

DEER MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

* **WHEREAS**, representatives of the City of Sheridan and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department met, discussed and developed a deer management plan; and

WHEREAS, a number of citizens complained about the risk of human safety and property damage as a result of an excess deer population within the city limits of Sheridan; and

BE IT **HEREBY RESOLVED** by the City of Sheridan that the attached Deer Management Action Plan (exhibit A), submitted by the City and approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, be hereby adopted and that deer and antelope hunting be allowed within the city limits of Sheridan, pursuant to the conditions and requirements of the plan, including compliance with existing Game and Fish laws and regulations.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 1st day of October, 2007.

DEER MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

CITY OF SHERIDAN

Overview:

A healthy wild mule deer, white tail deer and antelope population is important to the people of Sheridan. Wildlife viewing is an esthetic value that will be preserved. However, high deer numbers and the habits of some individual animals can create a situation that threatens human safety, damages property and is not conducive to the long-term health of the deer population or its habitat.

History:

A number of citizens have complained that the risk to human safety and the level of property damage have grown to unacceptable levels. This concern led to the forming of this Deer Management action plan with the help of the local Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

The Action Plan's PURPOSE and SCOPE are:

To reduce the negative impacts to people caused by the deer in and near the city.

Note: While the management of deer that inhabit Sheridan occurs on a larger scale, the restrictions detailed in the PLAN are limited to within the boundaries of the City of Sheridan.

The specific GOALS are:

- To eliminate individual deer that threaten human safety;
- To reduce damage to property by lowering deer numbers in the city.

Populations:

The deer comprise two distinct populations. One population is still relatively wild and wary of human contact. These wild deer generally occupy periphery areas but pass through, and occasionally use, residential, business or industrial areas. These deer do not cause as many problems but, over time, contribute to the other population comprising of deer that live in the city year round.

ACTIONS needed to achieve the goals;

- A. Public hunting will be used as the management tool of choice to control the size of both populations and to keep individual animals wary of people, which will discourage them from becoming city deer.

- B. The people of Sheridan must refrain from artificial feeding of deer as a way to encourage them to stay near, or return to the city. In addition, the diet is unhealthy and the practice induces the deer to adopt habits that put them in conflict with humans and ultimately means these deer must be destroyed. Wild and wary deer will stay out of trouble but will still be visible to those who enjoy seeing them as they pass through areas occupied by people.

Note 1: Our tradition and state law recognizes the importance of Wyoming's public wildlife legacy. Minor or occasional property damage caused by wild life is a burden that Wyoming residents have chosen to accept. This also is in accord with the expressed wishes of the residents of Sheridan.

Note 2: Citizens who find a dead deer in town should call the Sheridan Police Department who may inspect it and will authorize its removal to the local county landfill.

Note 3: Deer that have been killed with a vehicle will be removed to the county landfill by either the City Police or Sanitation Department.

Management Process:

Using the following strategies will facilitate public hunting of deer within the city limits:

1. Hunting will be in accordance with all Wyoming Game and Fish laws and regulations.
2. Hunting will be managed with safety as a primary consideration.
3. Hunting will be restricted solely to the use of archery equipment as defined by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Big Game Regulations.
4. Only open space property owners approved by the City of Sheridan may allow hunting on their properties. If a property owner wishes to be included in the program they must present their case to the Sheridan Police Department and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for determination.
5. Hunters will be required to bag, remove and properly dispose of the deer viscera from the area where the animal was killed.
6. Hunters are responsible for contacting the landowner and gaining written permission to hunt on private property.
7. Hunters will be responsible to identify the proper boundaries for the zone that they are hunting and stay within those confines or face the chance of being charged with trespassing.
8. If an animal does cross the boundary line before expiring the hunter must gain that landowner's permission to retrieve the animal.
9. On any city property where a walking path exists, hunters will not fire from or towards any such path.
10. Hunters will make every attempt to recover any and all fired arrows, regardless of whether they strike an animal or are the result of a missed shot. Any arrows fired that are not recovered will be reported to the Sheridan Police Department, which will include where the arrow was fired from, where the arrow was fired to, the type of arrow (including fletching colors) and the type of broad head used.

Monitoring and Responsibilities:

The City of Sheridan and Game and Fish will jointly monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this Action Plan.

Wyoming Game and Fish will continue ongoing efforts to gather hunter harvest data and population trend survey data to determine deer population levels within Sheridan and surrounding areas.

Approved property owners will manage the hunting on their respective properties.

Program Longevity:

Consensus of the City of Sheridan and approval of Wyoming Game and Fish Department may modify this ACTION PLAN in writing at anytime.

This ACTION PLAN is effective upon authorization from Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. and the City of Sheridan, and it will remain in effect until modified or terminated by the City of Sheridan.

Public Safety

Occasionally wildlife exhibits abnormal behavior. In cases where deer become aggressive and threaten human safety, it is recommended that residents of Sheridan contact the Wyoming Game and Fish Department or the Sheridan Police Department.