

GEORGIA DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DMAP)

DMAPs are used by most southeastern states to address site-specific deer management issues with science-based flexibility on private lands. DMAPs offer the ability to resolve site-specific deer management issues at the individual property level through data collection and analysis while maintaining simplified and less complex hunting regulations across a much larger geographic area that are responsive to hunter desires (e.g., reduced doe bag limit). This strategy protects more casually managed properties from over-harvest, while affording science-based flexibility for more intensively managed properties.



DMAP Outline

Standards for All Management Levels

- Cooperatives of multiple adjacent lands can be used to meet acreage minimums
- Eligible properties include public, private, and leased
- Participants may be an individual or group of individuals
- Fees are assessed annually
- Cooperators may choose any management level if minimum acreages are met
- Cooperators are responsible for collecting harvest data and placing cameras for deer surveys.

Management Level 1

- No acreage minimum
- No fee required

Deliverable Services

- General harvest and habitat recommendations
- Technical guidance and data analysis only, no harvest flexibility

Management Level 2

- 250-acre minimum
- \$200 startup, then \$100 annual administrative fee

Deliverable Services

- Data collection package and property signs
- Personalized access to a biologist assigned to the property
- Aging of each deer killed
- Data analysis and site-specific harvest recommendations
- Basic boundary map with landcover
- Annual visit by assigned biologist
- General habitat management recommendations
- When biologically justified, antlerless harvest flexibility within the maximum statewide bag limit

Management Level 3

- 500-acre minimum
- \$400 startup, then \$200 annual administrative fee

Deliverable Services

- All Level 2 services plus the following:
- Directly facilitate and coordinate the formation of cooperatives
- Assistance with live aging bucks
- Written wildlife management plan covering forest mgmt., food plots, timeline of land management activities, and annual deer harvest recommendations.
- Map with boundary, landcover, food plots, and forest stand delineation
- When biologically justified, harvest flexibility relating to buck-only days and antler restrictions
- When biologically justified, flexibility in season length within state law

Management Level 4

- 1,500-acre minimum
- \$1000 startup, then \$500 annual administrative fee

Deliverable Services

- All Level 2 and 3 services plus:
- Detailed habitat and wildlife management plan covering habitat management, food plots, detailed forest stand delineations, stand-specific management recommendations, and detailed timeline
- Detailed map with boundary, landcover, food plots/open areas, forest areas delineated to type, relative age, understory characteristics and densities, soil delineation, burn histories, and camera survey layers
- At least 2 site visits annually by assigned biologist
- Site-specific and criteria-specific buck harvest flexibility within the maximum statewide bag limit