

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

2012 Living with Deer in The Pinery Survey

Fact Sheet



Purpose of the study: To measure rates of interactions with mule deer, desired change in deer populations, perceived responsibility for deer management and preferences for management options among residents of The Pinery area of Parker, Colorado.

Methods: In November 2012, we invited 3,682 individuals who live within The Pinery area to participate in an online survey about mule deer and their management in the area. The survey invitation was sent to all residents of The Pinery, so that all had an equal chance of sharing their opinions. We had a valid sample of 3,493 residents and received a total of 1,478 responses to the survey (42% adjusted response rate).

Highlights of results: Responses to key questions follow this summary. Key findings of this survey were:

- More than 82% of all respondents had suffered some damage to ornamental plants or trees due to deer eating or rubbing on them. A majority had also experienced damage to vegetable and other edible plants (55%). Few respondents had suffered injury from a deer-vehicle collision (9%) or damage to their vehicle from a collision (24%). 27% had experienced deer harassing their pets and 9% avoided outdoor activities because of their risk of catching diseases carried by deer.
- More than 60% of respondents felt that seeing deer made them feel connected to nature. More than 50% felt that seeing deer in forested areas or farm fields meant that they were healthy and well-fed.
- A majority of respondents (57%) felt that CPW had primary responsibility for managing deer in the area. 23% of respondents felt that managing deer populations was completely the responsibility of CPW, and that individuals had no control over the negative interactions they experience.
- Nearly 70% of survey respondents felt that there are too many deer in The Pinery area. Nearly 60% of respondents felt that the deer population in the area had increased greatly in the last 5 years and more than 70% wanted the population to decrease in the next 5 years. Despite wanting the deer population to decrease, more than 70% of respondents felt that the deer population in the area was healthy.
- 32% of respondents felt that CPW does a poor job of managing deer in the area. 44% felt that CPW could do more to manage deer in the area. Most respondents (54%) felt that CPW should use all means and methods necessary to manage deer populations, including recreational hunting and sharpshooting.
- More than 75% of respondents felt it was important for CPW to limit the negative effects of deer on residents. 42% were most concerned about humans experiencing negative effects of the deer herd.
- 72% of respondents said it would be acceptable for CPW to increase enforcement of illegal feeding in the area. A majority of respondents were willing to plant deer-resistant plants in their gardens (92%), fence their gardens (69%) and avoid feeding birds, squirrels and other animals (65%).
- 58% of respondents said they would support allowing recreational hunting in The Pinery area, and 57% said they would support the use of sharpshooters to reduce deer numbers. 46% of respondents said they would allow sharpshooters to access their property, but 59% felt that it was unacceptable to require homeowners to pay for sharpshooting activities.
- 33% of respondents felt ill informed about deer management in Colorado, but 69% trusted CPW to deliver accurate information about deer management. More than 50% of respondents felt that CPW does a poor job of communicating about deer management.

For more information: A summary of key results of this survey follow this summary.

For more information about this and other Human Dimensions surveys, please contact Stacy Lischka at stacy.lischka@state.co.us or (303) 291-7279.