



MID-ATLANTIC

— WHITETAIL SOLUTIONS, LLC —

DICKERSON SITE 2

2021-2022

DEER REMOVAL PROGRAM - YEAR END SUMMARY

Prepared by [Dustin Prievo](#)

**TOTAL DEER
REMOVED**

26 DEER

TOTAL TIME AFIELD

305 HOURS

**NUMBER OF TOTAL
HUNTS**

85

**AVERAGE HOURS PER
HUNT**

3.59

**TOTAL ANTLERLESS
(DOES) DEER OBSERVED**

371

**AVERAGE ANTLERLESS
DEER OBSERVED PER HUNT**

4.36

**TOTAL ANTLERED (BUCKS)
DEER OBSERVED**

251

**AVERAGE ANTLERED DEER
OBSERVED PER HUNT**

2.95

**TOTAL DOES
REMOVED**

24

**TOTAL BUCKS
REMOVED**

2

**AVERAGE HUNT
HOURS PER DEER**

11.73

**AVERAGE HUNTS PER
1 DEER REMOVAL**

3.26

**TOTAL DEER DONATED
TO HUNGRY FAMILIES**

20 (77%)



MID-ATLANTIC
— WHITETAIL SOLUTIONS, LLC —

Landfill Site 2 - Dickerson, MD

Deer Management Summary 2021-2022

Prepared by Dustin Prievo
March 2, 2022

Mid-Atlantic Whitetail Solutions, LLC (MAWS) is submitting its 2021 – 2022 Annual Deer Management Report.

Changes for 2021-2022

Site 2 Contract Changes

The 2021 – 2022 Maryland Regulated Hunting Season was the 12th year of the County's deer management program. In 2020, Patriot Whitetail Removal Team declined to continue with the program. At the June 8, 2021, quarterly meeting of the Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group (DAFIG), MAWS made a presentation to demonstrate the benefits of consistent long-term deer management. As a result of this presentation, DAFIG recommended the County proceed to secure a 10-year agreement with MAWS. This 10-year agreement will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the MAWS program.



Pre-Hunting Efforts

Signage & Property Cleanup

MAWS began posting signs on the Site 2 properties after September 1, 2021. While installing posted signs, MAWS conducted litter pick-up along the roadways and removed two large bags of trash. MAWS will continue property cleanup efforts when installing additional posted signs along the borders of the Site 2 Properties.

Trail cameras

MAWS continues to utilize a cellular-wireless trail camera system. This system allows MAWS to monitor the wildlife activity and trespassers on the Site 2 properties. MAWS cost to operate the trail camera system for this year (not including the cost of the cameras, mileage, or repairs and maintenance) was \$1,561.43. This includes cellular service, SD Cards and batteries.

MAWS usually removes the trail cameras at the end of the hunting season and re-installs them in late summer for herd scouting. This year, MAWS will keep the cameras installed to continue monitoring trespassing and poaching and other activities detrimental to effective deer management like dogs running loose on the property.

Scouting

MAWS conducts roadside scouting efforts to locate deer herds and to estimate the size of the herd. This helps MAWS better understand the make-up of each deer herd population and their travel patterns.



MID-ATLANTIC
— WHITETAIL SOLUTIONS, LLC —

Property Analysis

Habitat Analysis



Figure 1- This image shows the lack of sunlight on the forest floor which results in very low, ground level food sources for other animals such as squirrels, rabbits, ground nesting birds, turkeys and more. This is a result of an earlier overpopulated deer herd and will not bounce back until the ground is disturbed (raking, mulching or fire) and sunlight is able to reach the forest floor.

MAWS recommends habitat improvements on this property. The early successional forest and native species in the large, wooded areas of the Site 2 properties were destroyed due to overpopulation of white tail deer. For these species to recover, the forest floor needs sunlight. MAWS suggests a program of selective tree girdling and hinge cutting in the large, wooded areas. Additionally, there may be some income opportunity if selective timber harvest would take place, thus managing the timber, providing sunlight to the ground, and allowing you to benefit outside of forest regeneration.

The goal of MAWS deer management program is to provide a quality ecosystem, not just euthanize deer. As these species revive, deer would use these species to supplement their current food sources and reduce deer feeding on farm crops.



Herd Analysis

MAWS observations show a smaller herd with a healthy population. Analysis of trail camera footage and the observation logs, show the herd population is approximately equally split between bucks and does. For the 2022 – 2023 hunting season, MAWS will provide the county with a free trail camera survey. The survey will provide a baseline herd population, including age range, structure, fawn recruitment, and sex ratios. Data from this survey will be used to develop future harvest goals.

Hunting Efforts

Harvest Records

MAWS combined hunting effort for the 2021 – 2022 (September 2021 – January 2022) hunting season was over 305 hours on the Site 2 properties. MAWS harvested 26 white-tailed deer from the property. 24 deer (93%) were does (female), 2 were mature bucks. Twenty deer (77%) were donated to Farmers & Hunters Help Feed the Hungry.

According to deer management program records, a total of 670 deer have been harvested since 2010.

For the third year in a row, zero “button bucks” (fawn male deer) were harvested. This is very rare in general hunting and whitetail deer management and MAWS is proud of this outcome.

MAWS continues to target mature does. This allows a buck of a higher age class to be taken by a hunter that has met his minimum doe requirements.



