



Helena Citizens' Council
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TO: Mayor Collins, the Helena City Commission and Interim City Manager Reed

FROM: The Helena Citizens' Council

RE: Urban Wildlife Recommendation

Introduction

The Helena Citizens' Council recommends that the City of Helena and City Commission continue to support the Helena Urban Wildlife Program (UWP) which is crucial to managing the urban deer density in respect to public health, public safety, property damage, wildlife health, and the public perceptions of wildlife in an urban interface. As deer populations grow so do human wildlife issues and the result of these situations has challenged both local government and citizens on how to best address these urban wildlife conflicts.

Summary

The Helena Citizen's Council recommends the Mayor and City Commissioners make proactive choices in respect to managing the Urban Wildlife Program and that it be continued for the immediate management of our deer population to keep wildlife densities compatible with resident desires.

- The police department administers the urban wildlife program (UWP).
- The budget for the UWP is part of the overall police budget. It was budgeted \$0 in the FY20 budget and remains \$0 in the FY21 budget as well.
- Urban deer density is typically counted each fall - the last time being Fall 2018. The number was above the 25 deer per square mile threshold.

Recommendations

- HCC recommends funding be made available to update the current urban deer density data.
- HCC recommends the Urban Wildlife Program be continued as it is necessary for continued public health and safety
- HCC also recommends the City of Helena and partner agencies as appropriate, conduct the annual deer counts and if/when necessary, conduct the deer population culling.