

Caddo Lake Institute's -Hunter Research Team Report 2003-2004 Hunting Program Statistics & Observations Longhorn AAP-Caddo Lake NWR

February 7, 2004



Abstract. *The Caddo Lake Institute recruited, sponsored and deployed a "Hunter Research Team". Its task was to demonstrate that a team of community members could help to cull and assess the lightly-hunted deer herd on the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant/Caddo Lake NWR. The team was composed of 92 experienced local community hunters who registered to hunt this herd under Army regulations. The purpose of the program was to demonstrate the Caddo Lake Institute's implementation of Ramsar Guidance --to maximize involvement of knowledgeable local people in all aspects of the assessment and management of natural resources in Caddo Lake's Ramsar "wetland of international importance". The 92 member hunter team (including primaries and their guests) made 737 hunting visits onto the reservation this past season. They killed a total of 48 deer (18 bucks and 30 antlerless), 6 hogs and 6 ducks. The team noted that --except for an unusual and apparently herd-specific curved "brow horn" feature --all deer taken appeared to be healthy; there being not obvious evidence of damage or defects of contaminants within this NPR "Superfund" site. The Hunter Research Team findings included the following:*

- (1) *The team observed the rules and practices established by the Army and identified improvements thereto for the future.*
- (2) *The Team confirmed agency observations of noticeable excessive browse damage supported the Army and FWS findings of significant pressure and the need for regular culling operations*
- (3) *Extensive damage by large feral hog populations was noted during the hunt.*
- (4) *While no blood or tissue samples were taken from animals killed, better training and support would enable future teams to provide samples for genetic study and assessment of effects of suspected Superfund contaminants on the terrestrial animal populations of the site*
- (5) *Substantial benefits could accrue from providing educational and scientific training to the team concerning the ecological, population, genetic, habitat and contaminant dynamics that may affecting this herd, as well as other animals and habitat interactions, especially feral hogs.*
- (6) *Controlled and accountable citizen-research activity of this type is especially powerful; it creates local working constituencies and provides transparent transmission of information and recruits others in the community to offer their special talents, knowledge and stewardship to both the initial and the long term management of these valuable resources.*
- (7) *The Caddo Lake Institute recommends that this hunter research team program should be continued and expanded so members can be trained to acquire and report increasing information of these dynamics, as well as control of overpopulations, encouragement of needed species of plants and animals and other auxiliary support for refuge management activities. Early confirmation of this recommendation will permit the Caddo lake Institute to develop refinements to the program, such as training in genetics, ecology, sampling techniques, insurance and risk management and improved deployment policies for future years.*



Curved Brow Spike (above)

Discussion. A total of 35 days were available for hunting at Longhorn this season with 2 hunts per day. Security normally manned post #1 for the morning hunt and volunteers the afternoons. Hunting spots were available on a first come basis and no conflicts arose between hunters over hunting areas.

Scouting and placement of temporary stands were allowed on non-hunting days. The use of ATV's was allowed only on hunting days and only on approved trails and fire lanes. This was a big help in retrieval of game as a lot of the lanes and streets have become overgrown and some were impassable in a vehicle.

Initially, Security and Lanis Reiger, were concerned about accommodating the increased number of hunters this year, but hunter cooperation was at a premium and everyone worked great together.

Observations. Overall, the deer appear to be in good shape, and healthy. A good mast crop (acorns) this year helped them out. As the season progressed however, a very noticeable browse line began to appear in most areas and by the end of the season most all the edible browse was gone several feet above the ground.

The deer killed this year are more than double the take last year, and more than in recent years. Most of the does taken had already weaned their offspring.

There are some very nice bucks on Longhorn, and some were taken this season. Russell Hamblin took a buck that scored 141 Boone and Crockett points as a 13 point non-typical and qualified for an award from Texas Parks and Wildlife. There are an abundance of does on the property as well, in talking with the hunters, most agree the Doe/Buck ratio is at least 6 or 7 to 1.

HOGS. The amount of hog sign in Longhorn is amazing, there appears to be a large number of these animals out there.

DUCKS. A lack of water hampered the duck hunting this season although a few were killed.

TURKEY. There were 2 turkeys sighted during the season. These were along Harrison Bayou, next to the pistol range.

MISCELLANEOUS. Several coveys of quail were reported along with numerous doves and an abundance of squirrels. Quite a few bobcats were seen as well, some of them had a very dark color to them.

