

Deer Management Hunt, City Limits of Duluth, MN

RULES & INFORMATION

The Duluth City Council established requirements for archery hunters wishing to participate in a Deer Management Hunt within the city limits of Duluth, Minnesota.

Hunters are required to:

1. Register as a member on the Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance (ABA) website (www.bowhuntersalliance.org) and apply online for the Deer Management Hunt. Within the application process, hunters may select up to two (2) designated hunt areas (DHAs) in order of preference, provide their National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF) confirmation number, and other such information as requested. Hunters will receive an ABA hunter confirmation number, which will be used to assign hunters to DHAs in a lottery and throughout the hunt to track harvest and DHA placement. This ID number must also be placed on each hunter's tree stands.
2. Successfully pass an NBEF approved Bowhunter Education course. The NBEF will provide the hunter with a card and ID#, which will be required in the application process.
3. Pass a shooting proficiency test established by the ABA. Hunters will be required to take the test using the same bow and arrows they intend to use during the actual hunt. At this point in time, hunters will be required to test with field tips instead of the broadheads they intend to use in the field.
4. Attend a mandatory orientation meeting to learn of the general hunt rules and to coordinate with other hunters and the Hunt Coordinator for the hunter's assigned DHA.
5. Read, understand and follow the rules outlined on the following pages.
6. Hunters will personally sign a statement and unconditionally agree to follow the Bow Hunters creed, as well as other conditions set forth in this rulebook.
7. Hunters will sign a waiver of liability against both the ABA Board and all individuals and officers operating on the behalf of the ABA Board. Hunters will waive the right to sue the ABA Board, all officers of the Board, and all individuals operating on behalf of the ABA Board.

Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance Deer Management Hunt

Rules & Information

This hunt is being held to reduce the overall deer population within the Duluth City Limits. The Duluth City Council has created Ordinances and Resolutions allowing archery hunting within the Duluth City limits in approved areas, as designated and delineated in DHA maps, specifically for the use of managing and controlling the whitetail deer population. The Duluth City Council, as well as the general public, is closely monitoring this hunt. All participating bowhunters are required to follow the rules and to demonstrate through their actions a positive image of bowhunting and of hunters. Any hunter found in violation of the rules established by the City of Duluth, the MN DNR, and / or by the ABA will have their privilege of participating in this Deer Management Hunt revoked immediately. Further, any hunter cited by either MN DNR Conservation or Duluth Police for any violation whatsoever, be it a game or even a non-game violation, while participating in any activity related to this hunt will have their privilege of hunting in Duluth revoked immediately, pending a review by the ABA Board. Hunters will not be allowed to hunt in any future hunts within the Duluth City limits for an indefinite period of time. The ABA Board will determine the duration of any suspension after a review of the circumstances and severity of the violation. Even if found not guilty in a court of law, hunting privileges within Duluth may, or may not, be reinstated depending upon the circumstances of the offense and the decision of the ABA Board.

Board Member Authority.

- Any member of the ABA Board may immediately suspend any participating hunter(s) hunting privileges if they have reason to believe a safety violation has occurred or will occur if the hunter continues to hunt; a law violation has occurred or will likely occur, relating to hunt participation in any way; or the hunter is becoming a nuisance hunter with other hunters and/or the ABA Board.
- The ABA Board will subsequently review any such actions and render a final decision as soon as is feasible but not before the next scheduled Board meeting.
- Any hunter removed for cause from the hunt has 72 hours to remove all their hunting equipment (stands, stairs, climbing sticks, ground blinds, etc) from all DHAs, both public and private.

Appeals Process.

- Any hunter that believes they have been unfairly treated or removed from the hunt may appeal their case in writing to the ABA Board within 15 days of their suspension.
- Hunter requesting further clarification of hunt rules may also present a written request to the Rules Committee to seek clarification on any rule contained in the ABA Rule Book.
- The Rules Committee will review all written requests and render decisions on them on not less than a monthly basis. Until they have issued a ruling, the original Rule Book or decision will stand in effect.
- In the event the Committee upholds a Board decision to remove a hunter, then a hunter may appeal the decision to the City Administrator / Chief Administrative Officer of the City or his/her written designee.
- The decision of the City Administrator will be final.

