

SPECIES RECOVERY TIMELINE - WHITE-TAILED DEER (21)



1680, Infinite Herds, Thomas Ashe

“...deer of which there is such infinite herds, that the whole country seems but one continuous park.”

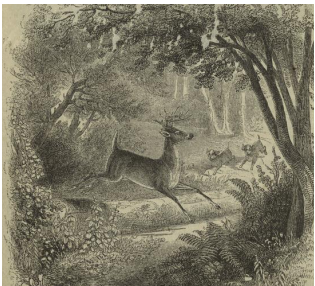
Source: Purvis, Thomas L. Colonial America to 1763. New York: Facts on File, 1999. Image: From “Poems of America” ,1882.



1600s-1700s, Volumes of Deerskins Exported

“South Carolina Indian trade...exports...amounted to 64,488 deerskins as early as 1698-99....In 1706-07 the trade reached the extraordinary volume of 121,355 skins.... The Georgia exports increased...to 284,840 pounds in 1770.”

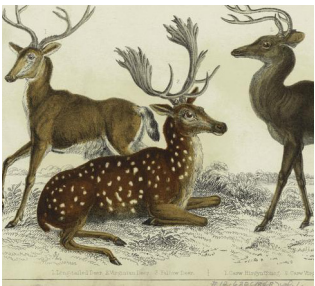
Source: Gray, Lewis Cecil., Esther Katherine. Thompson, and Henry Charles. Taylor. History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860. Image: From The New York Public Library, A general map of the middle British colonies in America and their deer hunting countries, LC Maps of North America, 1750-1789.



1640s-1700s, Closed Seasons on Hunting throughout the Colonies

“And whereas the killing of deer at unseasonable times of the year hath been found very much to the prejudice of this province, great numbers thereof having been hunted and destroyed in deep snows when they are very poor...That if any person or persons, whatsoever, within this province, from and after the first day of January...till the first day of July...kill any buck, doe or fawn, such person or persons shall forfeit the sum of forty shillings for the first offense...”

Source: Acts and Resolves passed by the General Court. 1693-94, State Library of Massachusettes; Hampton, Bruce. The Great American Wolf. New York: H. Holt, 1997. Image: From The New York Public Library., Art and Picture Colleciton. “Breaking Cover.” The New York Public Library Digital Collections. Bobbett & Hooper (Engraver), 1858.



1778, A Buck Valued at One Dollar, Col. George Rogers Clark

“The English said we should buy everything of them, and since we had got saucy, we should give two bucks for a blanket* which we used to get for one: we should do as they pleased, and they killed some of our people to make the rest fear them.

*The skin of a buck was ‘legal tender,’ in the wilderness, for a dollar.”

Source: James Wickes Taylor's 1854 History of the State of Ohio: First Period, 1650-1787: Col. George Rogers Clark, Illinois. Image: From The New York Public Library., Art and Picture Colleciton. “Virginian Deer” The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1848.



1788-1789, The State of Things will Not Last Long, Colonel John May

“I am of opinion that deer are plentier in this country than horned cattle are in New England. However, this state of things will not last long; for whenever a country begins to be settled, the native habitats must either flee or perish outright.”

Source: Foster, Emily. The Ohio Frontier: An Anthology of Early Writings. Lexington, KY: U of Kentucky, 1996. 76-77. Image: From The New York Public Library., Art and Picture Colleciton. “Western Clearing.” Bartlett, W. H., 1809-1854.



1887, Deer Rarely Seen, Forest Commission of New York

“Deer are rarely seen and much more rarely killed. The last of the deer were killed off some twelve years ago when there was a great body of snow fell....Pot hunters came into this region . . . and killed large numbers of deer, from which the hides were taken and the carcasses left to rot in the woods . . . It is fair to suppose that there are not a dozen deer in this whole Catskill region . . .”

Source: Manhattan Parks: GB Grinnell, “Recollections of Audubon Park,” The Auk, July 1920. Image: From The New York Public Library, Art and Picture Collection. “Deer on St. Lake Regis, at Night.” The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1874.



1890, Record Low 300,000 White-Tailed Deer Remaining, T.S. Palmer

Source: Trefethan, J.B. 1970. The return of the white-tailed deer. American Heritage 21(2):97 to 103. Image: From The New York Public Library, Art and Picture Collection. “A Chance of a Lifetime, my Venison.” The New York Public Library Digital Collections. Barker, George, 1890.



1894, Sale of Game Should Be Forbidden at All Seasons, George Bird Grinnell

“The day of wild game as an economic factor in the food supply of the country has gone by. In these four hundred years we have so reduced the game....Why should we not adopt as a plank in the sportsman’s platform a declaration to this end - That the sale of game should be forbidden at all seasons?...one of these days it will hold in every State, East and West, North and South.”

Source: “The Sale of Game should Be Forbidden at All Seasons,” George Bird Grinnell, Forest and Stream 1894. Image: From The New York Public Library, Art and Picture Collection. “Seven and One Hanging. Team in the Woods for More.” The New York Public Library Digital Collections. Barker, George, 1890.



1900, Lacey Act Passed, New York Times

“Representative Lacey’s bill is favorably reported...to prohibit the inter-State transportation of game killed in violation of local laws....The most important feature of the measure is in supplementing the State game laws and in preventing the inter-State shipment by pot hunters of deer...”

Source: “Supplements Local Game Laws. Representative Lacey’s Bill is Favorably Reported.” New York Times, March 2, 1900. Image: From The New York Public Library, Art and Picture Collection. “Hunting Camp at Benedicta, Me.” The New York Public Library Digital Collections. Barker, George, 1860-1920.



