



## "Doe a deer..."

Part two of two

The answer to the question from the first part of this article is... *"White Tailed Deer do not inhabit two-three states in mainland United States..."* **drum roll please.....** White tailed deer inhabit all states except for: Utah, Nevada, and most of California.

Is it an illusion that we are overwhelmed by the presence of deer and the black bear, because the human population continues to increase and expand? Deer populate at a very fast pace, almost like that of rabbits and mice. But, the amount of space they are able to live and feed in decreases each year as we humans continue to build and expand the amount of space we need to live in. Inevitably the deer, and other wildlife, are crowded out of their original territory and that sets up increasingly close encounters with people. People and wildlife are competing for the same space. I wish there could be a way to relocate the deer but the fact is there isn't any more room!

There are several reasons, or defenses, for hunting wildlife. The main reasons are for controlling the population of deer and providing food for many families who are unable to provide for themselves. Other reasons may be to acquire the fur, monetary gains from selling the hide, organs, or meat, or just the excitement of the kill. I have a problem when hunting is for the *sport* of it rather than looking to provide some basic needs such as food.

I don't think that hunting just for sport is being a good steward of the environment or the animals God gave us to take care of.

Have you wondered why there have been so many reports of wild animal attacks in recent months? It seems like every day the news media reports another incident of wildlife/human contact. Could it be because of the reduction of territory (woodlands, etc...) that we have taken for residential and commercial purposes?

**Recent News Reports:**  
*"In Miami - May 14, 2006: Two women have been reported killed by alligators in Florida, less than a week after another female was reportedly stalked and killed by an alligator while jogging."*



*"Forks, WA - April 24, 2006: A man injured by a black bear had been chasing the animal on private timberland when the bear turned the tables on its pursuers."*

*"Boulder, CO - April 16, 2006: Members of a 7-year-old boy's family drove off a mountain lion that attacked him on a trail on Flagstaff Mountain."*

*"An injured bobcat attacked a golfer on a fairway at Skyline Country Club Tuesday morning, seriously injuring him."*

*"A male deer attacked a man, 73, in Rancho Santa Fe in Southern California as he was picking tomatoes in his garden on Sept. 25."*

And would you believe:  
*"Madison WI - April 19, 2006: City police confirmed a vicious wild turkey broke into a house."*

And of course we all know of the recent news report of the Ohio family devastated by a black bear attack that killed their six year old daughter in Benton, Tennessee on April 13, 2006.

Why have these attacks been happening more frequently? The most reported theory, as I mentioned above, is that humans are basically taking over the areas in the mountains, woodlands and marshlands that the wildlife have called home for centuries. Other theories suggest a reduced food supply in the woodlands due to less space in combination with irregular weather patterns? Or could it be that humans want to get a closer look at the animals and venture too close?

We may never know the answer to the alarming rate of attacks. I will continue to investigate and will let you know of any statistics, attack reports, and facts that are reported in the future.

And now, a **Wildlife Quiz**

What are groups of: 1-ants, 2-bear, 3-beavers, 4-boar, 5-bucks, 6-butterflies, 7-coyotes, 8-crocodiles, 9-crows, 10-donkeys, 11-foxes, 12-hawks, 13-hummingbirds, 14-owls, 15-rattle-

snakes, 16-ravens, 17-wolves, and 18-woodpeckers called?

**Match them with the correct name:** army, sloth, lodge, sounder, clash, rabble, band, congregation, storytelling, pace, skulk, aerie, charm, parliament, rhumba, unkindness, route, and descent.

**The correct answers:** The order of groups is in the same order of answers-thought I would make it easier!

Finally, in response to my article last week, Frank Gayle of the Choestoe area of Union County emailed a picture of his first bear sighting. I have posted his picture on my website for all to see. Thanks for the picture Frank. I welcome pictures of local wildlife so email them to me, especially your sightings of bear.