The ABA website (www.bowhuntersalliance.org) includes a link to the Duluth City Council Ordinance and Resolution pertaining to this hunt. All participating hunters are responsible for reading both documents and following the rules. Hunters are further required to report any violations of these rules to their Hunt Coordinator (HC) and the appropriate authorities immediately.

Hunters are required to know, understand, and to follow explicitly the following rules:

1. **Archery Only.** Participating hunters are allowed to use only archery equipment consistent with the rules and regulations established by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) to harvest deer from within the Duluth City limits. No firearms are allowed due to city Ordinances. Only whitetail deer may be lawfully harvested in this hunt. No other animals or birds may be harvested.
2. **MN DNR Regulations.** Hunters are required to observe all game regulations and laws established by the MN DNR, as outlined in the Archery Deer Hunting section of their regulation booklet. All hunters must possess a current valid MN Archery license to participate in the hunt.
3. **Bowhunter's Creed.** Each hunter is required to have passed a Bowhunter Education Course. Part of that course includes signing a pledge to follow the National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF) Bowhunter's Creed, which states:

I firmly resolve, without reservation, to uphold the following bowhunting principles:

- *I will support the national, state, and provincial regulatory agencies and conservation organizations in the propagation and management of all game.*
- *I will, at all times, actively support and promote hunting with the bow.*
- *I will abide by current game regulations and at all times conduct myself as a sportsman so as not to bring discredit to the bowhunting community.*
- *I will respect all landowners' rights.*
- *I will assist all bowhunters in locating places to hunt, but I will not impose myself knowingly on another bowhunter.*
- *I will enjoy the challenge of the hunt and will study the habits of the game I hunt.*
- *I will use legal archery equipment and will search long and diligently to track down and recover any wounded game.*
- *I will not undertake or commit any act that could be considered as detrimental to the ancient and honorable art of bowhunting.*

The Bowhunter's Creed outlines the basis for many of the ABA rules that apply to this hunt.

4. **Designated Hunting Area (DHA).** Each hunter will be assigned to one DHA (hunting zone) in a lottery process established by the ABA and approved by the City.
 - Hunters are allowed to hunt only within their assigned DHA, unless the hunter has signed the Land Owner Permission (LOP) form to hunt on private land within any of the other DHAs established by the Duluth City Council. This LOP form must be in possession of the assigned DHA Hunt Coordinator prior to hunting the private lands.
 - If the hunter has permission to hunt on private land within a DHA other than their assigned one, the hunter will be restricted to hunting only within the borders of that private land. They will not be allowed to hunt on public land within the DHA where the private, permission-granted land is located unless authorized in writing by the ABA and the HC of the respective DHA.
 - Hunters may be allowed to change zones after a set date, to be determined by the ABA. The hunter must contact the HC for the DHA they wish to move into and hunt. The HC will determine if the zone can support an additional hunter. (See also "Hunt Zones Vacancies" requirements listed below).
 - In the event a DHA becomes overly burdensome to manage because it has too many hunter conflicts or it is presenting a negative image of the hunt to the

public, the ABA Board reserves the right to reduce the number of hunters in the DHA or to close it for up to the remainder of the season.

- The ABA Board reserves the right to not reassign hunters from a closed DHA for the remainder of the hunting season. Hunter conduct must be beyond reproach and the welfare of the entire hunt will not be sacrificed for a “problem” zone.

5. Trespass Law . The Duluth City Council has established the DHAs for the Deer Management Hunt. These DHAs include both public and private land.

- All participating hunters are required to be aware of public and private land borders within the DHAs that they will be hunting.
- MN Trespass Law is outlined clearly within the MN Hunting Regulations booklet. All participating hunters are responsible for understanding MN Trespass Law, and may be subject to fines or prosecution if found in violation of MN Trespass Law.
- The maps provided to the hunters by the City contain the most current land information available, and differentiate between public and private land ownership. These maps are not guaranteed to be 100% accurate. It is the hunter’s responsibility to know the ownership of the land they are hunting.

