

DMAP

What Is It? and How Can It Help Your Bowhunting?

by Bill McCrary, District 9 Director, De Forest

After assuming the role of WBH representative to the DNR's DMAP Advisory Committee I quickly came to realize that most bowhunters knew very little about DMAP and that some might benefit from learning about the program.

So, what does the acronym DMAP stand for? It stands for Deer Management Assistance Program.

To learn more I went online and quickly found a document titled Wisconsin Deer Management Assistance Program Overview put out by the DNR. There were other pieces of information on the website relating to DMAP, but I found this particular one the most helpful. Much of the information, which appears below, came directly, in some cases almost verbatim, from that document. This article is a brief introduction to DMAP but if you are interested in the program I urge you to go online to www.dnr.wi.gov, key word DMAP. There, you'll find just about everything you need to know about DMAP, including how to enroll.

DMAP is sponsored and administered by the Department of Natural Resources and is relatively new to Wisconsin landowners and deer hunters. It first began in our state in 2014, so it's fairly young, but it is a program, which has made great progress in a short amount of time.

I just mentioned "landowners". Does this mean you have to own land to take advantage of what DMAP offers? The answer is "No." Let me explain.

To enroll in DMAP, you must either own land or be the author-

ized representative of a landowner. As a representative, you must have received permission from the landowner to act and make decisions on their behalf concerning DMAP, including being able to grant access to the landowner's property for DNR staff for DMAP purposes. What this means for the non-landowner is that if you regularly hunt a certain area, you may be able to take advantage of DMAP through your association with the land's owner. Perhaps you are in a situation where the whole family hunts grandpa's farm just outside of town. If so, perhaps a younger member of the clan can step up and initiate an association with DMAP. If grandpa says, "go for it", you can get his property into DMAP. Or, perhaps you're a member of a group leasing hunting land. With the landowner's permission DMAP enrollment may be possible. It just takes a landowner authorized individual to initiate the process and follow through with the application process and the program initiatives.

At present, the DNR DMAP coordinator is Bob Nack. The current structure for DMAP was created by an action team consisting of private citizens and conservation leaders. Nack provides leadership for the program and guides development of program details with advice and support from a number of conservation partners. Over two-dozen representatives from almost as many organizations and agencies compose the DMAP advisory committee. These partners have and will continue to play a vital role in the success of the program

through DMAP promotion and participation.

DMAP provides habitat and deer herd management assistance to Wisconsin landowners or their representatives interested in managing their property for wildlife. At present nearly 600 individual Wisconsin landowners have over 220,000 acres enrolled in the program. The program is identified and defined under Wis. Stat. 29.020 and Wis. Admin. Code NR 10.70.

DMAP enrollees can participate at one of three levels depending on the amount of acreage enrolled. Level I has no minimum acreage requirement while the Level II minimum is set at 160 acres and Level III is set at 640 acres minimum. There is no fee for a Level I enrollee but Level II requires a \$75 fee and Level III is set at \$150. The term of the enrollment period for each level is three years. After three years, members may re-enroll for a continuation of the relationship, service, and benefits from the DNR.

The services and benefits coming to the enrollees vary with the membership level. Briefly, they are:

Level I DMAP educational resources. Technical assistance from department employees including wildlife biologists and foresters. Annual program reports. An opportunity to attend annual workshops organized by the department or its partners.

Level II All the benefits of Level I. On-site consultation visit by a wildlife biologist and/or a

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forester. A management plan with habitat and harvest recommendations developed individually for the enrolled property. Reduced price antlerless tags (if applicable to management goals). Property specific harvest reports.

Level III All the benefits of Levels I & II. Assistance with deer population monitoring. Habitat evaluations. Assistance with enrollment in other conservation programs. Technical assistance and design for habitat and property management activities. Additional site visits when needed and detailed management recommendations.

In addition, there are workshops and training opportunities for DMAP participants at all levels. The DNR along with its conservation partners hosts these workshops. The workshops provide information on habitat management techniques, program opportunities and first-hand landowner experience. Invited speakers cover a suite of topics of interest to landowners and hunters alike. The workshops are a great opportunity for DMAP participants to interact and network. Workshops include a site visit of a DMAP property and DMAP updates. Participants are informed of "citizen science" opportunities in their area and additional training opportunities with partner agencies and organizations.

There are two additional features of the program that also need to be mentioned. First, program enrollees may combine their acreage with a nearby neighbor, or neighbors, enrolled in the program to allow qualification at a higher level. Note, this association of individual property owners or their representatives are not organized as a business entity but are organized for the purpose of managing deer and other wildlife resources

and have agreed to participate in DMAP.

No transfer or co-mingling of land ownership occurs and each property enrolled in the group cooperative must be within one-half mile of another property in the cooperative. Then secondly, DMAP is not intended to be a private land only program. The DNR may cooperate with the managers of national, state, county or municipally owned lands for which public access is available through DMAP. The DMAP coordinator, biologist and forester can work together with public land managers, tribes, and the public to enroll public properties.

So, what does all this mean to the Wisconsin bowhunter? It means that you may be able to get your hunting land, whether you own it or not, enrolled in a program which will offer sound habitat and game management suggestions from DNR professional biologists

and foresters. If those suggestions are followed the result, over time, will benefit both the landowner and the deer hunter through habitat improvement. And habitat improvement translates into a healthier deer herd. That, as we know, means better bowhunting with increased opportunities. In the long run, isn't that what we'd all like? ←←

Responsible Hunters Report Game Violations!

If you observe a violation, get information to the nearest Conservation Warden or call the statewide, 24 hour, confidential toll free

"Poacher Hotline"
1-800-847-9367



BOWHUNTERS



WEAR YOUR WISCONSIN BOWHUNTERS PIN MOUNTED IN A RING!

Write or call for further information:

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