



“Three for you... three for me”

You are hunting with a friend and are having a very successful day. You have killed 3 deer already and you are feeling lucky. Your friend has 2 deer. The maximum number set by law for deer hunting season is 4 carcasses per person. What would you do?

- Why has the deer population increased so dramatically?

The deer has no natural predator any longer. The wolf population has been eradicated from the eastern United States, allowing the deer population to grow exponentially. Also, human activities such as development and agriculture have reduced the natural habitat for deer. The growing population and the reduction of habitat has created a problem for the population of deer and a management concern for humans.

- Why do authorities set limits on deer hunting?

Limits are set to control the deer population. Human have, in a sense, taken the place of the wolf as the predator of the deer.

- Would you continue hunting and hope that you are not caught exceeding the limit?

Students will respond differently to this and the following three questions depending on their feelings about animal rights, hunting, population control, etc. They should justify their answers.

- Would you take your 4 deer and call it a day?
- Would you shoot the deer and leave them so that you are not caught with too many but still have fun hunting?
- Would you do something else?
- Who could you call to determine the hunting restrictions on deer or other game?

The Fish and Game Commission