6. Tree Stands.

- Tree stands can be installed no earlier than 1 September on public lands.
- Within the Late Season DHAs, stands are not allowed to be placed in the woods until after the Late Season DHA opens, and not prior.
- No more than 2 stands may be installed per hunter per zone on public land. There are no restrictions on the number of stands allowed on private land.
- Climbing stands and ground blinds will not be counted in this total. The intent is to encourage harvest of deer. If left in the public woods overnight, e.g. chained to the base of a tree, then they will count against the hunter’s limit of two stands on public lands.
- The ABA and the National Bowhunter’s Education Foundation (NBEF) strongly recommend that only TMA rated tree stands be used by hunters.
- Hunters are only allowed to hunt from tree stands installed a minimum of twelve (12) feet up from the base of the stand tree. Ground blinds are excluded from this requirement, but are subject to additional regulations in Section 7.
- No tree stand or ground stand may be located within 50 feet of the border of the private land for which the hunter has written landowner permission, without the written landowner permission of the adjacent land owner. If the hunter has permission from the adjacent landowner, the hunter may erect a permanent or portable tree or ground stand within 50 feet of the property line for which the hunter has written Landowner Permission.
- Hunters are required to place a metal locking tag, available from the ABA or the Hunt Coordinator, onto their stand, AND their hunter ID# on their stand, visible from either the ground or from climbing up the tree, but in an obvious spot. **This includes all stands on public or private lands, and within Hot Spots.** The only valid tag for marking a stand will be one obtained from the ABA with the current hunting year. **Tags from previous years will not be valid.**
- Further, hunters are required to remove their tree stands from public land either:
 - 1) When done hunting for the season;
 - 2) When making a permanent move to another DHA; or
 - 3) **At the end of the State season, no later than 15 January.**
- **Any stand or hunting equipment, not including deer cameras, left on public**

property after 15 January following the end of the season will be considered abandoned and it may be confiscated by the ABA or its designee, and the owner may receive up to a one year suspension from the Duluth Bowhunt.

7. **Ground Blinds.** The ABA will allow ground blinds only within DHAs 1, 2A, 3A, 4A, 7B, 20A, 20B, and 20C on public lands. Ground blinds will be allowed on private property as described below. Hunters are reminded that the use of ground blinds is a privilege, one that can be revoked at any time by the ABA Board and / or the City of Duluth. **Safety of both the hunter and the City residents is paramount and under no conditions should safety be jeopardized for the sake of taking a deer.** If a hunter is in doubt, don't setup.

Ground blinds must comply with the following constraints:

- Only commercially produced, portable, tent-type, blinds in good repair, will be allowed on public property.
- The Hunter ID Number will be visibly and clearly attached to the exterior of the blind.
- Duct Tape, or similarly durable tape, with large printed numbers will be used, with Hunter ID numbers clearly written in permanent black ink.
- Numbers will be a minimum of 1.5" high. The intent is to clearly and easily identify the hunter who is using the blind.

Ground blinds must comply with the following Setbacks:

- Blinds must be at least 200 feet from the nearest trail, road, or other route routinely used by humans.
- Blinds will not be set within 200 feet of any dwelling or other building occupied by or for human habitation or the storing of animals without that property owners consent.
- No tree stand or ground stand may be located within 50 feet of the border of the private land for which the hunter has written landowner permission, without the written landowner permission of the adjacent land owner. If the hunter has permission from the adjacent landowner, the hunter may erect a permanent or portable tree or ground stand within 50 feet of the property line for which the hunter has written Landowner Permission.

