

Urban Deer Management



MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY
CRANBROOK

September 27, 2011

www.cranbrook.ca

Urban Deer Management

The Issue

The Process

The Strategy

Where We Are Now

Recommendations



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THE ISSUE





Photo:
John Spencer



Photo: Irene E.
Teske

THE PROCESS



THE PROCESS

- Develop and implement municipal Deer Feeding Bylaw
- Conduct an Urban Deer Resident Survey
- Establish an Urban Deer Management Advisory Committee
- Conduct an Urban Deer population count
- Present Committee Recommendations to Council

Deer Feeding Bylaw 3709, 2010

- Adopted by Council – September 13, 2010
- Into effect October 1, 2010
- No one is to provide deer with food by intentionally leaving food, food waste or edible material or other attractive edible material intended for the sole purpose of feeding deer.
- Farm operations, home fruit and vegetable gardens intended for human consumption or ornamental plants and flowers not included.

Urban Deer Resident Survey

- Public to fill out online August 31 to September 24, 2010
- Survey Results Report received by Council on October 4, 2010
- Survey consisted of nearly 50 questions taken from BC Urban Ungulate Conflict Analysis Summary Report
- Approximately 1430 respondents



British Columbia
Urban Ungulate
Conflict Analysis

Summary Report
for Municipalities



Ministry of
Environment

Prepared for:
Michael Badry
Wildlife Conflicts Coordinator
Conservation Officer Service
British Columbia Ministry of Environment
and

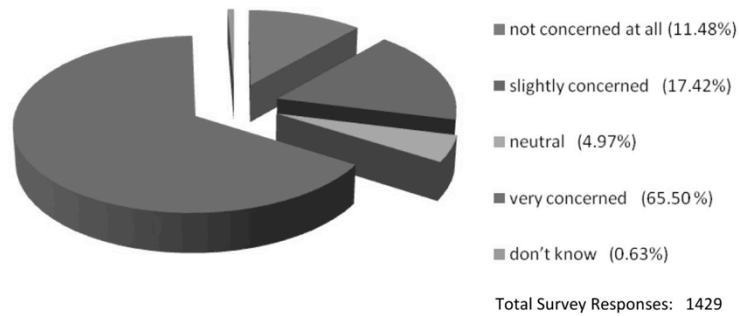
Irene Teske
Wildlife Biologist
Kootenay Regional Office
British Columbia Ministry of Environment

Prepared by:
Gayle Hesse B.Sc.
British Columbia Conservation Foundation
200 1383 McGill Road
Kamloops BC
V2C 2G4

