Sawyer County Deer Metrics Report
Spring of 2024

Management Unit:

Deer Management Unit (DMU): Sawyer

Total Area : 1226 SQ MI
Deer Range : 1114 SQ MI
% Deer Range : 91%
Public Land : 654 SQ MI
% Public Land : 53%

Deer Range on Public Land: 643 SQ MI

Map Key
- Open MFL/FCL
- ▢ DMU Zone
- ▢ Deer Range
- ▢ Public Lands

Manager's Note:

The Sawyer County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 91 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range (1,114 square miles). The unit consists of 1,226 square miles of land area and is comprised of 53 percent public land and 47 percent private land. Habitat varies from northern forest interspersed with agricultural areas in southwest and west central portions of the unit; oak, pine and hardwoods in the northwest and northern portions; some large black spruce swamps interspersed with lowland hardwoods in the east and mixed upland conifer-hardwood areas in the north and east. Soil type influences habitat type with soil types ranging from light, sandy soils in the west, heavy, silt loams in the south and east and mixed soils in the north and northeast portions of the unit. Deer densities are unevenly distributed throughout the unit depending on landownership, quality of habitat and land-use. Large areas of state, county and industrial forests in the west, southwest, southeast and east-central portions maintain intense forest management which promotes young forest growth and high quality deer habitat. Relatively less timber harvest occurs in the northeast portion of the unit on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF), resulting in lower deer carrying capacities but more wilderness-style hunting opportunities. The new "Good Neighbor Authority" on the CNNF, which allows the US Forest Service to get help from State and County Foresters with setting up timber harvests on the national forest, is resulting in more timber being harvested and better deer habitat on the CNNF to occur. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 9 hunters per square mile of deer range. Buck harvest averages 1 to 2 bucks per square mile of deer range. As of the fall of 2017 the deer herd management objective is to maintain the population, however, the Sawyer County Deer Advisory Council intends to seek greater balance of deer between public and private landownership.

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.
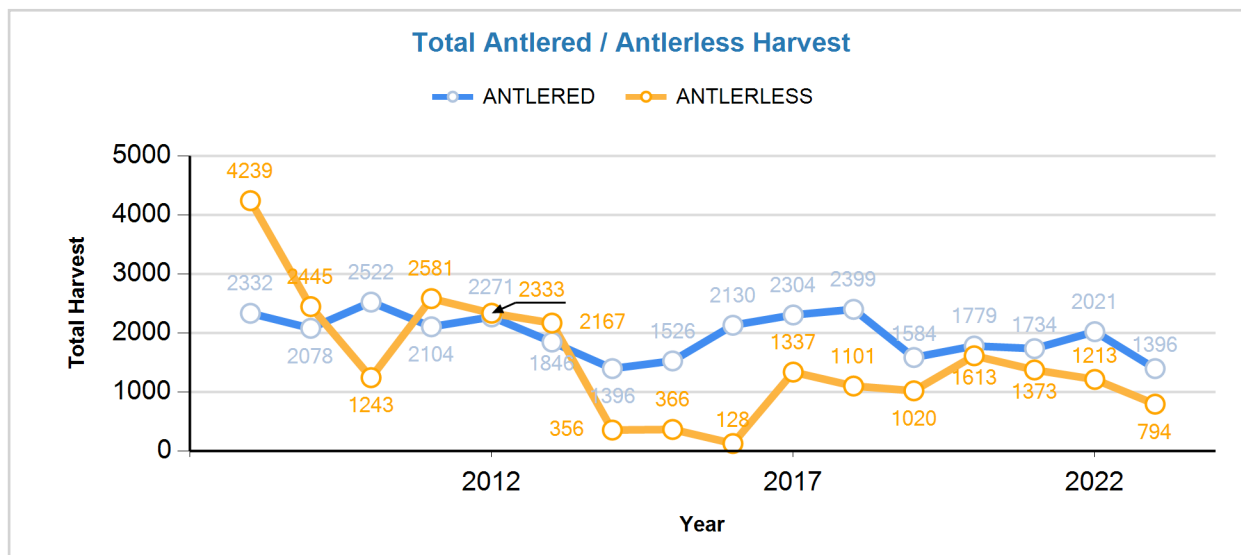
Northern Forest Management Zone

Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 1,226.30

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 1,114.00

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

Total Harvest for Sawyer County - Northern Forest Management Zone

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	1396	1526	2130	2304	2399	1584	1779	1734	2021	1396
Antlerless	363	366	128	1337	1101	1020	1613	1373	1213	794
Total	1759	1892	2258	3641	3500	2604	3392	3107	3234	2190
Gun										
Antlered	955	997	1452	1519	1722	932	948	1064	1345	968
Antlerless	288	254	51	901	791	716	1043	980	844	542
Total	1243	1251	1503	2420	2513	1648	1991	2044	2189	1510
Bow										
Antlered	238	266	317	306	236	220	255	210	194	118
Antlerless	18	12	2	159	96	106	193	116	108	76
Total	256	278	319	465	332	326	448	326	302	194
Crossbow										
Antlered	163	228	312	393	384	396	549	429	448	284
Antlerless	12	14	3	194	165	176	341	259	249	166
Total	175	242	315	587	549	572	890	688	697	450
Tribal*										
Antlered	40	35	49	86	57	36	27	31	34	26
Antlerless	45	86	72	83	49	22	36	18	12	10
Total	85	121	121	169	106	58	63	49	46	36
Youth Antlerless*										
Antlerless	0	0	3	230	239	181	184	119	144	75

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

Total Antlered / Antlerless Harvest

Total Harvest for Sawyer County - Northern Forest Management Zone - Private Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	903	992	1286	1386	1517	1047	1274	1145	1361	943
Antlerless	248	202	44	1029	806	793	1231	1111	944	622
Total	1151	1194	1330	2415	2323	1840	2505	2256	2305	1565
Gun										
Antlered	621	624	860	905	1072	612	650	680	880	642
Antlerless	225	181	41	730	594	557	801	790	637	410
Total	846	805	901	1635	1666	1169	1451	1470	1517	1052
Bow										
Antlered	157	184	187	180	151	132	170	121	137	77
Antlerless	13	9	1	135	78	90	152	97	94	66
Total	170	193	188	315	229	222	322	218	231	143
Crossbow										
Antlered	125	184	239	301	294	303	454	344	344	224
Antlerless	10	12	2	164	134	146	278	224	213	146
Total	135	196	241	465	428	449	732	568	557	370
Tribal*										
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
Youth Antlerless*										
Antlerless	0	0	1	164	156	140	137	94	94	57

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

Total Harvest - Private Land
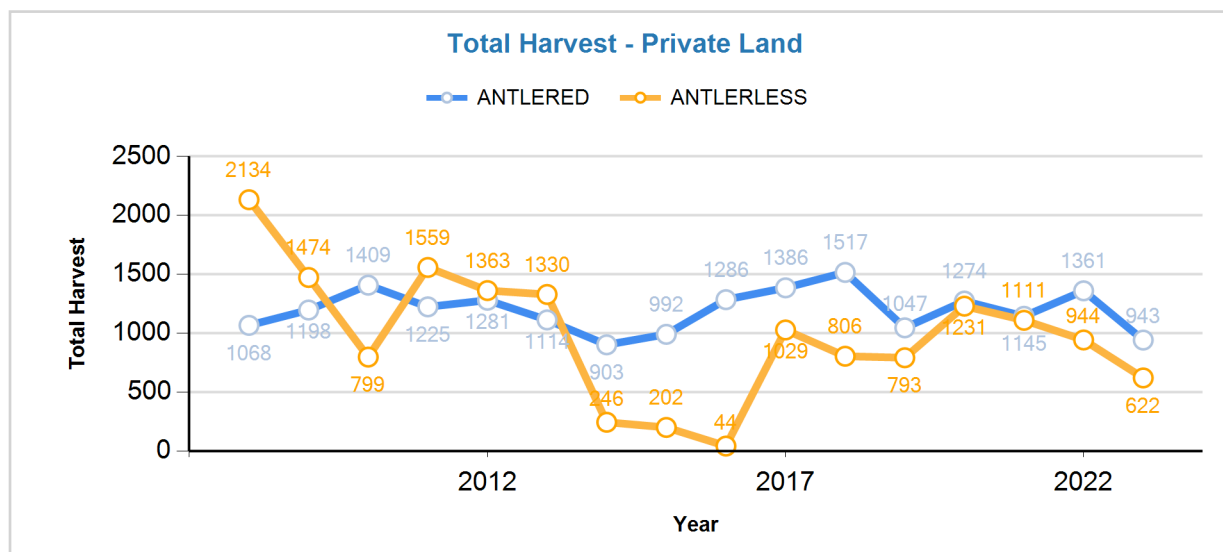
Total Harvest for Sawyer County - Northern Forest Management Zone - Public Land

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Harvest										
Antlered	493	534	844	918	882	537	505	589	660	453
Antlerless	115	164	84	308	295	227	382	262	269	172
Total	608	698	928	1226	1177	764	887	851	929	625
Gun										
Antlered	334	373	592	614	650	320	298	384	465	326
Antlerless	63	73	10	171	197	159	242	190	207	132
Total	397	446	602	785	847	479	540	574	672	458
Bow										
Antlered	81	82	130	126	85	88	85	89	57	41
Antlerless	5	3	1	24	18	16	41	19	14	10
Total	86	85	131	150	103	104	126	108	71	51
Crossbow										
Antlered	38	44	73	92	90	93	95	85	104	60
Antlerless	2	2	1	30	31	30	63	35	36	20
Total	40	46	74	122	121	123	158	120	140	80
Tribal*										
Antlered	40	35	49	86	57	36	27	31	34	26
Antlerless	45	86	72	83	49	22	36	18	12	10
Total	85	121	121	169	106	58	63	49	46	36
Youth Antlerless*										
Antlerless	0	0	2	66	83	41	47	25	50	18

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

Total Harvest - Public Land

Total Deer Harvest 1960 - Present

Legend: ANTLERLESS (orange), ANTLERED (blue)

X-axis: Year (1959–2024)
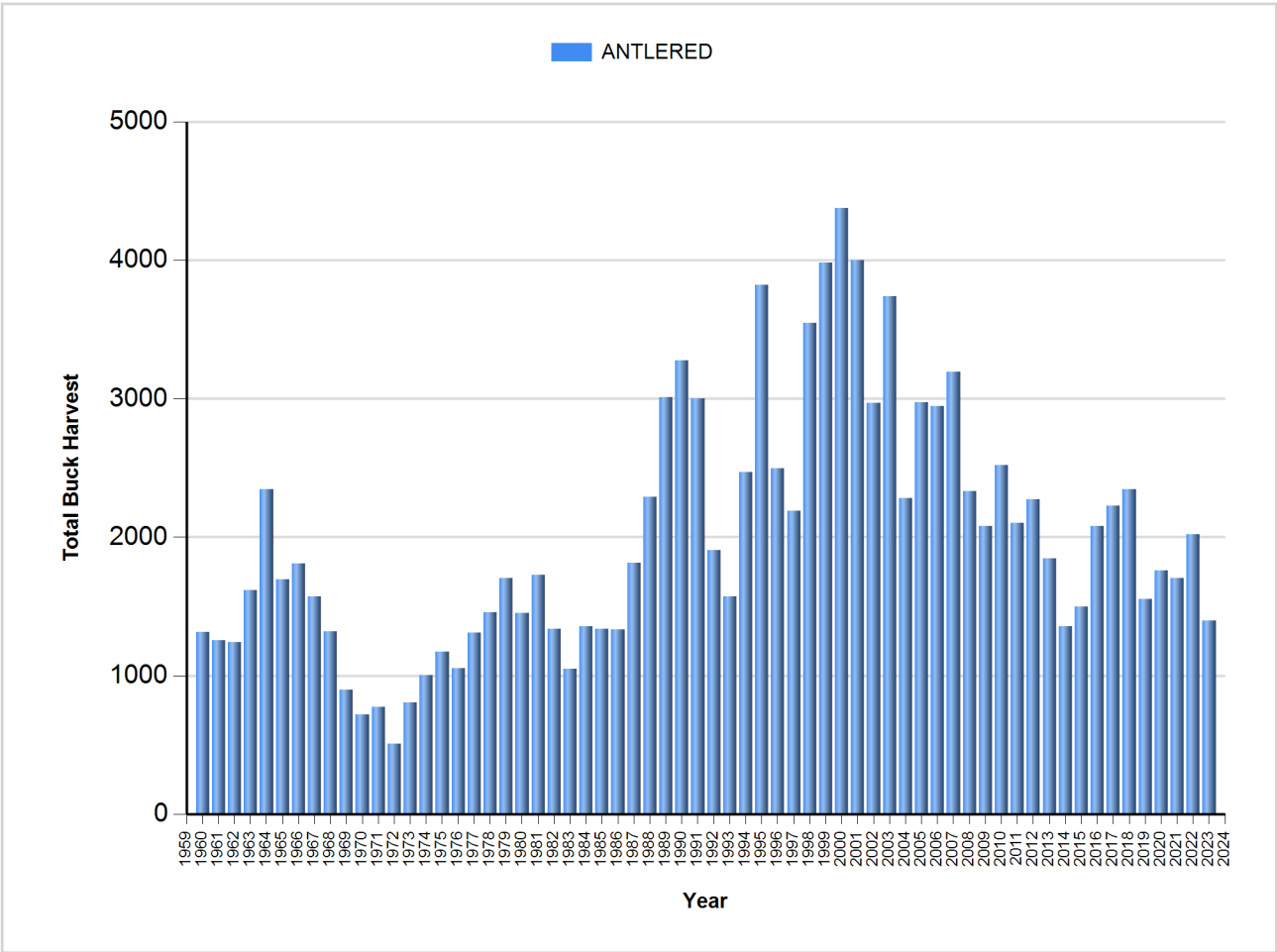Y-axis: Total Harvest (0–14000)
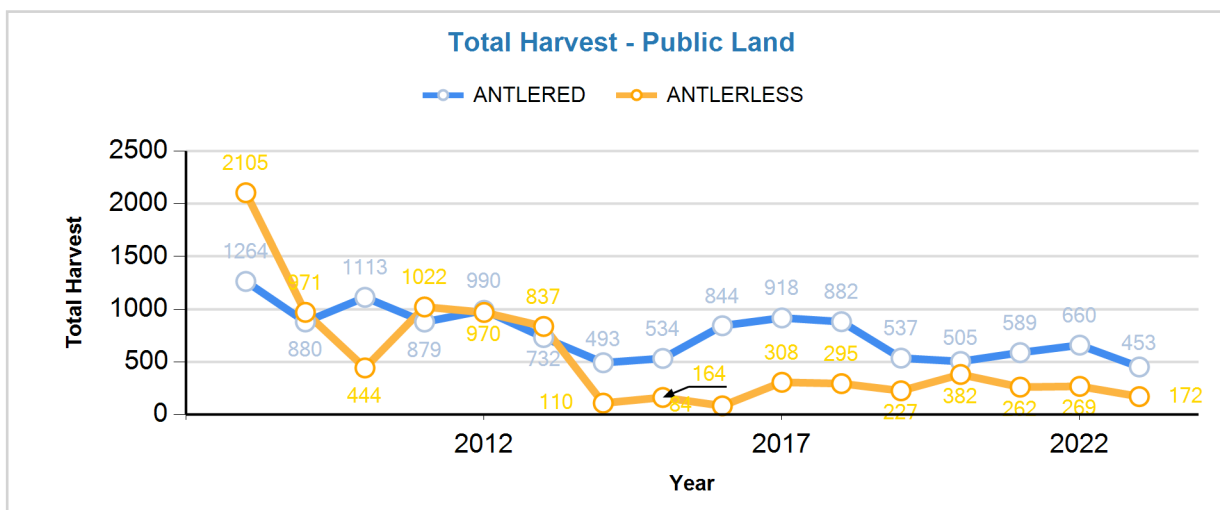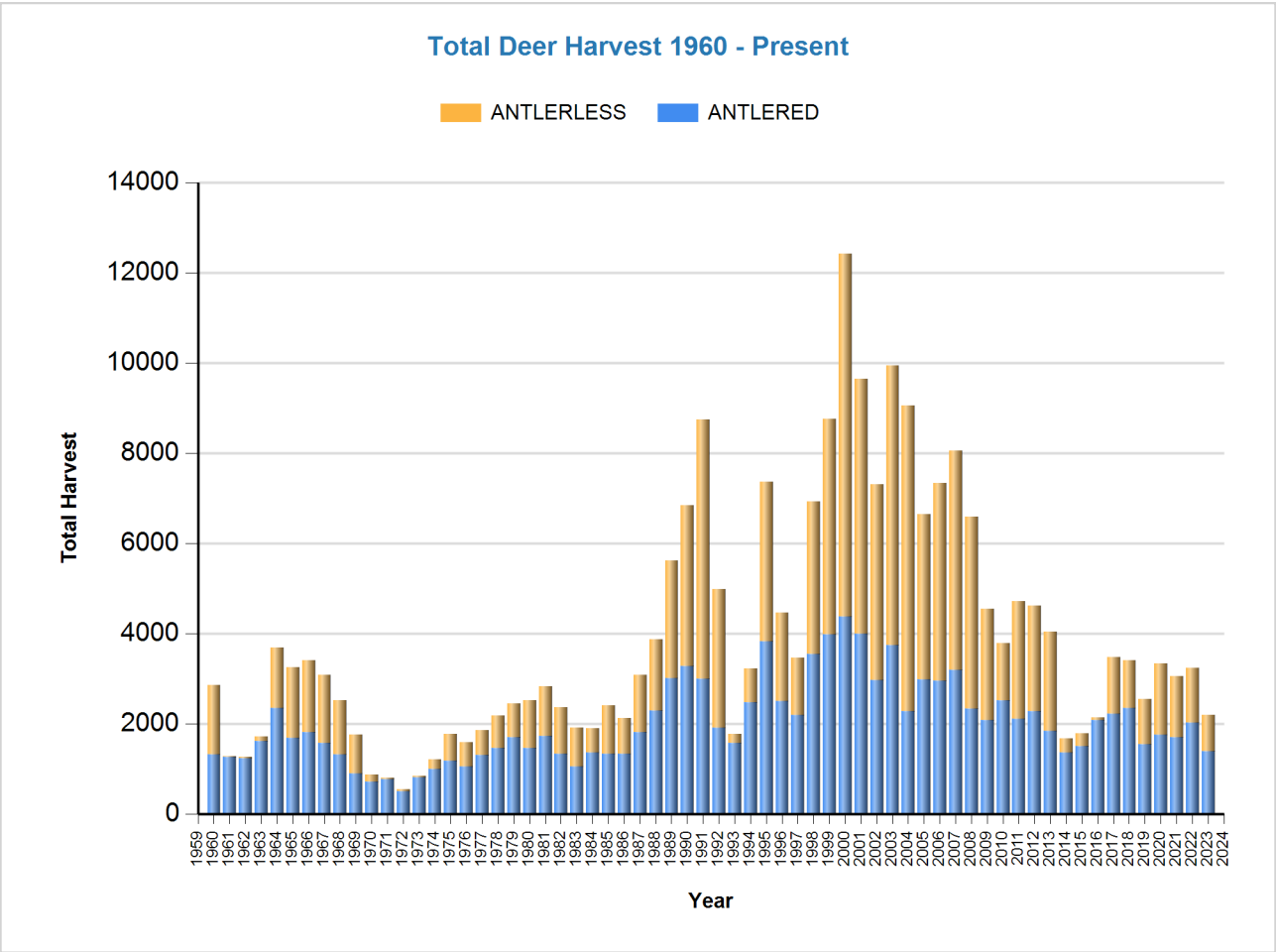
Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 2000 - 4,378

Historic Low: 1972 - 508

Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for Sawyer County - Northern Forest

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Farmland - Public				
Issued				
Killed				
Success Rate (%)				
Farmland - Private				
Issued				
Killed				
Success Rate (%)				
Farmland - Total				
Issued				
Killed				
Success Rate (%)				
Bonus- Public				
Available	1,300	1,150	875	950
Issued	1,300	1,150	875	950
Killed	294	212	203	138
Success Rate (%)	22.6	18.4	23.2	14.5
Bonus- Private				
Available	3,800	11,300	3,000	3,200
Issued	3,799	4,311	3,005	3,205
Killed	1,011	939	768	500
Success Rate (%)	26.6	21.8	25.6	15.6
Bonus- Total				
Available	5,100	12,450	3,875	4,150
Issued	5,099	5,461	3,880	4,155
Killed	1,305	1,151	971	638
Success Rate (%)	25.6	21.1	25.0	15.4

Herd Abundance

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

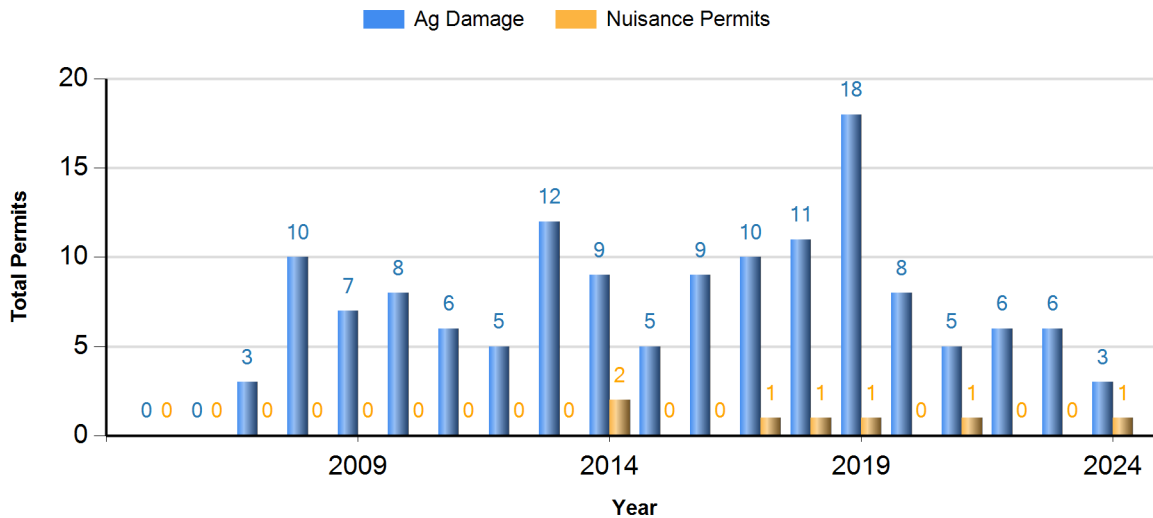### Post Hunt Deer Population Estimates
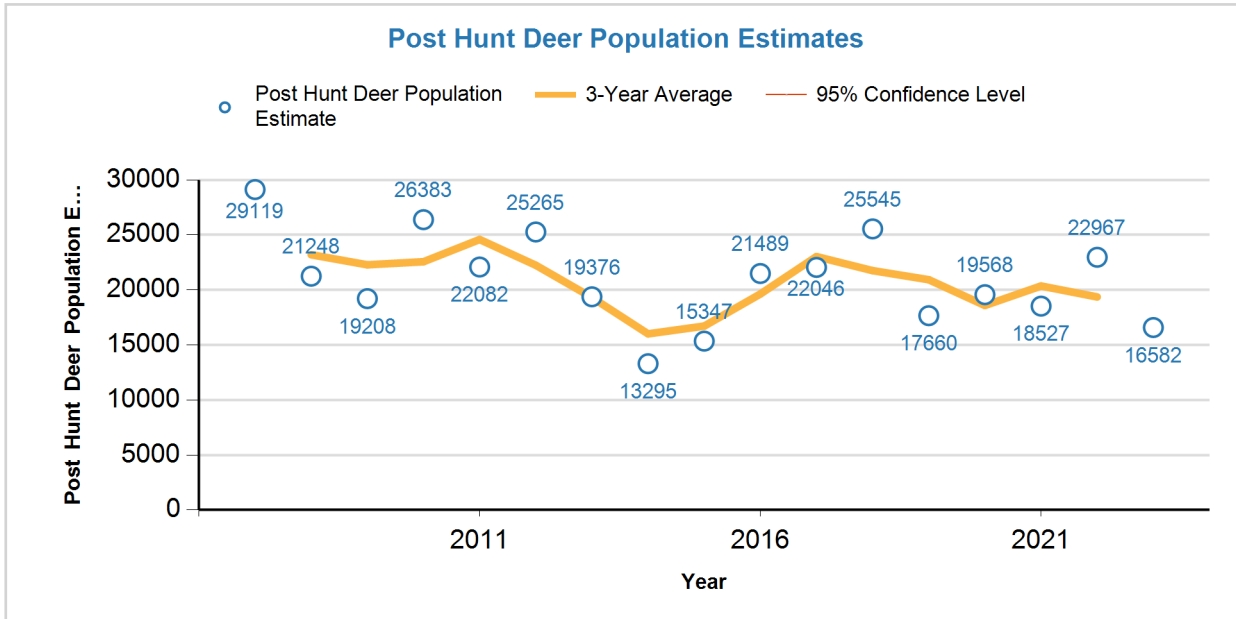
Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

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

Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Enrollments
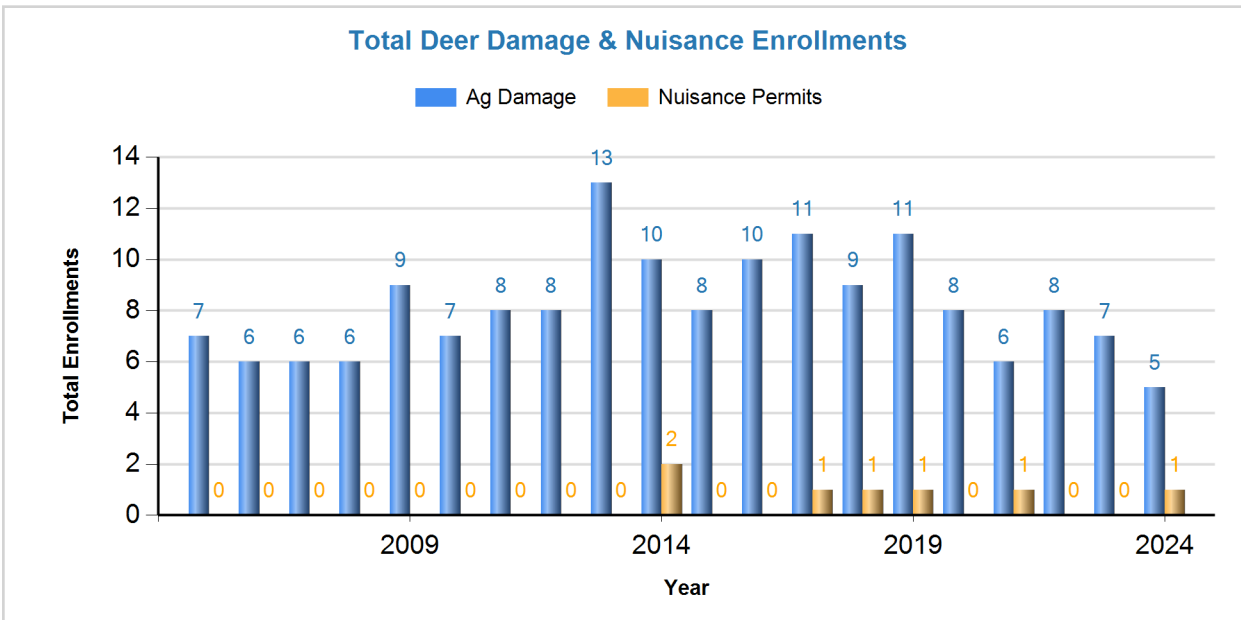
Total Deer Damage & Nuisance Shooting Permits Issued

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.
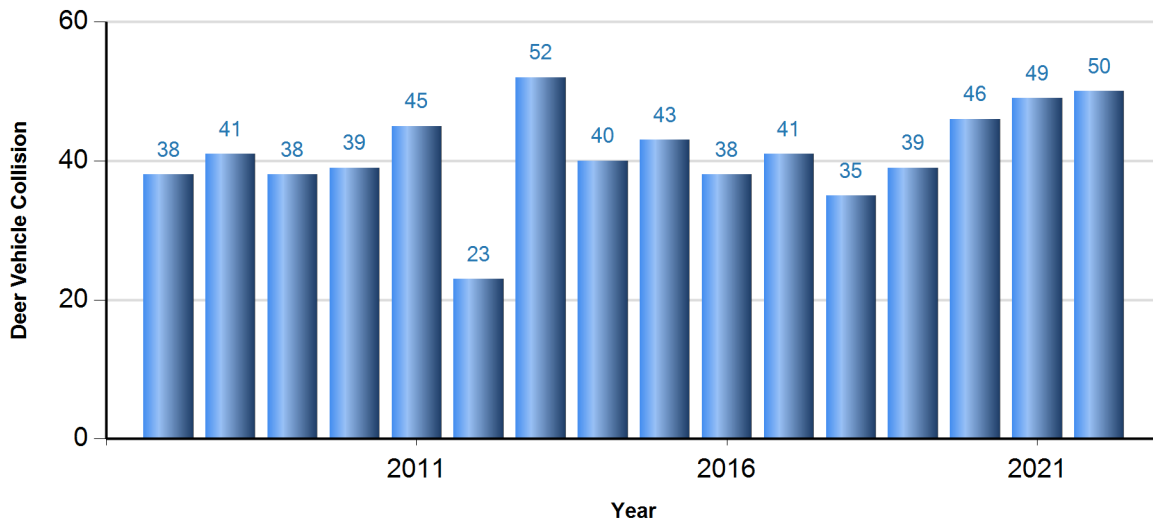
Hunter Dynamics - Hunter Field Observations

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.

Deer Seen Per Hunted Hour