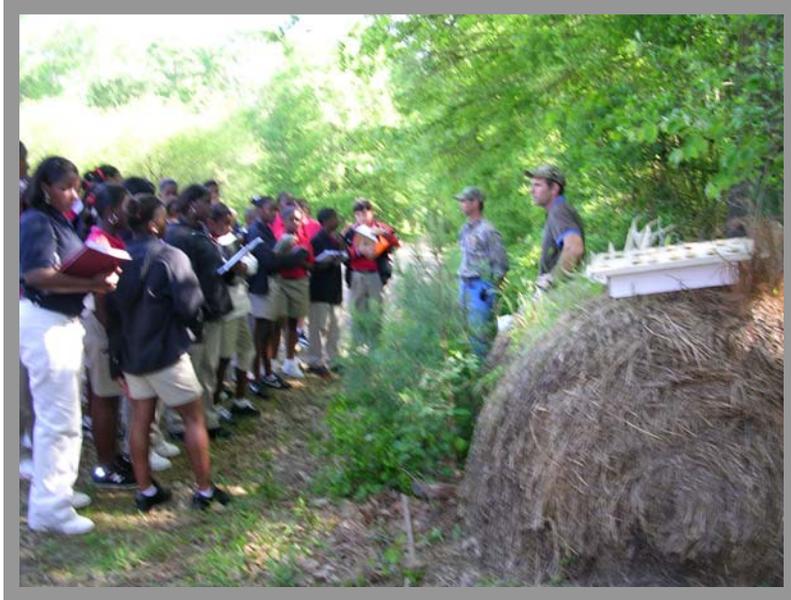


Learning With Public Purpose

Deer Population Impact Study in East Feliciana Parish

Through research, interviews and observations, students explore connections between the human and deer populations in East Feliciana Parish by analyzing the consequences of the growing population of people in surrounding communities and their activities on the area deer population.



Essential Question

What is the impact of humans' use of technology (agriculture, transportation, habitation, energy production) on the deer population of East Feliciana Parish?

Introduction

The Deer Impact Study is an educational project developed by Cindy Perret and Heather Howle, 7th grade Science teachers in East Feliciana Parish, to provide place-based learning opportunities for their Life Science students. Louisiana White-tailed deer and their local ecosystem are an integrating theme for classroom instruction. State wildlife experts, university staff, and community groups, along with the Rural Schools and Community Trust have made implementing the project possible.

Project Goals

- Create or increase students' and community awareness and understanding the impact of humans on the area deer population
- Identify parish roads which have high deer-related vehicle accidents
- Encourage local governments to install deer crossing signs in designated areas
- Promote learning and careers in wildlife management
- Equip students with skills to gather and document information on Louisiana White-tailed deer
- Support learning across the curriculum
- Engage students as partners in work with peers and community members

Implementation

Phase One of the Deer Impact Study has been completed. Students have researched and explored Louisiana White-tailed deer and created brochures to document their findings. Phase Two has found students learning the role of local governments, such as the police jury, and identifying key points on parish maps. Students will adapt persuasive writing techniques and analyze data using charts and graphs, while continuing to enhance their deer and ecosystem knowledge. The culmination of Phase Two will be the installation of deer crossing signs within the parish at student designated locations.

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