

RENEWAL APPLICATION

October, 2014

Application for a Renewal of
Special Purpose Deer Control Permit
In accordance with IC: 14-22-28-1

Applicant:

Town of Ogden Dunes

115 Hillcrest Road, Ogden Dunes, (Porter County) Indiana 46368-8501

Principal Officers and authority:

Allen B. Johnson Town Council Vice President, AC 219-762-5054

Paul Panther, Councilmen, Ogden Dunes Town Council, AC 219-762-8665

The Town Council at a regular council meeting held on August 4, 2014 authorized the Town Council President, Vice President and/or his designees to prepare and submit a request for a special purpose deer control permit. A copy of the minutes (see page 4) of that meeting is at Attachment # 2.

Lead Contact:

Ogden Dunes Marshal James Reeder will be the lead contact. Marshal Reeder has overseen the cull here in Ogden Dunes the last three years and is well versed on the issues. The backup contact would be Deputy Chief Kevin Hughes. These officers may be reached at 219-762-4125.

Application for:

Special Purpose Deer Control Permit

In accordance with IC: 14-22-28-1

Cull Site Locations:

The cull sites used during the cull of 2013-2014 were Suerenity Park, the area to the rear of the firehouse and Hillcrest Park, east of the Town Hall. The Town intends these sites would be used for 2014-2015 cull. The Town is also seeking the approval of the Department of Natural Resources to use the abandoned railroad bed (sand tracks) at the west end of Town, by the water company.

At a meeting on August 20, 2014 the Ogden Dunes Park and Recreation Board voted to allow the Town to use Hillcrest Park as a cull site. The Town would use Hillcrest Park, south of the firehouse and east of the Town Hall and not use the mulch pile site used during the cull of the winter of 2012-2013.

All of the requested cull sites, rear of fire hall, Hillcrest Park, Suerenity Park and the west end sand tracks are on property within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Ogden Dunes, Porter

County, Indiana and upon property the Town owns or has an interest in as provided by IC: 14-22-28-1. Prior to operations the District Wildlife Biologist and Conservation Officer may choose to re-inspect specific sites. A map exhibiting specific site(s) shall be available and on file in the Town Hall.

Time period of permit:

Effective on **11/03/2014** through **01/30/2015**.

Number of Deer to be taken:

No more than forty (40) deer to be taken under this permit (or in combination with any other permit issued to the applicant for this time period).

Alternatives:

In June of 2012 the Town of Ogden Dunes applied to the DNR for the use of any or all non-lethal population management and vector control techniques. Requests were made for birth control methods, trap and relocate and pesticide application methods. The pesticide application procedure was for the purpose of applying a solution that would then kill ticks on the deer. The pesticide applications were to have been made by way of a device called a four-poster device (or similar product), which was a feeder that would apply a pesticide to a deer as it was feeding. In a response dated August 1, 2012 the DNR stated that none of those methods could be permitted.

Alternative, Indirect:

An indirect alternative would be that the National Park Service would hold culls along our common borders. The Town of Ogden Dunes has held several meetings with the Park Service about this issue. If the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park were to sustain culls along our common border areas to the east, west and south it would help Ogden Dunes benefit from an overall lower number of deer. If this were to take place it may alleviate Ogden Dunes of the need to do annual culls. The National Park did conduct a cull for two days in West Beach in early 2014 which resulted in the taking of twenty deer. Per a recent contact, the Park Service could not commit on whether or not, or when, they would be holding a cull in our area during the 2014-2015 season. The NPS does have the funds for culling and are planning to cull, but the specific areas have not been determined as of now.

Conditions/Authorizations:

Safety:

Town will assume all responsibility for safety while carrying-out the permit. The proposed cull sites will be set off with clear markings, such as signs, yellow police tape, orange road cones and other barriers. There will be Town-wide notices byway of a large electronic road sign, hand-delivered letters to any residents nearby to the sites and notices on the Town website. We will post notices on the central mail racks, also.

