



## **SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGERS, LLC**

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: W. H. Tomlinson, R.F., C.W.B.

DATE: April 27, 2011

SUBJECT: Big Black Timber Company – Scotland Hunting Club – A Summary of Quality Deer Management Status and Trends

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By way of introduction, I am a Registered Forester (MS, AR, AL) and a Certified Wildlife Biologist with over 38 years of applied resource management experience. Scotland's Quality Deer Management Program has been ongoing since 1989 and it has been my privilege since 1991 to have been directly associated with the management process.

During the last 20 years at Scotland, hunter expectation and hunter restraint has continued to evolve in a positive direction. Likewise, in the last 10 years, habitat and habitat quality has been added as a management focus and a management tool. As a result of increased hunter restraint and habitat manipulation, deer quality has continued to respond in an equally positive direction. Balancing hunter opportunity, deer herd quality and habitat quality remain as ongoing management challenges and deer harvest recommendations made prior to season opening, often change before seasons end.

In a comparison of Scotland buck quality with statewide averages from managed clubs and within the same soil resource area (latest available comparative data is

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2009-2010 season) Scotland bucks were, on average, older and of a higher quality than were their statewide counterparts (Table 1).

**TABLE 1. A COMPARISON OF SCOTLAND BUCKS WITH STATEWIDE AVERAGES AND FOR THE SAME SOIL RESOURCE AREA**

	<b>STATE AVER AGE 2009- 10</b>	<b>SCOTL AND 2009- 10</b>	<b>STATE AVER AGE 2008- 09</b>	<b>SCOTL AND 2008- 09</b>	<b>STATE AVER AGE 2007- 08</b>	<b>SCOTL AND 2007- 08</b>	<b>STATE AVER AGE 2006- 07</b>	<b>SCOTL AND 2006- 07</b>
<b>TOTAL BUCK HARVEST</b>	1,696	13.0	1,688	9.0	1,640	15.0	1,935	10.0
<b>AVERAGE AGE</b>	2.9	3.0	2.8	3.6	2.8	3.5	3.0	3.7
<b>PERCENT BUCKS 3.5 YEARS AND OLDER</b>	59	77	55	100	56	87	58	100
<b>AVERAGE LIVE WEIGHT</b>	172	194	174	209	175	206	162	195
<b>AVERAGE POINTS</b>	7.9	7.0	7.8	8.7	7.8	8.1	7.7	7.6
<b>AVERAGE BASE CIRCUMFE RENCE</b>	4.3	4.7	4.2	4.7	4.2	4.7	4.1	4.8
<b>AVERAGE BEAM LENGTH</b>	18.2	19.6	17.8	21.8	18.0	20.1	17.7	21.1
<b>AVERAGE INSIDE SPREAD</b>	14.8	16.7	14.5	17.4	14.5	16.5	14.2	17.4

In considering Scotland specific comparative harvest data from years past, it is, perhaps, most appropriate to compare quality indices from the last five (5) years. Characteristic fluctuations will be noted in both the antlered and antlerless harvest, as necessary adjustments were (are) made based upon deer herd/habitat

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balance and anticipated/predictive population recruitment. Fluctuations in harvest are indicative of pre-season harvest recommendations and mid-season adjustments, and are not indicative of a lack of hunter opportunity or success. Table 2, which follows, details management parameters for Scotland from the period of 2006-07 through 2010-11.

**TABLE 2. SCOTLAND DEER MANAGEMENT TREND DATA FOR THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD OF 2006-07 THROUGH 2010-11**

	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2006-07</b>
<b>Total Harvest – Bucks</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Average Age</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>3.53</b>	<b>3.70</b>
<b>Average Live Weight</b>	<b>183.2</b>	<b>194.0</b>	<b>209.2</b>	<b>206.0</b>	<b>194.7</b>
<b>Average Points</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>
<b>Average Base Circumference</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Average Beam Length</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>21.1</b>
<b>Average Inside Spread</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>17.4</b>
<b>Percent Bucks 3.5 and Older</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Antlerless Harvest</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Lactation Percent</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>80%</b>

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Lying along the historically productive lower Big Black River corridor, Big Black Timber Company and Scotland Hunting Club remain as one of the premier whitetail properties in Mississippi. I am truly privileged to have been allowed the opportunity of participating in the management of this valuable and productive natural resource.

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