

**From:** [Criss, Jeremy](#)  
**To:** [Sara Love](#)  
**Cc:** [Scheffel, Mike](#); [Samman, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Deer Management Meeting  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 10:16:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Comcast Business voicemail from 7039632710.msg](#)

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Hello Delegate Love,

I am responding to your message below and your attached voice message.

The DNR has not reached out to me specifically and this really does not surprise me.

The representatives from DNR and MNCPPC could have met together and discussed what they are doing to promote deer management on public lands.

Every time the agricultural community suggests that public agencies need to do more to manage the deer that they are responsible for, they accuse farmers and the Office of Agriculture of doing nothing.

As you know, the MD-DNR owns all of the natural resources of the state including deer and that helps to explain why MD-DNR requires hunting licenses etc.

The MNCPPC owns the parkland in the County where a majority of the habitat exists for deer to live. Our surveys of farmers has shown that farms adjacent to state and county parkland experience the highest levels of crop damage due to deer.

Why should farmers continue to be negatively impacted by resources-assets-deer that MD-DNR own?

Please note that expanded Sunday Hunting in Montgomery County adopted a few years ago was approved on a pilot basis that needs to be legislatively addressed in 2022.

Expanded Sunday hunting has proven to be very effective and helpful to reduce the deer population. I believe Delegate David Fraser Hildago intends to address this issue, but you should follow up with him.

Another suggestion that needs to be asked is as follows:

Why should bow hunting in the down county areas of Montgomery County be restricted to only the MD-DNR bow hunting season when no other means of hunting is allowed due to the no discharge of weapons boundary?

A special provision in the MD Hunting regulations is needed for Montgomery County down county urban areas expand opportunities for bow hunting.

Bow hunting in Montgomery County has also proven to effective and helpful to reduce the deer population in the down county areas where guns are not permitted.

Thank you for organizing the meeting on Tuesday and hopefully we can make a difference.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

J

### **Background information to consider**

Most Farmers are not hunters.

Hunters are often men drinking in the woods with guns looking for trophy deer (male deer with big racks).

Deer management involves reducing the number of does that can have two to three off-spring-fawns each year.

Farmers are concerned that irresponsible hunters will expose them and their families to liability. Fortunately, Maryland has not experienced a Dick Chaney hunting incident. This helps to explain why many farmers do not permit hunting on their private property- farms. Another factor is that approximately 40 % of the farmland in the County is leased to farmers and the landlords do not allow hunting due to the liability issue mentioned above. MD-DNR criticize farmers for not doing more to manage deer on their farms. MD-DNR criticize farmers for not properly using deer management permits that can be used outside the normal hunting season to reduce deer herds when crop damage is reported and verified by MD-DNR. Farmers are given too many deer management permits by MD-DNR knowing the farmers will not use all of them and this outcome is used against the farmer when farmers complain that more deer management is needed. The Deer Management Permits are not automatic and the process can take months to complete especially during the pandemic. Farmers believe white tailed deer should be designated as vermin (like ground hogs) because their population exceeds the carrying capacity of parks that is supposed to support them. Why should farmers continue to be negatively impacted by resources-assets-deer that MD-DNR own? Deer represents a primary source of income for MD-DNR and it is in their interest to keep the population high to make sure they can continue to operate as a non-taxpayer supported public agency. I hope this information is helpful.

Please take a moment to answer this quick satisfaction survey about our interaction today:

<https://forms.gle/yXhnxpQLtHgFPtBX6>

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Montgomery County Ag Reserve  
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**From:** Sara Love <saralove4md@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2021 1:35 PM  
**To:** Criss, Jeremy <Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Deer Management Meeting

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Hi Jeremy -

As I look forward to the meeting next week, I wanted to touch base with you about the agenda. I sent this to DNR:

Looking at the 2021 budget language, DNR was requested to work with MoCo and develop "an enhanced deer management strategy to reduce the Montgomery County deer population by a measurable amount" and a report is due Nov. 1. I would like to hear from DNR what they have done on that, what suggestions they have based on their work, and what (if any) support they need to finish the report.

Their response:

We share your belief that the meeting is a great opportunity to bring elected officials and stakeholders together for a comprehensive discussion on enhanced deer management in Montgomery County and Maryland. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is prepared to provide an update and share recommendations for the group's consideration.

Given that the Joint Chairmen's Report (JCR) requires "cooperation with and approval by Montgomery County officials" to develop an "enhanced deer management strategy to reduce the Montgomery County deer population by a measurable amount," it is imperative that we hold the meeting before we finalize our report. The information from the meeting, and hopefully a consensus on management strategies, would then be a part of the JCR. While we will make every effort to get the report in before the deadline, the ultimate submission of the report will likely be after Nov 1, 2021. We believe this is the only way to stay in keeping with the spirit of the JCR language. We will work to submit the report as quickly as possible.

I am concerned as it sounds like DNR has not reached out to MoCo prior to this. Is that the case? If so, this meeting takes on a different tone from a reporting in and connecting meeting to a meeting working on strategy. Please let me know.

Take care,  
Sara

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