The Town Marshal may designate not more than four (4) sharpshooters whose names must be provided to the Indiana DNR District Wildlife Biologist and on file and available upon request at the Town Hall, during normal business hours. The plan is to use several of the same sharpshooters

that have been used the past three years. They are unpaid and volunteer their services. The sharpshooters will be elevated and be shooting into a backstop or into the ground.

Specific authorization is requested for the use of the same caliber rifles as used the prior years, a .223 and a .308 caliber both with suppressors. The use of suppressors was permitted for the last several years and their use substantially mitigated the reports of rifle fire. The Town may take deer from one half hour before sunrise through one half hour after sunset.

Town intends to use baiting during the cull process to concentrate deer and the Town requests that the baiting may be permitted to start two weeks prior to the beginning of the authorized cull starting date. Our Town Code permits baiting in connection with a special deer permit

Town intends that each deer taken under this permit must be utilized for human consumption. No part or portion of the carcass may be sold. During the past three culls the Portage Township Food Pantry received over 1,000 one-pound packages of ground venison from our culls. Contributions from the public were solicited in order to pay for the processing of deer and other cull costs. However, any deer taken that appear to be unfit for consumption or diseased shall be incinerated, buried or otherwise destroyed.

Town will provide an "Authorization to Possess Deer taken on a Deer Control Permit Form" with each deer taken that is to accompany deer at all times.

For any deer that has a total of more than seven (7) antler points, the Town will insure one antler is removed and surrendered or disposed of, as directed by a Conservation Officer or District Wildlife Biologist by the expiration of the permit.

Town will be responsible for the carrying out and abiding by all permit conditions.

Purposes/reasons/goals:

Damage:

The white-tailed deer population within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Ogden Dunes, Porter County, Indiana has damaged and continues to threaten with damage Town owned, other public, and private property.

Attachment 1 is a copy of a report by John Ervin, ecologist, dated October 4, 2013 assessing the vegetation in Ogden Dunes as a result of foraging deer. This report was submitted last year but is felt to still be relevant. That report states that there was no significant visual difference in the 2013 vegetation when compared to the two previous years. The report also references browse lines, dominance of invasive species, stunting of yews, arborvitae, holly and deciduous shrubs in residential landscapes. At that time, one of the author's conclusions was that a large population of deer was still present.

Packages of Pictures

The packages of pictures enclosed are indicative of deer damage from browsing at various locations throughout the Town of Ogden Dunes. Damage has occurred in the interior of Town as well as on the edges of Town. The pictures in the envelopes were taken over the period of

November 2013 through August of 2014. The envelopes contain addresses of the various sites and are geographically spread over much of the Town. The month and year that the picture was taken is written on the back of each picture.

All the pictures were taken from the streets except for those in the following envelopes. The envelopes for 22 Bittersweet Lane, 15 Diana Road, 63 Ogden Road, 1 Sycamore and 7 The Thumb contain pictures that were taken in the presence of and with the permission of the owners of the respective properties.

Envelopes – addresses:

22 Bittersweet- plantings which were browsed

13 Deer Trail- browsing at the lower portions of a series of tall evergreens, cedars?

7 The Thumb- evidence of browsing on tall evergreens, yews and flowers.

Woodland and Sunset triangle- browsing damage to shrubbery, yews.

106 Diana Rd.- damaged evergreen shrubs, one on each side of the driveway.

87 Diana Rd.- damaged evergreen shrub, with a green ball on top.

70 Diana Rd.- tall evergreen with damage at the lower portion.

15 Diana Rd.- pictures of several types of damage contained in envelopes #1 and #2.

Envelope #1 contains pictures taken in December of lily plants that were eaten. Also pictured, is a stalk of a lilac that had the bark removed as a result of a deer rub. There are four pictures dated August 2014. One is a picture of several hosta plants that were the subject of grazing. The other three are pictures of a rose of Sharon with branches and buds eaten off.

Envelope #2 contains a series of pictures of a triple-trunk tree. The pictures depict conditions in November, December, January, March and May. Above the browse line, there is a heavy cover of euonymus. As winter progressed, more and more of the lower foliage was consumed. The December picture shows snow and deer tracks that circled the tree numerous times. The two May pictures show that the euonymus on the lower portion of the tree has demonstrated very little recovery. One of the March 2013 pictures is marked on the back indicating deer scat on the ground.

