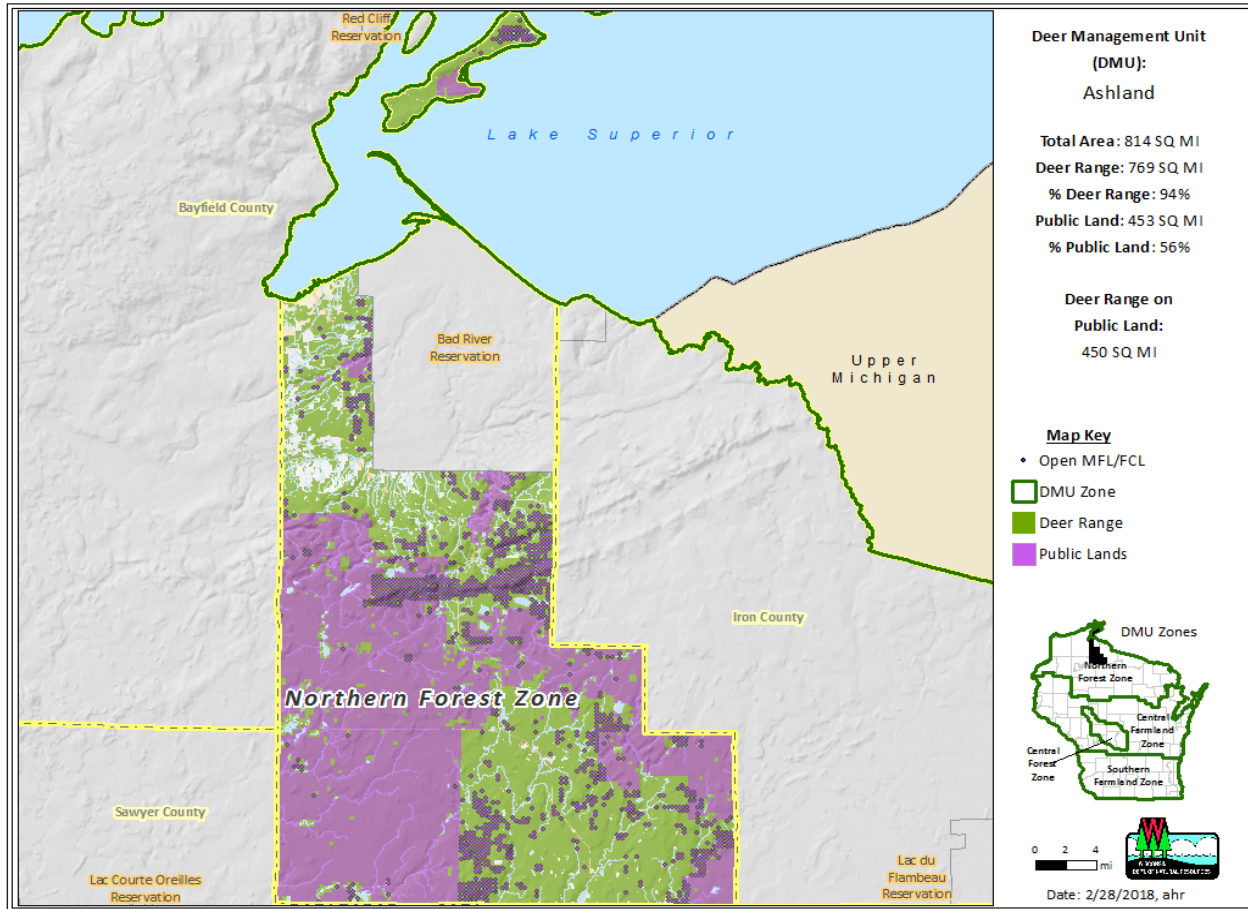


# Ashland County Deer Metrics Report

## Spring of 2024

### Management Unit:



### Manager's Note:

The Ashland County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 95 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. Approximately 56 percent of lands in the unit are open to public hunting, with the largest landownerships in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, mining company lands, Ashland County Forest as well as numerous industrial forest properties. Habitat types vary significantly throughout the unit creating an uneven distribution of deer throughout. The greatest densities of deer are found in the agricultural areas primarily located in the northern part of the unit from Ashland to Highbridge and also in a smaller, more scattered agricultural band from Glidden to Butternut. The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest lies west of this band and the county forest lands lies to the east. Mining company lands are located just south of Mellen and extend east beyond the Iron County border. Hunters report seeing fewer deer outside of agricultural areas primarily due to later-successional habitats found in the National Forest and mining lands, but also largely due to winter impacts on these herds in the snow-belt portion of the unit. Low hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 6-7 hunters per square mile of deer range, although they are well dispersed throughout the unit. The average annual buck harvest in the County is about 2 bucks per square mile of deer range. The current deer herd management objective is to increase the population.

