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Keeping up with all those deer

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Leopold, Bruce D., "Keeping up with all those deer" (2008). *Human–Wildlife Interactions.* Paper 66.
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provide a robust index that will never represent the absolute values but will allow meaningful patterns in wildlife–vehicle collision data to emerge. This should allow us to advance much more quickly towards comparative analyses to test the efficacy of different mitigation measures and to guide management interventions. I look forward to watching the "traffic" on this topic in future issues of *Human–Wildlife Conflicts*.

Literature cited

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Keeping up with all those deer

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This issue of *Human–Wildlife Conflicts* deals with an important topic: deer–human conflicts. Wildlife biologists face a dilemma over managing deer populations. On the one hand, deer are the foundation of our state agencies concerning hunting and license revenues. On the other hand, however, deer populations in many states have increased to the point that hunting is not serving as the regulatory tool that it has been in the past. Changes in habitat, urban sprawl, and hunting pressure have contributed to large populations of deer. Excessive deer populations have serious ramifications, including impacts on agriculture, private landowners, and, most tragically, on human life, as fatalities due to deer–vehicle collisions increase. To compound the problem, large deer populations have the potential for transmitting disease that could be devastating to local, even regional, deer populations. The articles in this issue of *Human–Wildlife Conflicts* address this important conflict.

Bruce D. Leopold

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I want to summarize some key issues that face the Berryman Institute and what we are doing to address them. In the coming year, we plan to completely overhaul our website so that it is more useful to our clientele. However, without the "money in the bank," we are reluctant to open the website for submission of research proposals. Congress remains supportive of the Berryman Institute, but broader issues concerning "what is an earmark" and reducing the deficit have delayed confirmation of the FY 2008 budget. Many individuals submitted research proposals last year. We have them on file, and we will allow those proposals to be resubmitted.

Our outreach program continues to grow and address the needs of Wildlife Services personnel through the outstanding leadership of Ben West, who serves as the Berryman Institute's national outreach coordinator. Ben is conducting a nationwide assessment of Wildlife Services' outreach needs, and this will definitely help us programmatically for the next 5 years. We also are considering providing some of our courses via the Internet. Hopefully, the addition of distance learning will be helpful to those employees of Wildlife Services who cannot physically attend one of our workshops.

The Berryman Institute has a unique and very productive relationship with 2 key land-grant institutions, Utah State University and Mississippi State University, and an important federal agency, Wildlife Services. Together, we can mutually address vital issues, such as deer–human conflicts, facing virtually every citizen of the United States. ✷