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2023 U.P. DEER CAMP SURVEY

Information provided by cooperating deer camps in the U.P.
Report prepared by Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff
February 2024

Thanks to all who made this year's survey possible by recording their deer sightings, harvest, and comments for the 2023 firearm season. The information you provided helps us better understand the size, trend, and composition of the deer herd and the issues that are important to you concerning deer management. This report begins with information applicable to the entire U.P. region, and then briefly looks at western and eastern sides of the U.P. before results by Deer Management Unit (DMU) are compared. A summary of written comments is in the middle of the report, and the 22 DMU summaries are at the end. A summary of results with page references is available on page 5.

The U.P. Deer Camp Survey is used to monitor deer sightings, deer harvest, and hunter opinions during the 16-day firearm season. It provides hunters and DNR staff with feedback on the status of the deer herd and hunting satisfaction soon after the season ends. Beginning in the early 1990's, deer camps have been casually recruited into the survey. Camp survey forms and postage-paid envelopes were mailed to 477 contact persons prior to the 2023 season.

To encourage responses and support the survey, several U.P. sportsperson groups provided prizes for a random drawing of camp contact persons who responded. Thank you to the following sportsperson groups for providing the prizes:

Eastern U.P.

Drummond Island Sportsmen's Club

Raber Area Sportsmen's Club

Les Cheneaux Sportsmen's Club

Straits Area Sportsmen's Club

St. Mary's River Sportsmen's Club

Chippewa County Shooting Association

Mackinac Chapter of the National Deer Association

Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association

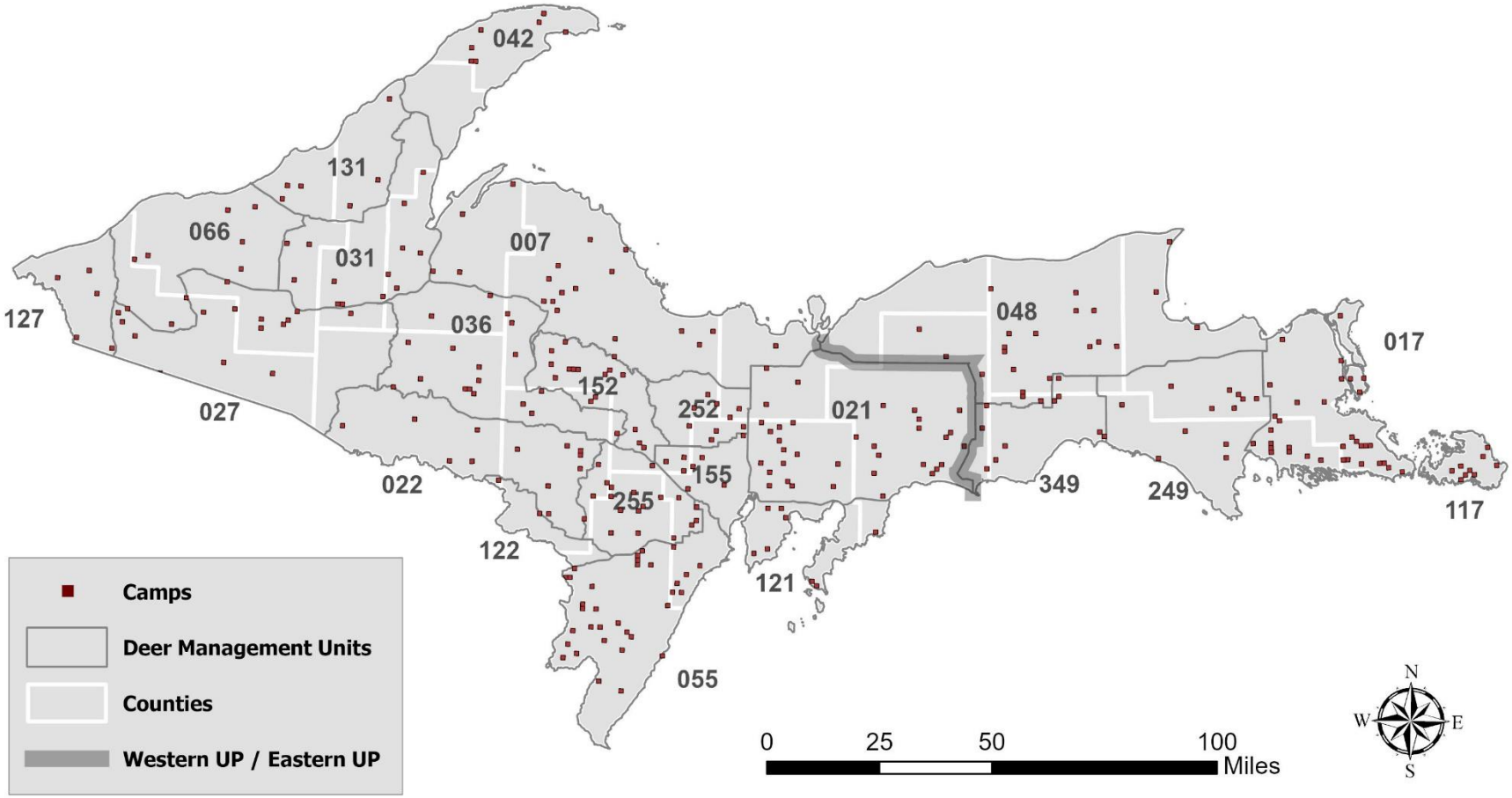
Western U.P.

Eastern Dickinson County Sportsmen's Club

U.P. Whitetails Association, Inc.

Wildlife Unlimited of Dickinson County

Upper Peninsula Deer Camp Survey Locations
2023 Firearm Season



Summary of the 2023 U.P. Deer Camp Survey

U.P. Region Results	2022	2023	Page
1. Deer seen per hunter day *decreased*:	3.4	2.2	6
2. Percent of hunters harvesting a buck *decreased*:	24%	19%	8
3. Fawn observations per 100 does *decreased*:	53	44	10

	Percent of camps in 2023 rating			Page
4. Deer herd trend:	More – 4%	Same number – 19%	Fewer – 77%	10
5. Season rating:	Excellent – 2%	Good – 11%	Fair – 25%	Poor – 66%	11

Western U.P. (Page 12)	2022	2023	Page
6. Deer seen per hunter day *decreased*:	3.5	2.2	12
7. Percent of hunters harvesting a buck *decreased*:	28%	18%	12
8. Fawn observations per 100 does *decreased*:	54	44	12

	Percent of camps in 2023 rating		
9. Deer herd trend:	More – 1%	Same number – 14%	Fewer – 85%
10. Season rating:	Excellent – 2%	Good – 9%	Fair – 21%	Poor – 68%

