

QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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My name is Rick Watts and I am the president of the Pennsylvania State Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association QDMA. On behalf of QDMA and the Pennsylvania State Chapter, I am here to support Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania. The QDMA is a national, nonprofit wildlife conservation organization, dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has nearly 50,000 members nationwide, and our membership includes hunters, landowners, and natural resource professionals.

The QDMA advocates the legalization of Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania for the following reasons:

☐ Sunday hunting will provide additional recreational opportunity for Pennsylvania Hunters;

☐ Sunday hunting will increase hunter participation and recruitment rates;

☐ Sunday hunting will help rural economies.

Hunters play an important role in Pennsylvania's societal and economic well being. Hunters provide a free ecological service to society by managing deer and other wildlife populations, and provide more than \$1.5 billion annually to Pennsylvania's economy. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania recruits less than 70 hunters for every 100 it loses. This is below the national average, and one suggested reason for this decline is the lack of available time for hunting.

The addition of Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania can provide additional time for hunting, and help slow this negative trend. Many hunters are limited in their hunting activity to weekends, due to long work weeks and conflicts with other social activities. The addition of Sunday hunting would effectively double the number of available days for this segment of the hunting population.

It would provide ample opportunity for youth to hunt, without conflicting with school or team sports (which typically occur on Saturdays), and therefore help hunter recruitment rates. With increasing demands on our time from work or school, and in an era where a full 32% of our children are growing up in single parent households, the majority of these parents are single mothers, and fathers, that

The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has 50,000 members nationwide with Pennsylvania ranking fifth in statewide membership. Our membership includes more than 2,500 of the nation's leading wildlife and forestry professionals. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the United States.

The QDMA advocates the legalization of Sunday Hunting in Pennsylvania for the following reasons:

- Sunday hunting will provide additional recreational opportunity for Pennsylvania hunters
- Sunday hunting will increase hunter participation and recruitment rates
- Sunday hunting will provide additional opportunity for hunters to help the Pennsylvania Game Commission manage deer and other wildlife populations where necessary
- Sunday hunting will help rural economies

Hunting is a traditional; core values; family activity that is safe and provides family bonding time while continuing a wholesome tradition that puts high quality nutritious foods on the table. But why do we need Sundays to do that?

With increasing demands on our time be it from work or school obligations, and in an era where (in 2009) a full 32% of our children are growing up in single parent households and where the majority of the custodial parents are single mothers, fathers have but one or two Saturdays a month day to take their kids hunting-provided that their son or daughter isn't involved in an extracurricular activity on that Saturday.

When can our fathers and mothers who hunt to pass on this tradition when time is such a limited commodity today?

In Pennsylvania, we are replacing 68 hunters for every 100 we lose. If this trend continues; projections show hunters will slide from the approximately one million hunters we currently have to just 500,000 by 2025.

Research by Southwick and Associates shows 79% of hunters are initiated into hunting between the ages of six and fifteen; and the same research shows that

Golf is 4th; fishing is 6th and cheerleading ranks 8th with more than 20,000 reported injuries a year.

What is remarkable about those statistics is they are reported injuries and deaths—some sprains and accidents go largely unreported. Hunting related shooting incidents, on the other hand, are ALL reported because they require medical attention to remove the projectile.

We want to be able to utilize our land for our own recreation as we see fit while following science and human dimensions guided principals of wildlife management. Did you know that in addition to the 7.1 million acres of farm land in PA, there are 11.7 million acres of privately held forest land, and more than 5 million acres of land held in public trust comprised of DCNR land, National Forest Land, and Game Lands? 50% of private forest landowners purchased their land with the primary goal of hunting them. (Center for Rural Pennsylvania)

No hunter wants to infringe on the rights of any landowner to control what legal activities take place on their land on any day of the week. But the landowners who do not wish to have Sunday hunting somehow feel their voice should restrict the freedoms and liberties of any other citizen.

The Pennsylvania State Motto is “Virtue, Liberty, and Independence”. Virtue means goodness; liberty means freedom; and independence means to be able to survive on your own without the control of others. These things are very important to Pennsylvania; yet some still want to restrict the liberty and independence of one user group; hunters; who offer liberty and independence to the user groups who wish to restrict them.

This bill **does not mandate** any landowner to allow hunting on any day of the week. By passing this bill, we are simply allowing everyone the freedom to use their own land as they personally see fit within the confines of law and regulation. This bill represents freedom of choice.

