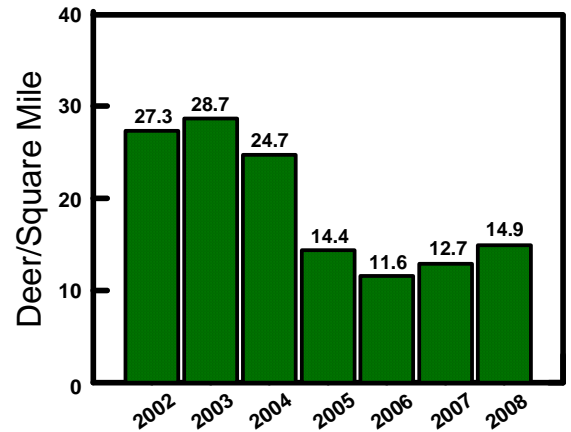


Deer FAQs on the KQDC 2009

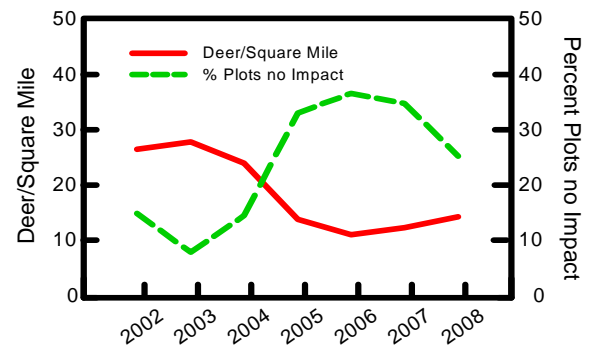
Are deer numbers down on the KQDC? Yes and no. Since 2001, deer density has gone from 27-28 deer per square mile down to the 10-15 deer per square mile range, which is the goal range. But density has been creeping up since 2006: increased about 10% in 2007, about 17% in 2008 and up about 3% in 2009. The increases likely are due to a combination of more and better forage, higher birth rates, higher fawn survival.



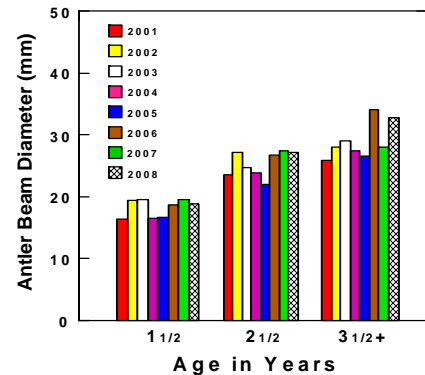
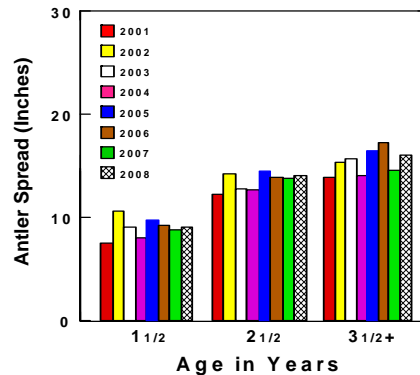
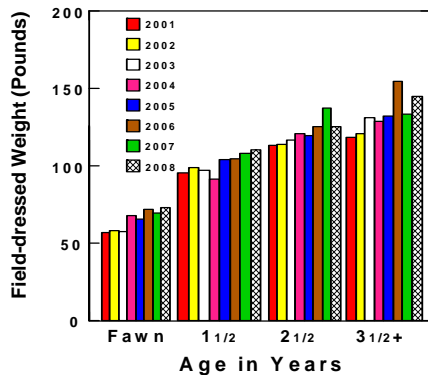
Are we trying to eliminate deer on the KQDC? No.

Research in northwestern Pennsylvania has shown that deer are in balance with habitat in forests managed for timber production when deer density is in the 10-15 deer per square mile range. We have used antlerless tags and DMAP licenses to get deer down to the target range. As deer density has dropped, we have dropped DMAP licenses from 3000 in 2003 to 300 in 2007, and as density increased, we increased number of DMAP coupons in 2008 and 2009.

Is the KQDC program working? Yes. Since the program started, reduction in deer density has resulted in an increase in understory vegetation – the graph at the right tracks the increase in vegetation (plots with no deer impact – the green line) with decrease in deer density (red line). As deer density dropped, percent plots with no impact increased. The result has been more food and cover for deer, turkey, grouse, rabbits, squirrels, songbirds and other wildlife. However, as deer density has increased since 2006, so has deer impact.



What about deer quality? It's gotten better. Since 2002 with the three point antler restriction and emphasis on reducing density by harvesting more does and fewer bucks, body weight and antler characteristics have improved greatly. Bucks have gotten heavier, and antler beam diameter and antler spread have increased in four age classes: fawns, yearlings, 2 ½ year olds and 3 ½ + year old bucks.



Can we intentionally increase deer density in the future on the KQDC? It already happened. Reductions in DMAP licenses 2005-2006 and lower hunting pressure resulted in an unplanned 28% increase in deer density from 2006-2008. If foresters are able to harvest more trees, and take down more fences, the herd should increase at a faster rate and the KQDC may be able to support deer in the 15-20 deer per square mile range without harming the habitat.