Eastern U.P. (Page 13)	2022	2023	Page
11. Deer seen per hunter day *decreased*:	3.0	2.4	13
12. Percent of hunters harvesting a buck *increased*:	17%	19%	13
13. Fawn observations per 100 does *decreased*:	50	43	13

	Percent of camps in 2023 rating		
14. Deer herd trend:	More – 13%	Same number – 33%	Fewer – 54%
15. Season rating:	Excellent – 2%	Good – 18%	Fair – 34%	Poor – 46%

Other Information

16. Deer management units (DMU's) are compared with each other in terms of participation, daily deer sightings, buck kill success, and fawn-doe ratios (**pages 14-17**).
17. Winter snow conditions are summarized on **pages 17-18**.
18. Archery season participation is summarized on **page 19**.
19. Camps kept track of sightings of 11 wildlife species besides deer (**page 19**).
20. Camps wrote numerous comments on their survey forms. These comments were placed in categories, and updates on most common issues as well as other items are provided (**pages 20-24**).
21. Deer season statistics are provided in Tables 1 – 3 based on area (U.P. Region, West U.P., or East U.P.) (**pages 25-27**), and for each DMU in Table 4 (**page 28**).
22. Hunter-generated statistics and a summary of written comments are provided for each of the 22 DMU's (**pages 30-40**).

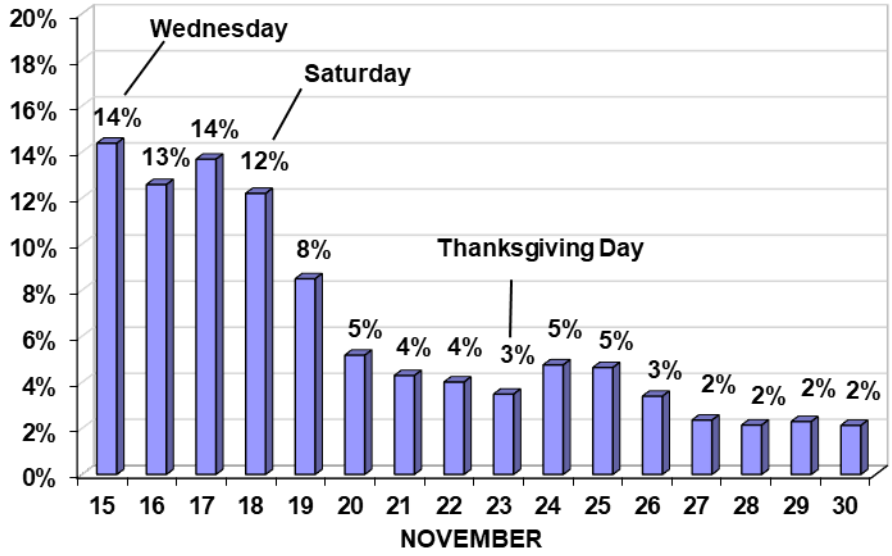
U.P. Region

(Also see Tables 1 – 3 on **pages 25 – 27**)

A total of 364 camps occupied by 1,394 hunters participated in the 2023 U.P. Deer Camp Survey. A map showing the distribution of participants is on page 4 and a table of summary statistics from across the region is on page 25. Eighty percent of the participating camps also participated in 2022. Hunters spent a total of 7,894 days hunting, 9% more days afield than in 2022. On average, 4 hunters occupied each deer camp, and each person hunted 6 days during the 16-day firearm season. Approximately 61% of the hunting effort was completed during the first five days of the season (by the end of the first weekend).

HUNTER PARTICIPATION IN THE 2023 FIREARM SEASON

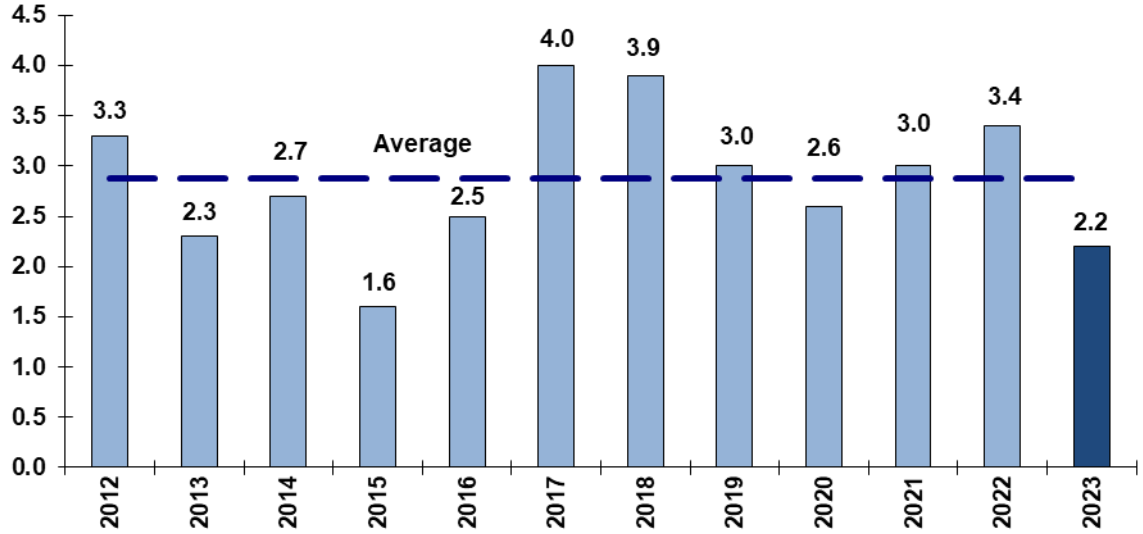
Percent of total hunting effort occurring on each day



Deer Observations: The average number of deer observed per hunter during the entire 2023 firearm season was 12 deer (2 bucks and 10 antlerless), which decreased from the 19 deer (3 bucks and 16 antlerless) observed during the 2022 season. Note: unidentified deer are considered antlerless in the analysis of deer sighting data. Hunters observed 2.2 deer per hunter day, a decrease from 2022 (3.4) and below the long-term average of 2.9 (see graph on next page).