March 2010

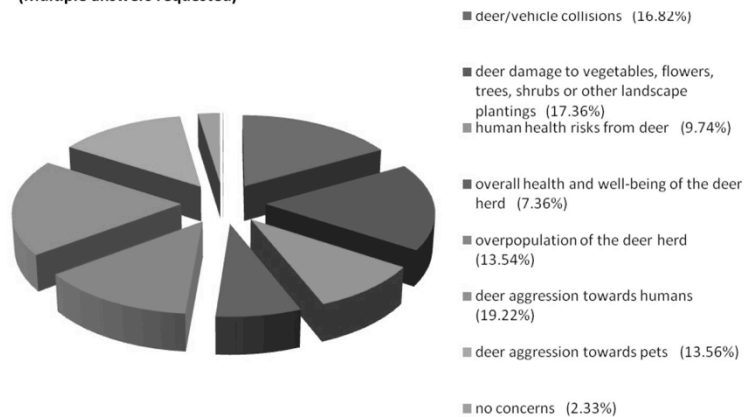
Resident Survey Highlights

1. How concerned are you about the deer population in Cranbrook?



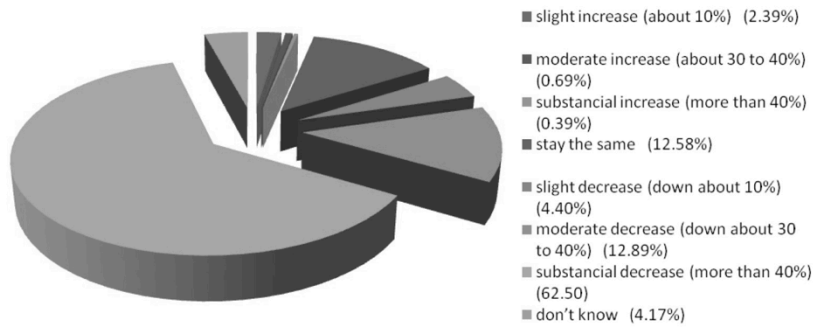
Resident Survey Highlights

2. What are your main concerns regarding the deer herd in Cranbrook? (Multiple answers requested)



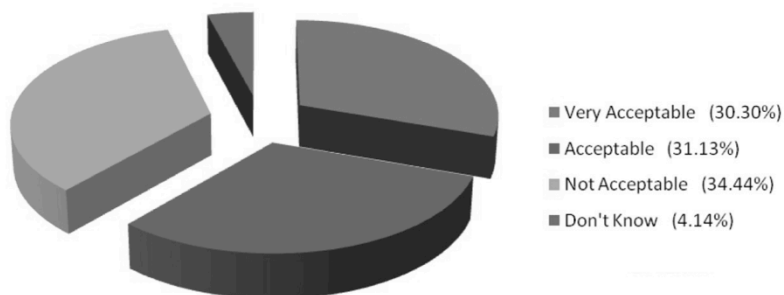
Resident Survey Highlights

22. In the future, what would you like to happen to the number of deer in Cranbrook?



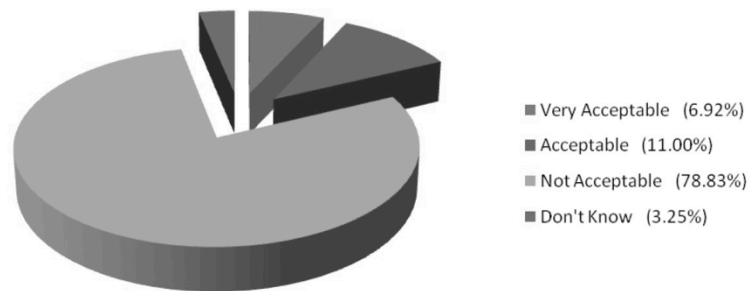
Resident Survey Highlights

37. Capture and euthanize



Resident Survey Highlights

40. No Action



Management Advisory Committee

Committee established by Council October 4, 2010. The scope of work established under Terms of Reference included:

- Assess the results of the public survey
- Coordinate a count of the urban deer population within the boundaries of the City
- Identify acceptable options for population management
- Identify strategies for management of human/deer conflicts
- Present final recommendations to Council

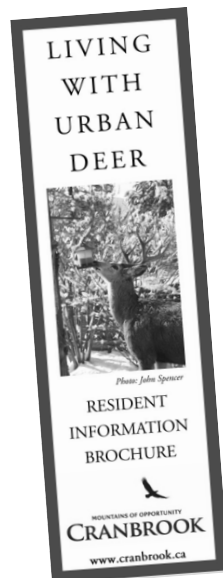
Committee Deer Count Results

- City-wide deer count conducted by Committee members and volunteers over three consecutive Saturdays in Nov. 2010
- Average of 92 deer (white-tail and mule deer) observed City wide; 82 of those counted were mule deer
- Total density of mule deer in City of Cranbrook: 3.3 deer/km²

By comparison, the City of Kimberley (20 deer/km²)

Recommended density in Helena, Montana (9.6 deer/km²)

Committee Recommendations



- Public education campaign
- Key Message: "Deer are always going to be a part of life in Cranbrook"
- Campaign to provide information on how to deal with deer issues, including yard and garden damage, aggression, mule deer life cycle and information on deterrents



Committee Recommendations



- Cull Problem Deer
- Identified as short-term solution focused on areas where incidents have been reported
- Reduce “problem urban centre herd” by 10 to 12 percent or 10 to 12 animals based on deer count results



Other Committee Recommendations

- Capture and Relocate
- Controlled Perimeter Mule Deer doe hunt
- Monitoring: establish Deer Management Advisory Committee as an on-going body to assess and monitor urban deer issues and report annually to Council



Helena, Montana

February 13 to 16, 2011

Photos courtesy Carmen Purdy,
Cranbrook Urban Deer Committee Chair

WARNING – Some of the following images may
be considered graphic in nature.

