

Hidden Valley Lake Property Owners Association Board of Directors Deer Culling Program Recommendation 2011/2012 Season

As part of its Deer Management Program, The Hidden Valley Lake Property Owners Association (HVL POA) Board of Directors shall review the status of the deer herd population within the Hidden Valley Lake Subdivision (HVL) each year and shall determine the necessity of conducting a deer cull.

The following information shall be used as part of the HVL POA decision-making criteria:

- 1) The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) recommends a deer herd population of approximately twenty (20) deer per square mile.
- 2) HVL consists of approximately 2.45 square miles, resulting in a recommended deer herd of approximately 50 deer.
- 3) The IDNR estimates that a deer herd population grows approximately 50% during a year.
- 4) During a fly-over paid for by the HVL POA and conducted on 3/16/11, there were 174 deer counted within HVL.
- 5) Applying the IDNRs 50% estimated deer herd population growth rate, it is estimated that the size of the deer herd population within HVL to be 260 in the late fall of this year.

In consideration of the protection of HVL natural resources and the safety of its residents, the HVL POA Board of Directors approves that:

- 1) A deer cull shall be conducted within HVL during the 2011/2012 Indiana hunting season.
- 2) The deer cull shall be conducted under the strict guidelines of the published Hidden Valley Lake Property Owners Association Deer Management Bow Hunting, Deer Culling Program Rules.
- 3) The deer cull shall be conducted during the Late Archery Season hunting season as defined by the INDR, but shall initially be limited to December 3 through December 23; 2011.
- 4) If necessary, the HVL POA shall apply for a special INDR Fish and Wildlife Permit to extend the culling season or to request certain exceptions to the standard bow hunting regulations during the 2011-2012 season.
- 5) The target number of deer to be culled during the 2011-2012 season shall be between 125 and 150.
- 6) No antlered deer shall be taken during the 2011-2012 cull season

Hidden Valley Lake Property Owners Association Deer Management Bow Hunting, Deer Culling Program Rules

The following Hidden Valley Lake Property Owners Association Deer Management Bow Hunting, Deer Culling Rules have been created for the specific purpose of defining how and when deer shall be culled within Hidden Valley Lake (HVL) Subdivision during times certified only by the HVL POA Board of Directors. During the certified culling times, an **HVL POA Deer Culling Tag** shall be issued to approved hunters for the express purpose of granting them 1) permission to discharge a bow-type weapon within HVL, 2) to harvest deer within HVL and 3) to hunt only in approved culling zones within HVL.

I. Culling Zones

- A) All community property within HVL may potentially be designated as an approved culling zone.
- B) All culling zones shall be approved by the HVL POA Community Manager and the locations shall be documented at the HVL POA Office. Any person desiring information about the locations of these culling zones may obtain that information from the HVL POA Web site or from the HVL POA Office.
- C) Private property may be used to extend the size of a culling zone provided the property owner gives written permission by signing a **Property Owner's Waiver**.
 - 1) The property owner shall be provided the names of the hunters assigned to use the approved culling zone that includes their property.
 - 2) Any private property approved for the use of extending the size of a culling zone shall be adjacent to community property within HVL.
 - 3) More than one hunter may be assigned a single culling zone and/or a single hunter may be assigned more than one culling zone.

II. Deer Culling Applications

- A) An **HVL POA Deer Culling Permit Application** shall be submitted in person to the HVL POA Office. Incomplete applications, late or faxed applications and duplicate applications shall not be accepted.
- B) Applicants must be twenty-one (21) years old or older and first priority for qualification shall be given to HVL POA members in good standing. Hunters between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty (20) may apply to the HVL POA Community Manager for special consideration.

III. Hunter's Qualifications

- A) Each licensed hunter candidate shall participate in and pass an **HVL POA Archery Proficiency Test**. To qualify, the candidate shall place four (4) out of five (5) arrows in an eight (8) inch circle with the equipment the applicant plans to use during the HVL deer culling season. The distance for the **HVL POA Archery Proficiency Test** shall be twenty (20) yards. Candidates shall be allowed two (2) opportunities to qualify. The proficiency test shall be supervised by the HVL POA Community Manager on a date to be announced.
- B) Each hunter submitting an application shall show proof that he/she has successfully completed a State of Indiana or federally-approved **Hunter Safety Education Course**.