Hunter Declaration:

- Every hunter that intends to use a ground blind must notify in writing their intent to the ABA Board and receive explicit approval to use ground blinds from the ABA Board prior going afield with a blind. Notification will identify the DHA, approximate location within the DHA, and / or the address of the private land along with the DHA where the ground blind will be erected.
- Hunt Coordinators will be provided complete listings of all hunters permitted to hunt with a ground blind in their DHA.
- Only one ground blind is allowed per approved hunter on public property, and will be removed every evening.
- Hunting within 50' feet of private land to which you don't have access is not permitted and may subject you to removal from the hunt.
- **Again safety and fairness to other hunters is paramount.**

Use of Ground blinds on Private Property:

- All of the above placement and identification conditions apply to ground blinds used on private property.
- In addition, providing the parcel is at least 5 acres or larger, ground blinds may be used by a hunter who has permission to hunt the property inside a designated DHA but the blind must be set up so as not to infringe upon those hunters drawn to hunt on the public property of the DHA.
- Stationary (semi-permanent) ground blinds may be permitted for use on a case-by-case basis on private property if they meet all other requirements, are acceptable to the landowner and with approval of the Hunt Coordinator assigned to that area. Under no circumstances will a hunter be allowed to hunt from a stationary ground blind without the knowledge and written approval of the landowner and Hunt Coordinator and assigned to that area. All stationary ground blinds must be removed from the private property when finished hunting and not later than the end of the hunting season.
- Hunters will not erect a ground blind on private property within 50' feet from the property edge, as this would likely be an encroachment of others hunting on the public land within the DHA. An Exception to this would be, if the hunter is hunting private property abutting public property, and he/she is also one of the hunters drawn for that particular DHA, then he/she may set up within 50 feet of the private / public property edge within a that particular DHA.

Additional Cautions and Warnings:

- Under no circumstance will hunting on foot be permitted. Violation of this rule will result in immediate suspension from the hunt and possible loss of future hunting privileges in the Duluth Hunt.
- In addition, no hunter, except for the designated hunter may hunt from the blind unless it is approved by the ABA Board in advance thru the respective Hunt Coordinator.
- The ABA Board reserves the right to revoke or rescind any and all ground blind hunting in a DHA or all DHAs, if it is deemed to be a threat to safety.
- Any ABA Board member may immediately revoke a hunter's permission to hunt from a ground blind. The Board member will then notify the other Board members and a final decision will be rendered.
- Hunt Coordinators may also suspend any hunter from otherwise permitted ground blind hunting in their DHA if a safety violation is present. The Hunt Coordinator will immediately notify the ABA Board of the factual details of the situation and the ABA Board will make a final determination on the matter.

8. Clearing of Shooting Lanes. Hunters may prune saplings up to 3" when creating shooting lanes for hunting. Participating hunters in this hunt are encouraged to perform a **minimum** amount of pruning to open up shooting lanes. Hunters are asked to use natural shooting openings as much as possible and to minimize any pruning and impacts to the vegetation surrounding the stand location. Hunters are to make as little impact on property as is possible while hunting. If hunting private land, a hunter must obtain landowner permission before any trimming or pruning is done-be respectful of others property.

9. Stand Safety. Hunters are required to wear a full body harness attached to the tree while on stand. Hunters are encouraged to use a climbing belt or climbing system which attaches to the tree or a safety line while climbing up to or down from their tree stands. All hunters are to positively identify their target, and to be aware of what is beyond their

target, prior to taking any shot.

10. Buffer Zones. On public lands within the DHAs, hunters may set-up no closer than 400 feet from occupied buildings, or 200 feet from designated walking or hiking trails. On both public and private lands, permission must be received from all landowners with occupied buildings closer than 400 feet from the hunter's stand or blind location.

11. Arm Bands. All participating hunters are required to wear an arm band that is visible at all times while involved in any hunting activity related to the Deer Management Hunt.

- These bands have a clear plastic pocket to hold an identification card, which includes the hunter number and assigned DHA.
- Hunters will wear their arm bands while involved in activities including, hiking to and from tree stands, scouting hunt areas, and while sitting on stand.
- There is a \$20 replacement fee for lost or stolen armbands.

12. Parking. Hunters may not park in any area that might disturb the flow of traffic or damage public or private property. Likewise, hunters are not allowed to park within designated and posted no parking zones.

