

Deer Hunting Has a Name



Western Carolina QDM Program History

- Started with Administrative Team of Officers and Board Members
- Started Involving Local Landowners and Hunters
- People from other Surrounding Counties Became Involved
- Monthly Meetings / Outreach to Community



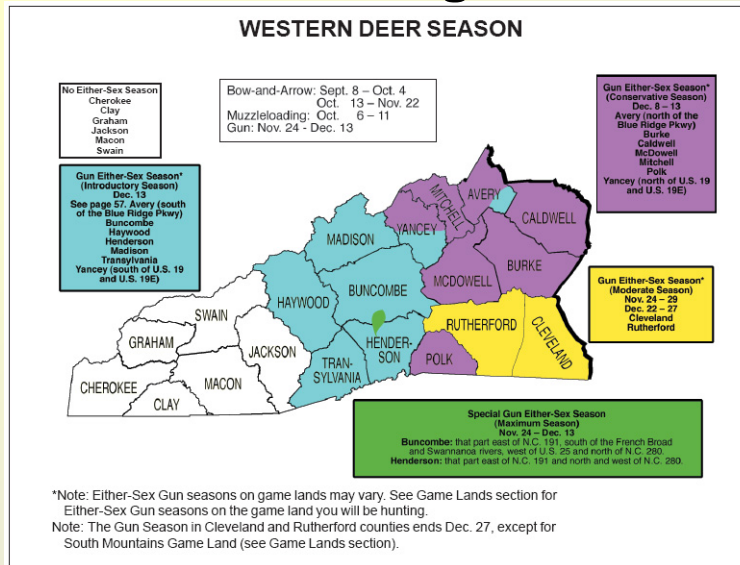
Western Carolina QDM Program Benefits

- Cooperative Management Across the Landscape
- Membership / Buy in / Participation
- Exchange and Implementation of Ideas Between Members
- Age Class Distribution through Management
- Program Purchased Disk, Spreader, Trailer for Members to Implement Food Plots
- Purchasing Power as a Group
- Ability to Bring in Expert Consultation

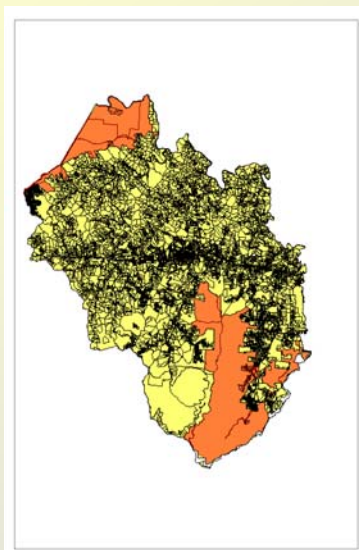
Western Carolina QDM Program Challenges

- “Old School” Ideas of Doe Harvest and Immature Bucks
- Regulations, Season Dates, Bag Limits
- Outdoor Channel
- People Want Results Without Effort
- Land Fragmentation
- Nothing Has Been Easy
- Harvest Standards

Western Carolina QDM Program Challenges

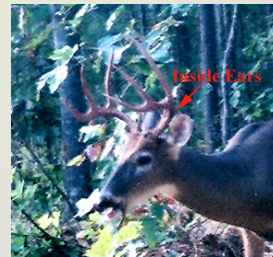


Western Carolina QDM Program Challenges



QDM Buck Harvest Standards

- **Non-Shooter**
 - Antlers Inside Ears
 - Less than 16" Width
 - 6 and under



QDM Buck Harvest Standards

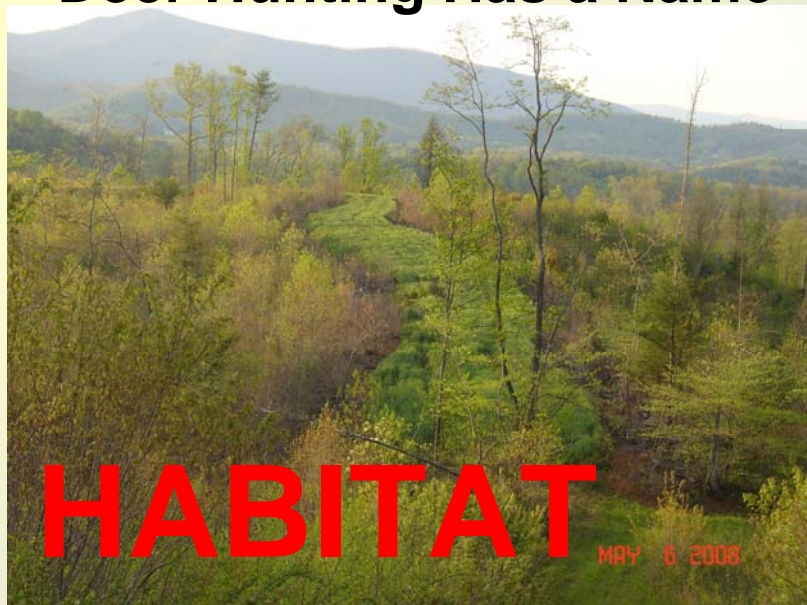
- **Shooter**
 - Antlers Outside Ears
 - Greater than 16" Width
 - 8 and over
 - Mature Buck (3.5 year +)



Western Carolina QDM Program Resources

- Craig Harper – UT Extension
- Chris Henline – Local NCWRC Biologist
- Jack Mason – Retired Regional NCWRC Biologist
- Stanley Halloway – Yancey County Extension
- Michael Juhan – District 8 Biologist
- WCQDMP Officers and Board Members
- Roger Thompson – NC Forest Service
- DMAP Program

