



CITY OF RAWLINS DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

The Urban Deer Committee will use data to recommend a plan with various control alternatives to the Rawlins City Council that will decrease the number of urban deer conflicts while maintaining a healthy deer population for all to see and enjoy.

PURPOSE

Maintain public health and safety;

- Manage the urban deer population as determined appropriate by the Rawlins City Council, under the regulations of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department;
- Utilize effective, humane and safe methods in the management of the urban deer population;
- Provide interested citizens with venison from harvested deer that have been disease tested so the animals are not wasted.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Lethal removal of a number of deer under the WGFD Chapter 56 Permit;
- RPD with assistance from the WGFD will cull at safe and predetermined locations (city owned land, BLM land or private land with land owner permission);
- Officers will use a bolt action rifle;
- Culled deer will be taken to a storage facility to be field dressed and tested for CWD, processed and offered to the public. Processing cost is included in the proposed budget;
- Management plan will include public education:
 - city ordinance prohibiting feeding deer;
 - encouraging healthy interactions with wildlife;
 - Deer resistant landscaping, and
 - Safe, effective and humane fencing of properties.
- Re-use of Chapter 56 regulations to remove excess animals on a continuing or as needed basis;
- Education Materials;
 - Short pamphlets for local businesses, tourist information;
 - Space on City of Rawlins website for information regarding deer-resistant landscaping, fencing, City Ordinance regarding feeding of deer;
 - Kiosk/signage along the City walking path, and
 - Educational interviews with local media.

PROCEDURES

Legal authority - The Wyoming Game and Fish Department manages wildlife in Wyoming; under their authority they may issue Chapter 56 permit. The permit, if granted, would specify the number of deer to be taken in a given timeframe and list additional conditions and direction imposed by Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

The Rawlins Police Department will be utilized for the systematic lethal culling of the City of Rawlins urban deer population. Selected members of the Rawlins Police Department participating in the deer reduction program will be trained in the administrative procedures required and in firearms proficiency with the selected firearm and equipment to be utilized.

Method - The Rawlins Police Department will utilize police officers trained in the administrative and operational procedures unique to this program. The basic process would comply with the procedures outlined in the Chapter 56 permit issued under the authority of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. This may include the managed culling of the urban deer population located within Rawlins. The biological samples for Chronic Wasting Disease testing would be collected, and the deer will be donated to interested citizens pending the outcome of the CWD testing.

Distribution of Deer – Processed deer will be made available to local citizens in the following manner. Harvested and processed deer will be available to citizens. These animals will only be released upon completion of Chronic Wasting Disease Testing (CWD). Interested citizens will be able to submit a deer harvest request form to the City of Rawlins.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing - Once a deer is killed, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing will occur by collecting a biological sample from the deer, and submitting the sample to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for testing

Ethics - Taking the life of an animal is a serious matter and every effort should be made to take only well placed, effective shots, so as to quickly and humanely dispatch the deer. In the event that a deer is wounded, every effort will be made to follow up and recover the deer in a safe and humane manner.

Public Safety - The Rawlins Police Department will not discount public safety in the name of reducing the urban deer population. There is inherent risk in discharging firearms within city limits. Public safety will not be compromised. With proper site selection, day time safety evaluations, the oversight of a safety officer, and ultimately the decision of the officer to discharge the firearm, public safety will be maintained.

Training - Participating officers will complete training specific to this program. Topics will include administrative reporting requirements under the Chapter 56 Permit and, as determined by the Rawlins Police Department, field dressing, skinning and biological sampling for CWD testing, distribution of the harvested deer to interested citizens, and firearms competency with the selected equipment.

Manpower - The Rawlins Police Department will utilize as a minimum two officer teams to harvest deer. The primary officer will serve as the safety officer, while the secondary will operate the

firearm. The role of the safety officer will be to maintain watch of the surrounding area and background as the first officer prepares to fire the weapon.

Site Selection - Keeping the goal of public safety in mind, the locations selected to harvest deer are of primary importance. The following are some considerations:

- Permission - sites will either be city owned land or on private land with the owner's permission (Note: deer will not be harvested on public roadways, or from any land that is now owned by the City of Rawlins without the permission of the landowner or their authorized agent.)
- Background - sites will provide a clear/safe background to allow the use of firearms.
- Each site that is selected for the operation will have a day time safety evaluation conducted by Rawlins Police Department personnel. Operational plans will be developed for each selected location.
- Effectiveness - effort will be made to identify and use sites in the problem areas.

Equipment - The Rawlins Police Department will utilize firearms and equipment as outlined in the Chapter 56 permit. The equipment used, if applicable, will be firearm suppressors, night vision, thermal imaging, scope/optics and bolt action style rifle.

Administrative reporting - Each deer harvested will be tagged and documented in accordance with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Chapter 56 permit system. Each harvested deer will be documented with a Rawlins Police Department form designed to record the details of each harvest. A final, end of season report will be completed in compliance with the Chapter 56 permit. Overtime reports will be completed to document and track wages associated with the program. In addition, any additional costs associated with the program will be tracked in accordance with the City of Rawlins purchasing policy.

PROGRAM REVIEW, ON-GOING EVALUATION AND FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Review and monitoring of the program will be ongoing, items of future consideration include:

- Annual incident data;
- Cost analysis report to City Council;
- Adaptive management review to consider any changes in procedures determined warranted/needed by the Urban Mule Deer Committee members;
- Update City of Rawlins website and city social media sites with program details and information.