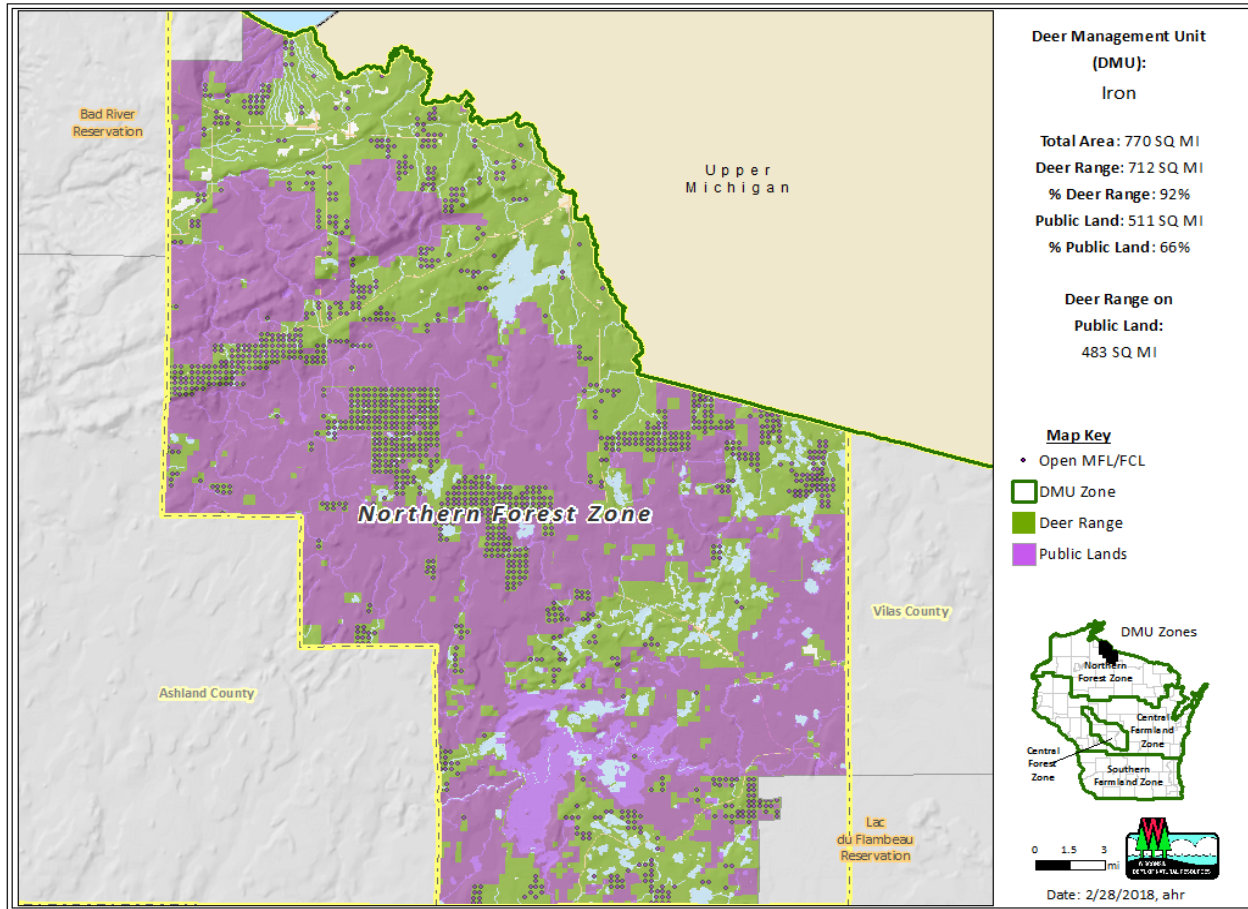


Iron County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Iron County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 92 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range (742 square miles). This mostly forested unit contains upland forests comprised of mixed northern hardwood, aspen, oak (limited), balsam fir, white pine, jack pine, spruce and hemlock and lowland forests comprised of tamarack, spruce and cedar. Iron County has very little agriculture with most residing in the far north. The unit also contains a large amount of county-owned forest land (over 170,000 acres). Being in the Lake Superior Snowbelt, the northern portion of the unit commonly receives heavy snowfall. With large amounts of northern hardwoods and forested wetlands and very little agricultural and non-forested uplands, this unit can only support a moderate deer population. Much of the unit land base is open to public hunting including Iron County Forest, Underwood Wildlife Area, portions of Northern Highland American Legion State Forest, Moose Lake Natural Area, Island Lake Hemlocks State Natural Area, Caroline Lake State Natural Area, Bass Lake Preserve State Natural Area, Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area, as well as thousands of acres of industrial forest land open to the public through the open Managed Forest Land and Forest Crop Land programs. Low hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average 5-6 hunters per square mile of deer range. Buck harvest ranges from about 1 deer harvested per square mile of deer range. It is important to note that this unit can only support a moderate deer population because of habitat quality and winter severity. 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

