

While the current proposal to limit antlerless hunting in WMUs 2D, 2G, 3C and 4B will likely benefit areas within each WMU needing to reduce the antlerless harvest, it will likely hinder other areas needing to maintain or increase the antlerless harvest. The proposal also unnecessarily removes opportunity from hunters only able to hunt during the first five days, and it places additional pressure on bucks during this time. Based on current Game Commission hunter density and harvest data, this proposal is counterproductive to the established goals within the deer management program and it unnecessarily restricts hunters in these four WMUs during the first five days of the rifle season. Therefore, even though we appreciate the Game Commission's efforts to make necessary changes to the deer management program, we do not support these proposed changes to the rifle season.

We recognize the difficult task before you today and hope you continue managing Pennsylvania's deer herd using concurrent seasons, antler restrictions, DMAP, an October antlerless season and antlerless allocations based on the wildlife staff's science-based recommendations. Thank you for your time and commitment to Pennsylvania's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Steve Trupe
Pennsylvania State Chapter President

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Director of Education & Outreach