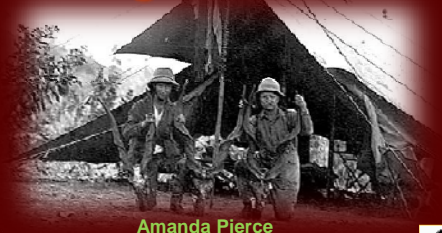




Are we artificially shifting to smaller bucks through harvest choices?



Amanda Pierce
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries
December 7, 2009 12:30pm Room 160 PBB



Outline

- What is issue?
- History of Hunting trends - past and present
- Current studies, research, opinions
- Future directions, where do we go from here?



Newsweek

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44% have no interest in occupying your country. ** Obama on killing troops in Afghanistan

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PROJECT GREEN

It's Survival of the Weak and Scrawny

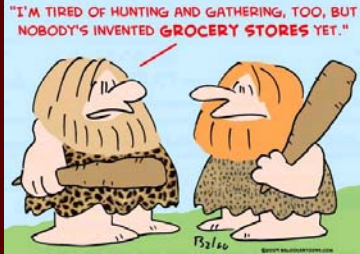
Researchers see "evolution in reverse" as hunters kill off prized animals with the biggest antlers and pelts.



Photo: Theodor Eisenberg and another hunter hold the heads of bucks they shot in an Adirondack Park in the 1930s.


History

- Hunting has been a part of culture for quite a while



"I'M TIRED OF HUNTING AND GATHERING, TOO, BUT NOBODY'S INVENTED GROCERY STORES YET."

History




courtesy of www.romanticism-in-art.org

- Sioux and other tribes hunted for sustenance, and out of need...

History

...as well as for shelter & clothing



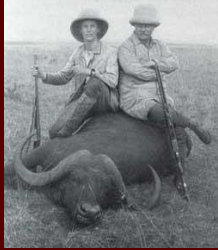
Nez Perce couple and teepee

- Plains Indians vs. Eastern Indians

History

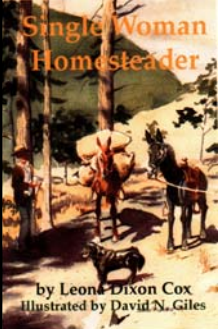
Late 1800's – Early 1900's

- Theodore Roosevelt and others - Trophy hunting
- No hunting regulations
- Practiced fair-chase
- Conservation movement started – "to preserve for future generations"
- Founded Boone and Crockett



History ~1930-1940

Single Woman Homesteader



by Leona Dixon Cox
Illustrated by David N. Giles

- Great depression
- Men were off to war
- Where possible, many women hunted for sustenance
- 1940 –Bureau of Biological Survey and Bureau of Fisheries merged and USFWS was established

History 1950's – 1970's

- Animal rights concerns increased
- Increased interest in environmental protection



History 1970's – 2000

- Al Brothers from Texas started movement from trophy deer management to quality deer management - QDMA
- Focus on quality bucks, does AND fawns
- Seeks a 1:1 buck:doe ratio
- Founded in 1988 as a state-based organization in South Carolina
- Expanded to a nationally recognized organization in 1990

Current Status

- More deer now than ever
- less hunters
- More restricted hunting allows more deer to walk



http://www.comitteesforantik.com/web/00mpac40r_42.jpg

Question at hand....

Are we killing bigger deer, allowing the smaller, weaker deer to pass along their genes?

....some say YES: taking out the biggest deer with the best genes will limit the passing of those genes...

....taking the larger bucks out, is counter to the natural selection process, hence evolution in reverse

Question at hand....

Are we killing bigger deer, allowing the smaller, weaker deer to pass along their genes?

....more people think NO: with the opinion that by the time deer reach their "trophy prime" at 5-7 years, their reproduction has slowed, which isn't always the case

(How many people do YOU know that kill 5-7 yr old deer around here?)

So, what IS the answer?

- No clear cut answers exist, a study on bighorn sheep actually showed that animals were actually getting larger
- In Theory, seems *possible*, but there's no hard evidence to back it up
- More research needs to be done in this area


What to do next?

OPTIONS

- Could it be this is all just media hype by non-hunters and animal rights activists?
- If we ignore it will it go away?
- Maybe hunters should look at their choices, limit the number of larger bucks they choose to harvest?
- Promote QDM to a more widespread area?

QDMA Promotes


- Safe and ethical hunting
- Adherence to wildlife and trespass laws
- Adequate harvests of adult does
- Restraint in harvesting young bucks
- Hunter involvement in education and management



QDMA Promotes:

- Cooperation with wildlife biologist and enforcement officers
- Education of hunters and non-hunters toward a better understanding of wildlife management
- Stewardship and appreciation of all wildlife

QDMA not necessarily for everyone!



What do YOU think? Opinions? Questions?



Vs.



= ??