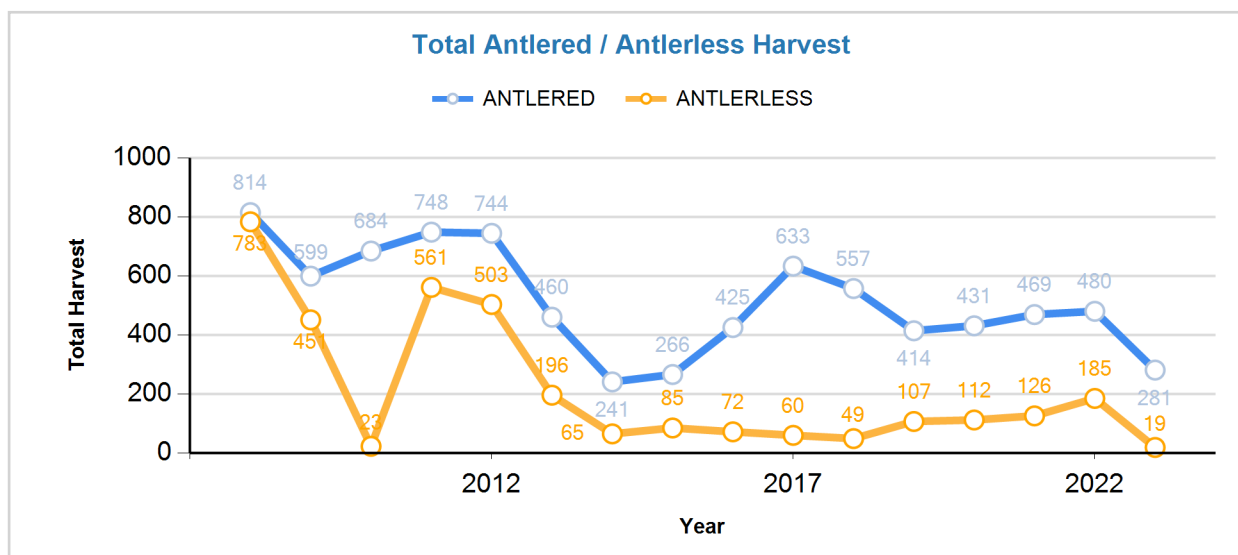
Total Area of Unit (Sq. Miles): 770.30

Deer Range of Unit (Sq. Miles): 711.70

Total Harvest for Iron County - Northern Forest Management Zone

| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total Harvest | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 241 | 266 | 425 | 633 | 557 | 414 | 431 | 469 | 480 | 281 |
| Antlerless | 67 | 85 | 72 | 60 | 49 | 107 | 112 | 126 | 185 | 19 |
| Total | 308 | 351 | 497 | 693 | 606 | 521 | 543 | 595 | 665 | 300 |
| Gun | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 183 | 197 | 318 | 474 | 418 | 261 | 244 | 323 | 359 | 205 |
| Antlerless | 46 | 48 | 50 | 42 | 31 | 65 | 71 | 79 | 123 | 12 |
| Total | 229 | 245 | 368 | 516 | 449 | 326 | 315 | 402 | 482 | 217 |
| Bow | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 26 | 20 | 45 | 45 | 39 | 41 | 48 | 34 | 23 | 22 |
| Antlerless | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 0 |
| Total | 27 | 21 | 47 | 46 | 40 | 56 | 60 | 48 | 39 | 22 |
| Crossbow | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 28 | 38 | 58 | 112 | 99 | 112 | 137 | 109 | 98 | 54 |
| Antlerless | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 23 | 29 | 33 | 46 | 7 |
| Total | 35 | 41 | 67 | 116 | 109 | 135 | 166 | 142 | 144 | 61 |
| Tribal* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 4 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Antlerless | 13 | 33 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 17 | 44 | 15 | 15 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Youth Antlerless* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlerless | 0 | 0 | 56 | 42 | 39 | 27 | 50 | 36 | 40 | 18 |