## *Deer Management Unit Harvest History*

Fawn to doe ratios collected in late summer give information on fawn recruitment and survival and are used as an input into the formula for annual deer herd abundance estimation. Fawn to doe ratios were summarized using groups of county deer management units. County deer management units were grouped based on location, habitat characteristics, and deer demography.

### **Northern Forest Management Zone**

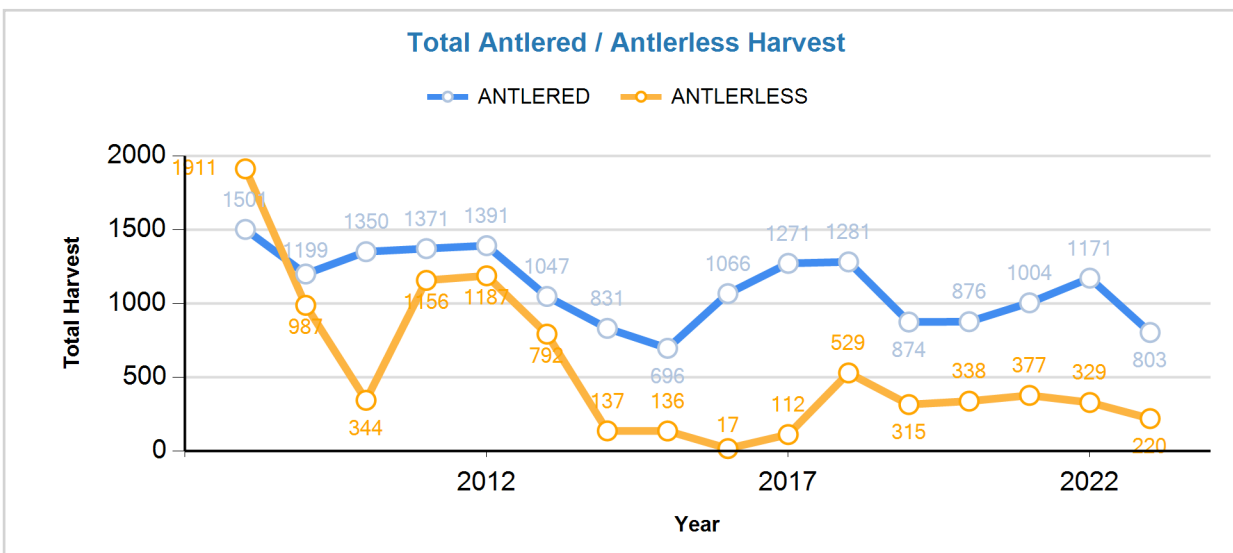
Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 813.80

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 768.80

## Total Harvest for Ashland County - Northern Forest Management Zone

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total Harvest</b>										
Antlered	831	696	1066	1271	1281	874	876	1004	1171	803
Antlerless	144	136	17	112	529	315	338	377	329	220
Total	975	832	1083	1383	1810	1189	1214	1381	1500	1023
<b>Gun</b>										
Antlered	612	461	736	898	937	528	474	618	773	545
Antlerless	121	107	12	91	351	209	211	264	237	158
Total	733	568	748	989	1288	737	685	882	1010	703
<b>Bow</b>										
Antlered	102	95	124	108	92	106	98	100	79	48
Antlerless	15	11	0	8	47	23	38	27	23	16
Total	117	106	124	116	139	129	136	127	102	64
<b>Crossbow</b>										
Antlered	113	136	205	259	239	232	296	276	304	200
Antlerless	7	12	5	6	120	80	79	77	63	44
Total	120	148	210	265	359	312	375	353	367	244
<b>Tribal*</b>										
Antlered	4	4	1	6	13	8	8	10	15	10
Antlerless	1	6	0	7	11	3	10	9	6	2
Total	5	10	1	13	24	11	18	19	21	12
<b>Youth Antlerless*</b>										
Antlerless	0	0	3	101	118	80	130	114	137	83

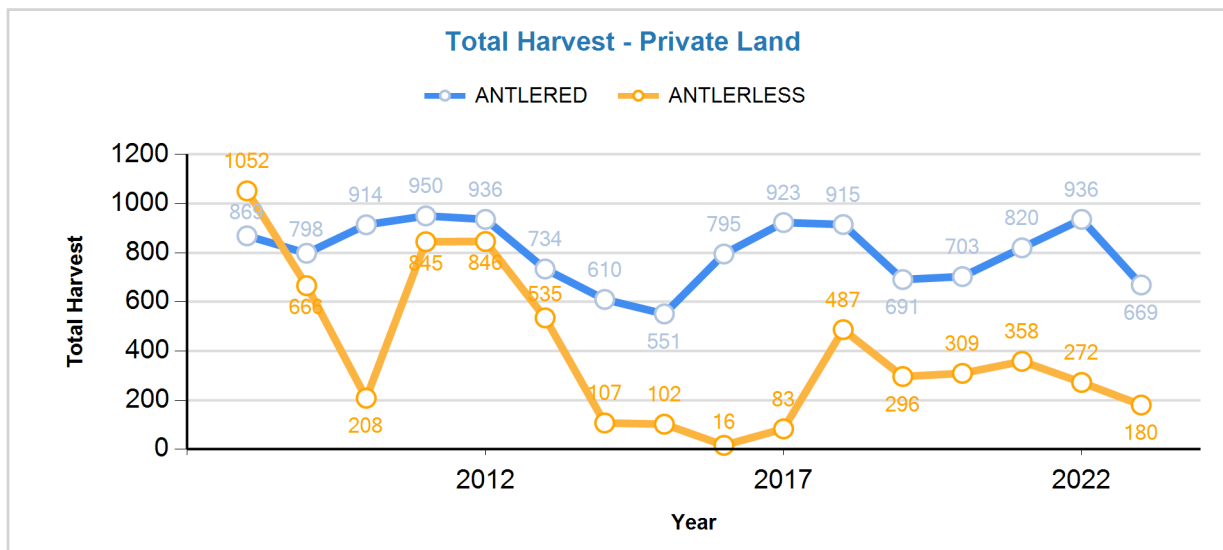
\* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



## Total Harvest for Ashland County - Northern Forest Management Zone - Private Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total Harvest</b>										
Antlered	610	551	795	923	915	691	703	820	936	669
Antlerless	112	102	16	83	487	296	309	358	272	180
Total	722	653	811	1006	1402	987	1012	1178	1208	849
<b>Gun</b>										
Antlered	443	359	532	639	658	408	371	502	607	447
Antlerless	93	84	11	69	321	197	196	257	199	125
Total	536	443	543	708	979	605	567	759	806	572
<b>Bow</b>										
Antlered	72	75	93	82	57	75	77	80	60	40
Antlerless	12	9	0	8	47	21	36	26	19	14
Total	84	84	93	90	104	96	113	106	79	54
<b>Crossbow</b>										
Antlered	95	117	170	202	200	208	255	238	269	182
Antlerless	7	9	5	6	119	78	77	75	54	41
Total	102	126	175	208	319	286	332	313	323	223
<b>Tribal*</b>										
Antlered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antlerless	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Youth Antlerless*</b>										
Antlerless	0	0	3	78	87	64	112	104	114	70

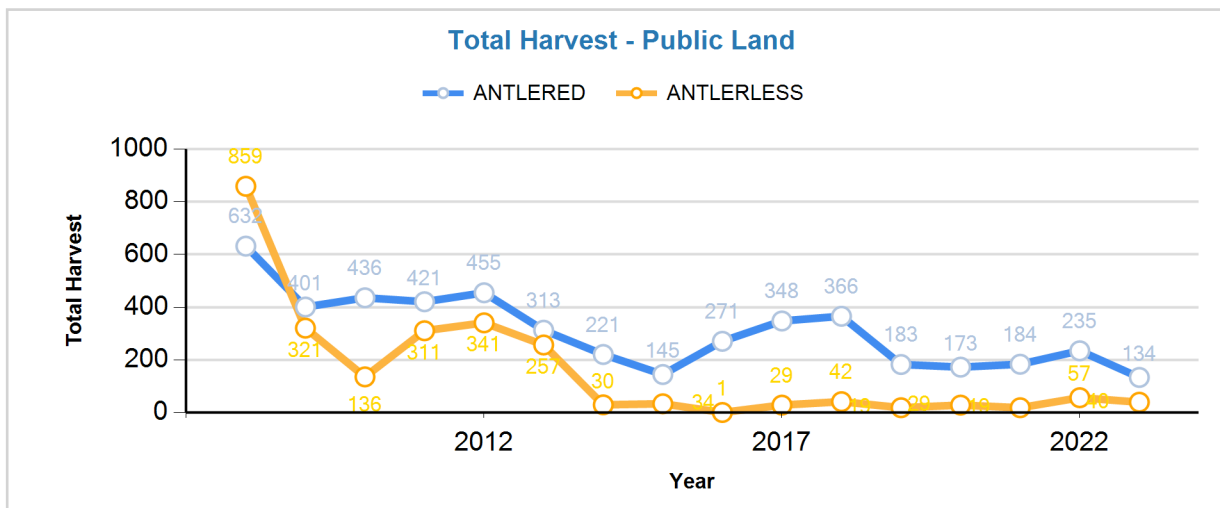
\* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



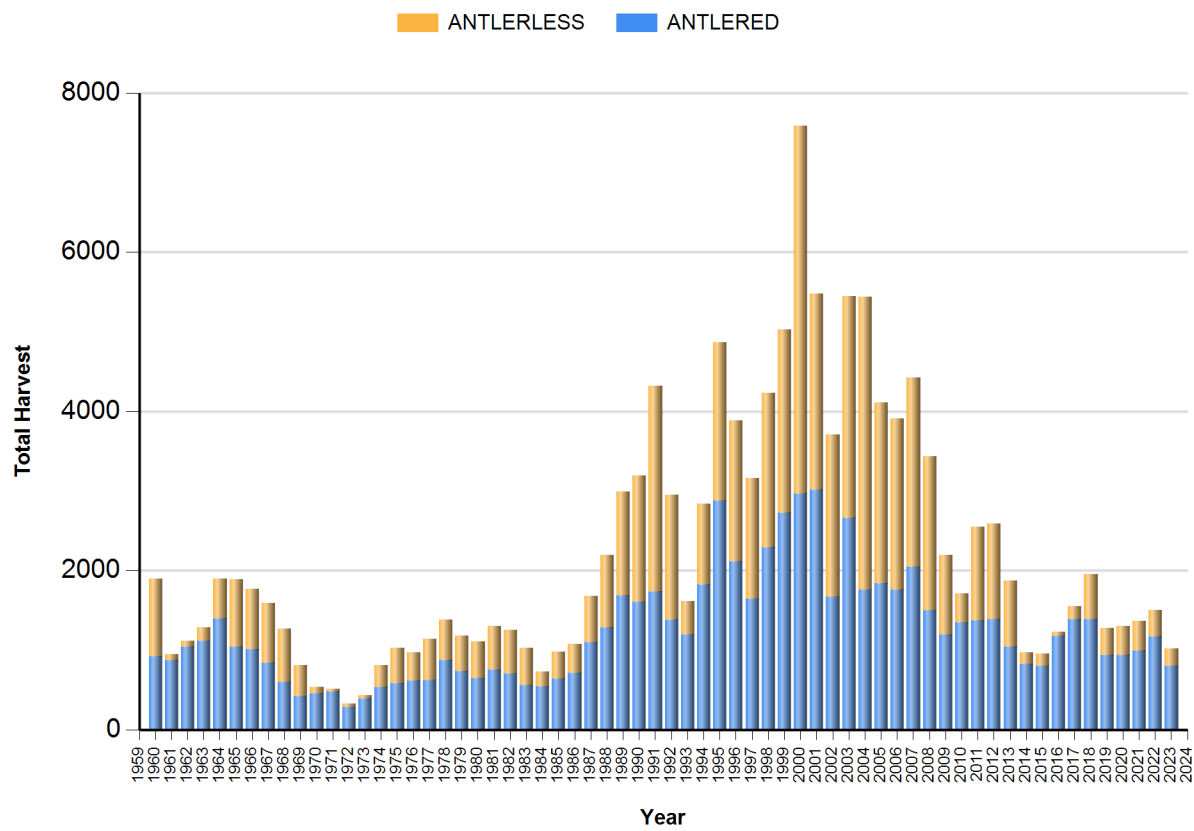
## Total Harvest for Ashland County - Northern Forest Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total Harvest</b>										
Antlered	221	145	271	348	366	183	173	184	235	134
Antlerless	32	34	1	29	42	19	29	19	57	40
Total	253	179	272	377	408	202	202	203	292	174
<b>Gun</b>										
Antlered	169	102	204	259	279	120	103	116	166	98
Antlerless	28	23	1	22	30	12	15	7	38	33
Total	197	125	205	281	309	132	118	123	204	131
<b>Bow</b>										
Antlered	30	20	31	26	35	31	21	20	19	8
Antlerless	3	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	4	2
Total	33	22	31	26	35	33	23	21	23	10
<b>Crossbow</b>										
Antlered	18	19	35	57	39	24	41	38	35	18
Antlerless	0	3	0	0	1	2	2	2	9	3
Total	18	22	35	57	40	26	43	40	44	21
<b>Tribal*</b>										
Antlered	4	4	1	6	13	8	8	10	15	10
Antlerless	1	6	0	7	11	3	10	9	6	2
Total	5	10	1	13	24	11	18	19	21	12
<b>Youth Antlerless*</b>										
Antlerless	0	0	0	23	31	16	18	10	23	13

\* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



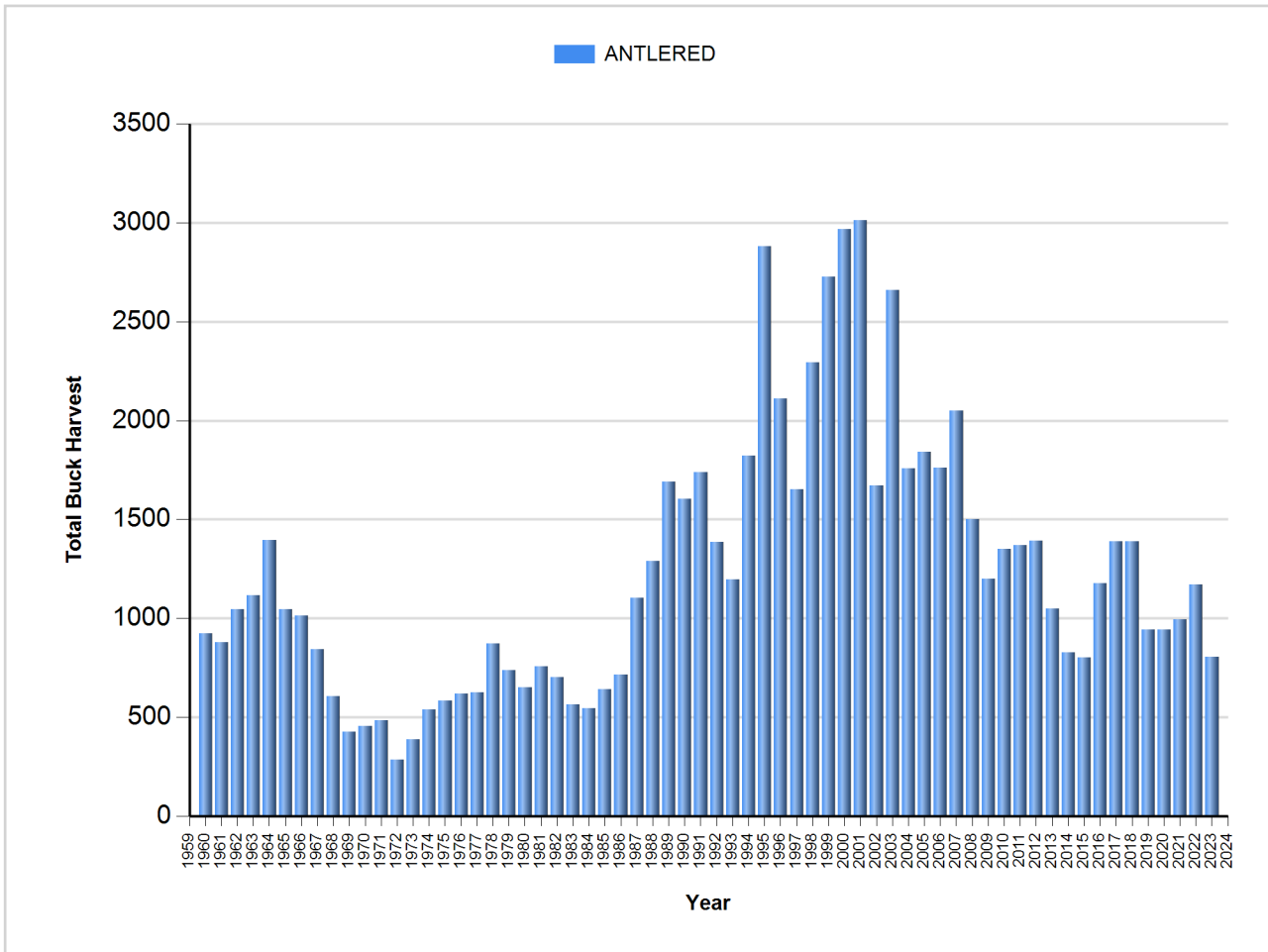
Total Deer Harvest 1960 - Present



Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 2001 - 3,013

Historic Low: 1972 - 286



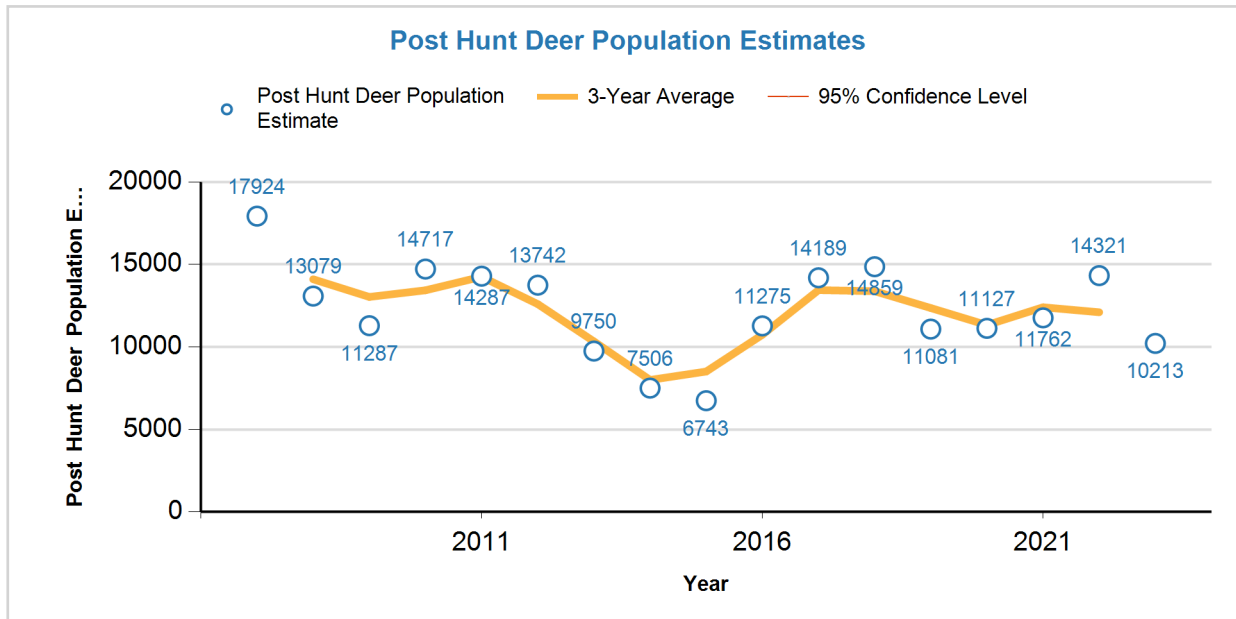
**Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for Ashland County - Northern Forest**

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Farmland - Public</b>				
Issued				
Killed				
Success Rate (%)				
<b>Farmland - Private</b>				
Issued				
Killed				
Success Rate (%)				
<b>Farmland - Total</b>				
Issued				
Killed				
Success Rate (%)				
<b>Bonus- Public</b>				
Available	0	0	100	100
Issued	0	0	100	100
Killed	0	0	28	18
Success Rate (%)			28.0	18.0
<b>Bonus- Private</b>				
Available	500	800	350	350
Issued	501	800	351	350
Killed	191	231	138	96
Success Rate (%)	38.1	28.9	39.3	27.4
<b>Bonus- Total</b>				
Available	500	800	450	450
Issued	501	800	451	450
Killed	191	231	166	114
Success Rate (%)	38.1	28.9	36.8	25.3



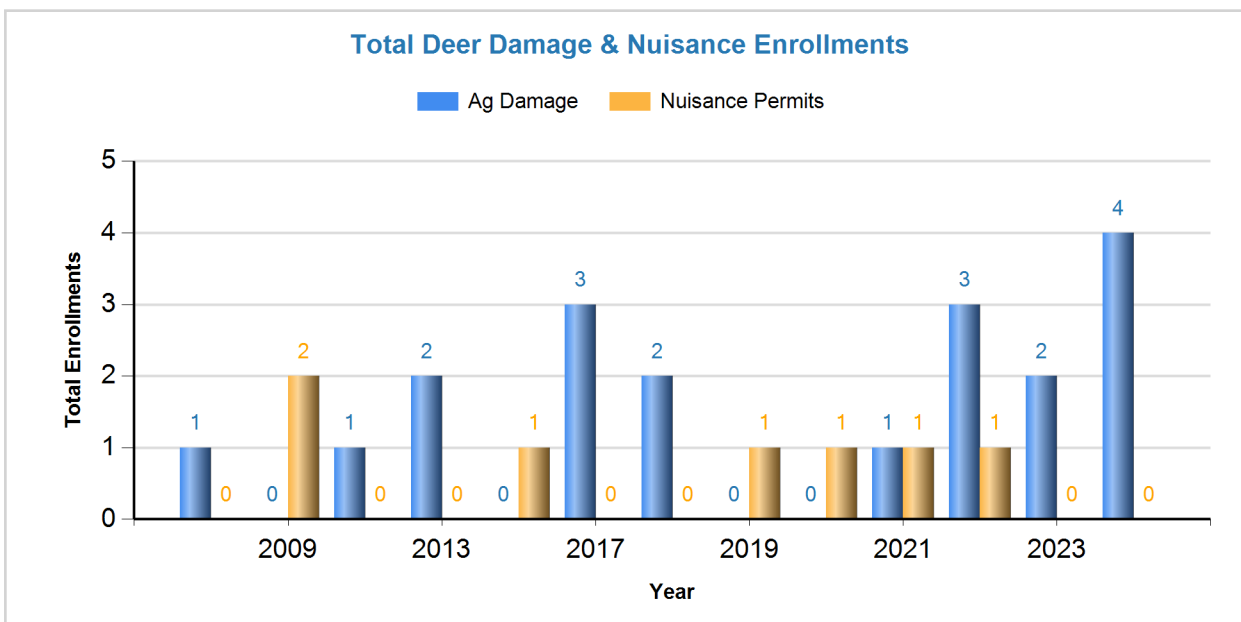
## Herd Abundance

Deer herd abundance is estimated annually with hunter-collected data and a mathematical model to get post hunt deer population estimates.

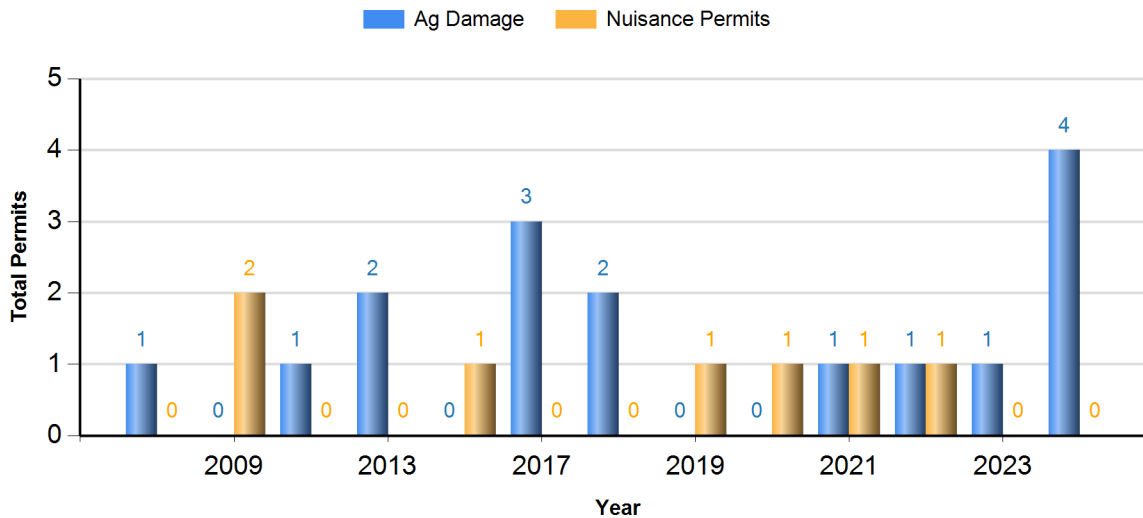


## Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

View trends in county and statewide enrollment, shooting permit, Ag Damage, and Nuisance harvest numbers over the years.



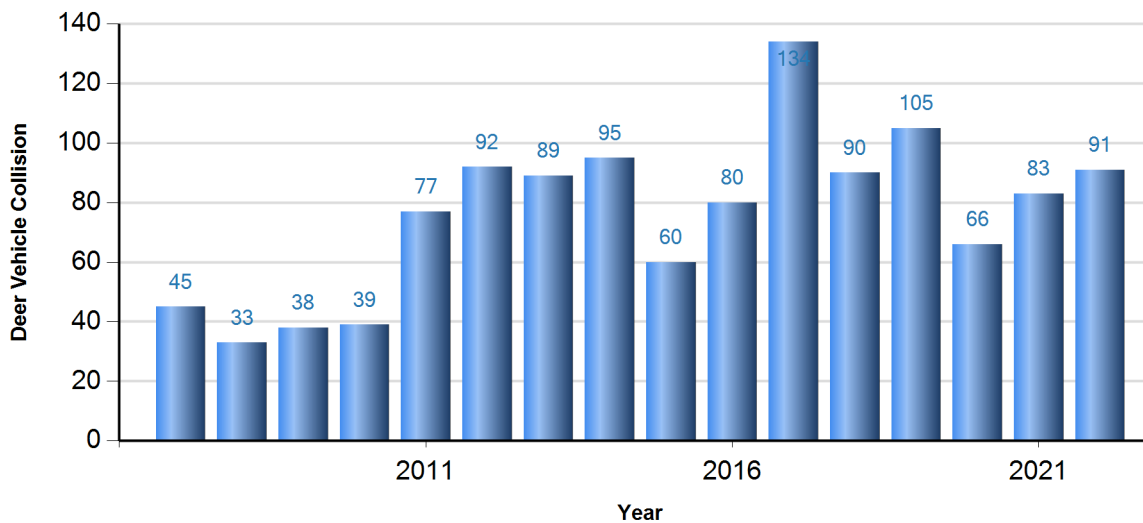
### Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued



### Deer Impacts – Deer Vehicle Collision

Deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs) are one of the most visible negative impacts that deer populations have on society. As managing deer involves balancing the positive benefits of deer with their negative impacts, it makes sense to consider DVCs when making deer management decisions.

#### Deer Vehicle Collisions



### Hunter Dynamics - Hunter Field Observations

This metric provides voluntary hunter observation data that is collected either during the process of registering a deer, or from submitted field observations through an on-line reporting form.