13. Cooperation. Hunters need to keep in touch with fellow hunters within their DHA, and to coordinate hunting efforts. Hunters should be aware of where fellow hunters are hunting. By keeping in touch, hunter crowding can be avoided so that the maximum number of deer may be harvested. Hunters are to be respectful and cooperative with their fellow hunters.

14. Earn-A-Buck Requirement. The primary purpose of this hunt is to reduce the deer population within the Duluth City Limits. The most effective way to achieve this result is to reduce the number of females within the herd. In order to produce the greatest reduction on future deer populations within the Duluth City Limits, the Duluth City Council is requiring hunters to first harvest, register, and report to the ABA an antlerless individual. Only after a hunter personally harvests and reports an antlerless animal to his/her assigned Hunt Coordinator will that hunter be allowed to harvest an antlered buck. *“Antlerless” is defined by the MNDNR as those deer without an antler at least three (3) inches long, and is meant to include adult and fawn females, and fawn males.*

15. First Doe Harvest. Hunters are required to harvest their own first antlerless deer. Hunters are not allowed to harvest or tag another participating hunters first antlerless deer. *Violation of this clause will result in forfeiture of hunting privileges for both parties for the remainder of the season.*

16. Party Hunting. Participating hunters will be required to adhere to MN DNR regulations regarding party hunting.

- Specifically, in order to party hunt, hunters will have to be out in the field together and be within vocal contact.
- Party hunting will only be allowed for hunters already having harvested and registered their first doe from within the City of Duluth.
- Participating hunters are not allowed to harvest and tag deer with tags owned by hunters not registered with the ABA and participating in the Deer Management

Hunt.

- **Furthermore, the Duluth City Council has passed an Ordinance stating that participating hunters will not be allowed to party hunt for bucks.**

17. Shot Placement. Hunters are to only take shots that are within personal capabilities, i.e. know your effective range and stick to it.

- *Hunters must not attempt shots beyond known effective ranges; doing so risks needless wounding of animals and may jeopardize support for this hunt by the general public.*
- Hunters are strongly encouraged to practice regularly and to be confident in their equipment and in their capabilities.
- Hunters are asked to shoot as many antlerless deer as they have tags for and to make sure they do so only when a good, ethical shot opportunity presents itself.

18. Retrieve all Deer. All deer need to be recovered. Hunters are required to use all available means to ensure that all arrow-hit deer are retrieved.

- Hunters are asked to recruit fellow hunters to help track deer, or to contact their HC if they are having difficulty finding assistance.
- If wounded deer travel onto private land, hunters are asked to contact the landowner for permission to enter their property to retrieve the deer.
- If permission cannot be obtained, hunters will need to contact the Duluth City Police Department and have an officer accompany the hunter onto the private land.
- Deer are to be removed as quickly and as discreetly as possible. Landowners need to be thanked for allowing hunters to enter their property.
- Un-recovered deer: If a deer is wounded and not recovered within 24hrs, you must notify your hunt coordinator and report the geographic area where the animal was last seen.

19. Remove Gut Piles. Hunters are required to remove the entire deer from the woods, including the entrails. If it is not possible to remove the deer in the whole, hunters are required to haul out the entrails and remove them from the area after field dressing. Always have a supply of contractor-grade garbage bags available in your vehicle. If field dressing a deer on site, hunters should use leaves and dirt to cover blood spilled on the ground. The goal is to avoid other animals dragging gut piles onto city streets or into public use areas. Note, even when hunting on private lands you are expected to remove gut piles. This is a volatile issue with the non-hunting public and violation of this rule risks jeopardizing the entire hunt concept for all hunters.

20. Be Discreet in Transport. Hunters are to avoid making dead deer visible to the general public while in transit. This includes covering deer with a tarp, if necessary, while in your vehicle. The goal is to keep the public unaware that the hunt is taking place.

