "if it's brown it's down" gets taken too far and I've seen what individuals will do when they "have the right"

I would however support extending the current 4 day muzzleloader season for antlerless deer. While i firmly believe archery and any gun season should be separate from one another I can see them coexisting inside the early archery season.

I would especially support this if it was for certain zones only. Parts of area B I hunt are far different than parts of area C.

Please consider these thoughts. Again, it is my opinion, antlerless deer should not be allowed to be taken with a rifle in the regular season.

I have fully supported the 1 buck rule. I believe that has directly impacted the positive changes I have witness since it's inception. That being said, if there was a \$20+ permit for a 2nd buck with at least 3 points per side I would buy that permit every year. The reason I would do so is that if I tagged a buck opening day my season wouldn't be over. I could still spend time in the woods hunting for a more challenging game.

For the record, I realize money is the motivation for everything in life... keep buck only in regular season. Charge more for the license. I'd gladly pay double each year rather than see our deer herd get slaughtered.

Please take these personal thoughts/concerns into consideration. Thank you.

Wyatt Wilson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Zeb Martin <fwdbiz6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 11:21 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** proposed change to regs

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I'm writing to voice my opposition to some of the proposed changes to VT's deer hunting regulations.

I am not in favor of allowing rifles to be used as a tool to harvest whitetail does. I question the premise that we have too many deer.

I believe that this change will decrease hunter safety by allowing a "if it's brown it's down" mentality with long range weapons.

I currently hear complaints about how few deer my fellow hunters see. Killing does and their future offspring will not help hunter satisfaction. It will also negatively impact the public's opinion of Fish & Wildlife.

I personally have observed lower fawn recruitment in areas that I hunt, which has kept the deer population stable. I estimate the current population to be about half of what it was in the 1990s.

I am favor of "earn a buck", but it shouldn't be necessary. Reducing it to one buck per year forced many hunters out of state, and reduces hunter opportunity here in Vermont.

I'm also disappointed in the many variations of the spikehorn rule. While I am in favor of the regulation itself, I am appalled at how watered down it has become. It has had a positive impact on the herd's age structure, but is now so diluted by exceptions that it might as well go away.

I understand that Fish & Game has a nearly impossible task in managing our game, while walking the line between (questionable) science, politics, and public opinion. Killing does during rifle season may increase hunter participation and hunter success rates, but it will sour public opinion and negatively impact hunter satisfaction in the future.

I'm curious about Mr. Fortin's statement that the state intends to reach its population goals. It sounds like a threat to me. The deer herd is owned by the State, but what is the State but a representative of the people?

Zeb Martin  
Charlotte/Williamstown Vermont

**From:** Jason L <bravoleader1975@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 5:52 AM  
**To:** ANR - FW Public Comment  
**Subject:** 100s of these a year enough said

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