



Deer Management Assistance Program

INTRODUCTION

Administered by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) enables landowners to achieve local deer management goals through additional antlerless deer harvest opportunities. Landowners with property enrolled in DMAP are eligible to receive DMAP hunting permits. These permits enable landowners and hunters on their property to harvest additional antlerless deer during deer season above and beyond the county-level permit limit.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Any private property of at least 250 acres located outside of municipal boundaries, regardless of the owner's legal residence, is eligible for the program. For properties inside the boundaries of a city or town, at least 25 acres are required. Individual parcels of land, regardless of ownership, may be combined to satisfy the acreage requirements as long as no parcel of land is more than ½ mile (by air) from the boundary of another parcel being combined to form an enrolled DMAP property. The acreage requirement is designed to encourage deer management at a scale that will have a meaningful effect on local populations.

To qualify, the landowner(s) must also have clearly defined deer management objectives that cannot be achieved through current antlerless permit availability. Deer management objectives generally fall within one of two categories:

- Addressing deer damage concerns
 - » Minimizing deer damage to agriculture, forest, or other plant communities
- Achieving recreational deer management goals
 - » Bringing the deer population into balance with available habitat
 - » Balancing the adult sex ratio within the local deer population

ENROLLMENT

Landowners wishing to enroll a property into DMAP must decide whether their deer management goals most closely relate to addressing deer damage or to achieving recreational objectives, as previously outlined. Those wishing to address deer damage concerns must first schedule a site visit with their local MDC conservation agent or wildlife damage biologist. MDC contact information can be found at mdc.mo.gov/contact-engage. The agent or biologist will verify that damage is being caused by deer and determine if DMAP enrollment is warranted. If so, they will authorize DMAP permits that will be available for use on the property during the deer season and provide instruction on completing enrollment, which will involve submitting property information and a list of hunters who may purchase and fill DMAP permits on the enrolled property.



Landowners wishing to enroll a property to achieve recreational deer management goals should contact MDC Private Lands Deer Biologist Ashleigh Day at Ashleigh.Day@mdc.mo.gov. Landowners will be asked to provide deer population data prior to enrollment that can be used to determine eligibility and the number of DMAP permits that will be available. This can be data from a camera survey, observation data, or other information that provides an estimate of deer abundance on the property. More information on collecting population data can be found at mdc.mo.gov/dmap. Once DMAP eligibility has been verified through the population data, the landowner will complete their enrollment by submitting property information and a list of hunters who may purchase and fill DMAP permits on the enrolled property.

The annual DMAP enrollment period extends from May 1 through September 1. All properties, even those that have been previously enrolled, must be enrolled annually by submitting a new application, or renewing a previous application, during the enrollment period.

When landowners enroll in DMAP, they are offered liability protection under **Missouri's Recreational Use Immunity Law (RSMo Section 537.347)**.

DMAP PERMITS

Landowners enrolled in DMAP may designate hunters of their choosing to purchase and fill DMAP permits on the enrolled property, and will be asked to determine how they would like the DMAP permits to be allocated across the designated hunters. Permits are not transferable and may only be obtained by the hunter to which they have been assigned. All DMAP permits must be initially allocated to hunters prior to Sept. 5, and DMAP permits will be available for purchase by Sept. 15 anywhere other permits are sold, including through the MO Hunting mobile app. Permits that have been allocated to hunters, but not yet purchased, may be reassigned to different hunters at three points throughout deer hunting season:

- Changes submitted by Nov. 6, 2026; permits available for purchase by Nov. 13, 2026
- Changes submitted by Nov. 27, 2026; permits available for purchase by Dec. 4, 2026
- Changes submitted by Dec. 18, 2026; permits available for purchase by Dec. 25, 2026
- Changes submitted to Ashleigh Day at Ashleigh.Day@mdc.mo.gov.

The following conditions apply to DMAP permits:

- Each permit authorizes the take of one antlerless deer.
- Permits may be used during archery season using archery methods or during any portion of the firearms deer season with methods allowed during that portion.
- Permits may only be used on the enrolled DMAP property for which they were issued.
- Once assigned to a hunter, permits are not transferable except through the process outlined above. Once a DMAP permit has been purchased, it cannot be reassigned.
- Permits cost the same as an archery or firearms antlerless permit.
- Nonresidents must first purchase a Nonresident Firearms Any-Deer Hunting Permit, Nonresident Landowner Firearms Any-Deer Hunting Permit, Nonresident Archer's Hunting Permit, or Nonresident Landowner Archer's Hunting Permit to buy DMAP permits, and be properly licensed for the season they are hunting. Properly licensed during the archery deer hunting season means possession of one of the prerequisite archery permits (filled or unfilled) listed above. Properly licensed during the firearms deer hunting season means possession of one of the prerequisite firearms permits (filled or unfilled) listed above.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Deer Management Assistance Program, contact your local MDC private lands conservationist or conservation agent. Contact information and additional program details can be found at mdc.mo.gov/contact-engage and mdc.mo.gov/dmap, respectively.



Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.