1920s, Game Farms Established to Restore Species, Pisgah National Game Preserve

“Trapping of adult deer on the Pisgah National Game Preserve was initiated in 1928 for two purposes: to supply animals for stocking other game refuges in the South, and to help reduce the rapidly increasing number of deer on the Preserve...” Animals were transported across the US, “regardless of whether the new area was appropriate range or habitat.”

Source: Ruff, Frederick J.. “Trapping Deer on the Pisgah National Game Preserve, North Carolina”. The Journal of Wildlife Management 2.3 (1938): 151–161. Web. Pearson, Eric. Environmental and Natural Resources Law. Newark, NJ: LexisNexis Matthew Bender, 2008. Print. . Image: From The New York Public Library, “Herd of Domesticated Virginia Deer belonging to R. H. Harris.” The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1860-1920



1937, Wildlife Restoration Act Passed

The federal government funds wildlife research across the country through the Wildlife Restoration Act, which “imposed excise taxes on guns and ammunition for the restoration of native wildlife. . . .The funds raised were used to finance the restoration of game animals and birds.”

Source: “Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Wildlife Management,” Forest Service Department of Agriculture, <<http://www.forest-history.org/ASPNET/Publications/region/1/flathead/chap13.htm>>. Image: New York Zoological Society, 1901.



1943, Deer Starved by the Thousands, Milwaukee Journal

“One falls, unable to move. The other runs a few yards, is easily captured....’same thing in Utah, in the Kaibab Forest; too many deer for the available feed.” By the 1940s, refuges become overcrowded with deer. Seven years later in Michigan, 50,000 whitetail deer die from starvation.

Source: “Death Stalks Deer Country,” Milwaukee Journal, 23 March 1943; Nelson, Richard K. Heart and Blood: Living with Deer in America. New York: A.A. Knopf, 1997. Print. Image: Starving deer Michigan, circa 1950, archerytalkblog.com,



1949, Thinking Like a Mountain, Aldo Leopold

“I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunters’ paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view. . . .I now suspect that just as a deer herd lives in mortal fear of its wolves, so does a mountain live in mortal fear of its deer.”

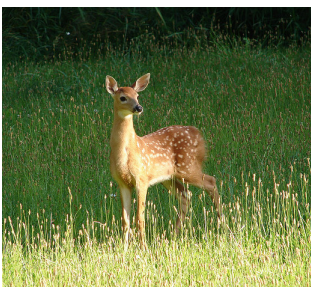
Source: Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There (New York: Oxford University Press, 1949). Image: National Parks Portfolio, 1921.



1961, Highway Collisions Claim 523 Deer, Chicago Tribune

“Lake was among the high incidence counties for such accidents, which claimed 523 deer in 1960. . . .The conservation department estimates the 1960 highway deer kill may be as high as one-third of the number of deer killed during the shotgun season. . .”

Source: “Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Wildlife Management,” Forest Service Department of Agriculture, <<http://www.forest-history.org/ASPNET/Publications/region/1/flathead/chap13.htm>> Image: Courtesy of IvoShandor.



1967, Columbian White-tailed Deer Listed, Endangered Species Preservation Act

Source: “The Columbian White-Tailed Deer: Making Leaps and Bounds on its Road to Recovery,” fws.gov. Image: Columbian White-Tailed Deer, Courtesy of Rudy Salakory, Flickr.



1967, Key Deer Listed, Endangered Species Preservation Act

Source: “Key Deer,” fws.org. Image: “Key deer in velvet,” Courtesy of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



1982, Deer population in NY Estimated at a Record 650,000, New York Times

“On the eve of lower New York State’s deer-hunting season, which starts at dawn on Monday, the state’s deer population has risen to a record 650,000....To cut back the breeding population, a record number of special permits, 241,561, have been issued, permitting hunters to kill does and fawns.”

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/1982/11/22/nyregion/deer-population-at-record-level-for-hunting-season-in-new-york.html>, Image: Courtesy of Steve Cook.



1995, 726,000 Deer-Vehicle Accidents Occur Annually in the U.S.

Source: “A Literature Review for Assessing the Status of Current Methods of Reducing Deer-Vehicle Collisions,” Brent J. Danielson and Michael W. Hubbard, The Task Force on Animal Vehicle Collisions, The Iowa Department of Transportation, The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 1998. Image: Courtesy of Mike Hoff, flickr.



1995 - 2015, Community Based Deer Management

“Across the nation, local governments of all sizes are partnering with state agencies to develop approaches that meet local needs...managed hunt...city-wide archery hunt...paid sharpshooters...non-lethal methods such as relocation and sterilization...Scientists at Cornell University’s Human Dimensions Research Unit have dubbed the sum of these parts ‘Community Based Deer Management.’”

Source: “Deer Management Solutions: It Takes a Village. Literally,” Meredith Cornett, August 5, 2015, nature.org. Image: Cornell University, ccwc.cornell.edu



2000, U.S. Deer Population Peaks at 33.5 Million Whitetails

Source: “The Decline of Deer Populations,” deerfriendly.com. Image: Courtesy of Cathy, Flickr.



2013, Deer Management is a Societal Issue, The Nature Conservancy

“Like almost all conservation problems, deer management is a societal issue. If the deer population is to be reduced, it must be reduced slowly....In some sense one of the greatest losses of all is that deer are no longer viewed as the majestic and even mystical animals of the forest that they were only a few decades ago....How different that is from the time of John Muir, who wrote, ‘Standing, lying down, walking, feeding, running even for its life, it [deer] is always invincibly graceful, and adds beauty and animation to every landscape — a charming animal and a great credit to nature.’”

Source: “Too Many Deer: A Bigger Threat to Eastern Forests than Climate Change?” Allen Pursell, Troy Weldy, Mark White, August 22, 2013, nature.org. Image: Courtesy of Counselman Collection, Flickr.