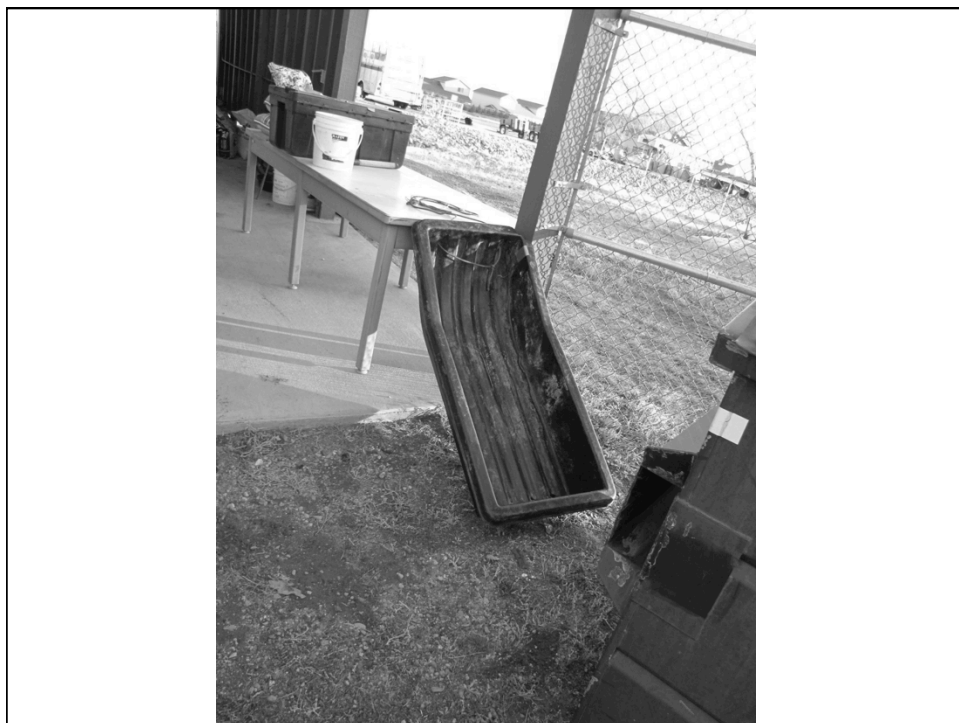


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STRATEGY SUMMARY

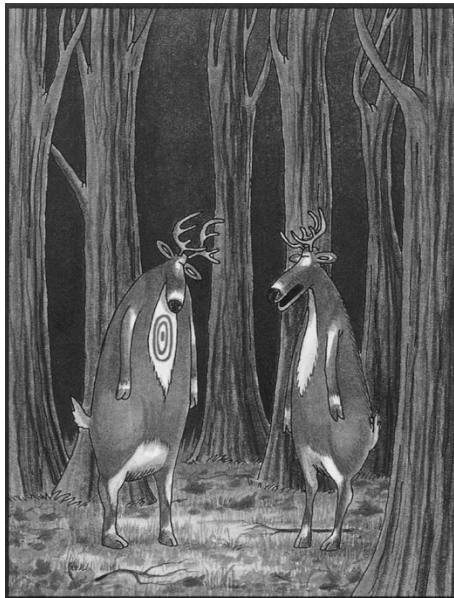
- Submitted to Province for consideration on April 6, 2011
- Requests of both MOE and Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations included:
 - Commit funds and staff resources to proposed strategy
 - Purchase and maintain ten clover traps & equipment and these items be shared with other municipalities
 - MOE commit use of local facility to keep culled

WHERE WE ARE NOW?

- Province has committed staff time and funds to secure clover traps and required equipment as strategy presented.
- By resolution of Council, City has set aside funds to hire contractor to conduct the work.
- Required Provincial permit application submitted; expecting permit by end of September; followed shortly after by tendering/hiring of contractor services.
- Problem deer cull could be completed between late November 2011 and early February 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Involve Ministry staff in your process immediately
- Public Survey – key to success of entire process
- Diverse and transparent Committee
- Make important decisions in public forum



"Bummer of a birthmark, Hal."

For more information contact:

Chris Zettel
Corporate Communications Office
City of Cranbrook

Phone: (250) 489-0238

Email: zettel@cranbrook.ca

www.cranbrook.ca

