FOR STUDENTS

# Pellet Group Counter Data Sheet

**Directions:** On each of your circle plots, look carefully at the ground for groups of deer pellets. Each time you notice one, inspect it and estimate its age. Record the number of recent pellet groups in each plot below. Then use the equations to estimate the population. Record other observations in the right-hand column, including old pellet groups and evidence of other animals.

**Date** _____ **Location of Study Site:** _____

| Pellet Group Plot Number | Number of Recent Pellet Groups per Plot | Other Observations (other animal signs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | | |
| **Total** | | |

Calculations:

A. $\frac{\text{total \# pellet groups}}{\text{\# total plots}} \times \frac{\text{100 plots}}{\text{acre}}$ = # pellet groups per acre

B. $\frac{\text{\# pellet groups per acre}}{\text{12 pellet groups per deer per day}}$ = # deer days/acre

C. # deer days/acre × # acres in study area = # of deer days in study area

D. # deer days ÷ 180 days = number of deer living in the study area

**NOTE:** Because only recent (within 6 months) pellet groups are counted, 180 days or 6 months is used (in calculation D). Please be aware that pellets decompose much faster in areas of high humidity. In order to determine a decomposition rate specific to your area for use in calculations, please contact your state wildlife agency. If you find pellets last 3 months (approximately 90 days), replace "180" with "90" in Calculation D.