GENERAL – MEETING NOTES BUILDING BACKGROUND FOR STUDY

* Funding (expires in 2026) to travel and meet with deer biologists from state agencies
  + Initial objective to go in with questions tailored to two different graduate projects
    - Lauren – CWD / Rylee – Population
      * ‘interacted with agencies’
  + Goal of interacting (in person / remote) with 10 agencies from different Southeastern / Southern / Midwestern state
  + Possibility of workshop / seminar day scheduled at AU (expenses paid for participants) where information from individual interviews is used to ask questions of the group and propose new strategies
* Plug for interviews with agencies → Tools and technology available today that didn’t exist before and how do they influence management?
  + What are agencies doing differently?
    - E.g. States using X technologies and how that helps, limits, etc. compared to other agencies that don’t use X or use Y
* Notes for the initial outreach email
  + We are very interested in these issues (plug to specific interests of project leaders)
    - Deer populations / management – Rylee Tomey (rdt0029@auburn.edu)
    - Chronic Wasting disease management – Lauren Wakefield (lrw0046@auburn.edu)
  + Coming from 2 people/ students with limited hunting experience and real world management experience (referring to Rylee/Lauren)
    - Discussing with agencies will help to guide the focus moving forward in independent projects
  + We want to better understand
* If initial interview = informal then potential to lead to more formal conversations at deer conference later in 2025/early 2026
* Additional contacts / interviews if driving → talk to WMA / DMAP / managers of properties in addition to contacts from state agencies
  + Provides insights into more hands-on applied / boots on the ground information in contrast to the policymaking and management outlook from agencies
* Mention interest in information so that able to prepare for a group meeting in upcoming months
  + All participating agencies / individuals will be invited
  + Opportunity to discuss these differences, successes, challenges, etc. as a group
* Need to contact Ally M. for assistance with IRB approval for structures survey for deer population managers
* Resources and preference to travel to managers and discuss, but also able to do remote call or video chat

Objectives for Tomey Questions

* Answers to questions should add to 21st century challenges perspective
* Identify what the most limiting / helpful tools and technologies agencies are using
* Establish ‘What agencies have’ / ‘where to go’
  + What are agencies doing differently?
  + What data is currently available?
* When reviewing what data is collected by agencies and why – evaluate forethought vs intention
* If applicable, compare what data agencies say collect vs what’s available

Potential Questions / Interview Topics

* What are the questions the agency hopes to answer related to the deer population?
  + What parts of the population is the agency interested in?
* What is the greatest internal limiting factor that the agency faces – economic feasibility? Limited time / resources? Programmatic consistency?
* What is the greatest external limiting factor that the agency faces? – hunter participation? Disease?
* What data/information does the agency collect related to white-tailed deer populations?
  + From what sources? – harvest records, collars, etc.
  + Why does the agency collect this data? (for each source)
* How much of this data is readily available/used?
* What is the structure / funding of the agency?
* What new technology or tools does the agency utilize?