Deer Hunting Has a Name



Local Forest Management 25 Years Ago

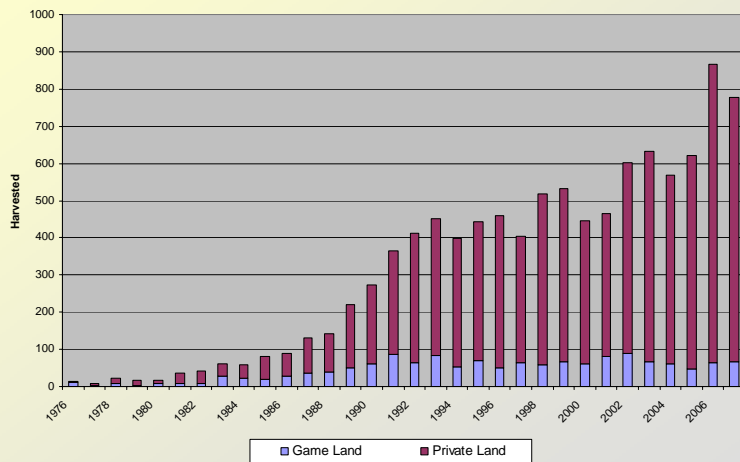
- Deer Herd Density Was Very Low
 - 1983 Harvest for Mitchell County was 62 Deer
 - 44 % of Harvest Was On Game Lands
- Clear-cut Harvesting on National Forests
- Virtually No Clear-cuts on Private Lands

Local Forest Management 10 Years Ago

- Deer Herd Density Increasing
 - 1998 Harvest for Mitchell County was 517 Deer
 - 11 % of Harvest Was On Game Lands
- Clear-cut Harvesting on National Forests had stopped
- Clear-cuts on Private Lands Were Increasing
 - Better Markets
 - Better Understanding of Forest Dynamics

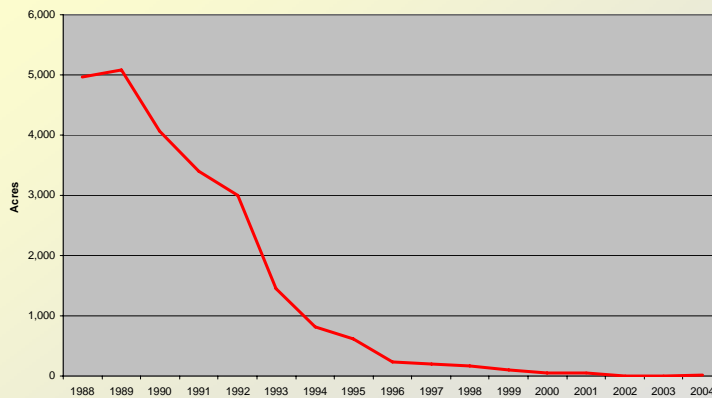
Local Forest Management 10 Years Ago

Mitchell County Deer Harvest



Local Forest Management 10 Years Ago

National Forest
Pisgah and Nanathala Clear-cut Acres



Local Forest Management Now

- Deer Herd Density Growth Leveling Off
 - 2007 Harvest for Mitchell County was 778 Deer
 - 8 % of Harvest Was On Game Lands
- No Clear-cut Harvesting on National Forests
- Little Harvesting of Any Kind on National Forest
- Increasing Clear-cuts on Private Lands
- Land Conversion on Private Lands Off-sets Harvesting Trends

Apple Mountain Demonstration Site



“A Local Perspective”

Apple Mountain Project History

- Before Implementation In 2003, There Was No Deer Harvest on Property..... No Reason to Hunt There
- Tract Had Been High-Graded For Generations
- Stand Composition Was Predominately Low Grade Hardwoods and Rhododendron. Very Low Diversity

Apple Mountain Property Statistics

- 419 Acres
 - 212 Harvested
 - 207 SMZ / Not Harvested
- 7 Miles of Primary Roads
- Approximately 11 Acres of Supplemental Food Plots
- Timber Harvest Statistics
 - 1.6 MMBF
 - 12,270 Tons of Pulpwood
- 2007 Deer Harvest was 14 Does



Apple Mountain Project Activities

- First Phase Timber Harvest Utilizing Clear-Cut Harvest (2003-2004)
- Food Plot Installation Utilizing Log Roads and Log Landings
- Controlled Access (Gated and Posted)

Apple Mountain Project Successes

- Utilizing Annual Crops for Food Plots
- Diverse and Abundant Regeneration
- Diverse Wildlife Composition
- Local Landowner Education and Outreach
 - Landowner Tour With Extension
 - Boy Scout Use of Property (Shooting Range)
 - Hunter / Trapper Education
- DMAP

Apple Mountain Project Challenges

- Hard Work and Dedication
- Understanding Weeds and Herbicides
- Convincing Landowners To Apply Management Principles
- Fighting “Old School” Mentality and Misperception
- Economics
 - Use Soil Test
 - Not All Seeds Are Expensive

Apple Mountain Project Conclusions

- Utilize Small Areas
- Harvest Timber (Realize Economic and Wildlife Benefits)
- Lack of Equipment is not an Excuse
- Predator Control
 - If You Are Not Going to Harvest Deer, Let the Coyotes Do it
- Involve Kids

Apple Mountain Project Conclusions

- Proper Forest Management Combined With Smart Food Plot Implementation Will Produce Habitat Essential for Healthy Herd Management.
- Lack of Management on the National Forest and Fragmentation of Private Lands Threatens This Essential Habitat.
- Anyone Can Implement Ideas on Their Own Land!