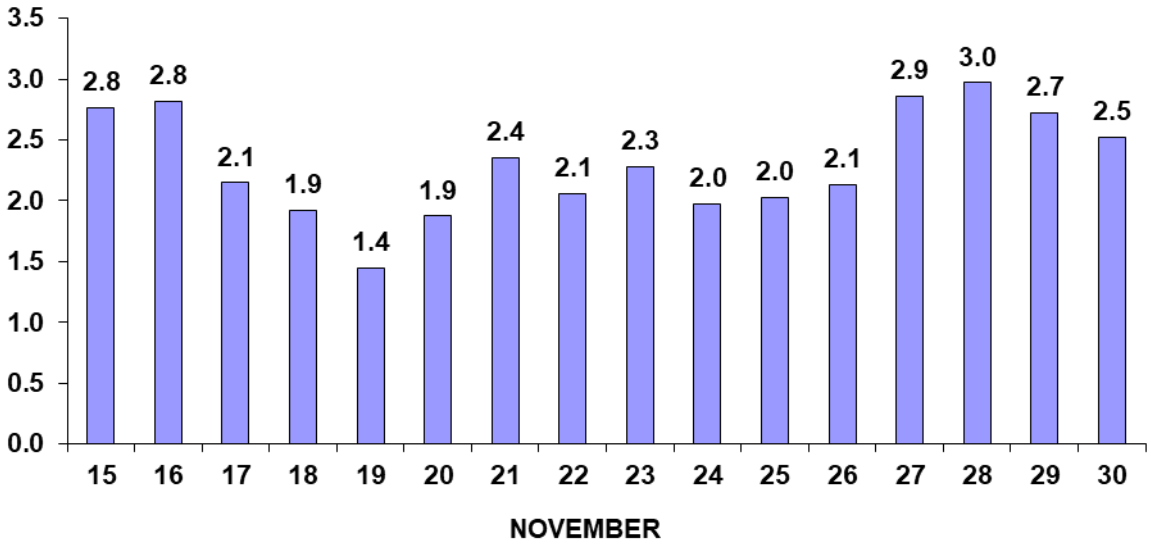
U.P. Region

NUMBER OF DEER OBSERVED PER HUNTER DAY
Firearm Season



Hunters observed, on average, 1 to 3 deer per day during each day of the 2023 firearm season (see graph below), which decreased from the 3 to 4 during the 2022 season.

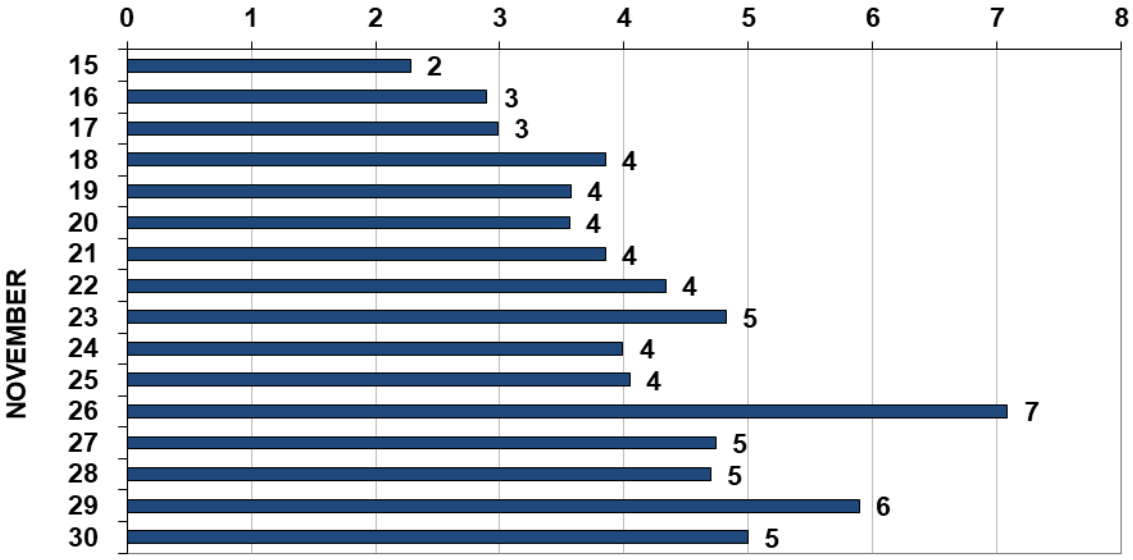
NUMBER OF DEER OBSERVED PER DAY
2023 Firearm Season



Doe Sightings per Buck: Two adult does were observed per adult buck on opening day in 2023, down from 3 in 2022. The sex ratio skewed to a ratio of 4 – 7 does per buck as the season progressed as more bucks than does were removed from the population by hunters.

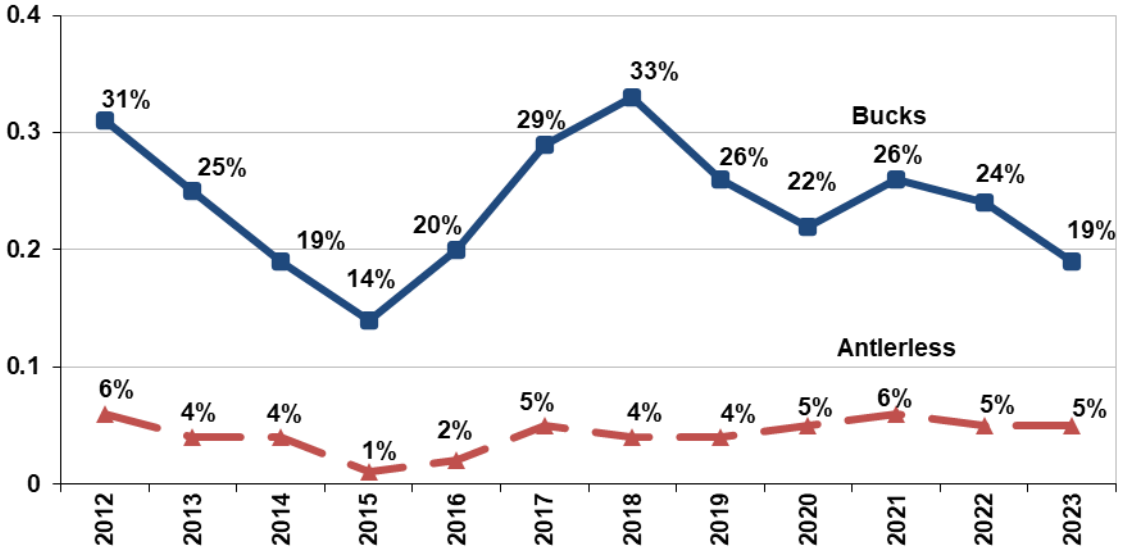
U.P. Region

NUMBER OF ADULT DOES OBSERVED PER ADULT BUCK
2023 Firearm Season



Harvest: Nineteen percent of hunters harvested a buck, down from 24% in 2022 (which is also the long-term average). One percent of hunters harvested a 2nd buck. Since 2003, 4% or less of participating hunters reported taking a 2nd buck each year.

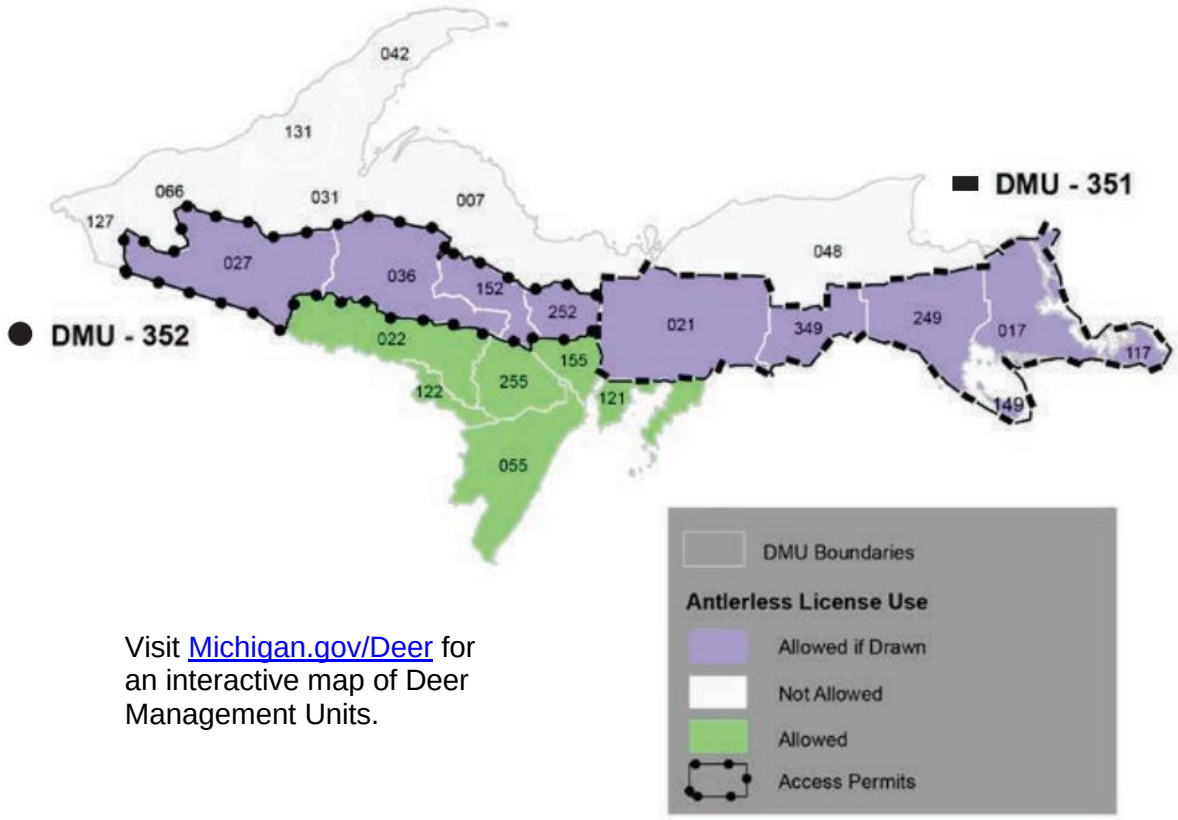
HUNTER SUCCESS RATES AT U.P. COOPERATING DEER CAMPS
Firearm Season



Five percent of Deer Camp Survey participants reported harvesting an antlerless deer (doe or fawn) in 2023, which was the same as in 2022. Antlerless deer accounted for 24% of the total harvest at camps in the U.P. in 2023 whereas 76% of the take was bucks. Of the 73 hunters who harvested an antlerless deer, 86% took only 1 and the remaining 14% took 2. In the past, some hunters have taken antlerless deer during archery and muzzleloader seasons, but only those taken during firearm season are included in this survey.

U.P. Region

Starting in 2021, universal antlerless licenses – available over the counter with no drawing involved – could be used in DMU's 022, 055, 121, 122, 155, and 255 in the south-central U.P. In DMU's 351 (in eastern U.P.) and 352 (in western U.P. – see map below), 1,000 antlerless deer hunting access permits were available via drawing in each of these DMU's. A hunter needed to have an antlerless deer hunting access permit to use a universal antlerless license in these DMU's. Hunters could not harvest an antlerless deer in the northern U.P., which included DMU's 007, 031, 042, 048, 066, 127, & 131. The map and information below provide a summary.



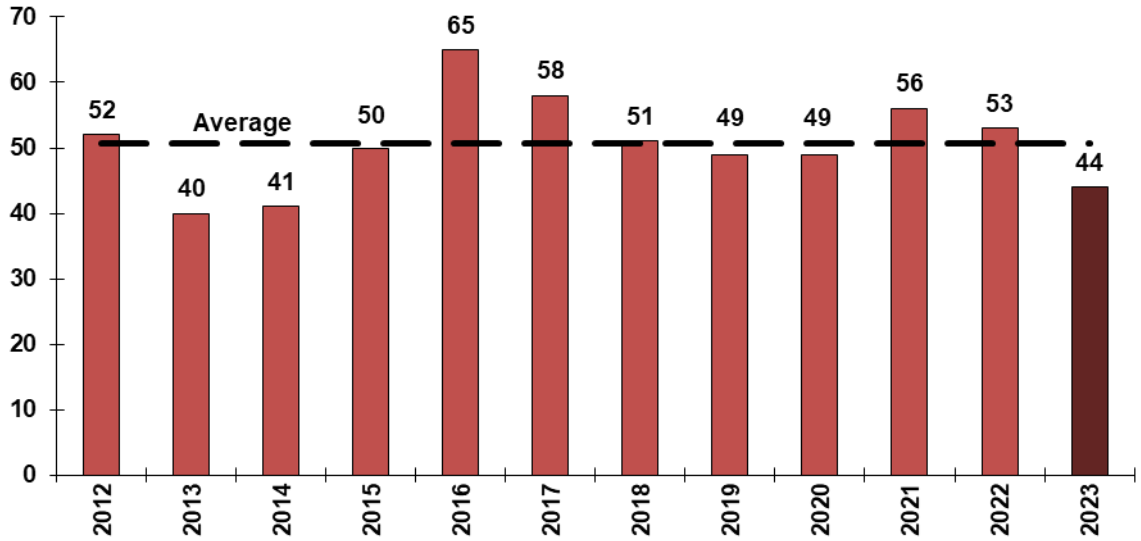
Visit Michigan.gov/Deer for an interactive map of Deer Management Units.

- "Allowed" (green): a universal antlerless license could be used to take an antlerless deer. Universal antlerless licenses could be purchased without an application, with a limit of 10 per hunter for the season.
- "Allowed if drawn" (purple): an antlerless deer hunting access permit needed to accompany the universal antlerless license (1 antlerless hunting access permit + 1 universal antlerless license for each antlerless deer harvested). In each DMU – 351 in the eastern U.P. and 352 in the western U.P. – there were 1,000 antlerless hunting access permits available in 2022 through a drawing.
- "Not Allowed" (white): no antlerless harvest was allowed with a universal antlerless license.

- In addition to the above, archers could pursue antlerless deer in DMU's open to antlerless harvest with their deer or deer combination licenses. However, DMU's 127, 066, 031, 131, 042, 007, and 048 were closed to antlerless harvest during the archery seasons.

