WLF Announces Deer Management Program

A program to provide intensive deer management units throughout the state to supplement regular season either sex deer hunting regulations to better manage and maintain or improve the quality of individual herds has been announced by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Jesse J. Guidry, department secretary, said participation in the program to upgrade Louisiana deer herds is being offered on a voluntary basis to individuals or groups interested in practicing scientific deer herd management.

He said requests from landowners, lessees of deer hunting tracts, individuals, or deer hunting clubs to participate in the intensive deer management program must be received by the department before September 1.

Under the program, those participating in this new deer herd management plan will be issued tags by the department to allow the taking of a pre-determined, fixed number of antlerless deer from tracts of land enrolled in the program.

Guidry said the intensive deer management units must be comprised of no less than 1,000 acres of contiguous deer habitat and that the boundaries of each unit must be clearly marked.

Applicants for participation in the program shall be required to furnish the department’s district game supervisor with a complete legal description of the property to be managed, along with an affidavit naming and certifying a particular individual or individuals as official representative(s) of the owner or lessee.

This must be accompanied by a copy of the lease agreement or title of ownership.

Prior to issuance of special antlerless deer tags, appropriate field surveys will be conducted by department biologists, and data collected. The official representatives of each unit will be encouraged to accompany department personnel on these surveys.

After the initial determination of the deer herd present, annual surveys will be made by a department biologist to ascertain the current status of the deer herd of each unit.

Guidry said that special metal or plastic, self-locking, non-reusable tags will be provided by the department for the number of antlerless deer that should be removed in the interest of the herd.

Tags must be affixed to each antlerless deer immediately after it is killed, and must remain attached to the carcass.

Participants in the program will be required to keep accurate records of all deer harvested on lands within each unit. Special forms and instructions will be provided by the department.

The special either sex seasons will run concurrently with local deer seasons, or be adjusted beyond regular either sex seasons as required to achieve the proper level of harvest.

Because biological data must be gathered prior to issuing the necessary tags, applications received after September 1 will not be processed until next year.

In essence, Guidry said, the program provides for harvesting the proper amount of antlerless deer from habitat enrolled in the program.

Records kept by those taking part in the intensive management program must be submitted to the department by February 1, 1982.