

Safari Club International - Detroit Chapter

Trajectory briefs

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Trajectory briefs, Winter 2020

What is Trajectory briefs?

You are looking at our new Members newsletter "**Trajectory briefs**." This is a scaled down version of SCI Detroit's award winning magazine *Trajectory*. Our plan is to publish **Trajectory briefs** online, four times a year. Each issue will provide you with updates and information pertinent to the SCI Detroit Chapter, Legislative News, happenings at SCI, relevant items from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Michigan DNR (MDNR), and member hunt stories.

We would greatly appreciate your thoughts and feedback.

Steve Breuning

President
SCI Detroit
steve@scidetroit.com



Upcoming Chapter Events

Below is a listing of currently scheduled SCI Detroit Chapter events. Please check the events on the SCI Detroit website for more information and any schedule changes. Also, check the website regularly as newly added events will appear there as they become scheduled.

www.scidetroit.org

February 5 - 8, 2020 - SCI National Convention, Reno, Nevada.

February 20, 2020 - Wild Game Dinner (joint with S E Michigan Bowhunters)

March 6 & 7, 2020 - SCI Detroit Banquet and Fundraiser.

SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL
DETROIT CHAPTER

44th
ANNUAL BANQUET & FUNDRAISER

Friday, March 6 &
Saturday, March 7, 2020

Over 80 items will be auctioned off during this two-day event, plus huge gun raffles, silent auction, knife draw and more. Meet outfitters from around the world and North America.

WILD GAME DINNER

(Salmon, Rabbit, Pheasant, Buffalo)

Saturday night ticket purchase includes open bar.

\$75.00 per person | \$675 per table of ten

All full table purchases starting on January 1st. will receive one free ticket at that table also all table guest at that table will receive a ticket for multiple prize drawings for only full table purchases.

FERN HILL GOLF CLUB

17600 Clinton River Rd. | Charter Twp. of Clinton, MI

BOOK ONLINE AT

www.scidetroit.org

Ticket purchases received by February 25, 2020 will be mailed. Purchases after February 25, 2020 will be at Will-Call for pick up the night of the event.

For more information and an auction list, please visit our website at www.scidetroit.org or call 810-543-1125.

A Christmas-Eve gift from Wildlife Conservation Efforts

Doppsee the Critically Endangered Black Rhino Gives Birth to First Rhino Calf Ever at Potter Park Zoo (Lansing, MI)

This Blog Posted on December 24, 2019 by Kaiti Chritz

For the first time in the 100-year history of Potter Park Zoo, a black rhino calf has been born at the zoo. At 5:40 a.m. Dec. 24, 2019 Doppsee, the zoo's 12-year old female black rhino gave birth to her very first calf, a male. The animal care and veterinary staff at the zoo report that the calf stood up about an hour and a half after birth and appears to be nursing well.

"As this is Doppsee's first pregnancy, the animal care and veterinary staff will continue to monitor Doppsee and her calf closely in the next few weeks. But so far, the rhino calf appears healthy and we have observed frequent nursing shortly after the birth, which is encouraging," said Potter Park Zoo veterinarian, Dr. Ronan Eustace.

Mother and calf are bonding behind the scenes in the rhino barn at Potter Park Zoo and will not be visible to the public until weather allows in the spring of 2020. The zoo will be posting regular updates including pictures and video of Doppsee and the calf on their Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as the Potter Park Zoo blog.

Black rhinos are critically endangered and are being pushed to the brink of extinction by illegal poaching and loss of habitat. Current estimates show that only about 5,000 individual black rhinos are alive in the wild today.

There are just over 50 black rhinos in the care of AZA accredited zoos which are managed by the Species Survival Plan (SSP). The SSP maintains a genetically healthy population of black rhinos in zoos. The father, Phineus, came to Potter Park Zoo in 2017 from Texas specifically to breed with Doppsee. On average less than two black rhino calves are born in human care each year, making every calf born vital to this endangered population.

"This is a monumental moment for Potter Park Zoo that has taken our staff years of planning and hard work. We are dedicated to conserving rhinos and couldn't be more excited about this successful black rhino birth," said Cynthia Wagner, Director of Potter Park Zoo. (Picture from Potter Park Zoo).

Follow this on the Zoo's social media for baby rhino updates! [End](#)



Editor's Note:

Please consider a contribution to support the conservation efforts of the Potter Park Zoo (Lansing, MI) as well as ALL of our zoos!