125 Ogden Road- evidence of browsing at the lower level of a series of shrubs, yews?

70 Ogden Road-damage to shrubbery, arborvitae, showing the typical browsing patterns.

9 Ogden Court- browse line damage on large evergreens, yews.

63 Ogden Road- evidence of browsing on lower portion of evergreen shrubs and browsing shown on lily plant.

Valerie and Chrismar- May 2014 photos of row of tall shrubs on edge of Chrismar that have been damaged at the lower level. Lack of recovery from prior year may indicate on-going foraging.

10 Valerie- pictures show browsing damage to yews.

1 Sycamore- browse damage on large evergreen bush.

4 Sycamore- browse damage to row of evergreens along drive and damage to an evergreen near building.

Chestnut and Chrismar- browse damage to lower portion of tall evergreen.

8 Chestnut- damage to row of evergreens, yews.

Purposes:

Town desires to maintain a healthy deer population while protecting other resources, where deer are not the driving force and the natural role of deer in the ecosystem is better maintained.

Protect habitat from unacceptable adverse impacts related to deer browsing of:

- Native plant species;
- Sensitive and rare species;
- Wildflowers and grasses;
- Forests and green space;
- Landscaping and gardens;
- Lower canopy and ground-nesting bird habitat;
- All of which changes the landscape, adversely impacts biodiversity and potentially promotes invasive plant species.

Reduce threat and potential for personal property damage, damage and injury to persons (e.g.: deer – human interaction, deer – pedestrian, motorized and non-motorized vehicle collisions). In Ogden Dunes there were four reported incidents of deer-related auto accidents during 2014 to date.

Reduce threat and potential of deer overpopulation adversely affecting animal health (e.g.: animal starvation, and animal disease) and human health.

Long Term Management Plan:

Target:

Healthy deer density: approximately 10 to 15 deer/square mile.

Not including the waters of Lake Michigan, the Town of Ogden Dunes has less than 500 acres of land. On those acres, there are approximately 600 homes, several Town owned buildings, a drinking water treatment plant, a gas station and approximately 11 miles of roads.

A flyover infrared count of deer in or on the border of Ogden Dunes performed in February of 2012 reflected approximately 58 deer. Since that time, there have been deer born in the springs of 2012, 2013 and 2014. Since that flyover count there have been two culls conducted, that resulted in the taking of 72 deer. The cull of December 2012 resulted in the taking of 40 deer. The cull of 2013-2014 resulted in the taking of 32 deer. The locations of the cull sites used were all on the eastern portion of Town. It is reasonable to assume that some number of the deer taken were walk-ins from the adjoining national park property. It is also reasonable to assume that the numbers of deer which consistently roam the western half of Town were not significantly reduced.

Steps:

When determined by the Town Council, conduct culls within the boundaries of the Town of Ogden Dunes.

Maintain dialogue with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park to encourage the Park to conduct culls on their property along the western and eastern borders of Ogden Dunes.

The plan would be that the numbers of deer residing in Town and nearby on land of the National Park would be significantly reduced with teamwork between the Town and the Park. In early 2014 the National Park held its first cull in the Ogden Dunes area. At that time, twenty deer were culled out of West Beach area in two days. The request to use the sand tracks area on the west side of Town is important to reducing the numbers of deer in that area if the assistance of the National Park is not available this year. Once it is determined that the deer population has been lowered to tolerable levels, it may allow for Ogden Dunes to alternate culls, especially if the Park would be able continue regular culls in our area.

Attachments, Enclosures and References:

Attachments:

Attachment 1 is a copy of a report dated October 4, 2013, Three Years of the Vegetation of the Town of Ogden Dunes, Indiana, prepared by John Ervin, Ecologist.

Attachment 2 is a copy of the minutes of the Town Council meeting on August 4, 2014 authorizing the President, Vice-President of the Council or his designee to apply for a deer cull permit.

Enclosures

19 envelopes of pictures as noted above

By reference: Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore - Final White-Tailed Deer Management Plan