Finally, we support our wildlife agency having the ability to set seasons and bag limits much like every other commission in the state has the ability to fully regulate those things they are charged with. The liquor control board regulates

two weeks for buck only. It was touted as the end of our deer herd. In 1957, an archery tag allowed hunters to take an antlered or an antlerless deer during the archery season. In 1968, the first spring gobbler season was established. In 1973, the compound bow was legalized. In 2010, crossbows became lawful gear during the archery season. All of these things were going to be the end of the deer herd.

They have made many changes in the bow season to accommodate hunters, and you can now hunt with a traditional long bow, a compound bow, or a crossbow during the archery season. One amazing thing to note: In spite of all of the change with archery, not one of the dire predictions has come true.

In fact, the number of archery hunters has largely remained stable. If we have learned anything, we have learned that expanding opportunity had stabilized and even slightly increased participation in the sport.

License Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Archery												0
Resident Archery	263,377	270,286	271,814	270,043	271,162	270,584	257,159	256,662	255,188	260,001	274,583	277,602

We seek to stabilize the number of hunters in Pennsylvania. Remember, we are recruiting only 68 hunters for every 100 we lose. We seek to harvest adequate numbers of various game species while providing opportunity to those most limited in time; be it the working parent, or the youngster who is in school and may participate in extracurricular activities.

In spite of all of the hyperbole, none of the dire predictions associated with the changes to modern game management have resulted in negative outcomes.

In fact, the opposite is true. We have managed to stabilize and even increase the number of archery hunters that are in the field. I suspect many of the archery hunters are older hunters who have been able to stick with hunting longer because of the legalization of the crossbow. Should we not extend time to the season where we can to those citizens most limited for time? After all, we seek to only extend every property owner their property rights to additional freedom, every hunter additional freedom to hunt any land they have permission to be on, and sticking with the principals that founded our Pennsylvania Constitution- "Virtue, Liberty, and Independence". We want our freedoms, and we want our

Hunting Related Shooting Incidents from 01/01/2009 to 12/31/2009

STATEWIDE TOTALS

Hunting Related Shooting Incident Reporting System

HRSIS Report: 01

	<i>Fatal</i>	<i>Non-Fatal</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Fatal</i>	<i>Non-Fatal</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Incidents				Cause of Incident			
***** TOTALS *****	2	32	34	SPORT ARM DANGEROUS POS	1	1	2
Injury Type				UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE	1	6	7
SELF-INFLICTED	2	10	12	RICOCLET		2	2
INFLECTED BY OTHERS		22	22	STRAY SHOT		2	2
Sporting Arm Used				VICTIM IN LINE OF FIRE		7	7
SHOTGUN	2	17	19	HUNTER SLIPPED &/OR FELL		2	2
RIFLE		10	10	HUNTER DROPPED SPORT ARM		3	3
MUZZLELOADER		3	3	SHOT FOR GAME		7	7
LONG BOW		1	1	OTHER		2	2
COMPOUND BOW		1	1	Place of Incident			
Species Hunted				FIELD		12	12
DEER		14	14	WOODLAND	2	16	18
TURKEY		9	9	ROAD/HIGHWAY		2	2
SMALL GAME	1	6	7	VEHICLE		2	2
WATERFOWL		2	2	Cover			
FURBEARER	1	1	2	DENSE	1	8	9
Victim Age				LIGHT	1	24	25
12 - 15 YEARS		2	2	Victim Experience			
16 - 20 YEARS		2	2	UNDER 2 YEARS		3	3
21 - 50 YEARS	1	15	16	2 - 5 YEARS		2	2
OVER 50 YEARS	1	13	14	6 - 10 YEARS		3	3
Offender Age				OVER 10 YEARS	2	24	26
12 - 15 YEARS		3	3	Offender Experience			
16 - 20 YEARS		3	3	UNDER 2 YEARS		3	3
21 - 50 YEARS	1	13	14	2 - 5 YEARS		2	2
NOT REPORTED		4	4	6 - 10 YEARS		4	4
OVER 50 YEARS	1	8	9	OVER 10 YEARS	2	19	21
Light Conditions				NOT REPORTED		4	4
DAWN		4	4	Offender Experience Hunting Specie			
DAYLIGHT	2	23	25	UNDER 2 YEARS	1	2	3
DUSK		4	4	2 - 5 YEARS		4	4
DARK		1	1	6 - 10 YEARS		2	2
Weather Conditions				NOT REPORTED		5	5
CLEAR	1	15	16	OVER 10 YEARS	1	19	20
OVERCAST		9	9	Distance Between Victim/Offender Mistaken for Game			
FOG		1	1	76 - 150 FEET		2	2
RAIN	1	7	8	151 - 300 FEET		4	4
				Color Worn by Victim Mistaken for Game			
				CAMOUFLAGE		4	4
				OTHER COLOR		3	3