SCI Detroit Continues to Give Back

SCI Detroit Chapter Veterans Purple Heart Hunt at the Legends Ranch

The Board of Directors of SCI Detroit were very excited to participate with the Legends Ranch in giving one of our Purple Heart Veterans the chance to hunt a Michigan Whitetail Buck at one of America's premier Game Ranchs. Legends Ranch has a history of supporting our veterans as they express in their own words.

"We, at Legends Ranch, are humbled by the countless men and women who have unselfishly sacrificed their lives for the freedoms our nation enjoys. In 2003, Legends Ranch started the first Purple Heart Hunt to honor these many brave men and women. From many applications, nine Purple Heart recipients are chosen to experience a hunt at Legends Ranch each year. This is our special way of honoring those who served in our Armed Forces."

Don Martindale, a Purple Heart recipient from Vietnam, participated with us on this hunt. Below is his story. Thank you Don for your service to our Country!

First of all, I want to thank the Detroit Chapter of Safari Club International for allowing me to participate in this hunt from September 3, 2019 to September 6, 2019. It was an experience that I will never forget. I had known that I was being considered to go on a hunt, but I did not know any of the details at first. Laura Rios at the Veterans Service for Macomb County had asked me if I would be interested, of course I said yes. I first heard that I would be going for an interview from my wife who told me I was going to be going on a safari, now I am thinking Africa, I couldn't fathom being a recipient of such a hunt. I can tell you I was even more excited finding out that it was a deer hunt in Michigan. I was really impressed with Detroit Chapter Board of Directors holding my interview in a large trophy room full of mounts from around the world. I had never seen such a collection owned by one person. Talk about setting the excitement.

I made my way to Bitley Michigan and the Legends Ranch. Right from the start I was impressed with the accommodations and how friendly the staff was. The accommodations were first class, and all of the guides went out of their way to make sure your hunt was successful. The first afternoon we all sighted in our weapons and got acquainted with the other veterans on the hunt. We got visit their 2,500 square foot museum with 2,500 mounts from all over the world; you had to be impressed with what was on display. That evening we went on our first hunt and my guide Corey seemed to know every square acre on the property. We were on deer almost immediately. I saw more deer in one spot than I had ever seen in my life, I felt assured that I was

going to get a deer that night.

That first day I just sat there in the blind watching deer after deer go by us, but I did not shoot. The blinds we were in were elevated with a clear cut and feeding trough out at about 100 yards. We sat in very comfortable chairs to watch the deer. Wednesday morning, we were up at 5:00 A.M., had a cup of coffee and pastries, and out into a different blind. Sun rise showed a field full of deer but no bucks. The bucks came in an hour later, there was a nice 8 point and I thought for sure Corey would give me the nod but I was



surprised when he said it was too small. Anywhere else in Michigan you would have had hunters falling over themselves to get that buck.

We went in for a breakfast that was better than served at most restaurants. My only complaint was I put on a few pounds in a short time. Needless to say, all the meals were excellent. We went back out after a few hours and this time my deer came into view. I was shooting a Marlin 44 mag that was hitting a little low, so I compensated right over his back, oops. This was a big buck with an equally large rack. The veteran in the blind next to us didn't compensate and I got to see what I missed up close. Congratulations to that veteran. I felt that that buck was the nicest buck out of all that were harvested that week.

Now it is the final morning hunt and I changed to my Remington 30.06. It wasn't long until a beautiful buck came into view 100 yards away facing dead on to me. I waited about 10–15 minutes until he turned sideways. I fired my shot and hit right where you are supposed to. He jumped straight up in the air, stumbled about 15 feet, and went down.

Once the buck was positioned to take photographs Corey pulled out a folded Flag and gave it to me, it caught me by surprise. I was very grateful for the offering and the Flag is displayed in at home proudly.

When you take your deer back to the compound, everyone gets to see what was harvested before they put it in the cooler. Every Veteran that brought their deer in was congratulated and a lot of high fives were given. Every Veteran on the hunt harvested a deer. Once you got your buck they allowed you to take a doe. This time I went back to the 44 mag, I didn't miss this time but it didn't put down the doe as effective as the 30.06 even though I hit her in the same spot, we had to go and put a second round in her. On our last day they held a ceremony in their museum where we each received some swag and a Purple Heart Challenge Coin, and two sets of dog tags, one we kept and the other we hung up on their wall of honor. At the ceremony we all got up and gave a brief speech to the people that had sponsored some of the Veterans and local sponsors. I will never forget this experience hunting and bonding with other fellow Veterans. It had some healing power, and I felt better after being there.