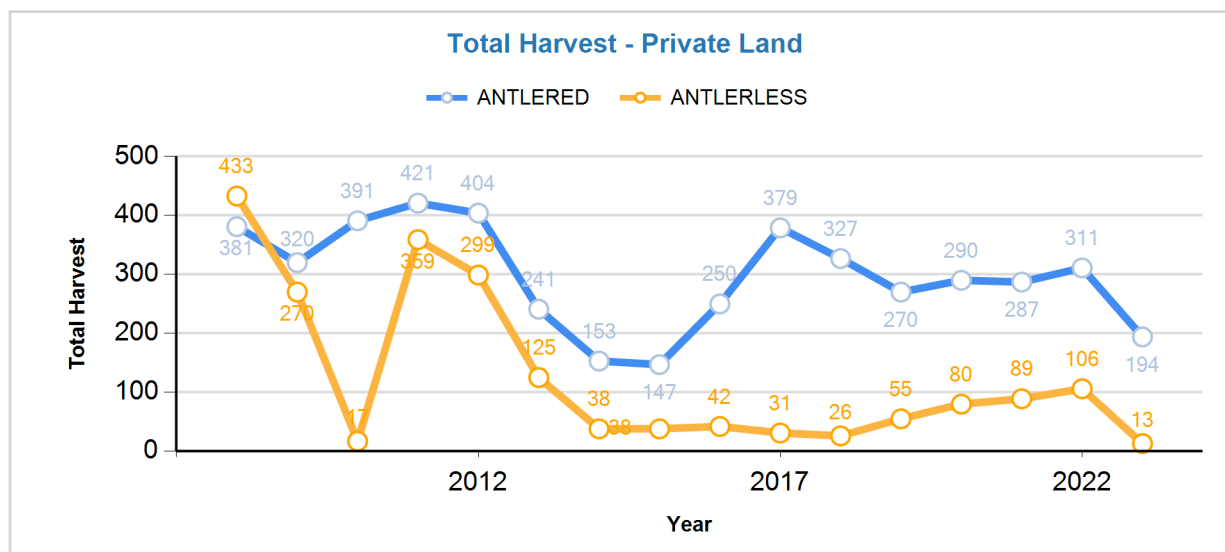
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



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

| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total Harvest | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 153 | 147 | 250 | 379 | 327 | 270 | 290 | 287 | 311 | 194 |
| Antlerless | 40 | 38 | 42 | 31 | 26 | 55 | 80 | 89 | 106 | 13 |
| Total | 193 | 185 | 292 | 410 | 353 | 325 | 370 | 376 | 417 | 207 |
| Gun | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 114 | 111 | 180 | 278 | 242 | 167 | 159 | 199 | 225 | 142 |
| Antlerless | 32 | 36 | 35 | 28 | 20 | 36 | 53 | 60 | 73 | 10 |
| Total | 146 | 147 | 215 | 306 | 262 | 203 | 212 | 259 | 298 | 152 |
| Bow | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 15 | 9 | 25 | 27 | 23 | 24 | 32 | 16 | 13 | 13 |
| Antlerless | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 0 |
| Total | 16 | 10 | 26 | 27 | 23 | 30 | 41 | 26 | 22 | 13 |
| Crossbow | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 24 | 27 | 45 | 74 | 62 | 79 | 99 | 72 | 73 | 39 |
| Antlerless | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 18 | 19 | 24 | 3 |
| Total | 31 | 28 | 51 | 77 | 68 | 92 | 117 | 91 | 97 | 42 |
| 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 | 38 | 29 | 22 | 13 | 28 | 23 | 28 | 12 |

