

**From:** [Scott Ball](#)  
**To:** [Grp. City Council and City Web Site](#)  
**Subject:** Urban Deer Control  
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Hello, I just read an article in the Missoulian about the overpopulation of deer in Missoula. It mentioned that there are possible plans to try to control the deer population in the city. It also mentioned that one plan may be to "trap and kill" the deer.

To me this seems a little inhumane to trap and kill a deer. While I am a hunter and I do harvest animals for meat, I believe that these animals shouldn't be caged or netted and then shot. That doesn't seem fair. My thoughts are different when it is an animal like a bear, mountain lion or aggressive animal with horns or antlers that is threatening harm to people, but these deer are not. They are just a nuisance animal and should be treated fairly.

Also, the article mentioned that this method could cost the city around \$20,000 which seems very unnecessary. Especially when that money could be used to improve roads or other things like that, which the city really needs.

Lastly, the article mentioned the possibly of using a dart gun with birth control for the deer. I do not like the idea of that. I do not think wild animals should be drugged by humans. What effect could this drug have on future generations of deer if it was applied and entered the animals system but did not work as birth control? Could it cause offspring to be born with birth defects? What would happen if a deer died and another animal ate the deer? Would that drug affect other animals? Or, if a deer were to range to an area where it was legally harvested by a hunter and was drugged with this birth control, what affect would that meat have on the human who consumed that meat?

With these thoughts in mind, I propose that the City of Missoula work with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to discuss an archery hunting season in certain areas within Missoula City limits.

An archery season in parts of the city where this would be safe could really help control the deer population in a safe and effective way. Many cities in the US utilize an archery equipment and/or crossbow season to help control the deer population. This means of hunting is nearly silent, short range and much safer than "rifle hunting" in an area like this. If hunting were to be allowed under certain restrictions within Missoula City Limits, FWP could also utilize the "Hunt Roster" to remove deer from areas where they are causing damage or where they are overpopulated. In other parts of the city where it is less populated by people, but still overpopulated by deer, a shotgun, muzzleloader or handgun (short range weapon according to FWP) hunting season could be used. Or maybe, as a quieter solution, some of the modern "big bore pneumatic" rifles made by some of the air hub companies. This would also give the animals a fair chance and they would not have to be trapped.

My proposal would not only help control the deer population by a safe and effective means, while still providing the animals a fair chance, it would also greatly reduce cost of deer removal and could actually bring funds too the city. If FWP were to charge for a deer license, the City of Missoula could charge a fee for a "City hunting Permit". Therefore, instead of spending money to remove deer, the city could make money to remove deer.

Also, of safety is a concern, an advanced or extended Hunter Education course could be made available and could be a requirement for all hunters within the city. This would ensure safe and ethical removal of the deer by skilled hunters.

This would remove any need for any drugging of wild animals or netting, caving or any other means of trapping animals and killing them while being trapped.

Thank you for your time and I hope this will help with the deer control problem in a safe, ethical and effective way.

- Scott Ball

Sent from my iPhone

