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Coordination of research design activities with contract projects: W-124-R and W-146-R

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STUDY OBJECTIVE: To research selected aspects of deer resource dynamics that have been identified as key components in the redefinition and/or implementation of deer management strategic plans and programs in northern New York.

Job No. and Title: XIII-3 - Coordination of research design activities with contract projects: W-124-R (Aaron Moen, Principal Investigator) and W-146-R (Tommy Brown, Principal Investigator).

Job Objective: To provide coordination of data collection with other contract research organizations to avoid unnecessary duplication and take advantage of other expertise.


Abstract: A series of meetings were held with the principal investigators of P-R Project No's. W-124-R and W-146-R in order to coordinate data collection, avoid duplication of research activities, and to take advantage of other expertise.

Background:

This project was conceived in order to be more efficient in designing and conducting research efforts focusing on white-tailed deer in New York.

Procedures:

Meetings were held on an annual or semi-annual basis, during which research proposals and design were discussed.
Findings:

A meeting of project personnel of W-146-R and W-105-R was held in the winter of 1978-79 to discuss progress of research projects. Areas of mutual interests were discussed. A revised questionnaire for Job XIII-4 was outlined. The implementation of Job XIII-5 was discussed and an additional meeting was planned after the graduate student who will conduct the field aspects of this job, is on the staff.

A meeting of the Assistant Project Leader and Bureau of Wildlife personnel was held in early February. This meeting was with personnel of the Habitat Evaluation Unit. Vegetation inventory procedures necessary in the conduct of Job XIII-2 were discussed. Other aspects of habitat evaluation and land use status influencing wildlife management planning were also discussed.

Project personnel met with DEC Bureau of Wildlife personnel on several occasions during 1979 to develop a mutually satisfactory research contract for a five year period beginning in April of 1982. In addition, a new Job (XIII-8) was developed to begin in April of 1981 in support of current research efforts under Jobs XIII-2 and 4.

A meeting was held in Warrensburg between DEC personnel from Delmar and Region 5 and personnel from Project W-105-R to discuss activities associated with on-going Pittman Robertson research at the Huntington Forest Station.

Several exchanges between project personnel (W-105-R) and DEC regional staff took place during the current project segment to discuss topics such as: 1) inclusion of the Huntington Forest in the Muzzleloader Hunting Zone in conjunction with research under Job XIII-4; 2) furbearer management and census techniques; 3) income resulting from paid hunting program under Job XIII-4; and
4) habitat evaluation techniques used in conjunction with the research activities under Job XIII-2.

Project personnel attended the DEC sponsored deer aging classes held at Ray Brook, NY.

Assistant Project Leader (W-105-R) collaborated with DEC Supervising Wildlife Biologist in the preparation of a manuscript for publication on deer viewing research.

Several exchanges took place between project personnel (W-105-R) and personnel in The Endangered Species Unit regarding progress of the bobcat research and cougar research.

In 1980, informal conversations were held with personnel associated with P-R Projects W-124-R and W-146-R, concerning ongoing research activities. Project personnel met with regional DEC personnel on several occasions to discuss the status of current research, format of presentation of data in final reports, DEC planning activities, especially the Strategic Deer Management Plan for Northern New York.

DEC personnel met with Project W-105-R personnel at the Huntington Forest during the fall of 1980 to discuss the status of current research and future cooperative research. A proposed series of research topics submitted by W-105-R personnel was reviewed.

Subsequent to this meeting, a new agreement was negotiated involving four research jobs for the 1981-82 project segment.
Analysis:

This job was unsuccessful in that meetings between cooperators were generally hard to set up and resulted in a relatively small amount of information being exchanged under this formal procedure. It is felt that most of the information exchange between projects can be accomplished through informal telephone conversations between cooperators as needed. This would eliminate time consuming preparation of formal reports and therefore increase the efficiency of non-duplication of research efforts.

Recommendations:

This job should be terminated and not renewed.
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