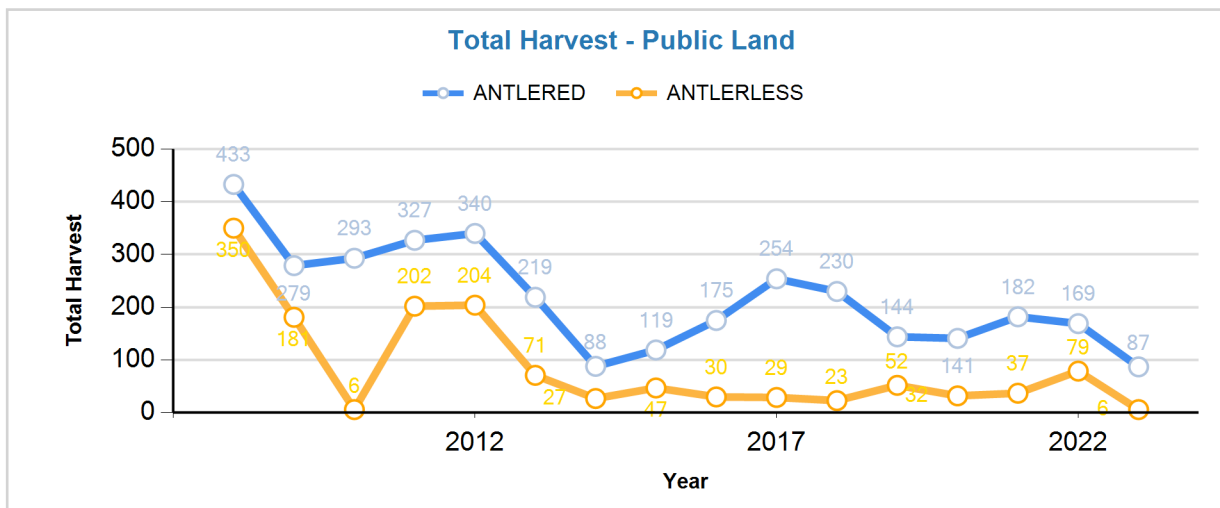
* Tribal and Youth Antlerless data are included in above totals where they apply



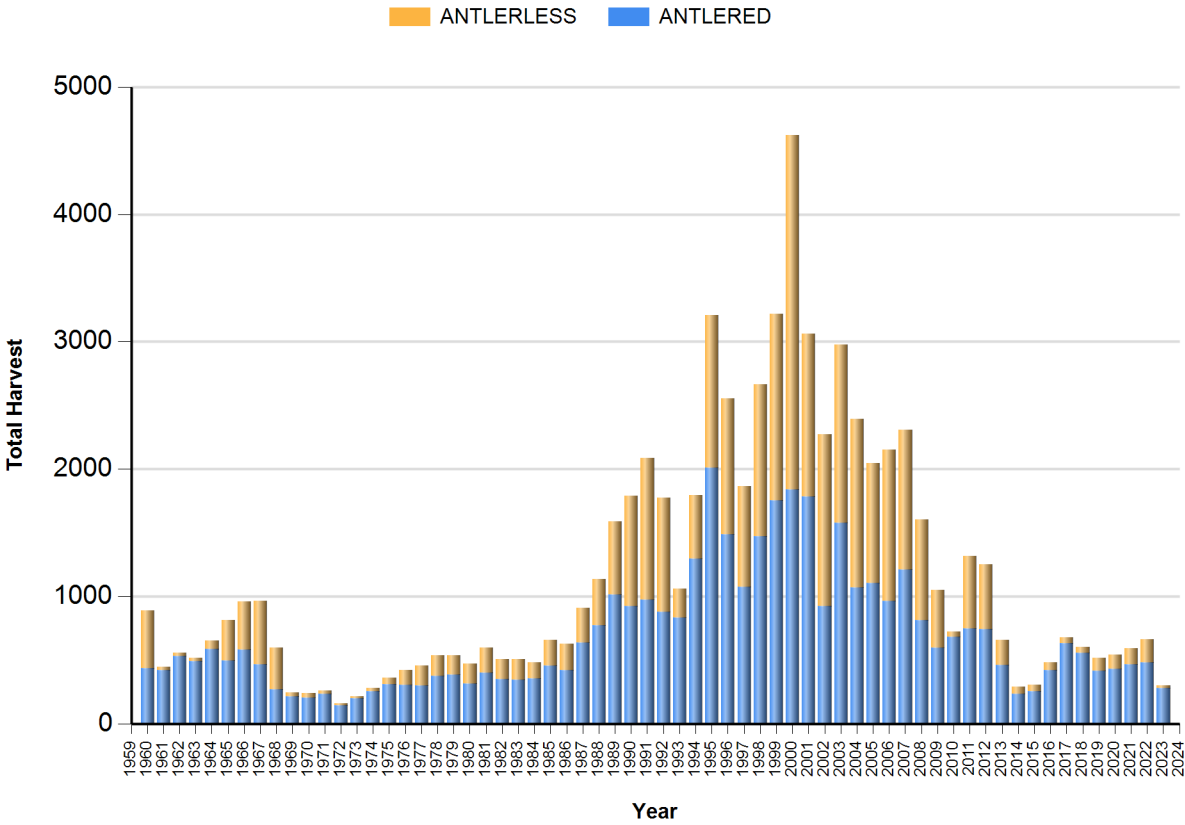
Total Harvest for Iron County - Northern Forest Management Zone - Public Land

| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total Harvest | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 88 | 119 | 175 | 254 | 230 | 144 | 141 | 182 | 169 | 87 |
| Antlerless | 27 | 47 | 30 | 29 | 23 | 52 | 32 | 37 | 79 | 6 |
| Total | 115 | 166 | 205 | 283 | 253 | 196 | 173 | 219 | 248 | 93 |
| Gun | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 69 | 86 | 138 | 196 | 176 | 94 | 85 | 124 | 134 | 63 |
| Antlerless | 14 | 12 | 15 | 14 | 11 | 29 | 18 | 19 | 50 | 2 |
| Total | 83 | 98 | 153 | 210 | 187 | 123 | 103 | 143 | 184 | 65 |
| Bow | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 11 | 11 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 18 | 10 | 9 |
| Antlerless | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| Total | 11 | 11 | 21 | 19 | 17 | 26 | 19 | 22 | 17 | 9 |
| Crossbow | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 4 | 11 | 13 | 38 | 37 | 33 | 38 | 37 | 25 | 15 |
| Antlerless | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 22 | 4 |
| Total | 4 | 13 | 16 | 39 | 41 | 43 | 49 | 51 | 47 | 19 |
| Tribal* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlered | 4 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Antlerless | 13 | 33 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 17 | 44 | 15 | 15 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Youth Antlerless* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antlerless | 0 | 0 | 18 | 13 | 17 | 14 | 22 | 13 | 12 | 6 |

