

Show-Me Deer Management Cooperative Bylaws

1. This wildlife management cooperative shall be called the Show-Me Deer Management Cooperative.
2. The Cooperative seeks to implement quality deer management goals and objectives for the purpose of improving the age structure and adult sex ratio of deer for improved recreational opportunities and a healthy deer population.
3. Technical assistance for developing proper wildlife management practices for the area will be provided by Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) staff or certified wildlife biologists that are identified as consultants.
4. Recommended wildlife management practices include, but are not limited to, these practices:
 - Habitat management
 - Establishment of adequate doe harvest, based on deer population data collected by the Cooperative
 - Protection of fawns and yearling bucks from harvest
 - Collection of recommended deer harvest and observational data for making management decisions
5. Members are encouraged to help curtail illegal hunting during the year by watching for road hunting, night hunting and trespassing and to report such activities to their neighbors and the MDC.
6. The Cooperative will promote the collection of deer harvest and observation data to help evaluate management progress. Data will be collected during each hunting season and recommendations for the following year will be provided to the cooperative the next spring.
7. Members are encouraged to participate in educational programs and improve landowner-hunter relations and neighbor relations.
8. Members should encourage their non-member neighbors to join the cooperative to increase the number of acres under management.
9. Cooperative leadership will consist of a board of six to eight directors, three of whom will serve as officers.
 - Directors will be elected by active members of the Cooperative. In the first election, two directors will be elected to three-year terms, two will be elected to two-year terms and two will be elected to one-year terms. In subsequent elections, all terms will be three years. This will maintain continuity within the board.
 - Any board member or officer may serve an unlimited number of terms if re-elected by the membership.
 - Officers will consist of president, vice president and secretary-treasurer.
 - The immediate past-president will stay on as an ex-officio member but will not have a vote.
 - Directors will receive no financial compensation.
 - One representative from the Missouri Department of Conservation may be invited to serve on the board as an ex-officio member in an advisory capacity and will not have a vote.
 - Board of director meetings should be held three to four times per year and are open to all cooperative members.
 - Board of director elections may be conducted by mail or during an cooperative meeting.

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Show-Me Deer Management Cooperative Bylaws (continued)

- The board of directors may establish special committees as determined necessary.
 - One meeting of members will be held annually.
 - A board member or officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the board.
 - If any board member is absent from three consecutive board meetings without notifying the president in advance, the member will be considered to have resigned from the board and the vacant position will be filled as outlined above.
10. The following procedures will be used in case of unexpected vacancies in office:
- In the case of a vacancy on the board, the president shall nominate a Cooperative member to complete the unexpired term and the board shall then vote to confirm the nomination.
 - In the case of a vacancy in the position of president, the vice president shall temporarily serve as president and will nominate a member of the Cooperative to fill the empty board position. The board will vote to approve this nomination and then shall elect a president from among the board members if the vice president does not want to continue as president.
 - In the case that the vice president or secretary-treasurer resigns, the president shall nominate a member of the Cooperative to fill the empty board position. The board shall vote to approve this nomination and will then elect one of the directors to assume the vacated officer position.
11. Annual memberships will be \$10. Additional donations will be accepted.
- Membership signs will be available to each member for a nominal fee.
 - Dues will be assessed each year according to the needs of the cooperative.
 - Money will be used for postage, advertisement and educational programs.
 - Membership will run from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 each year.
12. Each member has one vote.
13. Membership is open to anyone interested in wildlife and habitat management.
14. After recommendation by the bylaws committee and approval by the board of directors, proposed changes to the bylaws will be voted on by the membership. These bylaws may be changed by a two-thirds vote of membership by email, postal mail or fax or at a general meeting.
15. The Cooperative will establish a bank account at a local financial institution agreed upon by the president and secretary-treasurer of the cooperative.
16. All finances will be deposited in the Cooperative's bank account. Signatures of the secretary-treasurer and one other officer or director will be required on each check or withdrawal. In the event of termination of the Cooperative, any money remaining in the account will be donated to the Missouri "Share the Harvest" program.
17. It is unnecessary for each member to agree with every recommendation or wildlife management objective identified by the majority of members; however, it is hoped that each member will willingly support the general principals of wildlife conservation.
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