

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

GAME DIVISION

Report No. 1125
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Deeryard Cuttings 1951

Timber cutting is one of the most important factors affecting the habitat of deer in northern Michigan. This is especially true in connection with the winter range. This report covers the cuttings within one mile of deeryards on state owned land, national forest timber sales, and, in so far as possible, private logging operations.

Cuttings Affecting Deeryards: Approximately 72,870 acres located within one mile of deeryards were cut during the winter of 1950-51. Of this amount 10,807 acres were cut on state owned land; 17,762 acres on national forests and 44,301 acres on private land.

The following table shows the distribution of the deeryard cuttings:

DEERYARD CUTTINGS, 1951

	<u>Upper Peninsula</u>	<u>Lower Peninsula</u>	<u>Total</u>
State Cuttings*	7,987 acres	2,820 acres	10,807 acres
Federal Cuttings	17,100 "	662 "	17,762 "
Private Cuttings	<u>40,161</u> "	<u>4,140</u> "	<u>44,301</u> "
Total	65,248 "	7,622 "	72,870 "

*(270 permits cover the state cuttings)

Deeryarding conditions developed in late November 1950. Continuing snow and cold weather kept deer restricted to areas of relatively heavy cover over a longer-than-average yarding season. Normally, the Game Division recommends emergency cuttings on state land where starvation is imminent. However, in seven counties of the Lower Peninsula no cuttings were permitted on state owned land within one mile of the rye patches or the census lines laid out to check the effectiveness of them. These counties are in the "starvation area" and large numbers of deer did die.

Emergency Cuttings: Only one emergency cutting was recommended in the Upper Peninsula. This was in an "island" of over-mature hemlock and cedar in the Fourteen Mile Point Deeryard. The surrounding second growth hardwood has grown past the deer browse stage and a large number of deer were using the timbered area for shelter. In this case a selective cutting of cedar over twelve inches was made. In spite of this a few deer are reported to have starved. Normally there is enough logging activity in the Upper Peninsula in winter to make emergency cuttings unnecessary.

In the Lower Peninsula where emergency cuttings might be recommended, frequently there is a dearth of state owned timber of merchantable size. However, seven emergency cuttings were made, two in the Baldwin District, three in the Mio District, and two in the Gladwin District.

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