**Thank you,
Detroit Chapter of SCI !** End



Legislative and other Wildlife News

By Joe Konwinski

12/12/19: U.S. SENATE CONFIRMS AURELIA SKIPWITH AS DIRECTOR OF THE USFWS:

The U.S. Senate confirmed Ms. Skipwith's nomination with bi-partisan support. The confirmation of Aurelia Skipwith is considered to be a major win for hunters, habitat, and healthy wildlife populations and was strongly supported by SCI. Please see article on page 9 of this issue.

11/05/19: MDNR LETTER PLEDGES \$8M TO ASIAN CARP BARRIER AT BANDON ROAD LOCK AND DAM IN ILLINOIS:

MDNR Director Dan Eichinger confirmed the commitment of \$8 million in state funds for the reconstruction, engineering and design phase of a multifaceted barrier system to prevent invasive Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.

10/24/19: MDNR REPORTS A CWD-POSITIVE DEER IN GRATIOT COUNTY:

A 2-year-old hunter-harvested doe from Hamilton Township in Gratiot County, Michigan recently tested positive for chronic wasting disease.

This is the second confirmed CWD-positive wild deer from that central Michigan county north of Lansing.

10-23-19: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ANNOUNCED THAT A WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION (MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA & WISCONSIN) SHOWS SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE IN RUFFED GROUSE BUT STRONG SURVIVAL RATES:

First-year results from the multistate West Nile virus study show that while the virus is present in many ruffed grouse in the Great Lakes region, most birds exposed to the virus survive it.

High-quality grouse habitat is a key component to the overall health of the birds and their ability to survive diseases said AL Stewart, MDNR upland game bird specialist.

10/02/19: CDC ANNOUNCED THAT DEER CAN PASS TUBERCULOSIS TO HUMANS:

Heads up hunters! Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, humans can contract tuberculosis from deer infected with the bacterial disease.

A 77-year-old Michigan man was diagnosed with tuberculosis in 2017 after he was exposed to *M bovis* tuberculosis while eviscerating an infected deer.

The man's case of TB came more than a decade after two other hunters in the same area were infected in 2002 and 2004, respectively.

The CDC recommends that hunters wear rubber or plastic gloves when gutting an infected deer to prevent contracting the disease.



Extended deer season in metro Detroit lets archery hunters take aim through Jan. 31, 2020

Dec. 4, 2019

More hunting days could help local communities manage urban deer conflicts —

Hunters still seeking to take deer this season can plan to bowhunt through the end of January in southeastern Michigan. This extended archery deer season in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties – an urban deer management zone – is available through the third and final year of a Department of Natural Resources pilot program announced in December 2017.

Chad Stewart, the DNR's deer, elk and moose program leader, said that the extended hunt is both a chance for hunters to pursue some high-quality deer and an opportunity for local officials to manage urban deer conflicts in their communities.

“Archery hunters can take advantage of some excellent hunting in January,” Stewart said. “This longer season also is a fairly low-cost first attempt for municipalities to help reduce the conflicts that arise when deer numbers rise in more populated, urban areas.”

Stewart said that hunting can be an effective way to decrease human/deer conflicts, by controlling deer population numbers in affected areas. Communities may wish to open parks or other natural areas to archery deer hunting.

The archery deer hunting season in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties is extended through Jan. 31. After this season closes, the DNR will evaluate the pilot program's results and determine whether to recommend similar opportunities in the future. During the deer regulations cycle in 2020, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission will decide if the program is to be extended.

Licenses for this season include a deer license, a deer combination license or an antlerless deer license valid for Macomb, Oakland or Wayne counties. All rules and regulations for the archery season apply. Hunters should check with local ordinances in the communities they are interested in hunting to make sure hunting is allowed or to see whether only specific areas are open for the extended season. State game and wildlife areas in all three counties are open to hunting during this extended season.

Deer hunting regulations, including archery equipment restrictions, can be found in the 2019 Hunting Digest or by visiting Michigan.gov/Deer.

