

# UNB/ERD DEER RESEARCH PROJECT



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- Public concern that forest management (herbicide use) is reducing food supply to deer, thus reducing/limiting deer population.
- Management concern on if/why DWAs are under utilized.
- UNB PhD student Phil Weibe to conduct 3 year research project under Dr. Graham Forbes.

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## Main Research Questions:

- 1) Do current forest management practices influence the availability of deer forage ?
- 2) What factors explain differences in long-term occupancy of DWAs ?
- 3) Is there a survival difference between deer on crown/freehold vs. private lands?

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## Research Methods:

- 1) Browse - LIDAR assessment of forest structure, supported by EFI ground-based data.
  - 2) DWAs – LIDAR and deer use (GPS collars)
  - 3) Survival – GPS and VHF collars; coyote densities
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- 120 radio collars will be deployed.



- NB ERD, UNB, CFS
- Maine IFW, U. Maine
- UNH, U. Vermont
- J.D. Irving, Weyerhaeuser
- QDMA
- ?

## **What is the Northeast Deer Research Partnership?**

An informal collaborative among stakeholders interested in science based policies and best management practices aimed at increasing deer populations in Maine and New Brunswick on an economic and biologically sustainable basis.

## **How will this be Achieved?**

Multi-disciplinary research projects across multiple jurisdictions and institutions will allow for the best science to inform policy and management decisions across the landscape. The partnership is built on a foundation of open communication, standardized research methodologies and online data & information sharing platforms. This is the largest combined deer research project ever conducted in the Northeast.

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