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



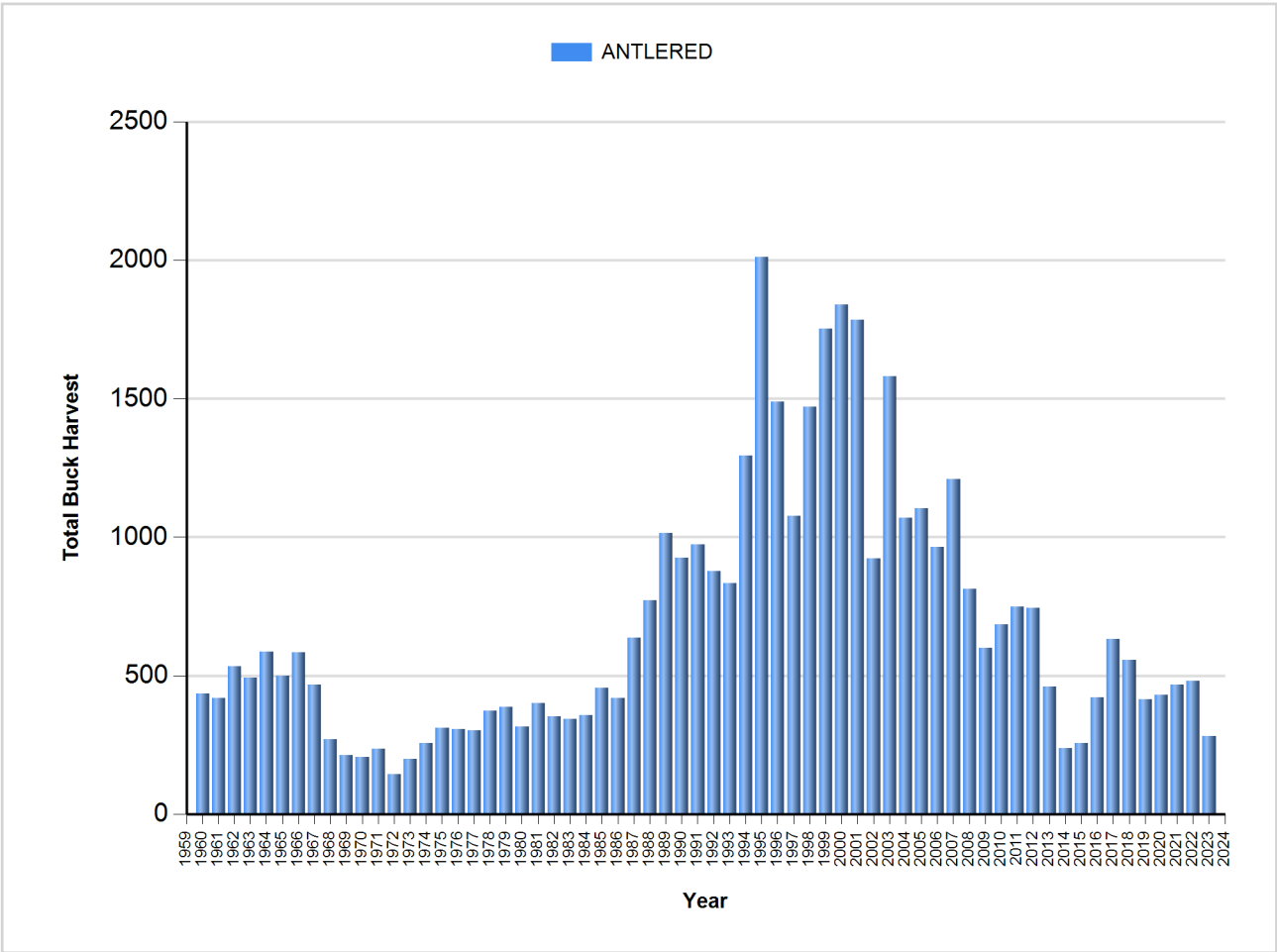
Total Deer Harvest 1960 - Present



Total Buck Harvest 1960 - Present

Historic High: 1995 - 2,013

Historic Low: 1972 - 143

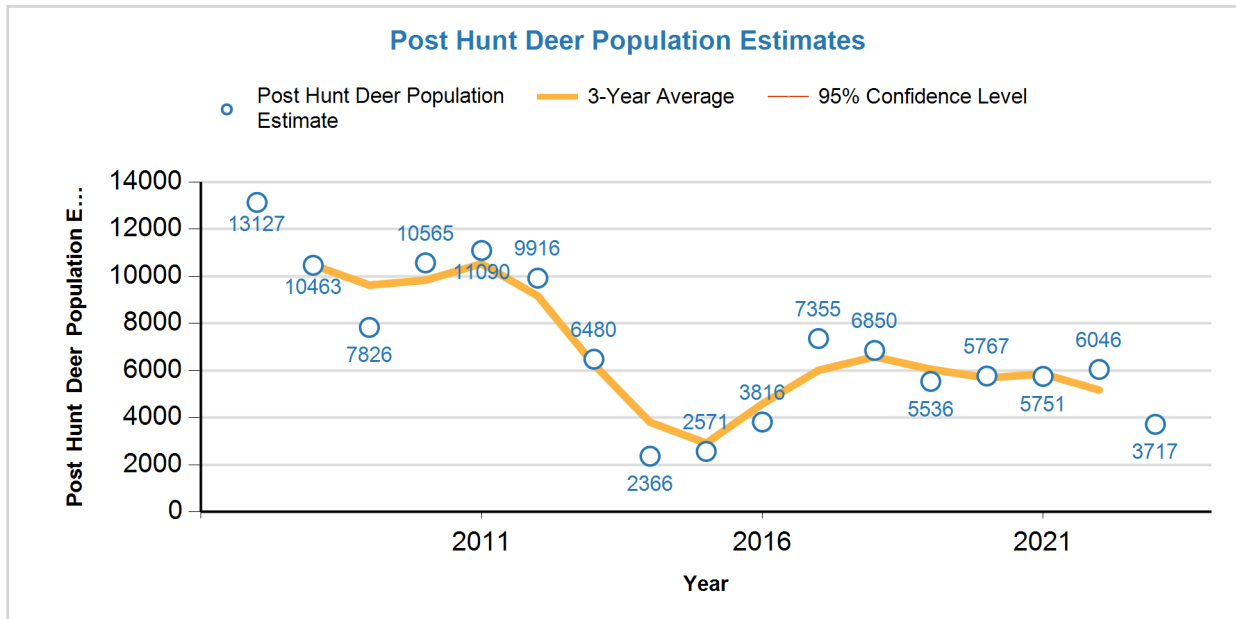


Antlerless Tag Issuance & Success for Iron County - Northern Forest

| 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 | 35 | 65 | 250 | 0 |
| Issued | 35 | 65 | 250 | 0 |
| Killed | 10 | 22 | 67 | 0 |
| Success Rate (%) | 28.6 | 33.8 | 26.8 | |
| Bonus- Private | | | | |
| Available | 150 | 250 | 225 | 0 |
| Issued | 151 | 249 | 225 | 0 |
| Killed | 48 | 64 | 76 | 0 |
| Success Rate (%) | 31.8 | 25.7 | 33.8 | |
| Bonus- Total | | | | |
| Available | 185 | 315 | 475 | 0 |
| Issued | 186 | 314 | 475 | 0 |
| Killed | 58 | 86 | 143 | 0 |
| Success Rate (%) | 31.2 | 27.4 | 30.1 | |

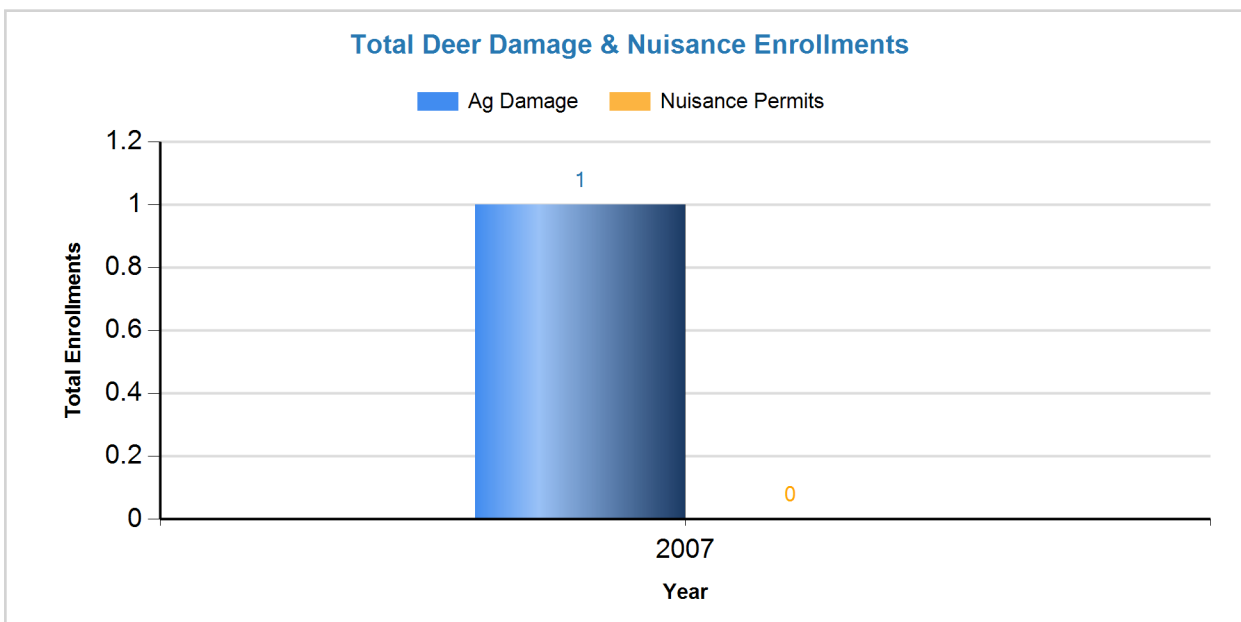
Herd Abundance

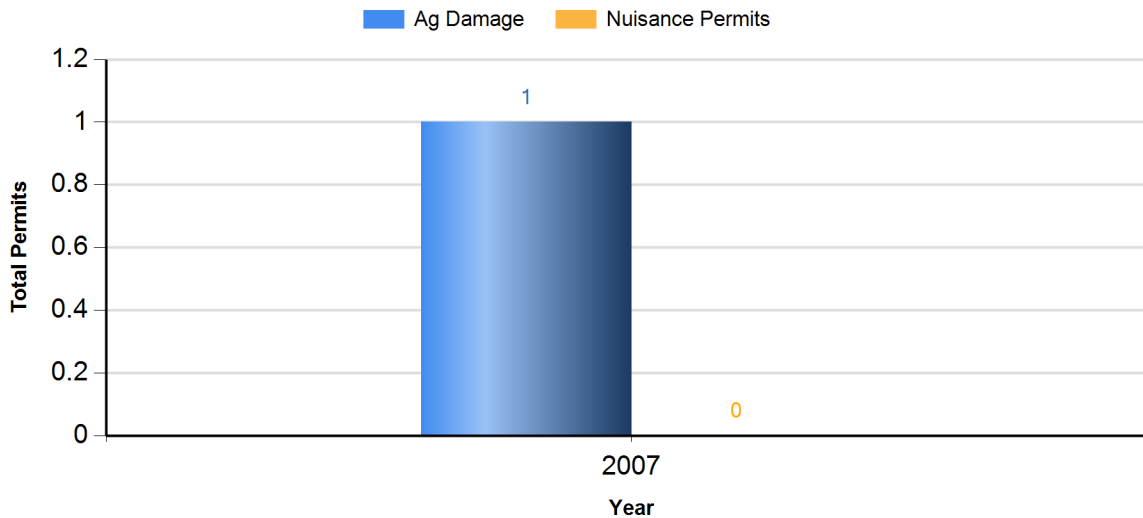
Deer herd abundance is estimated annually with hunter-collected data and a mathematical model to get post hunt deer population estimates.



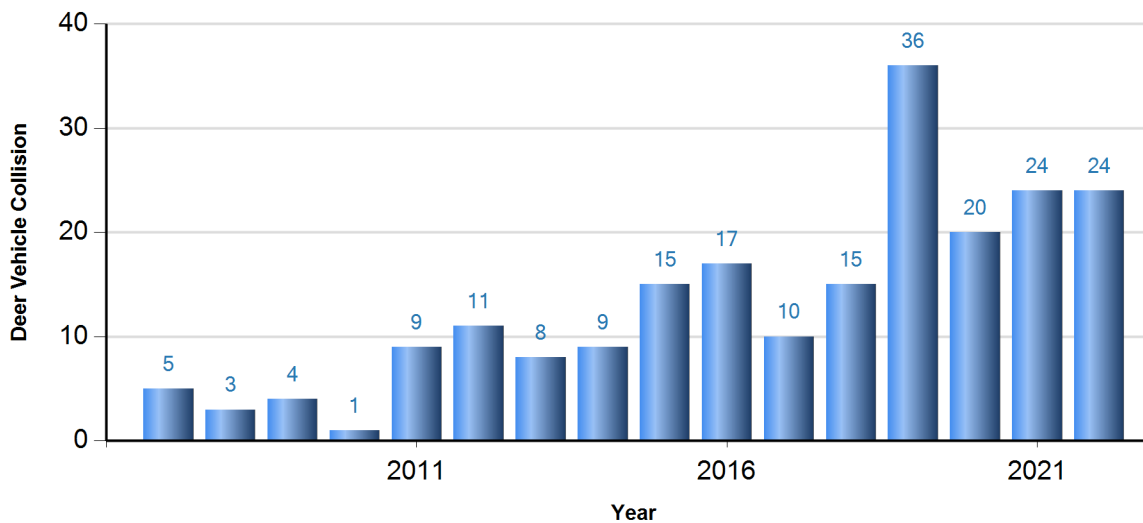
Deer Impacts – Agriculture & Nuisance Impacts

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.

