



**LOWCOUNTRY WILDLIFE  
SPECIALISTS, LLC**  
*Innovative Solutions to Urban Wildlife Problems*

November 8, 2021

Mr. Andrew P. Schumacher  
Chief Executive Officer  
Palmetto Dunes Property Owners Association  
16 Queens Folly Road  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

RE: Deer Harvest Recommendation

Dear Mr. Schumacher:

Thank you for the opportunity to conduct spotlight surveys in Palmetto Dunes last month. The September 2021 survey estimated that there are 97 deer per square mile (deer/mi<sup>2</sup>) in Palmetto Dunes. This is a high deer density. For comparison, the typical deer density for the surrounding coastal plain region of South Carolina is approximately 30-45 deer/mi<sup>2</sup>.

Given the absence of significant natural predators of deer within the community and the relatively high fawn/doe ratio (0.56), it is almost certain that the deer population within Palmetto Dunes will increase in future years unless a deer harvest is implemented.

The decision to harvest deer should be based not only on the deer density, but also on the level of deer damage (landscape shrubbery damage, deer-vehicle collisions, etc.) and the tolerance levels of Palmetto Dunes residents. The resident survey conducted last year provides great information on the community's attitudes and perceptions regarding deer.

I would recommend initiating a small-scale deer harvest of 30 deer this winter using sharpshooting. The harvest should focus almost exclusively on female deer if possible. Beginning a harvest program now will keep deer numbers at manageable levels going forward.

I would strongly recommend continuing to do deer surveys annually to monitor changes in density over time. Typically, these surveys are done twice per year (September/October and November/December) for 3 nights during each survey period. These surveys will provide critical data on deer density trends and help to assess the effectiveness of the harvest program.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jim Jordan  
Wildlife Biologist  
Lowcountry Wildlife Specialists, LLC  
843-670-1533