Recommendations

The Hunter Research Team and the Caddo Lake Institute (CLI) has these suggestions for any future hunts on Longhorn:

Hunting:

1. Expanded hunting dates to include early bow and squirrel seasons and the end of duck season.
2. Implement an aggressive hog-trapping program with possible off season hunts. The hogs are a major concern to the entire area.
3. Planting of food plots; not only for the hunting season, but as a supplement to the deer in late winter/early spring to prevent over-browsing.(CLI is willing to help in doing this)

Security: A continued community hunter research team program at Longhorn/Caddo Lake NWR will act as a community based deterrent to poachers and trespassers, and adds the presence of the hunters in areas that would not normally have routine patrols. Considerable information exchange existed between site managers and hunters informally. This could be systematized to assure that hunters are to act as observers and that reports from hunters of poachers and trespassers would be promptly reported, with hunters receiving guidance in assisting in passive, observational security assistance to site managers..

Research:

CLI would like to implement a research program of the wildlife at Longhorn to assess the general health of the deer population and to recruit the community hunting culture in becoming part of a better management program for the future of hunting on the property. Some ideas we have include:

1. Keeping an accurate count of the animals viewed through hunters activities, the general health of the animals, and the location they were viewed in, for every hunt day of the upcoming season. In past hunting seasons this was only done for the opening day of each season. In doing this we would make note of the number of bucks and does or unknowns viewed and approximate time of day they were spotted. Also we would try and keep a record of weather they were feeding and what they were feeding on, weather they were on the move, or if they were bedded. We would also keep a record of weather conditions for each day of the hunts so that over a period of time we can compile data on not only their health but maybe also their habits. We would also keep records on other animals such as wildcats, turkeys, hogs, and wildfowl viewed.
2. Deer killed during hunts would also be documented in the same manner as ones that were viewed but in addition we would like to take tissue samples and remove the thyroid of select animals so that test could be run searching for any toxicity levels among the herd and to learn of their health and life cycle patterns and ecology. All deer and hogs killed would be accurately weighed and logged. This would be a great improvement in records kept of past hunts where animals were not weighed but rather a guess was made of their weight and logged in the records. We would also attempt to age each deer killed and log this information. Given adequate preparation, CLI scientist and hunter teams could produce tissue samples for genetic and contaminant assessment purposes
3. CLI through hunter observations would also make note of and report any conditions within Longhorn that could pose a problem in the future of a public hunting program. Examples would be the finding of and the location of any missed relics of the old plant operation and anything such as old wells, pits, and anything out of the ordinary that could cause a hazard to the public in the future once the area is opened up to public hunting.

This and any other research that CLI can contribute will give U.S. Fish and Wildlife a jump start on a safe and healthy public hunting program in the future and also contribute to the start of a better managed and healthy deer herd for Longhorn.

The Caddo Lake Institute and its hunter research team members appreciated being included in this past year's hunting program and look forward to being included in any future, and improved, hunter research programs. CLI's hunter researchers would like to make themselves available to the Army and/or U.S.F.W. to help plan and implement a hunting program for 2004-2005 season. We are willing to help in any way we can to insure another safe and successful season on Longhorn.

4. Team compliance with Army rules and practices was good. Members identified improvements thereto for the future.
5. The Team confirmed agency observations of noticeable excessive browse damage supported the Army and FWS findings of significant pressure and the need for regular culling operations.

6. Extensive damage by large feral hog populations was noted during the hunt.
7. While no blood or tissue samples were taken from animals killed, better training and support would enable future teams to provide samples for genetic study and assessment of effects of suspected Superfund contaminants on the terrestrial animal populations of the site.
8. Substantial benefits could result from providing educational and scientific training to the team concerning the ecological, population, genetic, habitat and contaminant dynamics that may affecting this herd, as well as other animals and habitat interactions, especially feral hogs.
9. Controlled and accountable citizen-research activity of this type is especially powerful; it creates local working constituencies and provides transparent transmission of information and recruits others in the community to offer their special talents, knowledge and stewardship to both the initial and the long term management of these valuable resources.
10. The Caddo Lake Institute recommends that this hunter research team program should be continued and expanded so members can be trained to acquire and report increasing information of these dynamics, as well as control of overpopulations, encouragement of needed species of plants and animals and other auxiliary support for refuge management activities. Early confirmation of this recommendation will permit the Caddo lake Institute to develop.

Acknowledgments:

The principal authors of this report were Robert Speight and Mike Turner. Editorial assistance was provided by CaddoLake Institute president Dwight Shellman.

