

# Spotlight Deer Survey

(See Reverse for Instructions)

County \_\_\_\_\_ Name of line \_\_\_\_\_ (VMWMA)

Circle one: north of U.S. 84 (or) south of U.S. 84

Start: Temp. \_\_\_\_\_ Cloud Cov. \_\_\_\_\_ Wind Speed \_\_\_\_\_ Wind Dir. \_\_\_\_\_ Odometer Reading \_\_\_\_\_

End: Temp. \_\_\_\_\_ Cloud Cov. \_\_\_\_\_ Wind Speed \_\_\_\_\_ Wind Dir. \_\_\_\_\_ Odometer Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Location Along Route (Optional)	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Unidentified	Total Observed	Acres of Visibility	Acres per Deer
<b>TOTALS</b>							

Does Per Buck \_\_\_\_\_

Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Fawns Per Doe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Herd Increment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONDUCTING DEER SPOTLIGHT SURVEYS**

- Surveys should be made during the period of **August 1st through September 10th**.
- Attempt to make a **minimum of three surveys annually** at no more frequent than weekly intervals.
- If possible, avoid conducting surveys during periods of weather changes (rain, high winds, cool fronts, etc.) or if disruptive activities occurred during the day prior to the survey (cattle work, etc.). **Counts conducted on dark nights tend to be more productive than those conducted on bright nights.**
- Begin the survey no earlier, or no later, than 1 HOUR AFTER SUNSET.**
- Drive the survey route at approximately 5 miles per hour.
- Do not stop to search for deer. However, the vehicle should be stopped whenever a deer is observed so that identification can be attempted.
- Record ALL deer observed. Use binoculars to try to identify. Deer should be classified in one of four categories – “antlered buck”, “adult doe”, or current-year “fawn” if POSITIVE identification can be made (fawns are a separate category and should not be lumped with does) – or as “Unidentified” if not positive. DO NOT GUESS the identity of a deer if not positive to avoid biasing herd composition**
- Record only those deer within 250 yards of either side of the vehicle (500 yards total width is the maximum distance used to estimate visible acres).**
- Deer data can be recorded by location along the route if desired.
- Observations should be made by utilizing hand-held spotlights. No more, or no less, than two spotlights (one on each side of the vehicle) should be used.
- PLEASE NOTIFY THE LOCAL GAME WARDEN BEFORE CONDUCTING SPOTLIGHT SURVEYS.**

**Please submit all survey data by September 11th to:**

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