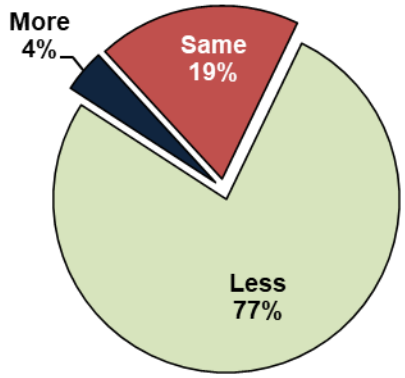
Fawn to Doe Ratio: Hunters observed 44 fawns per 100 does, a decrease from the 53 reported in 2022 and below the long-term average of 51.

FAWNS OBSERVED PER 100 DOES
Firearm Season

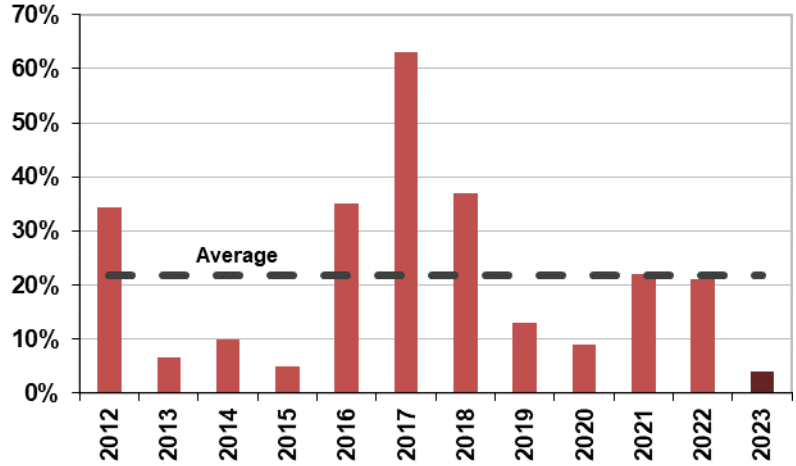


Deer Herd Trend: The majority of camps (77%) felt there were fewer deer compared to 2022, 19% felt that deer numbers were similar to 2022, and 4% felt there were more. During the 2022 season, 45% of camps felt there were fewer deer than in 2021 while 21% felt there were more deer.

2023 Deer Herd Trend Compared to Last Year



Percent of U.P. Camps Rating "More Deer" than the Previous Year

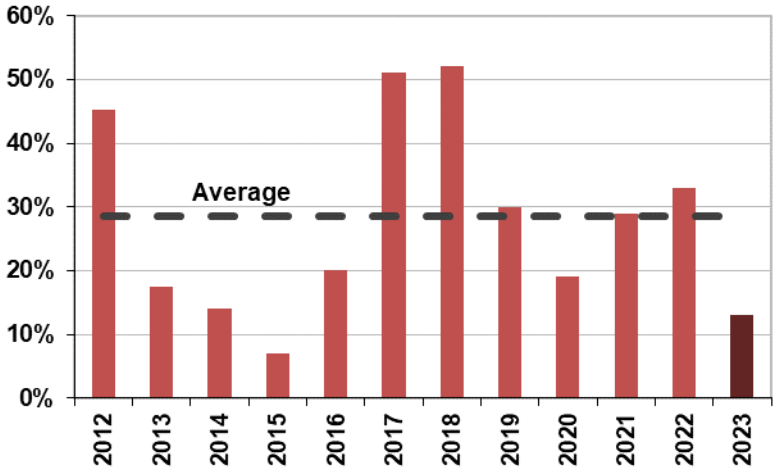


U.P. Region

Rating of the Season: Camps were asked to rate the firearm season as excellent, good, fair, or poor. Thirteen percent rated the season as good to excellent, which is below the 2022 rate of 33% as well as the long-term average (28%). Most (87%) camps rated the 2023 season as fair to poor.

Rating of the 2023 Firearm Season

Percent of U.P. Camps Rating the Season as "GOOD-to-EXCELLENT"

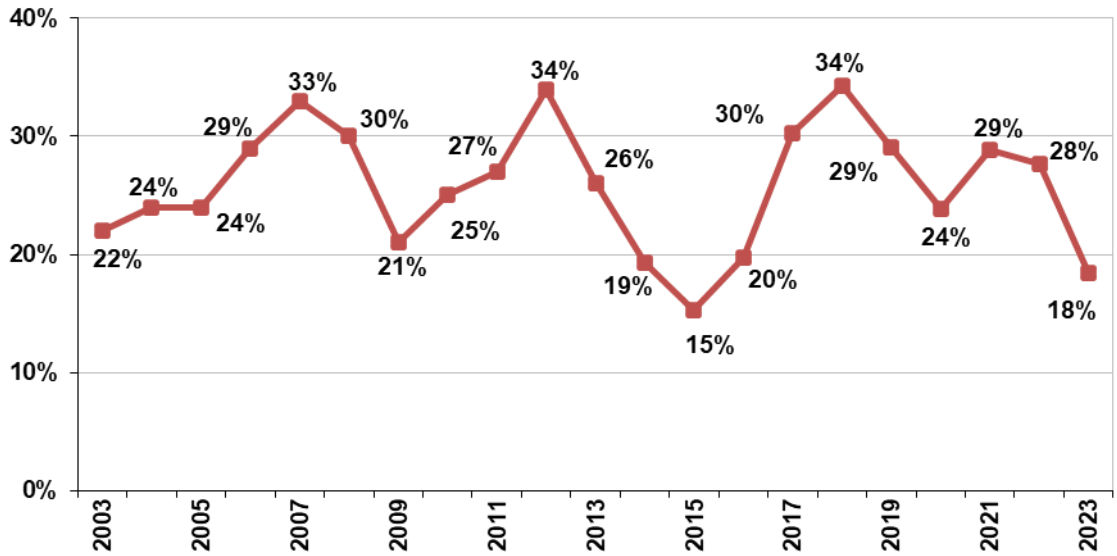


Western U.P.

