DEER NEW JERSEY,

Let's find balance for our forests, farms, and families.

Statement of General Principles

Understanding the Challenges

1. White-tailed deer are native to New Jersey and deserve the respect and care afforded to all wildlife.

2. Changes in land development and other human activities have contributed to substantial increases in deer populations in many parts of New Jersey.

3. High deer densities can harm forests and other natural habitats, reducing native plant diversity and affecting the wildlife that depends on these ecosystems.

4. High deer densities also affect people and communities, contributing to deer-vehicle collisions, certain tick-borne illnesses, agricultural losses, and challenges for local food production.

Collaboration, Ethics and Action

5. We support collaborative, respectful, and science-informed deer stewardship that advances ecological, public health, agricultural, and cultural objectives, including the health of deer herds themselves.

6. Safe, lawful, ethical, and well-regulated deer harvesting is an important part of New Jersey's wildlife stewardship.

7. We support respectful and full utilization of harvested deer, including sharing venison with family and friends and donating it to residents facing food insecurity who welcome the resource.

8. We believe deer stewardship efforts should be guided by fairness, transparency, collaboration, and measurable, lasting benefits for New Jersey's forests, farms, wildlife, and communities.

Mission and Vision of Deer New Jersey,

Mission: To achieve natural balance in New Jersey by supporting a deer stewardship movement for the people, wildlife and land we love.

Vision: A future where New Jersey's land, wildlife, and communities thrive in natural balance—stewarded by the people who call this place home