

The Rawlins Urban Deer committee is sending information regarding the culling of deer in the water bills of Rawlins residents. The committee wants all residents to be informed about the process, how the plan will be implemented and how the plan will be monitored. The committee feels it is a common sense approach to bring the population to a sustainable, reasonable level, and maintain the population at that level. The plan does not intend to “eradicate” or “eliminate” the deer from Rawlins, nor does it allow for an unmanaged, unrestricted growth of the herd as has been happening for the last 10 to 15 years. Management implies taking actions to reach goals and objectives.

- The goal of the recommended plan is stated in the mission statement: “...decrease the number of urban deer conflicts while maintaining a healthy deer population.”
- The objective of the recommended plan is to reduce the number of reportable negative interactions with deer in city limits by culling deer using a Chapter 56 Permit. Reported interactions data will be recorded, monitored and presented to Rawlins City Council annually.
- This data will be used to determine the application process for a Chapter 56 permit annually.

Members of the committee include Troy Palmer - Chief of Police Rawlins Police Department, Chris Gulbrandson – Sergeant Rawlins Police Department, Greg Hiatt - Wyoming Game and Fish Department Wildlife Biologist, Derek White - Wyoming Game and Fish Department West Rawlins Game Warden, Chris Otto - Citizen Member, Diana Espy - Citizen Member  
Please direct questions you have for the committee regarding the information in the water bill or about the process to to Diana Espy 307-324-4174.

Included is the Rawlins City ordinance regarding feeding of deer.

**Section 6.04.180 Feeding wild animals prohibited-Exceptions-Penalty.**

- A. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly or intentionally provide supplemental feed to the following wild animals and fowl: deer, antelope, elk, moose, turkeys, ducks, geese, pigeons, coyotes, bears, wolves, foxes, raccoons, and skunks.
- B. As used in this section, the term “supplemental feed” means human food including garbage, domestic pet food including pelleted forage feed and hay, salt and mineral supplements, grain, birdseed and other food sources; but does not include incidental food sources such as lawns and gardens.
- C. Exceptions. A person engaged in any of the following activities is not subject to liabilities under this section:
1. A person engaged in the normal feeding of livestock;
  2. A person pursuing an agricultural purpose on agricultural land as defined by Wyoming State Statute 39-13-101(a) (iii);
  3. A person engaged in the practice of raising crops and crop aftermath, including hay, alfalfa and grains, produced, harvested, stored, or fed to domestic livestock in accordance with normal agricultural practices;
  4. A person engaged in the cultivation of a lawn or garden;
  5. A person engaged in bird feeding; and
  6. Any health department employee, law enforcement officer, or state or federal game official acting within the scope of his or her official duties.
- D. Penalty. Violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of forty-five dollars for the first conviction, ninety dollars and for a second conviction, and a must appear after the second within a twelve-month period.
- E. The ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication. (Ord. No. 09B -2011, 10/4/11)

**The following is the information being sent out to Rawlins citizens in the upcoming water bill.**

### Rawlins Urban Deer Management Plan

Purpose:

- *Maintain public safety at all times*
- *Manage the urban deer population as determined appropriate by the Rawlins City Council, under the regulation 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.*

The Urban Deer Management Plan will allow the lethal removal of a 25 deer under the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Chapter 56 Permit beginning November 1st, 2019. Selected officers from the Rawlins Police Department with assistance from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will do the culling at safe locations owned the City of Rawlins, the Bureau of Land Management land or private land with land owners' permission.

Selected officers will work in teams of two, with one spotter and one hunter using a bolt action rifle. Culled deer will be taken to a storage facility to be field dressed and tested for CWD. Deer that test negative for CWD will be processed and offered to the public.

### Procedure to Obtain Processed Deer Meat

Interested persons can sign up via email at [urbandeer@rawlins-wyoming.com](mailto:urbandeer@rawlins-wyoming.com) or in person at the Rawlins Police Department between October 1st, 2019 and October 15th, 2019. Interested persons must be able to take the entire deer, approximately 30-40 pounds of hamburger with 10% fat. There will not be any options of cuts or fat percentages. Names of interested persons will be randomly selected after the end date of October 15, 2019 and placed on numbered distribution list 1 through 25. Meat will be distributed based on the previously selected lottery numbered list. After deer have tested negative for CWD and processed, persons listed on the distribution list will be notified beginning with number 1 to receive the meat. Notified persons will need to be able to pick up the meat during the distribution date, which will be specified. If unable to receive the meat, the next person on the list will be notified. Meat distribution will be available to Rawlins residents only.