Other Hunter Research Team members who participated in de-briefing meeting and report review –as well as organizational, training and recruitment efforts-- included:

James W. Jones, Russell Hamblin, Gary Kempf, Ken Shaw, Billy Aultman and Zane Campbell

Appendices:

1. Army Longhorn AAP Hunter Area Map 2003-2004
2. Longhorn AAP Hunting procedures 2003-2004 Season



APPENDIX 1
 LAAP 2003 HUNTING AREAS

LONGHORN ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT
HUNTING PROCEDURES
2003 – 2004 SEASON

PURPOSE

The purpose of this hunting procedure is to establish regulatory controls for authorized hunting within the boundaries of the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant (Longhorn) consistent with DoD policy, Army regulations, installation activities, installation rules and regulations for Longhorn's hunting program including the designation of hunter responsibilities. This procedure will be issued to all persons who hunt at Longhorn and are required to read and abide by these procedures. Hunters who fail to abide by these procedures will permanently lose their Longhorn hunting privileges.

GENERAL:

1. Hunter Authorization

The only persons eligible to participate in the hunting program at Longhorn are primary hunters and their guests as described below:

a. **Primary Hunters**

- 1) Department of the Army personnel and current U S Army contractor employees who possess valid Longhorn photographic identification badges, and who are permanently assigned to Longhorn.
- 2) Retired personnel who retired from Longhorn. Eligibility of retired personnel will be verified by the official list of retirees maintained by the Longhorn staff and contract Security offices.
- 3) Current Employees of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that have Longhorn under their area of responsibility
- 4) Current employees of Texas Commission of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency – Region 6 that have Longhorn under their area of responsibility.
- 5) Members of Caddo Lake Institute whose name appears on the current active roster along with photographic identification.

b. **Guest Hunters**

Primary hunters are authorized to bring guests to hunt on the installation. It is not necessary for primary hunters to be related to their guest hunters. Primary hunters are allowed two (2) guest hunters per hunt period. Primary hunters who

APPENDIX 2

LAAP 2003 – 04 HUNTING PROCEDURES

sponsor guest hunters assume complete responsibility for the actions of these guest hunters. Guest hunters who violate these procedures will be permanently barred from hunting on the installation. Furthermore, the sponsors of guest hunters who violate these procedures will permanently lose their installation hunting privileges.

2. Hunter Licensing Requirements

All of Longhorn's hunters are required to possess a current and valid Texas State hunting license (Texas residents and non-residents younger than 17 years of age, and residents 65 years of age and older are required to possess a Special Resident hunting license). In addition, Longhorn hunters 17 years of age or older, who hunt during the Archery-Only season are required to possess a State of Texas Archery Stamp validation.

3. Hunter Registration

Hunter Registration Form is included in the hunting procedure. Hunters must complete this form and submit it to security when they first hunt at Longhorn this season. Hunters must be able to verify the information reported on this form, if requested by Security.

4. Opening Day Deer Count

Attached at the back of this hunting procedure is a form to record all deer observed by hunters on Longhorn during the first day of gun season. Hunters are requested to complete this form and submit it to security when exiting the installation. Hunters are also requested to report to Security all turkeys seen during the entire hunting season.

5. Hunting fees

Authorized hunters; both primary and guests will not be charged any installation fees to hunt at Longhorn.

6. Hunting Program Administration

The hunting program at Longhorn is administered by the Longhorn staff in cooperation with contractor Security office, assisted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and authorized volunteers.

7. Game Species

Game species permitted to be hunted at Longhorn are white-tailed deer and waterfowl as permitted by Texas and Federal Law. Hunting of any other animals is prohibited.

8. Hunting Areas

a. An installation-hunting map will be made available at Gate 1 upon entry. The installation is divided to 37 hunting areas. Each hunting area is identified by a number designation, 1-37.

b. Hunting is prohibited on all other areas of the installation; these restricted areas include landfills, administration areas, burning grounds and any area where environmental cleanup is being addressed.

c. A maximum of three hunters per hunting period is allowed in hunting areas 1-31 and hunting areas 33-37. A maximum of four hunters per hunting period is allowed in areas 32.