Community leaders with questions are encouraged to contact a local DNR wildlife biologist.

Contact: , 517-282-4810
Agency: Natural Resources



Safari Club International congratulates Aurelia Skipwith on being confirmed as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The United States Senate voted to confirm Ms. Skipwith's nomination with bi-partisan support. "The confirmation of Aurelia Skipwith is a major win for hunters, habitat, and healthy wildlife populations. SCI Looks forward to working with Director Skipwith to continue promoting and protecting our nations proud sporting heritage" said SCI' Director of Government Affairs Ben Cassidy.

Her confirmation is a positive development for hunters across the nation and Safari Club International's Hunter Advocacy Action Center (HAAC) played a key role in pushing her nomination forward. Thanks to grassroots efforts led by SCI, members of the United States Senate received a flood of emails and phone calls from SCI members nationwide voicing support for her confirmation.

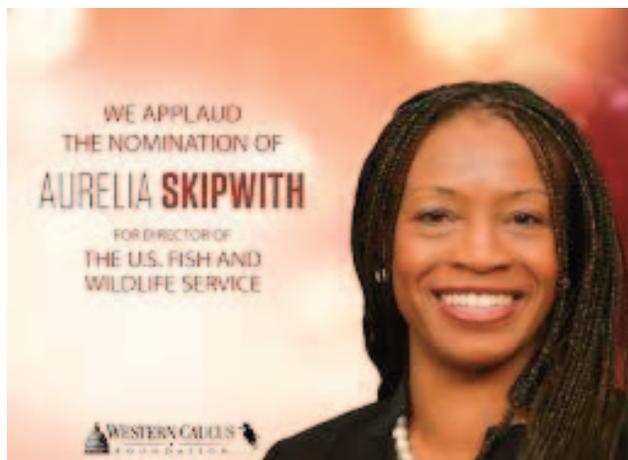
Safari Club International has been a strong supporter of her nomination from the start, with SCI CEO Laird Hamberlin thanking President Trump for her nomination and stating that "As Director, Ms. Skipwith will continue to be a champion for conservation and hunters. She is the game changer that the Fish and Wildlife Service sorely needs to direct it." Hamberlin also penned an op-ed earlier this year in which he made the case that Aurelia Skipwith is The Future of American Conservation.

Director Skipwith was previously serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks where she is actively involved with ensuring the protection and stewardship of lands and waters within the National Park and Wildlife Refuge Systems. During her time in this role she has prioritized public access for hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges and almost 30 of the nation's top hunting and conservation organizations, alongside SCI, voiced their support for her nomination.

In May of 2017, Director Skipwith attended SCI's board meeting and delivered an address on behalf of President Trump.

SCI applauds the high level of engagement from our members on this important issue, as their voices were undoubtedly heard by members of the Senate. Sign up for SCI's Hunter Advocacy Action Center to receive alerts when issues come up that may affect management, conservation, and hunting access on public land, plus national legislative issues.

On behalf of the members of SCI,
Congratulations Director!





Safari Club International has recognized Michigan House Floor Leader Triston Cole as its 2018 State Legislator of the Year

Leader Cole is a lifelong hunter and former professional guide. SCI salutes his efforts to advance legislation that defends the right to hunt, protects the Second Amendment and highlights the valuable role hunting plays in wildlife management and conservation.

“As a lifelong sportsman being in a position to influence the future of hunting, fishing and conservation, it is truly an honor,” said Rep. Cole. “I truly enjoy helping lead Michigan’s legislative sportsman caucus, bringing together lawmakers for the purpose of introducing them to the activities that are not only a passion, but a way of life for so many. It’s been an honor to work alongside SCI every step of the way.”

Triston followed his passion for the outdoors from an early age, becoming an experienced hunting guide while a teen and spending 15 years in the hunting and guiding industry. In 2000, he and his wife started a family farm from scratch and became a small-business owner whose farm provides fruits, vegetables and shiitake mushrooms for local direct market sales. When not working the land, Triston was a truck driver and agricultural teacher.

“From sharing pictures of black bears on my front porch, to pictures of successful family deer hunts and finding morel mushrooms, I seek out opportunities to share and teach the message of conservation to policy makers.”

