

2008 LMOA Wildlife Management Committee Deer Control/Management Strategies Table

This is a table developed by the Lake Monticello Wildlife Management Committee (WMC) during 2008. It was based on research done by the WMC on how other communities have addressed their deer concerns and the pros and cons of various deer control or reduction approaches. There is more specific information on these approaches in the December 2008 WMC Deer Management Report and in WMC files.

Please note that annual cost figures are calculated on a 50 deer per year reduction goal. Actual deer reduction goals would need to be set in conjunction with LMOA, VDGIF, and the deer hunting individuals or organizations. USDA can't give a specific number of deer to be removed.

All of these strategies will require LMOA staff involvement and coordination costs. All methods will require multi-year approaches.

Options	Description	Annual Costs	Effectiveness	Humaneness	Pros	Cons
Prevention	Community education on recommended prevention methods to avoid or minimize deer damage and impact	First Year \$5,000 Annually \$2,000	Moderate	Excellent	Low cost, humane, and effective	May not address the real impacts of an increasing deer herd
Contraceptives	Darting or inoculating female deer to reduce the number of deer fawns born each year Several approaches - dart from distance; tranquilize, dart, and tag	First Year \$25,000 Annually \$10,000	Not short term solution, future potential	Very Good	Humane, minimally intrusive, safe, and avoids deer herd birth adjustments	Expensive, questions on effectiveness and success rates Must be repeated Must obtain state approval Not approved in VA yet
Sterilization	Darting of female deer with tranquilizer and then sterilizing deer	First Year \$37,500 Some Follow Up Costs	Moderate Not short term solution	Moderate	Safe, same benefits as contraceptives, and less need to repeat	Can be traumatic to deer, costly, and only long term solution Not approved for use in VA yet.
Bowhunting – Individuals or Non Profit Organizations	Deer are removed by trained and licensed bowhunters	No Direct Costs	Very Good	Poor	Least expensive method with least potential liability	Some misshots and slow death by bleeding, deer herd birth adjustments Need state approval

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Options	Description	Annual Costs	Effectiveness	Humaneness	Pros	Cons
Bowhunting – Professionals	Deer are removed by trained and licensed bowhunters	\$200 per deer \$10,000 per year	Very Good	Poor	Safe, effective, with least potential liability	Expensive, misshots, slow death at times, deer herd adjustments Need state approval
Rifle Hunting – LMOA Police	Deer are hunted at night with night vision, suppressed sound, and safe backdrops by trained staff 5 months 2 days a week	\$15,000 - \$20,000 per year initial estimate	Very Good	Moderate, quick kill	Effective	Expensive, removal issues, deer herd adjustments, Police do not want to do it Some LMOA liability
Rifle Hunting – USDA	14 days trap/eliminate plus 5 nights by trained and insured staff (can't predict specific #)	First Year \$14, 054 plus \$40 per deer	Very Good	Moderate, quick kill Initial state approval Final plan needed	Effective	Expensive, deer herd birth adjustments Some LMOA liability
Rifle Hunting – Paid Sharpshooters	Deer are hunted at night with night vision, suppressed sound, and safe backdrops by trained staff	\$91 – 310 per deer \$4500 - \$15,500 Annually	Very Good	Moderate, quick kill	Effective	Expensive, deer herd birth adjustments Some LMOA liability

Controlled Hunt Regular Licensed Hunters

Licensed hunters are allowed to hunt in selected areas. We did not pursue this option as it had too many potential liability and management concerns and is not recommended for suburban areas.

Trap and Relocate

Trap and Euthanize

These methods are extremely expensive, traumatic to the deer often resulting in death, and were not seen as viable options for our community.

Trap/Relocate = \$431 per deer Trap/Euthanize = \$300 per deer