21. Reporting Harvest. The hunter **must** report the harvest of all deer within 48 hours to their **originally assigned HC**. If hunters are participating in the hunt on private lands within several DHAs, the hunters are still responsible for reporting their harvest to their originally assigned HC. *Failure to report your harvest is a serious violation of one of the key tenets of this hunt. Every effort must be made by the hunter to report a harvested animal to his/her HC* **Filling out the on-line Registration Form does not satisfy the requirements of notifying and reporting to your HC.**

- 22. Avoid Confrontation.** If a hunter is approached by anti-hunters or others who attempt to engage the hunter in a debate about hunting or the Deer Management hunt, participating hunters are not to argue or debate the public. This means both in and out of the woods. This is a losing battle. Hunters are to say nothing and leave the area. The goal is to avoid any bad publicity that may reflect poorly on the Management Hunt, on bowhunting, or on all hunters. All confrontations are to be reported to the hunter's HC. Be aware that the MN DNR Regulations state that hunter harassment is illegal and any harassment should be reported to the MN DNR. The hunter and their HC can decide whether the confrontation merits an official report to the MN DNR. Review the DNR harassment information on the MN DNR website or in the regulations booklet.
- 23. Report Violations.** If a participating hunter observes another hunter violating any of the hunt rules, or if an unauthorized hunter is observed within the DHA, hunters are required to report it as soon as possible to the HC for that DHA. The hunter and the HC may decide to contact the area DNR Conservation Officer or the Duluth City Police. Either the HC or hunter needs to notify the ABA Board of any violations.
- 24. Hunt Zone Vacancies.** If hunters change DHAs by ABA and HC approval, or discontinue hunting in their assigned DHA, hunters are required to notify their original HC as soon as possible. The HC can then allow other hunters to be assigned into any vacancies. This will maximize hunter coverage in all hunt zones throughout the hunt period.
- If hunter has not taken **three antlerless** deer prior to switching to a new zone or to a Special Late Season Hunting Zone, he or she must **personally** harvest an antlerless deer in their new zone before harvesting an antlered deer.
 - Unauthorized zone switching is strictly prohibited.
 - Only properly assigned hunters may hunt within a DHA.
 - Guest hunters are not allowed.
- 25. Game Violations.** Participating hunters cited for any violation, either game or non-game, in the Duluth Hunt by either the MN DNR or by the Duluth Police Department must to notify their HC within 24 hours. The HC will notify the ABA Board.
- Failure to notify the HC and the ABA Board will result in immediate termination of the rights and privileges to participate in this Deer Management Hunt.
 - Upon receiving the citation from the officer, hunt privileges are immediately suspended until the case has been adjudicated. Reinstatement into the Duluth Hunt is not guaranteed and it will depend upon a review of the circumstances by the ABA Board.
- 26. Baiting / Feeding of Deer.** The Duluth City Council has passed an Ordinance banning the feeding of whitetail deer within the Duluth City limits. This applies to homeowners, landowners, and hunters. Hunting over bait, as defined by MN State Statute and outlined in the MN DNR regulation booklet, is a crime.
- Any landowner / homeowner living within the Duluth City limits that is caught feeding deer at any time of the year will immediately become ineligible to participate in the Duluth Deer Management Hunt for two years. If the individual is already a participating bowhunter, they will immediately lose their hunting privileges, and will be ineligible to apply for two seasons.
 - Being "caught" feeding does not imply that the Duluth Police Department has issued a citation for such offense. Being "caught" can simply be having an ABA Board member visually observe a feeding pile, taking a picture, and confronting the

offender. At that time, the offender will be notified of their loss of hunting privileges.