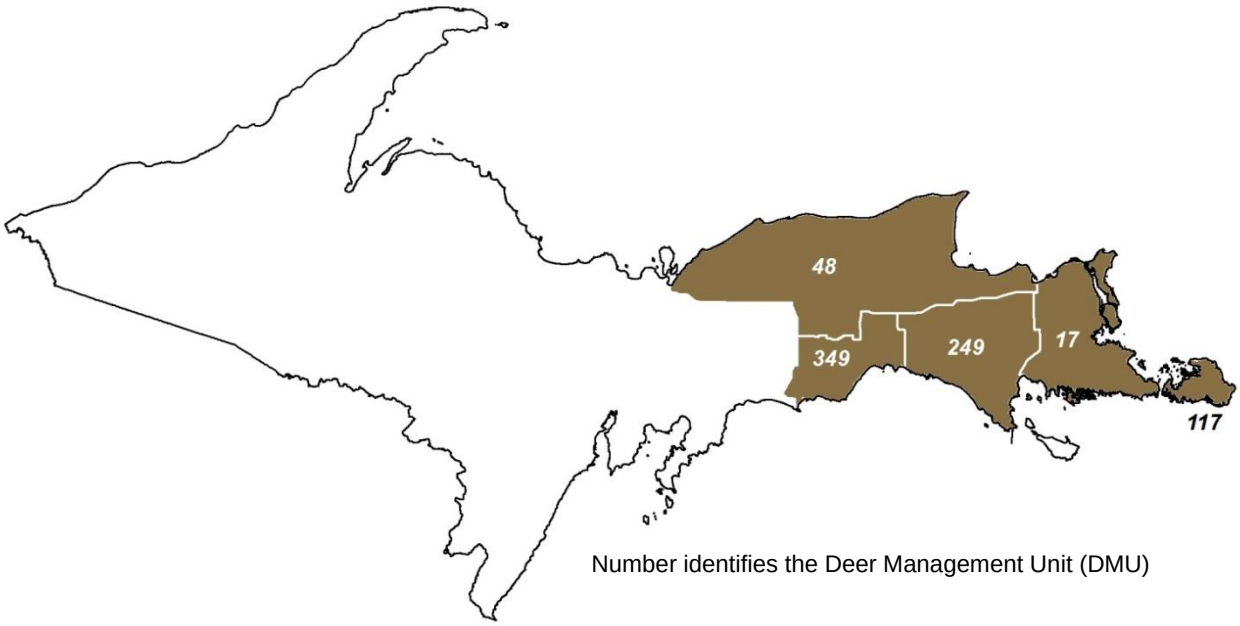
Results for the Western U.P. portion of the survey area (shown above) have been reported since the late 1990's. This portion includes the majority of DMU's in the U.P. Results for the Western U.P. are detailed in Table 2 on page 26. Some of these results are summarized here.

Western U.P. participants observed 2.2 deer per hunter day and 44 fawns per 100 does in 2023. The deer observation rate decreased from 3.5 in 2022 while the fawn-to-doe ratio decreased from 54. Eighteen percent of hunters harvested a buck (see graph below), down from 28% in 2022. Eleven percent of camps rated the 2023 season as excellent or good compared to 30% in 2022.

Buck Hunter Success Rates at West U.P. Cooperating Deer Camps
Firearm Season



Eastern U.P.

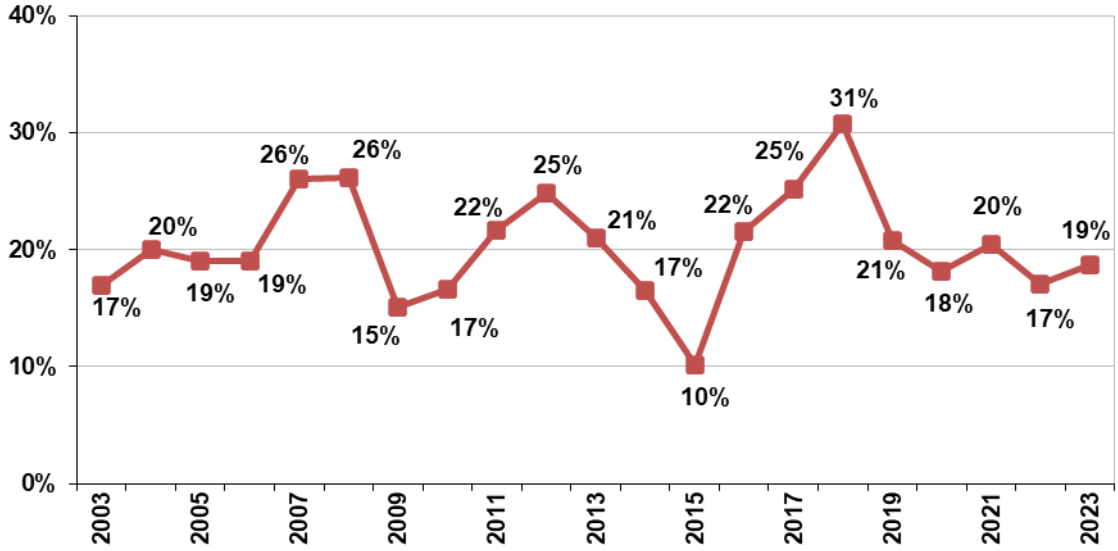


Number identifies the Deer Management Unit (DMU)

Results for the Eastern U.P. portion of the survey area (shown above) have been reported since 2003. This area contains 5 of the 22 DMU's in the U.P. Results for the Eastern U.P. are detailed in Table 3 on page 27. Some of these results are summarized here.

Eastern U.P. participants observed 2.4 deer per hunter day and 43 fawns per 100 does in 2023. The sighting rate and number of fawns observed per 100 does both decreased from 2022 (3.0 and 50, respectively). Nineteen percent of hunters harvested a buck (see graph below) compared to 17% in 2022. Twenty percent of camps rated the 2023 season as excellent or good compared to 38% in 2022.

