

Carlisle Deer Management

From: Stainbrook, David (FWE) (david.stainbrook@state.ma.us)

To: tgoddard@carlislema.gov

Cc: [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 04:35 PM EDT

Mr. Goddard,

I am providing a statement for your upcoming board meeting.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) is statutorily responsible for managing all wildlife in the Commonwealth, including white-tailed deer. We have a goal of keeping deer numbers below a level that causes negative impacts to the habitat and to other wildlife that depend on that habitat. We use a benchmark or target of 12-18 deer per square mile of forest to meet this goal, but also conduct forest impact surveys throughout the commonwealth to assess if deer numbers are at or above our goal. Multiple forest impact surveys were conducted throughout the town of Carlisle that indicated that the level of deer in town is negatively impacting the forest and is therefore above our statewide goal levels. While our agency is responsible to managing deer, much of the actual ability to control deer numbers in a community lies in the hands of landowners like the town. We have provided ample hunting season length and antlerless deer permits to the area, but the major limiting factor in controlling deer numbers is a lack of hunting access, a factor that is largely out of our hands. Thus, MassWildlife supports the increased efforts and proposals that the Carlisle Deer Control Committee have put forth to the town to increase huntable lands. It is paramount that the town work now to increase huntable areas to deal with a burgeoning deer population, which is only going to increase in future years if not enough is done now and lead to even further impacts to the forest in Carlisle, as well as increased vehicle collisions, landowner complaints, etc.

Regards,
David Stainbrook
Deer and Moose Project Leader
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife