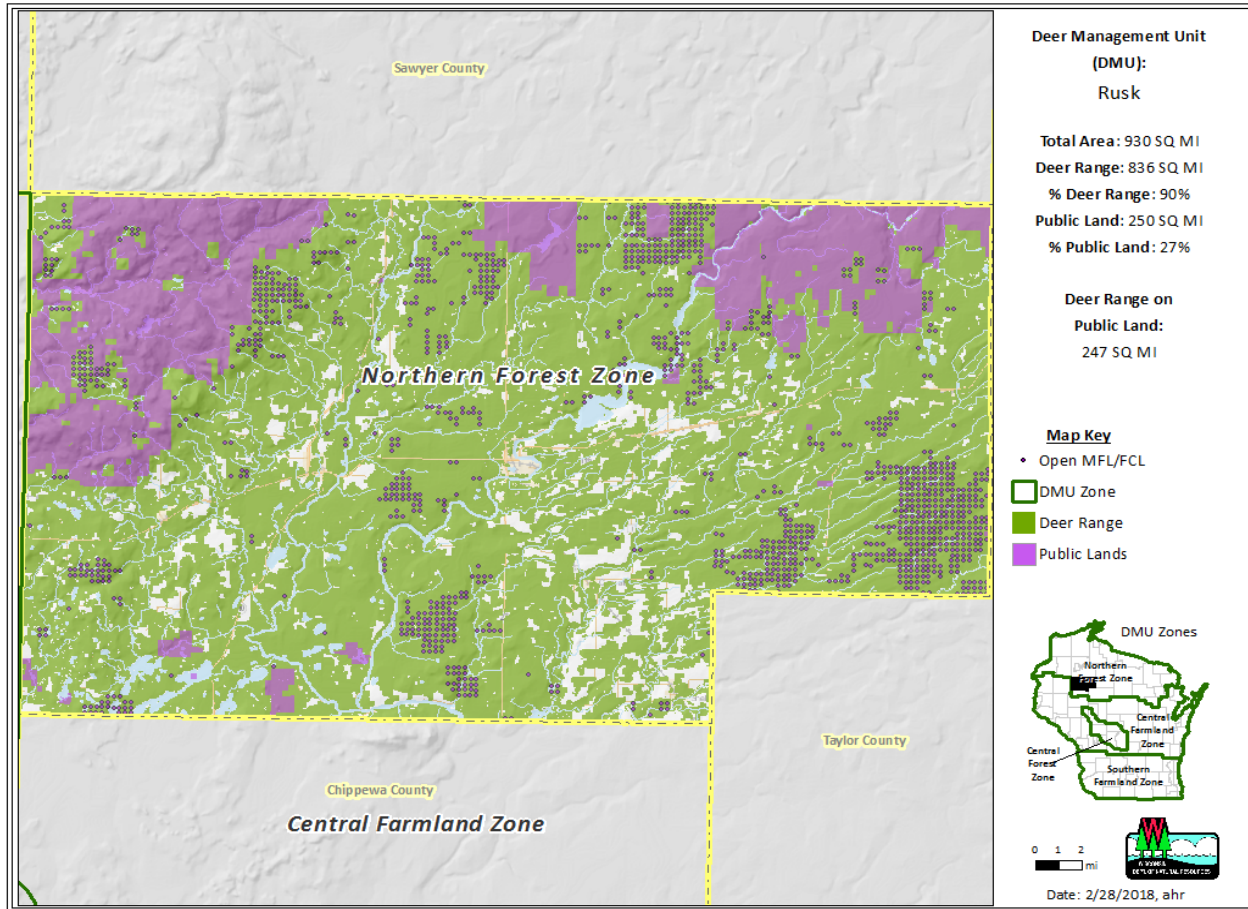


# Rusk County Deer Metrics Report

## Spring of 2024

### Management Unit:



### Manager's Note:

The Rusk County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 90 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. Habitat varies greatly and consequently deer populations vary across the unit. Areas in the southern half of the unit consist mostly of private land dominated by farms holding the best habitat and deer numbers. Of this area, the southwest portion is certainly the best habitat containing the highest deer herd. This area contains some public land consisting of three managed wildlife areas and a small amount of industrial forest land. The northern half of the unit contains some farmland in the central area but most is a mix of mature northern hardwood forest and associated wetland drainages which hold the lowest numbers of deer. Public land makes up about one-quarter of the total unit area. The northern portions abound with public hunting opportunities on county forest, state forest and industrial forest landownership. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season range from 10 hunters per square mile of deer range to 15 or more in the southern portion of the unit. The buck harvest rate is 2-3 bucks per square mile of deer range in the forested areas to 5-6 per square mile of deer range in the farm country. Recent years have had lower than average long-term buck harvest rates. The current deer herd management objective is to maintain 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**

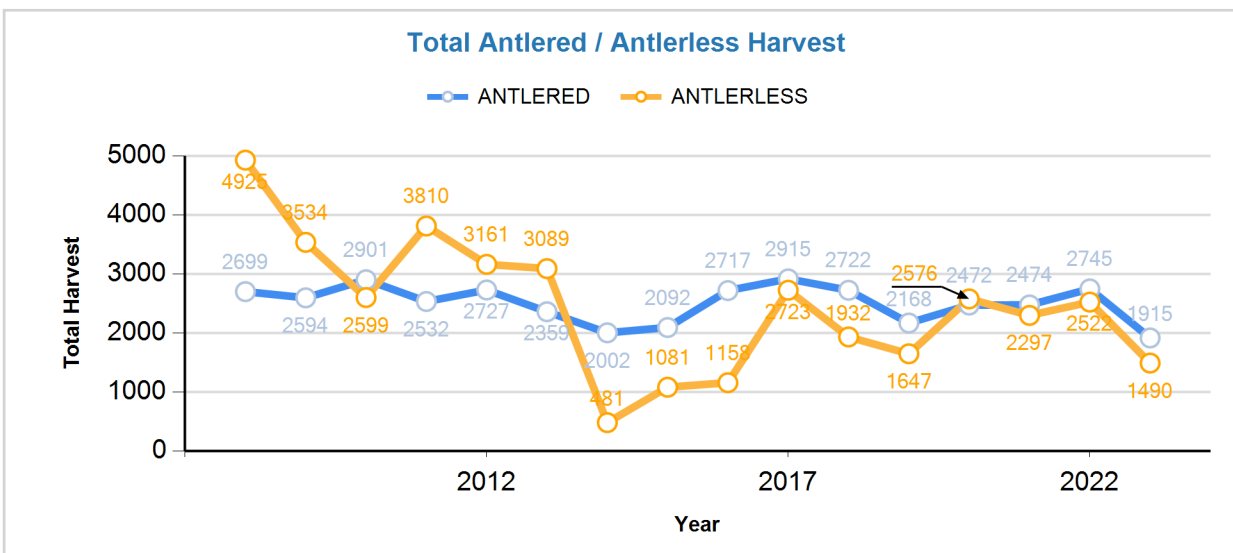
Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 930.30

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 835.60

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

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total Harvest</b>										
Antlered	2002	2092	2717	2915	2722	2168	2472	2474	2745	1915
Antlerless	489	1081	1158	2723	1932	1647	2576	2297	2522	1490
Total	2491	3173	3875	5638	4654	3815	5048	4771	5267	3405
<b>Gun</b>										
Antlered	1412	1386	1837	2026	1970	1343	1392	1525	1838	1269
Antlerless	432	845	932	2069	1493	1215	1858	1714	1959	1124
Total	1844	2231	2769	4095	3463	2558	3250	3239	3797	2393
<b>Bow</b>										
Antlered	346	390	415	380	271	311	351	270	231	190
Antlerless	35	105	101	309	187	172	252	180	170	102
Total	381	495	516	689	458	483	603	450	401	292
<b>Crossbow</b>										
Antlered	241	301	460	497	475	510	722	674	672	450
Antlerless	18	121	115	339	249	256	457	399	388	264
Total	259	422	575	836	724	766	1179	1073	1060	714
<b>Tribal*</b>										
Antlered	3	15	5	12	6	4	7	5	4	6
Antlerless	4	10	10	6	3	4	9	4	5	0
Total	7	25	15	18	9	8	16	9	9	6
<b>Youth Antlerless*</b>										
Antlerless	0	0	498	432	422	273	309	240	260	139

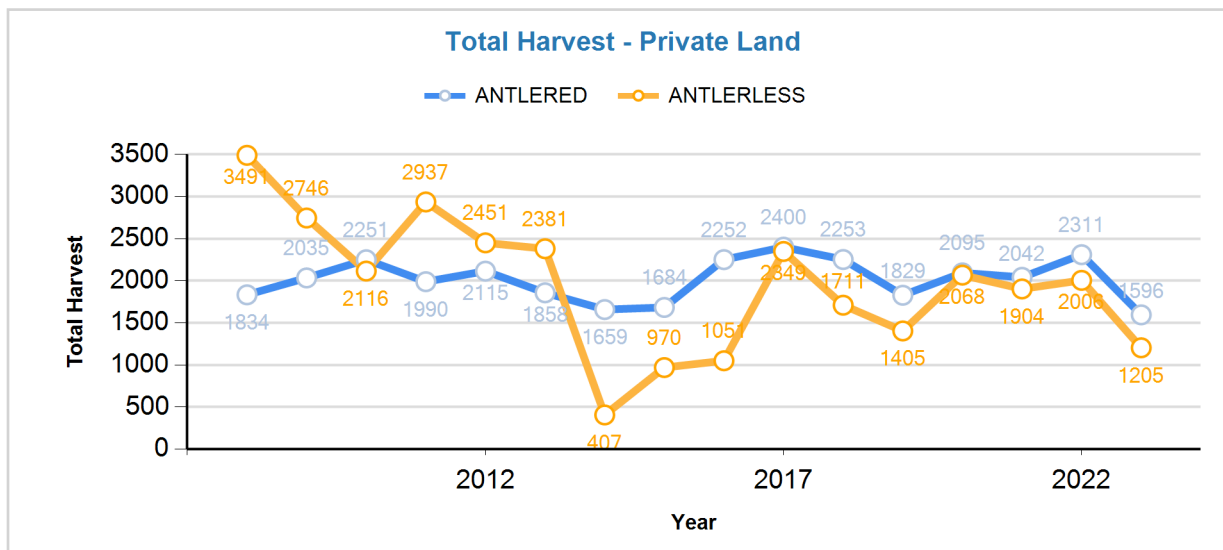
\* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



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

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total Harvest</b>										
Antlered	1659	1684	2252	2400	2253	1829	2095	2042	2311	1596
Antlerless	415	970	1051	2349	1711	1405	2068	1904	2006	1205
Total	2074	2654	3303	4749	3964	3234	4163	3946	4317	2801
<b>Gun</b>										
Antlered	1156	1088	1489	1648	1609	1122	1153	1233	1537	1055
Antlerless	371	756	844	1769	1308	1035	1476	1396	1541	889
Total	1527	1844	2333	3417	2917	2157	2629	2629	3078	1944
<b>Bow</b>										
Antlered	294	316	353	315	219	253	299	221	190	149
Antlerless	30	99	97	279	172	141	203	156	136	82
Total	324	415	450	594	391	394	502	377	326	231
<b>Crossbow</b>										
Antlered	209	280	410	437	425	454	643	588	584	392
Antlerless	14	115	110	301	231	229	389	352	329	234
Total	223	395	520	738	656	683	1032	940	913	626
<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	411	349	339	229	258	209	226	124

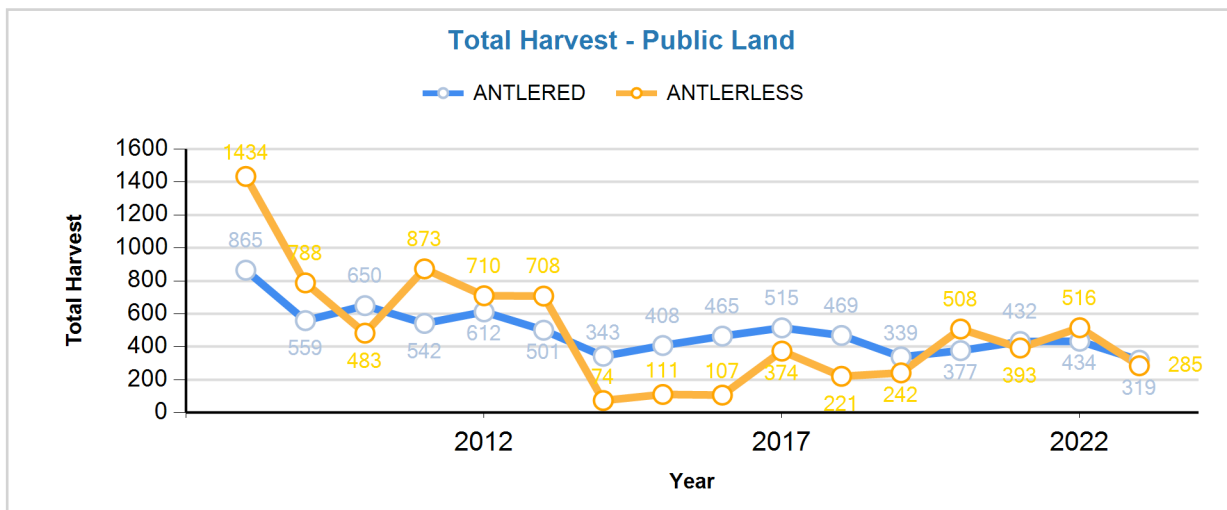
\* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply

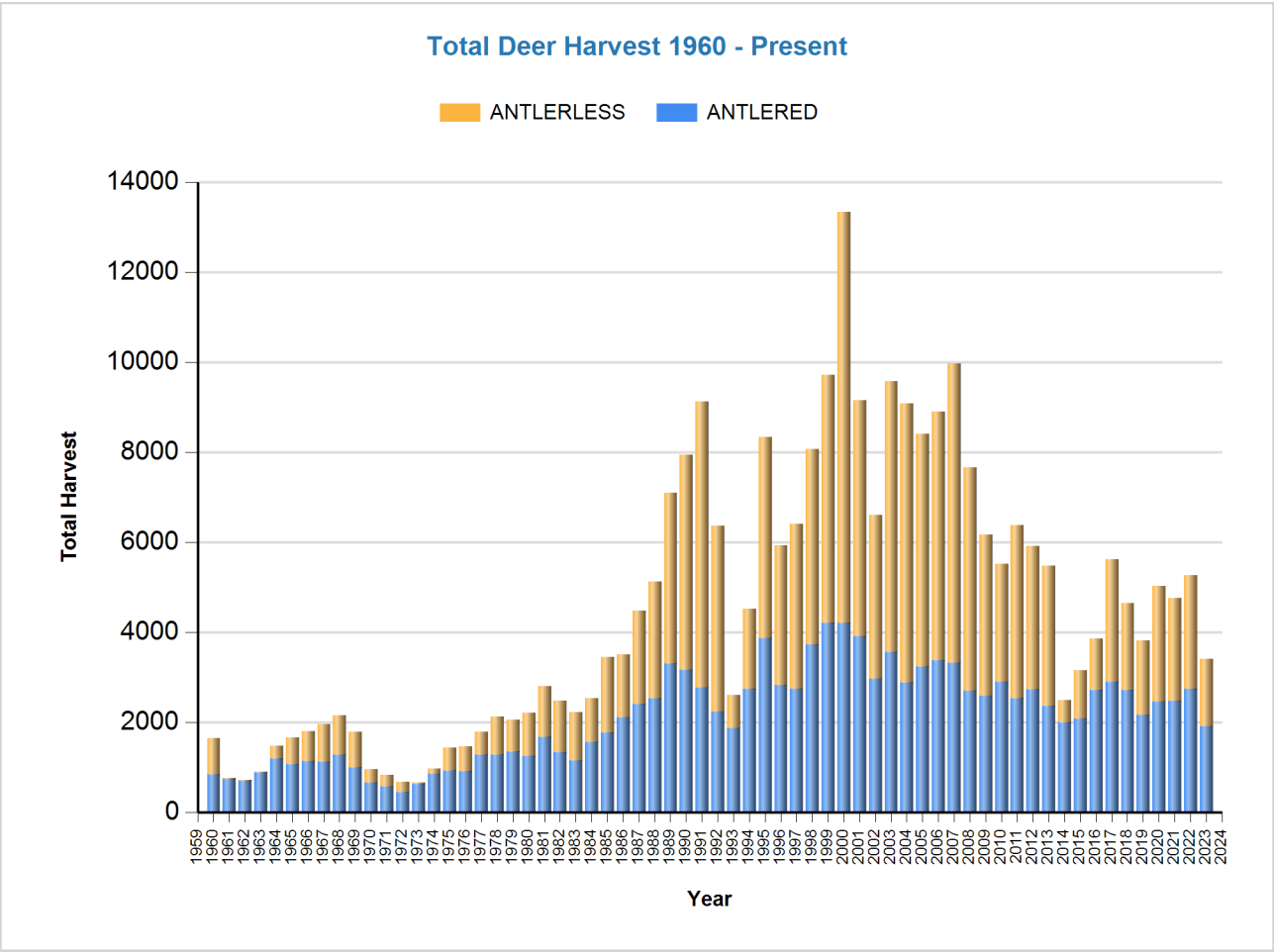


## Total Harvest for Rusk County - Northern Forest Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total Harvest</b>										
Antlered	343	408	465	515	469	339	377	432	434	319
Antlerless	74	111	107	374	221	242	508	393	516	285
Total	417	519	572	889	690	581	885	825	950	604
<b>Gun</b>										
Antlered	256	298	348	378	361	221	239	292	301	214
Antlerless	61	89	88	300	185	180	382	318	418	235
Total	317	387	436	678	546	401	621	610	719	449
<b>Bow</b>										
Antlered	52	74	62	65	52	58	52	49	41	41
Antlerless	5	6	4	30	15	31	49	24	34	20
Total	57	80	66	95	67	89	101	73	75	61
<b>Crossbow</b>										
Antlered	32	21	50	60	50	56	79	86	88	58
Antlerless	4	6	5	38	18	27	68	47	59	30
Total	36	27	55	98	68	83	147	133	147	88
<b>Tribal*</b>										
Antlered	3	15	5	12	6	4	7	5	4	6
Antlerless	4	10	10	6	3	4	9	4	5	0
Total	7	25	15	18	9	8	16	9	9	6
<b>Youth Antlerless*</b>										
Antlerless	0	0	87	83	83	44	51	31	34	15

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

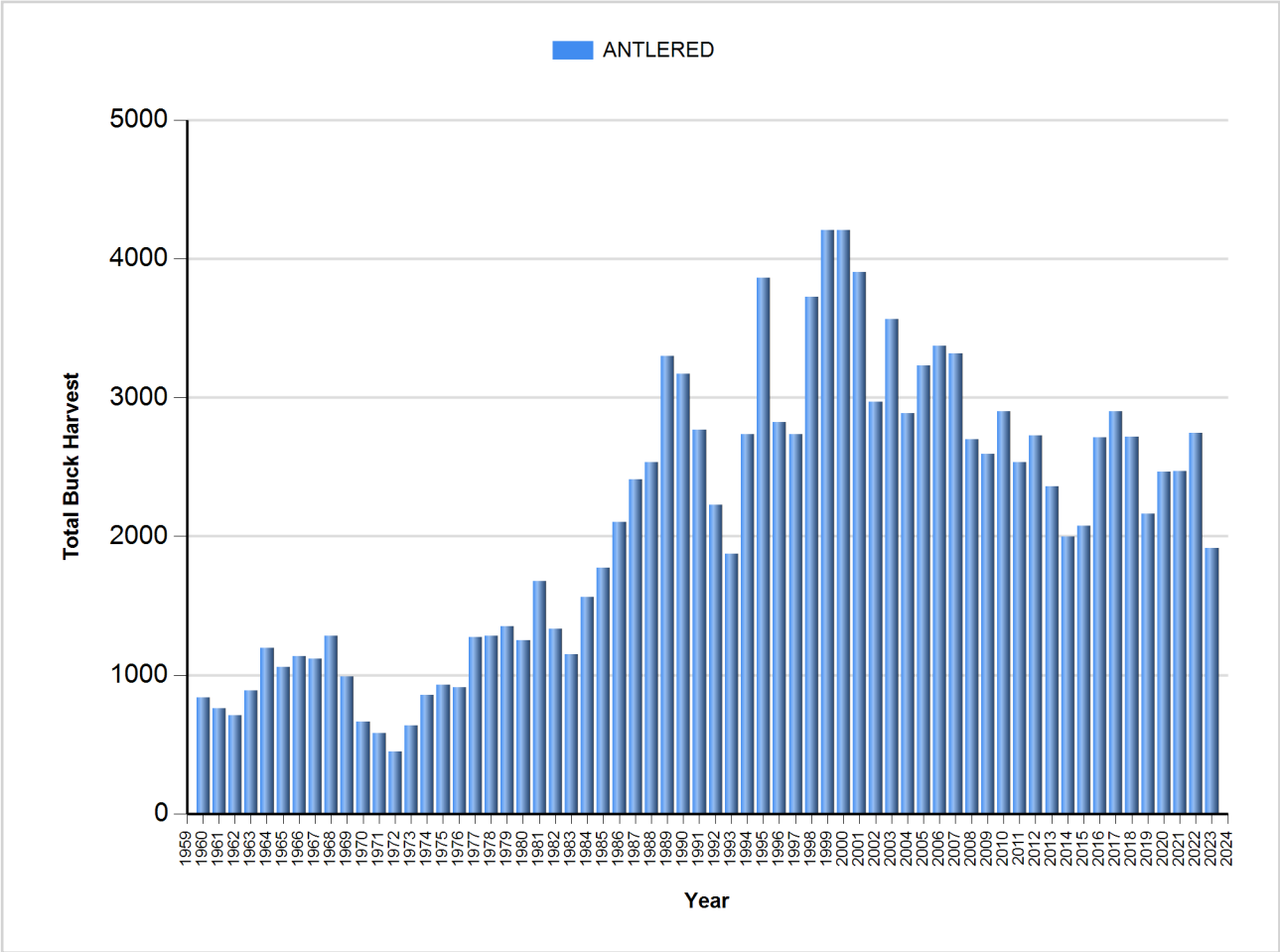




Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 1999 - 4,209

Historic Low: 1972 - 449



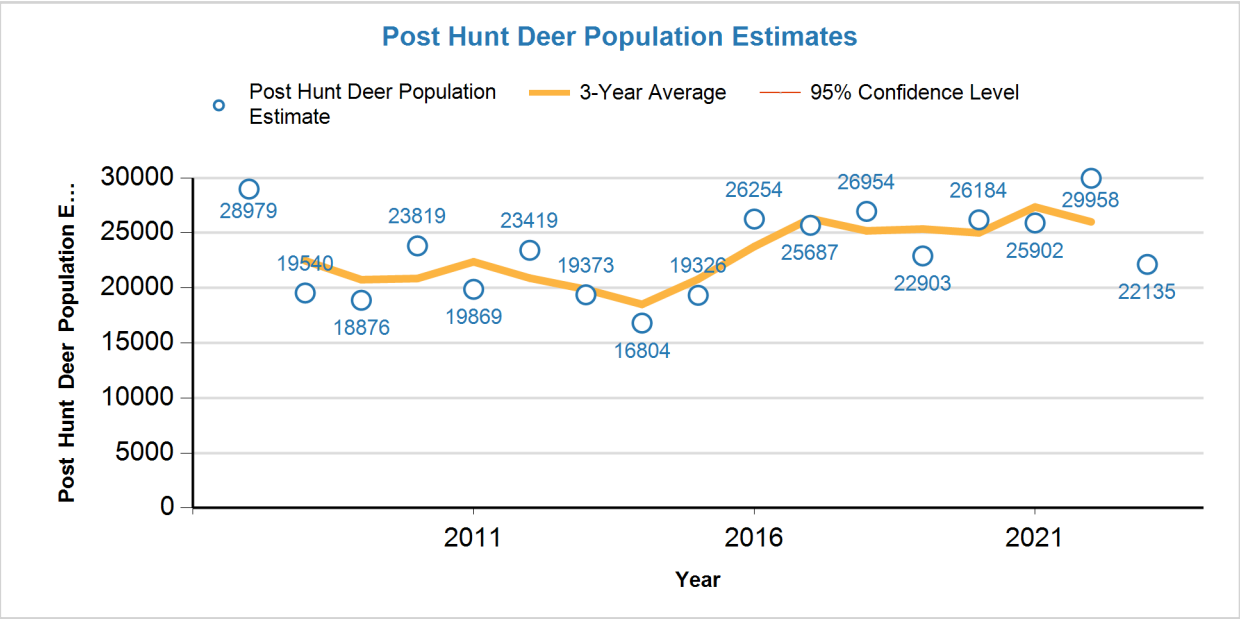
**Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for Rusk County - Northern Forest**

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	2,500	2,500	2,850	2,850
Issued	2,401	2,307	2,263	2,135
Killed	445	354	472	238
Success Rate (%)	18.5	15.3	20.9	11.1
<b>Bonus- Private</b>				
Available	6,625	11,725	11,425	11,425
Issued	6,223	6,099	5,988	5,475
Killed	1,666	1,548	1,628	995
Success Rate (%)	26.8	25.4	27.2	18.2
<b>Bonus- Total</b>				
Available	9,125	14,225	14,275	14,275
Issued	8,624	8,406	8,251	7,610
Killed	2,111	1,902	2,100	1,233
Success Rate (%)	24.5	22.6	25.5	16.2



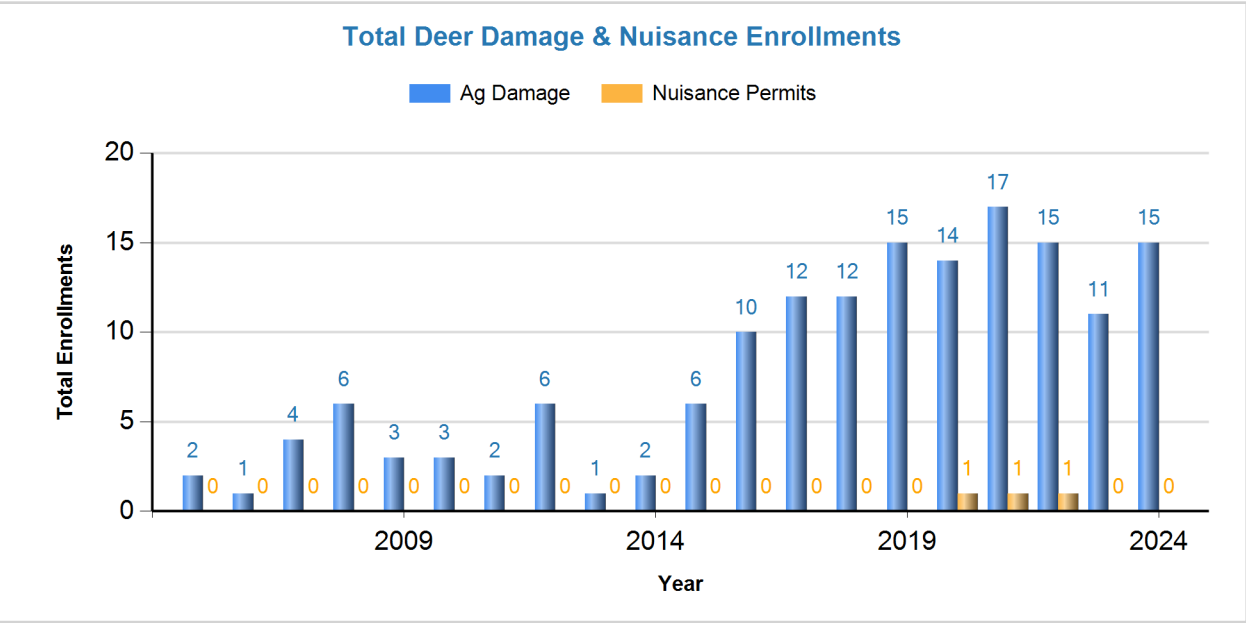
*Herd Abundance*

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

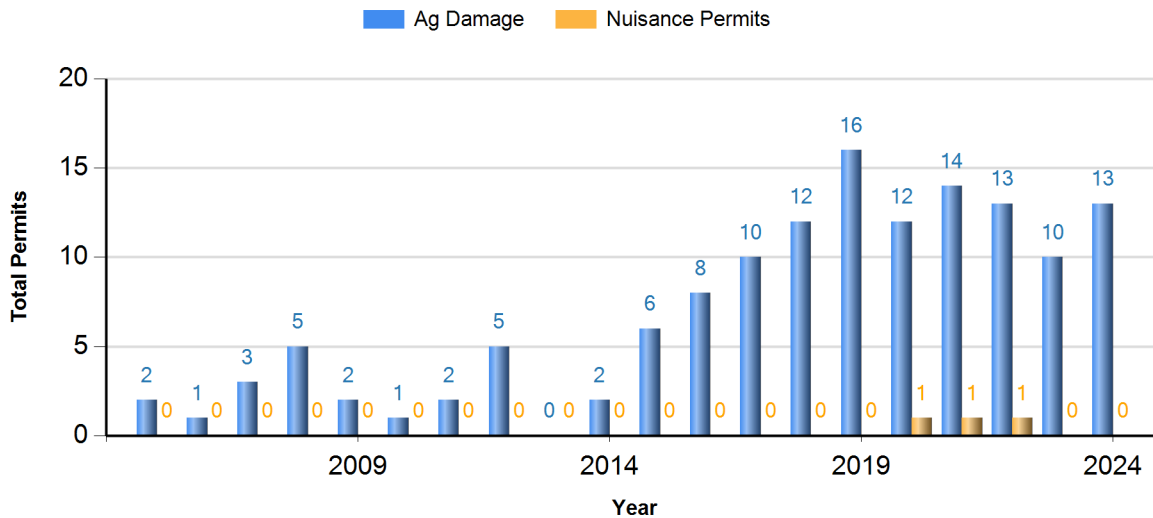


*Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts*

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



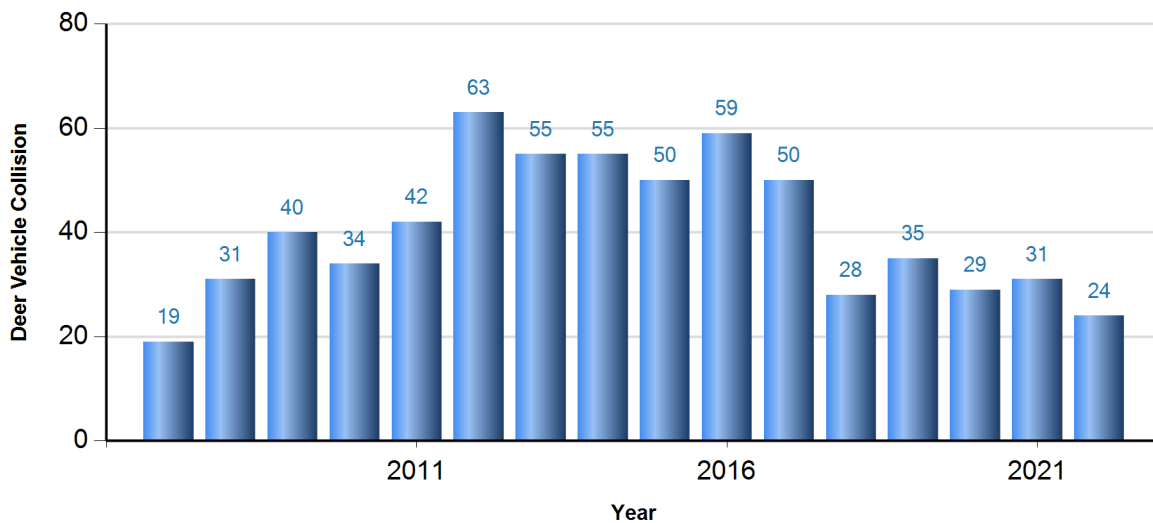
### Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued



### 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.