“Triston Cole is an outstanding leader in the Michigan Legislature and everyone at SCI appreciates the impact he is making in the defense of hunting and conservation. We are honored to present him with SCI’s 2018 State Legislator of the Year,” said SCI President Paul Babaz. “His zeal and passion for hunting is real and it is truly encouraging for all hunters to see a leader who knows firsthand the true value and need for hunting is in service to the people of his district and state.



Leader Cole represents Michigan’s 105th District, which includes Antrim, Otsego, Charlevoix, Montmorency and Oscoda counties.

SCI Detroit Change in By-Laws

There has been one change to the Bylaws.

ARTICLE X - FISCAL YEAR

Effective January 1, 2020 this corporation shall operate on a calendar year basis.

My Hunt of a Lifetime - Nyumbu

By Renee Anderson

It was a trip of a lifetime. I had dreamed of going to Africa since I was little girl. I think it was a bucket list trip before 'bucket list' was even a thing! As I grew older; the dream never changed, but it grew. It grew from just a trip to Africa to a grand hunt in Africa. My husband was just as obsessed with hunting in Africa as I was, but we never thought it was a possibility...until we met Johann from Numzaan Safari's at an SCI Banquet in 2016. By the end of the night, we had our first out of country hunt booked for South Africa with Numzaan Safari!! To say we were excited was an understatement.

Michigan!! I was ecstatic to go out hunting in the bush with another female hunter!!

There was not a single hunt that did not come with a story, a million memories, laughs and tears. Kasey and I never had a dull moment. Ever! It was just the two of us out in the bush and we were ready to conquer. We headed out to Nyumbu, which was about an hour drive from camp, and without a particular target in mind, but whatever our hearts desired! Seated on the back of the buckey (that's what they called the jeep), it was so cold that morning you

Kasey and I slowly and cautiously started our stalk to get within range of the Zebra. The animals were all grazing together and we quickly tip toed up to them as stealthy as we could. Just as we were getting within range a herd of about 40 Impala joined our Zebra and suddenly, we had over 100 eyes staring us down. We froze. We stood as solid as a tree, not flinching a muscle. They all finally went back to grazing and as we walked hunched over, heads down trying to imitate another animal grazing, we slowly walked closer. It wasn't long before we were busted by an Impala and they all took off!



It seemed like a lifetime that we waited from the time we were at the banquet to when we boarded our plane for the long trek to Johannesburg in June 2018. Between the time change and pure excitement, we laid in bed at 3 am wide awake like kids on Christmas morning. Mike and I hunted separately so that we could each have the opportunity to actually hunt. Mike hunted with Johann and I was paired up with Kasey, who was a female PH from

could see your breath! We immediately saw a herd of Black Impala, which was not on the hit list (at the time), but I was captivated by their beauty. We continued to head up the broken path as the sun was rising. We approached a herd of Waterbuck and right smack dab in the middle was a single gorgeous Zebra. Kasey stopped the buckey and we hopped out and loaded the .308, this was it; we were on the prowl for a Zebra! The buckey drove off and

Luckily, they didn't run far at all, but there was no cover between us and the herds anymore. Puzzled on what the next step was and my body already aching from the stalk, Kasey looks back and whispers "Miss. Renee, can you crawl" The answer was actually no, but YES came out quickly and before we knew it we were on all fours...well actually three as I had a rifle in one hand. As I try to crawl to cover, the morning air still crisp and cold, the sun rising to my left & my Zebra in sight, I hear the roar of lions in the distance! I stopped crawling and with tears in my eyes, reality finally sunk in and I realized that I was in Africa. This is what my dreams were made of. Actually, this was way more than I had ever dreamt of. I continued the crawl, tiny pebbles getting stuck in my hands and knees - my arm ready to give out at any moment from trying to hold the rifle up. We finally approach a brush pile & can slowly rise up to our feet. As our knees tried to recover, we slowly continued to stalk. The Impala got spooked and ran off, but the Waterbuck and Zebra continued to graze, and then two Sable walked into sight! We tried to move around the corner of the brush pile to

get a better look, but the Waterbuck caught our movement and we had to freeze like a "tree" again as Kasey put it. Our thighs began to shake, and my bicep felt like it could bulge out any moment from holding up the rifle. The Waterbuck were staring us down, the Sable had disappeared, but the Zebra was still grazing, and then we heard it. It was the largest crashing sound I had ever heard! It echoed through the open bush and just off to our right-not more than 30 yards out were the two sables battling it out and bashing their horns together. This was insane! You could have heard the crashing a mile out! It wasn't long after that the Waterbuck wanted in on the display of dominance and two rams began to fight 10 yards directly in front of us! Again, we stood frozen solid for what felt like an eternity before they all scatter. Kasey had

the lesser of the evils to be stabbed by. The herd continued to move and so did we, bobbing and weaving through the thick brush. The African sun was now baking us alive. We had been stalking for hours- physically and mentally exhausted, yet somehow filled with an energy I never knew I had! We finally got close enough, using a tree as my cover Kasey sets up the shooting sticks and I take my shot. The adrenaline in Africa is like nothing I have ever experienced before. Multiply buck fever by 100! I never even heard the shot go off. the Zebra was hit but took off running...and so did we! It was a full-on sprint for us to keep sight on this zebra. I hit him slightly low and right and another shot was likely, needed-so we ran, and ran. We lost sight of the zebra but had a great blood trail that we were following. We wanted to carry this out

all on our own, so we didn't call our tracker or dog, and continued our mission. We tracked into the bush, out of the bush, down the road - this guy was on the move! We finally caught sight of him and were able to take him

down. It's amazing how much ground these animals can cover in such a short amount of time. It was a solid day of hunting and god this guy was gorgeous! Kasey and I were overjoyed that we had done this all on our own. We were beaming with pride, we hugged, laughed, and cried over the crazy day that we had and all the work we had put in.

That first hunt was simply just the beginning of an amazing two-week African Safari! Each day was filled with crazy adventures - we never simply just went out and hunted, there was always something extraordinary that had happened. Kasey and I went on to harvest a Sable, Kudu, Black Impala, Gemsbuck and several doves!! Each animal comes with an even longer story, more laughs, more crazy events, more hugging, lots of tears, some singing and memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life!!

I definitely left a piece of my heart in



thought they might be headed to one of the natural water holes, so we continue our hike to try to catch up.

Hours and many miles went by of walking and stalking our Zebra. He was always with the Waterbuck; he must have been booted out of his herd and joined in on the waterbuck herd. We felt a connection to this zebra wannabe Waterbuck, so we tried to stay hot on his trail. We finally spot the herd of Waterbuck again and right in the middle was our zebra! This time though, we were in the thick of the bush & dodging thorns was impossible- you merely looked to see which thorn was





Africa and am so grateful to Kasey, Numzaan Safari's and SCI for making such a memorable trip! My husband was already talking about booking our next trip before we even left! He and Johann ended up having amazing success as well coming home with a Kudu, Blue Wildebeest, Gemsbuck, Nyala, four Impala and a Warthog!! We are set to go back in 2020!!! **End**

Thank you Kasey
and
Numzaan Safari's



Update on Your SCI Money Hard at Work

Every year at one of our SCI Detroit members meeting we try to have a presentation of research that impacts our members and often we have helped to sponsor. This past fall we were fortunate to have Dr. Gary Roloff provide such a presentation. The first issue of Trajectory briefs (Fall 2019) summarized his research on bringing back our Northern Hardwoods. The information below is an update on the progress of the forest research efforts as provided by www.dailypress.net.

Update on research by Dr. Gary J. Roloff

Applied Forest and Wildlife Ecology Laboratory, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University.

The “Big Northern Hardwoods” study is one of the largest forest research efforts in history. The major set of questions have to do with forest management techniques that might result in new forests in the face of long-term heavy deer browsing. No small task.

Large portions of Michigan forests have experienced decades of “recruitment” failure, mostly due to intense browsing pressure by deer. Foresters use the term “recruitment” to describe new trees that reach sapling size, which is beyond the reach of hungry deer.

“Regeneration” is new trees, either seedlings or sprouts, that have yet to run the gauntlet of deer browsing. For the most part, regeneration goals encouraged through forest management have been successful. The challenge has been getting enough of these young trees into the “recruitment” size class.

So, the Michigan DNR and Michigan State University teamed-up to create a large-scale design to test three management scenarios in the Northern Hardwood forest type (dominated by sugar maple), over a period of ten years. The three harvest techniques deployed are seed-tree, shelterwood, and large gaps. As a “control”, traditional single tree/small gap silviculture has been used, too. Across the Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula, 140 30-acre sites were

identified. That’s over 4000 acres of experimentation!

