

Twelve Years of Radiation Monitoring of Deer on the Oak Ridge Reservation (1985 - Present)

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The Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) deer population was known to be exploding in 1985 with the number of deer/vehicle collisions having risen to over 400 deer per year and increasing rapidly. It was estimated that the white tailed deer population on the ORR was approximately 4800 and preparations were made in an agreement between the Department of Energy and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to allow deer hunting to be held ORR. Because of the close proximity to the city of Oak Ridge, the decision was made to allow only shotgun/muzzle loader, or archery hunting. Knowing that the possibility existed for some of the deer to become contaminated due to the fact that deer were seen browsing on old radioactive burial ground sites on the ORR, preparations were made to set up a field laboratory at the checking station to perform radiation monitoring on each deer brought to the checking station on a real time basis. The author will make a presentation covering radiation monitoring during the ORR deer hunts from 1985 to the present.

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