- C) The HVL POA shall issue an **HVL POA Deer Culling Tag** to qualified hunters that shall be worn visibly displayed at all times when hunting.

IV. Harvested Animal Procedures

- A) Qualified hunters shall record all harvested animals at a State of Indiana Check-in Station and shall submit a separate **HVL POA Deer Cull Report** to the HVL POA Office.
- B) In the event that a disabled or killed deer is located on unapproved private property, the following procedure shall be followed:
 - 1) The hunter shall immediately notify the POA Office (if open) or the HVL POA Deputies by phone before entering the private property and attempting to remove the deer.
 - 2) An HVL POA Deputy shall be dispatched to notify the private property owner and shall request that the hunter be allowed to remove the deer from the property.
 - 3) Upon successfully notifying and gaining permission from the property owner, the hunter shall enter the property and, under the deputy's supervision, shall properly remove the deer.
 - 4) In the event that the private property owner cannot be successfully notified, the hunter shall be authorized by the HVL POA Deputy to enter the private property and, under the deputy's supervision, shall properly remove the deer.
 - 5) In the event that the property owner is successfully notified and refuses to give permission to allow the deer to be removed from the property, the responsibility of disposing of the deer shall lie with the property owner.

V. Culling Dates

Culling dates and times shall be determined by the HVL POA Board of Directors each year as needed. The dates shall generally fall within the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' (INDR) hunting season subject to any extension granted by obtaining a special IDNR Fish and Wildlife Permit to extend the cull season or request certain exceptions to the standard IDNR requirements for bow hunting. Should that permit be applied for and granted, the HVL POA shall notify all persons involved in the HVL Deer Management Program of the new Culling Date Schedule and/or Deer Culling Program Rules changes.

VI. Rules and Regulations

- A) Each qualified hunter shall attend a mandatory **Orientation Meeting** conducted prior to the start of the HVL deer culling season. The meeting will cover HVL POA Deer Culling Program Rules, reporting instructions, hunter etiquette and hunting zone assignments. During the meeting, a **Hunter's Liability Waiver** shall be signed by each qualified hunter in attendance and the original copies shall be filed with the POA Office.
- B) Upon assignment of qualified culling zones, all hunters assigned culling zones that include private property shall collect a signed **Property Owner's Waiver** from the property owner(s) involved. The original copy of each signed **Property Owner's Waiver** shall be filed with the POA Office and a copy of the appropriate form shall be carried by the hunter at all times when hunting.
- C) Hunters shall hunt at all times from a surface elevated from the deer.

- D) Hunters shall only hunt within their assigned culling zone(s).
- E) A hunter physically located on private property shall only shoot in the direction of an approved culling zone.
- F) Hunters are encouraged to communicate with other hunters in adjacent zones before selecting a stand site in their culling zone.
- G) All hunters shall use a safety belt or rope while occupying a tree stand.
- H) All tree stands shall be removed after the culling season is completed.
- I) Hunters shall be provided with the phone number of a food pantry that can be notified if they determine that they do not want the deer meat that they harvest. If the hunter chooses to donate the deer meat, the HVL POA shall reimburse the hunter for the cost of the Indiana State Deer Tag.
- J) After field dressing a deer, the hunter shall remove and place all carcass and other remains in an HVL POA-designated area determined by the HVL POA Community Manager.
- K) All deer culling counts and deer gender quantities shall be determined yearly by the HVL POA Board of Directors.
- L) Still-hunting, defined as the continuous movement of a hunter through an animal's environment, shall not be allowed.
- M) The use of decoys shall not be allowed.
- N) No harvested deer shall be openly displayed within HVL.
- O) All arrows used in an HVL POA Deer Cull shall be clearly marked with the hunter's HVL POA-assigned Deer Culling Permit number.
- P) Should a hunter need to access an assigned culling zone outside of the approved culling times, the hunter shall first notify the HVL deputies.
- Q) In addition to the Hidden Valley Lake Property Owners Association Deer Management Bow Hunting, Deer Culling Program Rules, all State of Indiana DNR Hunting Rules apply.
- R) The HVL POA Board of Directors and/or the HVL POA Community Manager reserve the right to suspend or cancel all deer culling privileges within HVL at any time and certain violations of the Hidden Valley Lake Property Owners Association Deer Management Bow Hunting, Deer Culling Program Rules may be subject to POA fines of up to \$1000.00.