9. Firearms and Archery Equipment

a. Shotgun Deer Hunting

Shotguns not larger than 12 gauge are permitted for deer hunting. Only shotgun slugs and buckshot ammunition are approved for shotgun deer hunting. All hunters are prohibited from transporting loaded firearms in vehicles. All firearms must be unloaded and in a case at all times when placed inside a vehicle during transportation.

b. Muzzleloader Deer Hunting

Muzzleloader rifles using synthetic black powder are permitted for deer hunting. Use of a real black powder in muzzleloaders is prohibited. All hunters are prohibited from transporting loaded firearms in vehicles. All firearms must be unloaded and in a case at all times when placed inside a vehicle during transportation.

c. Archery Deer Hunting

Archery hunting for deer is permitted in all hunting areas during the archery and gun seasons. Bows used must have a minimum of a 40-pound pull at the hunter's full draw. Only broad head hunting arrows may be used, and it is recommended that they be constructed of fiberglass, aluminum, or forged wood shafts. The use of razor blades or broad head inserts will not be permitted; only vendor-designed inserts are allowed.

d. Waterfowl Hunting

The only firearms permitted for hunting at LHAAP are shotguns not larger than 12 gauge. Waterfowl may be hunted with shotguns during the legally scheduled

waterfowl seasons. Waterfowl hunters are prohibited from possessing ammunition with shot other than steel or other approved shot as defined in Texas and Federal Regulations. Shotguns are required to be plugged to limit shell capacity to a maximum of three shells.

e. **Prohibited Firearms**

Possession of pistols and non-muzzleloader rifles at Longhorn is prohibited.

10. Hunt Schedule

a. Authorized hunting days at Longhorn are generally Friday through Sunday and installation holidays within the seasons approved by the TPWD. A table of specific authorized hunting dates for species is attached to this procedure.

b. Every authorized hunting day is divided into two hunting periods, mornings and afternoon. The morning hunting period extends from sunrise to 1200. The installation Main Gate (Post-1) will open on installation hunting days to admit authorized hunters for morning hunting period from 6:00 AM to 6:30 AM. Hunters that arrive late will not be admitted. Morning hunters are required to contact the security or the volunteer on duty and make arrangements to exit the installation. All morning hunters must checkout by 1200, and exit the installation.

d. The afternoon hunt extends from 1:00 PM to sunset. Hunter's participation in the afternoon hunt can be admitted at Post-1 from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM; hunters that arrive late will not be admitted. Afternoon hunters may contact Security and make arrangements to exit the installation. All afternoon hunters must sign out no later than 30 minutes after official sunset.

e. The on duty Security Guard can be contacted by the radio that will remain at Gate 1.

11. Hunting Reservations

a. Hunters will not be permitted to make reservations for hunting areas. Hunting areas will be requested immediately prior to each hunting period on a first come-first serve basis.

b. Hunting areas may be closed with little or no notice due to contractor activity or lessee activity, etc.

12. Hunting Period Procedures

Security or the assigned volunteer will prepare for the arrival of authorized hunters. Once the hunters arrive, security or the assigned volunteer will perform the following duties.

- a. Security (or the assigned volunteer) will insure that arriving primary hunters possess either an installation photo identification badge, or if a retiree or Caddo Lake Institute member, that their name appears on the official list of provided by the Longhorn staff and Caddo Lake Institute..
- b. Security (or the assigned volunteer) will log in authorized hunters, and any guests of these hunters. Hunters will submit their completed hunter registration forms to Security, on their first hunt of the season. Hunters must be able to verify the information on this form. All hunters are required to sign the Hunter Registration Form "Assumption of Risk Statement" to be considered eligible to hunt for the duration of the current hunting season. Sponsors will be required to sign the "Assumption of Risk Statement" for guest hunters who are minors. Refusal to sign the "Assumption of Risk Statement" will result in the automatic denial of hunting privileges. Security or the assigned volunteer will check each hunter for "Hunter Orange" vests and hats as required
- c. Security (or the assigned volunteer) will issue each authorized hunter a hunting badge and a vehicle placard. Authorized hunters will display the vehicle placard on their vehicle's dashboard, on the driver's side. Hunters should wear their hunting badge in a conspicuous place on their outside clothing of their upper body.
- d. Security (or the assigned volunteer) will issue one TPWD LAMPS Antler less White-Tailed Deer Hunting Permit, on a first come-first served basis, to each authorized hunter who requests one. All antler less deer take on Longhorn must be tagged with the LAMPS permit. This does not include antler less deer taken during the Archery Open season.
- e. All hunters are required to meet with the other hunters assigned to the same hunting area before leaving Post 1. To insure everyone's safety, hunters should meet the hunters of adjacent hunting areas prior to leaving Post 1. Hunters are required to know the identity and location of all hunters in their hunt area. Hunters are expected to resolve location conflicts before departing Post 1. If hunters are unable to resolve conflicts among themselves, Security (or the assigned volunteer) will mediate and make a decision to be heeded by all parties.

