

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Game Division

Report No. 2103
August 1, 1956

Deeryard Cuttings
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During recent years we have made various evaluations of the deeryard cutting program in terms of hay equivalent in tons and in money value and in the number of extra deer carried by the cuttings.

Fundamentally such evaluations have been based upon deer feeding experiments and browse plot studies carried on at Cusino and supplemented by current information gathered by the field men.

Winter deeryard cuttings provide enough browse from the tree tops cut down to carry extra deer through the yarding season (90 days) at the following rates:

Hardwood cuttings - 1 extra deer per acre
Mixed timber cuttings - 3 extra deer per acre
Cedar Swamp cuttings - 5 extra deer per acre

We find that the average cutting (all types) produces browse for 2.6 deer per acre actually cut. Actual cutting is done on 13 acres per forty under permit. Thus each forty acre deeryard cutting provides browse for 33.4 extra deer that the area could not support during the winter without the cutting. In view of the fact that occasional cuttings are not used by deer and some not fully utilized it has been estimated that deer do actually eat 75 per cent of the browse from the tops. Therefore, the cuttings actually carry 25 extra deer per forty of deeryard cutting.

Furthermore, the sprouts and reproduction following the cutting (which after all is the goal in deeryard management) is more important and productive deer food for several years than the cutting itself. Similar calculations show that the regrowth will provide browse for at least three times as many deer as do the tops or 100 extra deer per forty acres. Here again not all of the regrowth is utilized and our best estimate is that perhaps only 50 per cent is actually utilized which means that 50 deer per forty are carried by the regrowth.

The table below shows the very significant number of extra deer that our deeryard cutting program has provided for, based on 75 per cent utilization of the tops and 50 per cent utilization of the regrowth.

Year	Acres	Forties	Extra Deer		
			Tops	Regrowth	Total
1952	23,680	574	14,350	28,700	43,050
1953	22,040	542	13,550	27,100	40,650
1954	38,430	960	24,000	48,000	72,000
1955	47,555	1,189	29,725	59,450	89,175
1956	51,948	1,299	32,475	64,950	97,425

Income from Deeryard Cuttings

The only practical way of arriving at the receipts from winter cuttings in or within one mile of deeryards at this time is to figure the average income of all permits on a fiscal year basis.

During four previous years 6,734 permits were issued. The receipts for the same period totaled \$1,279,240. This averages about \$190 per permit.

In 1955 permits for deeryard cuttings covered a total of 47,355 acres. Using the two previous years' average of 48 acres per permit we arrive at 986 permits. At \$190 income per permit this equals \$187,340 realized from the deeryard cuttings.

Likewise in 1956 permits were issued for deeryard cuttings on 51,948 acres and this amount would indicate a return of \$205,580.

Hay Equivalent of Deeryard Cuttings

From detailed calculations we have determined that deeryard cuttings on the average produce deer food from the tops and subsequent regrowth that is equivalent to 30.2 tons of hay for each "forty" under cutting permit.

1953 deeryard cuttings - 22,040 a. or 551 forties

551 forties @ 30.2 tons = 16,640 tons @ \$50 = \$832,000

1954 deeryard cuttings - 38,430 a. or 960 forties

960 forties @ 30.2 tons = 29,376.6 tons @ \$50 = \$1,468,830

1955 deeryard cuttings - 47,555 a. or 1,189 forties

1,189 forties @ 30.2 tons = 35,908 tons @ \$50 = \$1,795,400

1956 deeryard cuttings - 51,948 a. or 1,299 forties

1,299 forties @ 30.2 tons = 39,230 tons @ \$50 = \$1,961,500

Deeryard Cuttings - 1955-56

(Gross acreage of land descriptions cut in or within one mile of deeryards.)
May 21, 1956

District	State	Federal	Private	Total
1	2,070	3,840	11,485	17,395
2	10,160	2,160	3,280	15,600
3	4,117	4,760	520	9,397
4	6,702	4,060	2,260	13,022
Region I	23,049	14,820	17,545	55,414
5	12,160	0	840	13,000
6	5,714	4,550	450	10,714
7	5,575	9,600	1,400	16,575
8	2,610	6,100	460	9,170
9	2,840	0	180	3,020
Region II	28,899	20,250	3,330	52,479
State Totals	51,948	35,070	20,875	107,893

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