



Making Observations: Research Scientist Observations

Research Scientist Jennifer Stenglein was asked to put together a brief descriptions on how Snapshot Wisconsin observations are used to help WDNR wildlife management support decisions:

“Hello! My name is Jennifer Stenglein and I am a Research Scientist at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). I study animal populations and most days I can be found working on a computer to organize and clean data, run population models, write reports, fill data requests, attend meetings and answer emails. I also work on the Snapshot Wisconsin project to take the photo data collected by volunteers, including students, and integrate it into the process where decisions are made to set management goals and quotas for harvested species. One example of this is for white-tailed deer. Snapshot Wisconsin photos from July and August each year provide fawn and doe photos that we combine with other survey information on fawns and does and estimate a fawn to doe ratio for every county of Wisconsin. Fawn to doe ratios provide information on deer recruitment, or the number of young that are born and survive until the end of the summer, and these ratios are affected by winter weather conditions in more forested areas and the density of the deer population (food availability). Fawn to doe ratios are one input into the formula used to estimate the deer population size by county and these numbers are the starting point for [County Deer Advisory Councils \(CDACs\)](#) to make recommendations on how many deer to harvest in their county so that the population increases, remains stable, or decreases. These recommendations from the CDACs are made through input from different stakeholders and with public input. From there the Deer Advisory Committee, of which I am a member, reviews the CDAC recommendations and makes suggested changes to be considered by upper management of the WDNR. A final recommendation is made by WDNR and given to the [Natural Resources Board](#) for consideration. The Natural Resources Board is the ultimate decision-making body of WDNR and sets the harvest quota for deer in each county. So, the path from taking a Snapshot Wisconsin photo to its use in wildlife decision-making is long, but it is an exciting journey and one that I enjoy being a part of. Thanks for all of your help collecting Snapshot Wisconsin data and classifying it to help us all better understand Wisconsin’s wildlife populations.”



More information about deer management by the WDNR can be explored through the following links:

- [Deer Metrics webpage](#)
- [Deer population maps](#)