- Any hunter caught hunting over or in the vicinity of bait by the ABA, their Hunt Coordinator or by a Law Enforcement official will immediately forfeit their hunting privileges. The ABA Board and / or the Hunt Coordinators will immediately notify the MN DNR of any suspected baiting issues, and are expected to fully cooperate with law enforcement throughout the investigation.
- In the event a hunter is convicted of baiting, or an ABA Board Member personally witnesses the baiting activity, or it can be reasonably proven it occurred, a hunter will permanently forfeit their Duluth Hunting privileges.
- Fellow hunters are required to report any incidents of baiting to the MN DNR (TIP Line) immediately. Failure to do so may result in the hunter losing their privileges as well.
- **This is a zero tolerance issue!**

27. Hunt Code Violations. The ABA Board reserves the right to conduct its own investigations regarding possible violations of the rules of the hunt, the hunters Code of Conduct, as well as any violations of the City of Duluth Code or MN DNR. The ABA may remove and/or bar hunters from current or future hunts, regardless of formal legal proceedings, or charging, for which the ABA is or would potentially be under contract with the City. It is a privilege to hunt in this hunt, not a right and the ABA will hold participating hunters to the highest standards of ethical hunting conduct possible.

Any hunter removed for cause from the hunt has 72 hours to remove all their hunting equipment (stands, stairs, climbing sticks, ground blinds, etc) from all DHAs, both public and private.

28. Hunter Orientation Night. All participating hunters must attend a mandatory hunter orientation briefing which will be scheduled by the ABA prior to the opening of the annual hunting season. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis by the ABA President with prior knowledge of the ABA Board of Directors, if the requesting hunter has been a successful and highly responsible participating hunter in prior Duluth hunts that were managed by the ABA. Such requests must be made in writing and received at least two days prior to the scheduled orientation meeting. Active duty military personnel who are deployed overseas and/or valid family emergencies will also receive special consideration by the ABA Board.

The focus of these meetings is to ensure each hunter personally meets with fellow hunters who will be in their DHA and to help build the spirit of cooperation as well as geographic awareness of where other hunters plan to be. Special note: If a hunter is granted an exemption from the orientation meeting and then proceeds to create problems with a zone, that hunter will be immediately removed for the season.

29. Hot Spot Hunts.

Neighborhoods selected for the Hot Spot Program are, by definition, outside of any of the established DHAs, and will be identified by the ABA Board based upon homeowner complaints. These hunts will be limited in scope, participants, and time, with the sole intent of quickly, effectively, and discreetly harvesting numerous deer in close proximity of Duluth residences. Many of these locations are in highly sensitive areas, and not everyone will be able to participate.

- 1) Hunters selected will be returning hunters, with demonstrated past success in the Duluth Hunt;
- 2) Hunters selected will be expected to represent the bowhunting community in a positive way, and be expected to be a positive liaison between the ABA and the Duluth community and landowners;
- 3) Hunters will be responsible for contacting the Hot Spot Coordinator to be considered for a future placement. Each Hot Spot will have an individual that acts as the coordinator, and will ultimately be responsible for the placement of hunters into the Hot Spot. Hot Spot Coordinators are not responsible for tracking down hunters. Interested hunters are responsible for contacting the coordinator;
- 4) Contacting the Coordinator does **NOT** guarantee placement into the Hot Spot;
- 5) Hot Spot hunts are antlerless only hunts.
- 6) Because of the often tight quarters and the need for being discrete and unobtrusive, shots will be limited to 20 yards;
- 7) In many cases, hunters may be told in which exact tree stands may be hung, and can be hung no where else. In other cases, hunters may be limited to using ABA-placed stands and ground blinds. In fewer cases, hunters will be allowed to scout and hand their own stands. Hunters using ABA-placed stands waive all rights to sue the ABA or their designee and landowners due to any injuries or equipment damage that may occur as a result of using ABA equipment. Each hunter is responsible for verifying the safety of any stand or setup that they may use;
- 8) Hunters will be able to use ground blinds in hot spots only when approved by the ABA Board or the Hot Spot Coordinator, in writing upon request as described above.

Final Note: These rules are designed to help layout a framework for a safe and effective hunt. The ABA Board reserves the right to act on any matter regarding the safety and/or effectiveness of this hunt without the prior consent of participating hunters. Our goal is to safely reduce the Duluth deer herd in a highly responsible and cost efficient manner. We believe this can be done while also insuring fair and equal opportunity for our hunters.

Have a safe and effective hunt. We hope you enjoy this wonderful hunting opportunity.

Good luck.