Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB)

Overview

- bTB is a bacterial infection capable of infecting most mammals
  - Once a relatively common disease in cattle
  - Historically, very rare in deer
- Spread primarily through the exchange of respiratory secretions.
- In 1994, a hunter in southwestern Alpena County shot a 4-year-old male white-tailed deer infected with bTB.
  - White-tailed deer in Michigan have since been tested year-round.
- Most of the bTB-positive animals located in a core area in the northeastern part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.
Looking back

- ISSU 1920: Cleared lands were sold for farms, wildlife conservation, and hunting.
- Large land holdings were consolidated by private individuals, creating refuges.

Looking back

- > 90% of the TB Core Area (DMU 452) is privately-owned, much of it managed purposefully for deer abundance and older age structure.
- Very little of the area is State Land.
2015 Bovine Tuberculosis Survey Results
-Cervids-

Legend
- Location of TB Positive Deer
- DMU 452
- County with Positive Deer 1975-2015
- County Line
- Water
- Highway

Total Positive Deer: 34

Current status

Apparent TB prevalence*, 5-county bTB area

* Apparent prevalence of TB detected among deer
**Current status**

Estimated White-Tailed Deer population*, 5-county B1B area

![Graph showing deer population over time.]

* Based on SAK data

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**Moving forward**

- Maintain a 5-county population at approximately 70,000 to minimize the rate of new TE infections
- Maintain current proactive efforts
  - Disease control permits
  - Wildlife Risk Mitigation (MDARD)
- Improve when possible!
- Revised joint animal health plan with MDARD
- Pursue new initiatives with hunters and landowners
  - Primary goal: increase antlerless harvest