Hunters will remain at Post 1 until released by Security (or the assigned volunteer).

g. Hunters will turn in to Security (or the assigned volunteer) their hunting badges and vehicle placards. Hunters will demonstrate to Security that all bagged deer are properly tagged. Hunters will weigh deer. Security (or the assigned volunteer) will record applicable data in the hunting log. Security

(or the assigned volunteer) will check all hunters out at the end of each hunting period. All hunters must make sure they are signed out by Security (or the assigned volunteer) at the end of each hunting period. All weapons and hunters must be accounted for at the end of each hunting period

h. Hunters will turn in to Security (or the assigned volunteer) any unused LAMPS Antler less White-Tailed Deer Hunting Permits.

13. Miscellaneous

a. Archery -

Archery hunting will be permitted along the fence lines of designated restricted areas. Hunters will direct all their shots away from, or parallel to, the fenced areas.

b. Bag Limits

1). Deer: Either sex with bag limits and open dates as determined annually by the TPWD.

2). Small Game/Waterfowl: Individual species, bag limits and open dates as determined by TPWD.

c. Brush Cutting

Cutting of brush or limbs for shooting lanes or other purposes is prohibited.

d. Deer Stands

Temporary, portable deer stands are permitted at Longhorn if they do not damage or mar trees. Hunters will be allowed to leave a stand on the installation for the duration of the hunting season. Construction and repairing of, or hunting from a permanent blind or stand is prohibited. Hunters are prohibited from driving nails, screws, or spikes into trees; tree-climbing spikes are also prohibited. Hunters are required to identify their stands with their name, and where applicable, their badge number. Hunters are permitted to chain and lock their stands to trees.

e. Dogs

Dogs will be permitted for the hunting of waterfowl. Hunters will be limited to one dog per hunter. Hunters are prohibited from using dogs for hunting deer. Hunters are required to maintain control over their dogs.

f. Duck Blinds

The construction, repair or use of a permanent blind for hunting waterfowl at LHAAP is prohibited. Hunters using temporary blinds for hunting waterfowl must remove these blinds at the end of the daily hunting period.

g. Fires

Hunters are prohibited from making fires on the installation

h. Hunter Orange

Archery deer hunters at Longhorn are not required to wear "Hunter Orange" during the archery only deer season. All other deer hunters (including archery hunters during the gun deer season) must display 40 square inches of "Hunter Orange" on the upper portion of their body during the gun deer season, and additionally must wear a "Hunter Orange" cap or hat.

g. Poachers

Authorized hunters should immediately report poachers to Security. Hunters should not confront poachers. When reporting poachers, hunters should provide as much information as possible including area where seen, physical description, vehicle description and license number to 1-800-792-GAME (792-4263).

h. Prohibited Articles

The possession and/or use of alcohol or drugs on the installation is prohibited. Any hunter determined to be under the influence or in possession of alcohol or drugs will permanently lose their installation hunting privileges. The sponsors, of guest hunters who violate this policy will permanently lose their installation hunting privileges.

i. Shooting Rules

Hunters are prohibited from discharging firearms from or across roads or landfill sites as well as within 1200 feet of water treatment plant or Security Headquarters.

j. Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in all buildings at Longhorn. Smoking is generally permitted outdoors on the installation; however, smoking will not be permitted when the safety office determines that there is a high danger of forest fires. When smoking is permitted, hunters will be responsible for assuring all smoking materials are thoroughly extinguished.

k. Vehicles

ATV's are allowed during the hunting period. All vehicles must remain on existing installation permanent fire lanes, logging, gravel and paved roads. Motorcycles are prohibited. Hunters will not block gates or roads with their vehicles.

**Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant
Authorized Deer Hunting Dates 2003-2004 Season**

Gun and Archery

November	1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
December	5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28,
January	1, 2, 3, 4

**Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant
Authorized Waterfowl Hunting Dates 2003-2004 Season**

Shotgun Only

November	8, 9, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
December	5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28,
January	1, 2, 3, 4,

MAINE

GENERAL SAFE HUNTING PRACTICES TO BE OBSERVED

1. Make sure your gun is safe to fire. Your gun should always be cleaned when it gets wet or muddy, before it begins to rust, and after it has been stored for a long time
2. Remember when crossing a fence or going over some obstacle, unload your gun and place the gun on the other side before proceeding.
3. The gun carry which gives the best control of the gun and muzzle is the two-handed carry.
4. Never use the shoulder carry when another hunter is walking behind you.
5. Every hunter should be a good shot for purposes of safety and clean kills
6. The standard number of shots, whistles, or signals for an emergency situation requiring immediate help is three.
7. If you see game disappear into a clump of brush, wait for positive identification and clear shot before firing.
8. Some of the basic information that a hunter should know about his gun is: how it works, where it's pointing all times, and where the bullet will stop when fired.
9. You should treat all guns as if they are loaded.
10. Whenever a hunter is crossing over steep or slippery areas, the gun should always be unloaded.
11. Just because a gun's safety is "on" will not necessarily prevent accidental firing.
12. Make sure you have the right ammunition for the particular gun you will be using.
13. One of the most important responsibilities of a good hunter is personal safety.
14. In the event of any emergency, a vehicle will circle the area and intermittently sound its horn repeatedly. Any hunters in the area will immediately report back to the guard headquarters.

SPECIAL LHAA/LAAP HUNTER SAFETY BRIEFING

DO'S

1. All deer hunters using guns, and bow hunters during gun deer season, must wear 40 square inches of "Hunter Orange" colored vests, coat or coveralls. A "Hunter Orange" cap is also required.
2. Stay alert for open holes, wire fences and old building sites.
3. Keep your distance from restricted areas, railroad casements, and roads.
4. Vehicles en route to hunting locations are restricted to official fire lanes, logging, gravel, and blacktop roads.
5. Make sure your bow quivers cover your broad heads.
6. Use a safety line around you when hunting from a portable tree stand.
7. Stay in your assigned area.

DON'TS

1. No intoxicants will be consumed or brought onto the reservation.
2. Do not load guns or magazines until you reach your assigned hunting area and are safely positioned to begin hunting.
3. Do not shoot from a vehicle, across or from roads, or from other than your assigned hunting area.
4. Do not touch or move any suspicious objects as such objects may explode.
5. Do not open or go around any barrier. Do not park in front of any barrier.
6. Building fires on the installation is prohibited.
7. Under no circumstances will a hunter and his/her sponsored participant separate to hunt different areas.
8. Do not use firearms larger than 12 gauge shotguns. Shotguns must be plugged to limit maximum shell capacity to three shells. **RIFLES AND HANDGUNS ARE PROHIBITED.**

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-Hunter Research Team Report
2003-2004 Hunting Program

Statistics & Observations
Longhorn AAP-Caddo Lake NWR
Caddo Lake Ramsar Clearing House meeting

Acknowledgments:

- The principal authors of this report were
 - Robert Speight and
 - Mike Turner.
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 - James W. Jones,
 - Russell Hamblin,
 - Gary Kempf,
 - Ken Shaw,
 - Billy Aultman and
 - Zane Campbell

Harvest Data

- *92 member hunter team (including primaries and their guests)*
- *737 hunting visits onto the reservation this past season.*
- **Harvest Yield:**
 - *48 deer (18 bucks and 30 antlerless)*
 - *6 hogs and*
 - *6 ducks.*

Healthy Deer; Genetic Brow Spike?

- *All deer dressed out appeared to be healthy;*
- *No obvious evidence of damage or defects of contaminants within this NPR “Superfund” site*
- ---Except unusual curved brow spike-→



Findings

- (1) *Team observed Army rules and practices*
- (2) *Identified improvements for the future.*
- (3) *Team noted excessive browse damage*
- (4) *Supported the Army and FWS findings of significant pressure and the need for regular culling operations*
- (5) *Noted extensive damage from feral hog populations*

Recommendations

- (1) *Blood or tissue samples could have been/can be taken from animals killed,*
- (2) *Better training and support of team for genetic study*
- (3) *. . . & assessment of contaminants on animals*
- (4) *. . . & dynamics of ecological, population, genetic, habitat and contaminants on this herd, and other animals. . .*
- (5) *. . . especially feral hogs.*

Caddo Lake Institute Recommendations

- *This hunter research team program should be continued and expanded*
- *Members should be trained to acquire and report data*
- *& assist in control of over-populations,*
- *& encouragement of needed species of plants and animals and*
- *other auxiliary support for refuge management activities.*

The Report Committee

