

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Fall, fishing or hunting?

Re: Fall, fishing or hunting?

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2013/8/2 13:46:02

URL:

Mountain,

Rifle doe season is the primary method of population control. I do realize, that anymore, it's total number of antlerless tags. And yes, hunters can use those tags in archery or muzzleloader seasons. Nonetheless, the vast majority of does are harvested in the antlerless rifle season, and it's timing was designed to be after the rut, ensuring that essentially all does are pregnant for maximum effect. Buck hunting is not used at all for overall population control, but rather, for maximizing sport.

Agree that it is about balancing with habitat. Don't think I implied otherwise, but if that's what you got, then it was a misunderstanding. Again, deer populations are below their short-term carrying capacity. With no hunting, populations would explode. Yeah, winter kill would also increase, but even at the low points pops would be much higher than they are now.

I specified short term carrying capacity for a reason, and also stated "of our modified forests". It's a good thing that they are held that low, as allowing them to expand would indeed hurt the long term habitat, for deer and other animals alike. We could debate optimum balance points, but I think everyone is in agreement that we shouldn't let it go crazy, as it would without hunting.

I was merely pointing out that it was different than, for instance, trout. With trout, the goal is the largest population you can get. With deer, that is not the goal.