Buck Hunter Success Rates at East U.P. Cooperating Deer Camps
Firearm Season

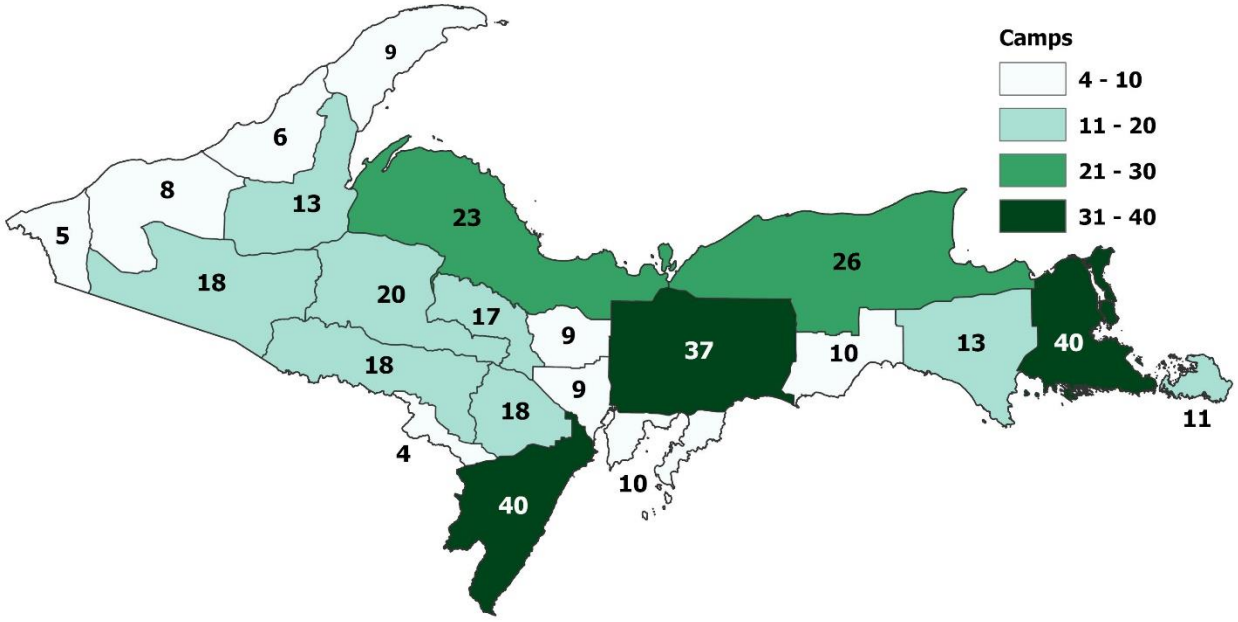


RESULTS BY DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT

(Also see Table 4 on **page 28**)

Individual Deer Management Unit (DMU) Statistics: Separate statistics and the most common camp comments are provided for each individual DMU at the end of this report (**pages 30-40**). Please note that "does seen per buck" refers to opening day only on those pages. Refer to the map on page 4 for the location of the respective DMU.

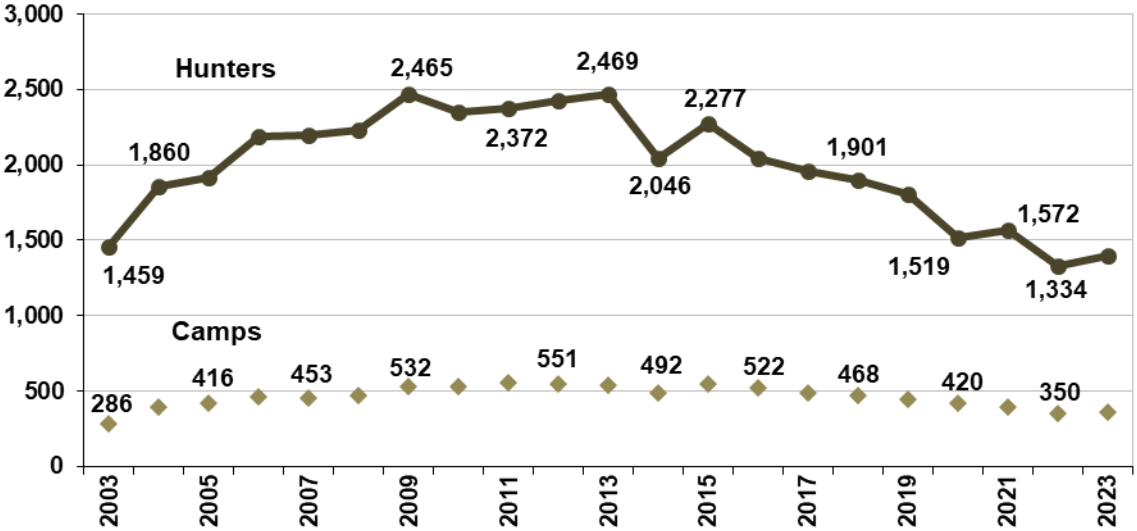
Participation: The map below shows camp participation in 2023 by DMU. Some DMU's had very light participation this year. *We caution that the results presented here for individual DMU's with few participating camps may not be representative of the majority of hunters within the DMU*. In 2023, about half of the DMU's (12) fell below desired participation levels of > 15 camps and > 50 hunters.



Hunting participation is declining nationally and in the state of Michigan. Participation in this U.P. Deer Camp Survey has followed a similar trend since 2013; hunter participation has declined at least 40% from more than 2,400 hunters participating in this survey in 2013 to less than 1,400 in 2023 (see graph below). If this continues, results from this camp survey could become less representative of the majority of U.P. hunters, which would impact its value for monitoring hunter observations, harvest, and opinion. Low participation ultimately means a low sample size, which causes a number of concerns including accuracy of the results. Some results may not be reported in the future if sample sizes are deemed inadequate to represent the area, and ultimately this survey may be impacted if participation decreases far enough. This survey has been important to participants and other readers, and to DNR staff as we consider management recommendations. Considering this, we encourage additional participation in DMU's with relatively few participants (particularly those with < 15 camps or < 50 hunters). Interested hunters can contact David Jentoft at the Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Center (906-635-6161 ext. 4 or jentoftd@michigan.gov) or Colter Lubben at the Escanaba Customer

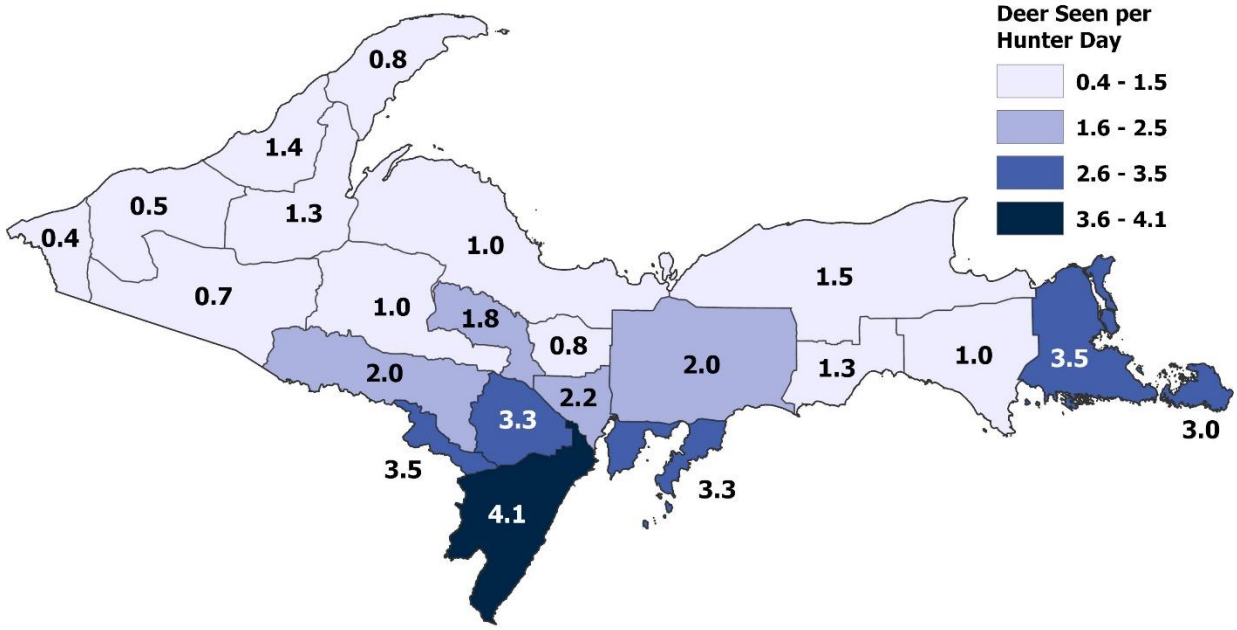
Service Center (906-789-8204 or lubbenc1@michigan.gov) to receive survey materials next firearm season.