The seed tree method, unusual for Northern Hardwoods, is essentially a clearcut, except for six to eight quality trees per acre. The shelterwood method removes 50-60 percent of the overstory, leaving partial shade to “nurse” along new regeneration. Variations of gap management have long been a Northern Hardwood management option, but gap sizes used in this study are rare, ranging from 0.3 to 1.0 acre in size. Historical gap sizes were generally under a tenth of an acre.

All sites have been commercially harvested and 2019 concluded their second growing season.

In addition to overstory harvests, about half of the sites had tree tops (slash) left on-site to provide physical barriers to deer. Hopefully, the tops will last long enough for regeneration to move into recruitment size class.

The other half of the sites will receive herbicide applications followed by scarification (mineral soil exposure) treatments in 2020. This treatment is intended to decrease undesirable legacies of deer browsing and selection silviculture (e.g. beech and ironwood saplings) and improve germination and growth environments for a diverse mix of tree species.

Wildlife cameras were placed at 48 sites. To date, the camera “harvest”

has produced nearly 800,000 images. University researchers are using “machine learning” to have a computer identify deer from these images. Technicians will then take a more detailed look at these images to describe deer residence time (how long they stayed in front of the camera) and behaviors. Technicians replace batteries and SD cards on four-month rotations and move cameras to new sites annually.

This past Summer and Fall, a crew of a dozen forestry technicians collected vegetation data from the study sites. With measurements taken before harvest, and then one, five, and ten years after treatments, the responses of tree regeneration to silviculture treatment, deer use, and other factors will be determined. Over the study years, the best outcomes (diverse, well-stocked regeneration of desirable tree species) will be identified and adapted by forest managers.

For the most part, public reaction to these research plots has been positive. Cutting firewood from the retained tops has, perhaps, been the most common question.

This long-term study is being conducted in cooperation with Michigan State University, the Michigan DNR, the forest products industry, and Safari Club International, Michigan Involvement Committee. For more information, contact Gary Roloff (roloff@msu.edu) or Mike Walters (mwalters@msu.edu). **End**

Trijicon Introduces Revolutionary NEW Ventus™ Wind-Mapping and Range-Detecting Handheld Device

Trijicon, Inc., manufacturer of Brilliant Aiming Solutions, is proud to introduce the Ventus, the world's first advanced wind-mapping and range-detecting handheld device.

Powered by WindPro™ Technology, the Ventus measures three-dimensional wind velocities at multiple distances out to 500 meters and ranges real-world, non-reflective targets up to an amazing 5,000 meters, giving shooters and hunters previously unattainable data about their environment for long-range accuracy.

The handheld device utilizes an advanced Doppler LIDAR engine and four collimated lasers sent out in a cone to measure wavelength interaction with dust particles at up to six different distances. Thanks to a fiber optic collimated laser capable of returns through dust, fog, sleet, and snow, the Ventus offers extreme, all-weather performance. This technology allows the Ventus to calculate for head, tail, cross and vertical wind, giving shooters an incredibly accurate wind reading.

The Ventus is built and tested to MIL-STD-810G designed to military standards and features a rugged housing and scratch-resistant lenses for the ultimate in durability. Likewise, a 9x optical magnification and center cross-dot reticle aid in target acquisition at extended range. Simple, intuitive controls allow for ease of use and navigation of the menu, while oversized buttons allow shooters to measure wind and range. Two rechargeable lithium 18650 batteries give the Ventus outstanding battery life in the field.

The unit is also available in a Ventus™ X model, which features a user-configurable on-board ballistic solver and pairs with the Trijicon Ballistics Calculator App for a customized long-range shooting experience. Soon to be available on both iOS and Android, the ballistic app allows for seamless Bluetooth connection with the Ventus X, stores shooter and target geographic locations, provides a ballistic solution, and displays a wind map overlay of readings.

The Ventus and Ventus X will be available for purchase in the second-half of 2020. To learn more about Ventus, WindPro Technology and the complete array of Brilliant Aiming Solutions for the hunting, shooting, military and law enforcement markets, contact Trijicon, Inc. at (248) 960-7700 or visit www.trijicon.com.

Follow these links to see their new product.

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/articles/2020/1/8/trijicon%ADunveils%ADventus%ADrangefinder/>

<https://vimeo.com/jacksonmg/review/374999748/067f4f38f0>