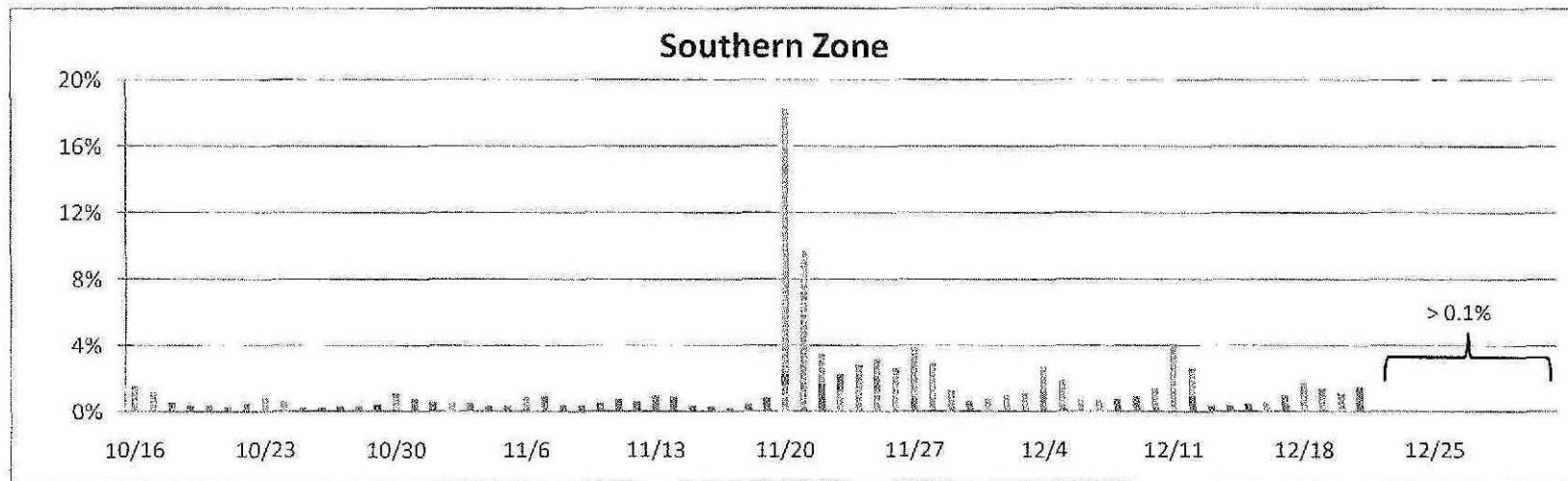
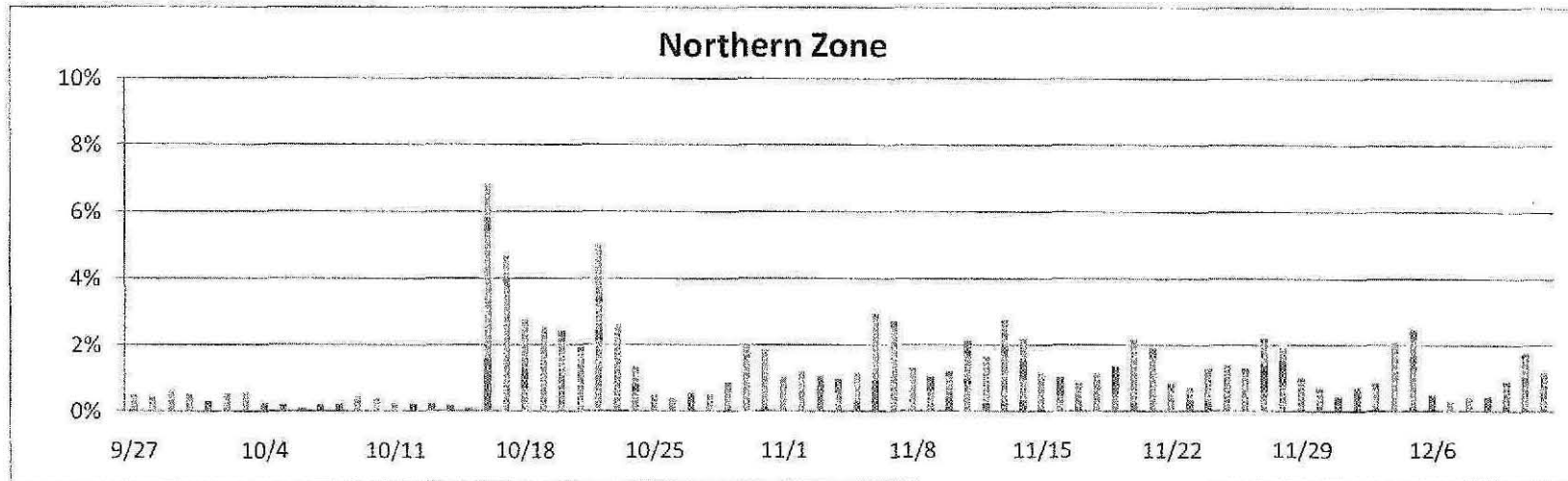
These 34 incidents represent 100% of the 34 incidents reported during the period.



NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



Reported Deer Take by Day - 2010

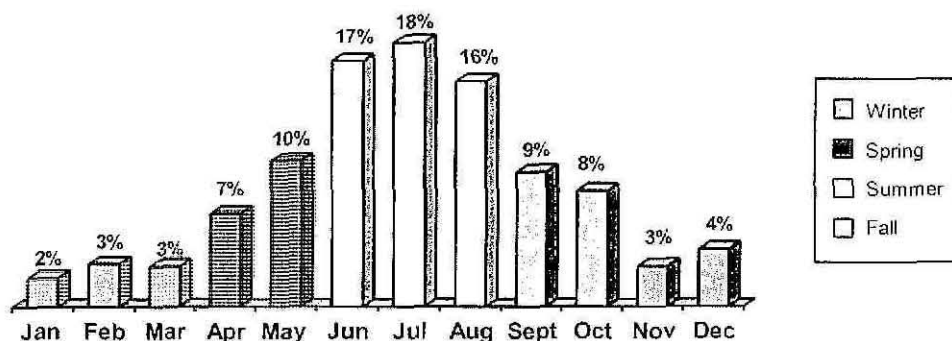


Note: Southern Zone includes Westchester County, where bowhunting season ended 12/31/10.

Trip Timing

While Pennsylvania offers a wide variety of outdoor activities throughout the year, the bulk of all its Outdoor travel occurs during the seasonably warmer months from April to October. Within this travel period, the peak travel months are in June, July, and August, which account for 51% of all Outdoor travel to the state. The Spring (April-May) and Fall (September-October) months can be considered the state's "shoulder" seasons for Outdoor Recreation travel and account for approximately 17% and 18% of the state's travel respectively. Thus, Pennsylvania's "off-season" for Outdoor Recreation travel to Pennsylvania is during the winter months of November through March.

**Trip Timing of Pennsylvania
Outdoor Travelers**

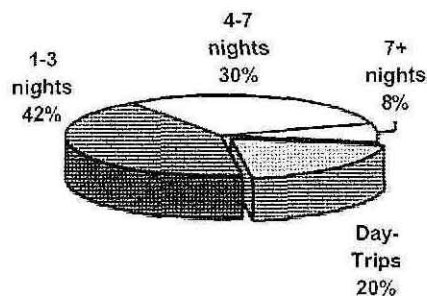


For the most part, Pennsylvania's Regions had similar distributions of Outdoor Recreation travel as the state. Albeit slight, the most notable variations were in the Laurel Highlands and Lake Erie Regions where the summer months accounted for a slightly higher percentage of travel than that illustrated above.

Length of Stay

When visiting Pennsylvania, Outdoor travelers typically stayed about 3.4 days, which is significantly longer than the average 1997 Pennsylvania Leisure traveler (2.0 days)⁶. This was primarily due to Outdoor travelers' greater percentage of overnight stays (80% vs. 56%).

**Length of Stay of
Pennsylvania Outdoor
Travelers**



⁶ Source: DKS&A's 1997 Pennsylvania Visitor Profile Report.