

OUTDOORS QUESTION OF THE WEEK

A study by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources has revealed less than 25 percent of the state's forest districts show desirable new growth. The study concludes that the state's deer herd is nibbling away at new growth at an alarming rate.

Should the Game Commission consider lowering fees for hunting licenses in order to encourage more hunters to help reverse the trend?



Chris Anderson, Indiana

No, I believe that the Game Commission should consider raising fees and using the extra money to plant food plots for the deer. Hunters are complaining there aren't any deer left and now the PGC wants to lower license fees to promote greater harvests. To control the nibbling, we need to encourage the use of food plots along with the planting of shrubs and plants for the deer, to deter them from the new-growth forests.



Eric Ball, Dixonville

I believe lowering license fees will have little or no effect on the number of people buying hunting licenses. Wildlife feeding on the new growth of saplings and other young vegetation is part of the natural feeding cycle; this is nothing new. If the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources is concerned, building fences or offering DMAP tags for these areas could be a reasonable start.



George Lenz, Indiana

No, in my estimate hunting license costs are not a factor. The problem is the management of the deer herd. We need creative regulations to deal with unique situations. No doe permits issued for one area and multiple permits issued for another geographical region is an answer. Expand the Red Tag areas to include the state's forests or extend the season in the overpopulated regions.