Figure 2 – Above are 4 deer that did not meet the minimum qualifications for the MAWS members to harvest, even though the hunter met the minimal buck requirements. Although to the public these deer may look “big” they do not meet the minimal age or scoring requirement for our members to remove, making harvesting bucks much more difficult regardless of minimal doe requirements.

Harvested Bucks

In 2021-2022, only two bucks were removed from the property both aging well over 5.5 years old.

Most deer hunters agree younger, immature bucks are easier to harvest than mature bucks who are smarter and elusive.

Due to the trail camera record, MAWS knows there are several mature bucks on this property. MAWS members have very few actual siting's.

The opportunity for MAWS members to harvest these bucks is considered a “prize” and a reward for their diligence in following the strict rules and regulations MAWS developed for the Site 2 properties deer management program.

The MAWS age/class structure and scoring system minimizes the number of bucks harvested compared to the number of does. This system separates MAWS from other deer management program providers.



Figure 3-(Left) Wyatt Rentzel harvested this buck on November 23rd, 2021 and (Right) Dustin Prievo harvested this buck on December 5th, 2021.

Observation & Harvest Data

This year we developed our own mobile app to help with observation and harvest collection. The data collected can be reviewed on the summary form at the end of this report.



Figure 4- Screenshots from the new MAWS app showing collected data in a visual chart.



MID-ATLANTIC
— WHITETAIL SOLUTIONS, LLC —

Challenges

Dogs running free on the property reduced the effectiveness of the MAWS programs. MAWS' trail cameras helped MAWS identify dogs and work with the County's Animal Control officers. Unfortunately, MAWS recorded over 35 loose dog incidents.

Fishing Trespassers:

MAWS documented several instances of people using the pond as a public fishing hole. MAWS has trail cameras near the pond to help monitor this trespassing activity. MAWS will cooperate with County authorities to prevent future trespassing.



MID-ATLANTIC — WHITETAIL SOLUTIONS, LLC —

Relic Hunters:

This year we had several instances of relic hunters trespassing on the property. The Department of Natural Resources brought one incident to MAWS attention. DNR contacted MAWS asking if any MAWS hunters were on the property. MAWS did not have anyone hunting. As a result of MAWS' excellent relationship with DNR, a DNR officer found two relic hunters on a neighboring property and asked them to leave.



Figure 6-Relic hunters seen trespassing on the rear field talking with local police before being asked to leave.

A few days later, the same vehicle returned while MAWS was actively hunting. The MAWS member contacted the County police. The trespassers told the County officers they had permission but could not provide documentation. Officers made further communications and resolved the issue.

Poachers & Trespassers:

MAWS is working with DNR to introduce a "robo-deer" to the MAWS program to help capture poachers. Our goal will be to try again next year as poaching continues to be an issue as seen below.



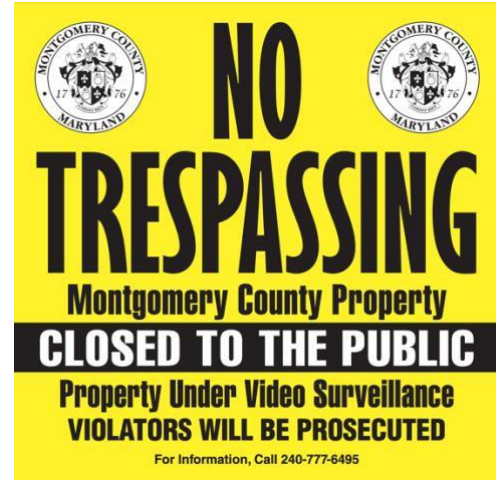
Figure 7-(LEFT) Two poachers found in July on a security trail camera entering Site 2 with a rifle of some sort. (RIGHT) Three trespassers found on a trail in the Southeast wooded lot area off Wasche Rd during hunting season. MAWS works with the County police to identify poachers and trespassers.



MID-ATLANTIC — WHITETAIL SOLUTIONS, LLC —

New Trespassing Signs:

MAWS worked with the County's Recycling and Resource Management Division to develop new "No Trespassing" signs. MAWS installed these signs on December 14th, 2021, and February 28th, 2022 along the Martinsburg Road and surrounding areas. MAWS members will continue to install these signs until the entire property is marked.



Deer/Venison Donation:

In 2021-2022, MAWS donated **73 deer** through Farmers & Hunters Help Feed the Hungry (from all properties) **20** of these donated deer being harvested from the Site 2 Property. MAWS will continue to participate in the Farmers & Hunters Help Feed the Hungry program because it gives back to the community and makes the MAWS program full circle.

Overall Experience:

The 2021 – 2022 season was a great year for MAWS. With more MAWS members being trained on the Site 2 properties program, MAWS looks forward to another great year. Unfortunately, COVID illnesses forced four of MAWS' Site 2 hunters to sit out most of this season. MAWS members logged over 305 hours of hunting time and 100+ additional hours of monitoring time. MAWS members demonstrate their commitment to providing quality deer management on Site 2. We look forward to our continued success and efforts to keep the property safe, secure, and healthy. Our goals moving forward will be to continue to adapt to change, look for additional resources in data collection, track our working hours alongside our hunting hours, and reach out to neighboring landowners to try to extend our services to better manage the deer herd overall.