Participation in a U.P. Deer Camp Survey
Number of Camps and Hunters Participating each Year

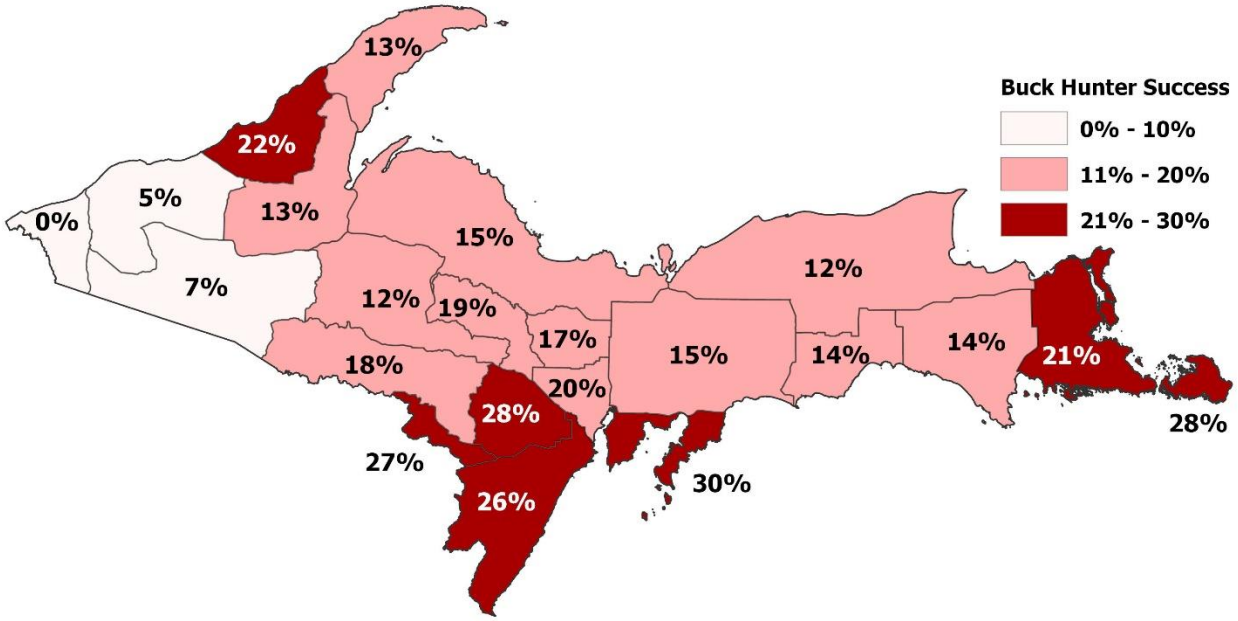


Note: separate East U.P. & West U.P. Deer Camp Surveys were combined in 2012 to the U.P. Deer Camp Survey

Deer Observations per Hunter Day: The number of deer seen per hunter day during the 2023 firearm season ranged from 0.4 in DMU 127 (based on only 5 camps) to 4.1 in DMU 055. Sighting rates decreased in 21 DMU's compared to 2022 and remained similar (within 0.1) in one DMU (117) (see map below).

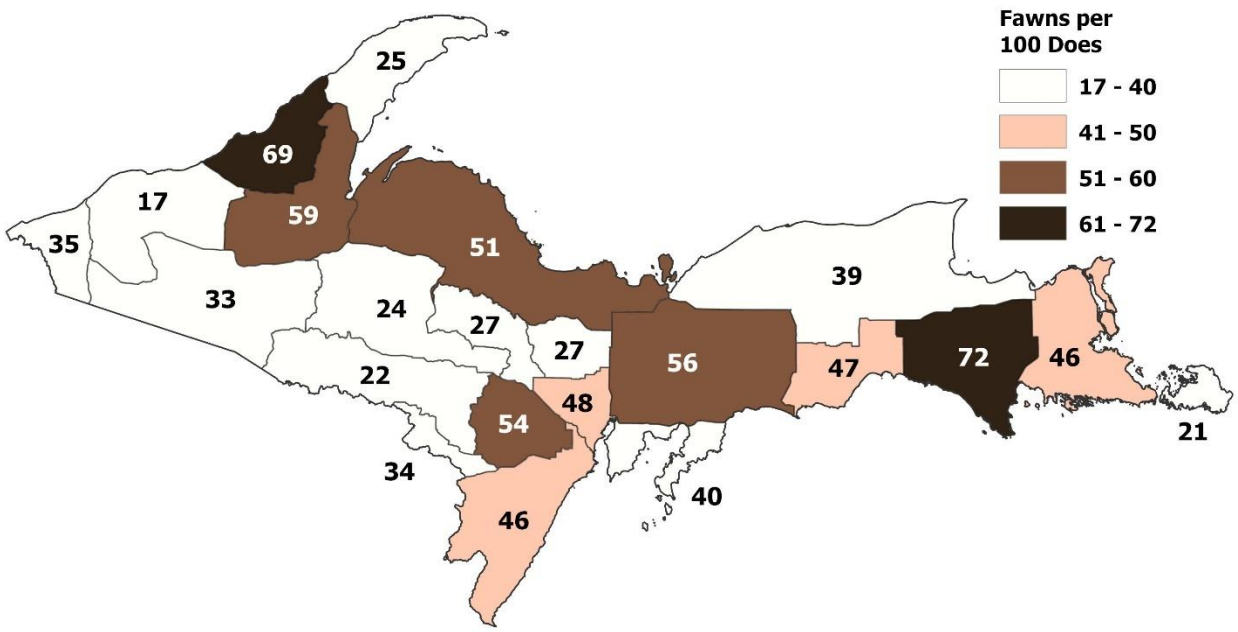


Buck Harvest: Buck kill success ranged from a low of no participants reporting harvesting a buck in DMU 127 (only 11 hunters represented) to a high of 30% in DMU 121. The rate increased in 4 DMU's compared to 2022, decreased in 17, and remained similar (within 1%) in one DMU (252). There has not been a clear relationship between deer abundance (as measured by daily deer sightings) and the percent of hunters killing a buck. Sometimes a unit with low deer sightings will record a high buck kill success, and conversely, a unit with high deer sightings will record low success. This seems illogical on the surface but may be due to hunters passing on buck kill opportunities in DMU's where deer are plentiful, hunters being less choosy in low deer density areas, or hunters achieving high success rates in low deer density areas due to reduced competition from other hunters.



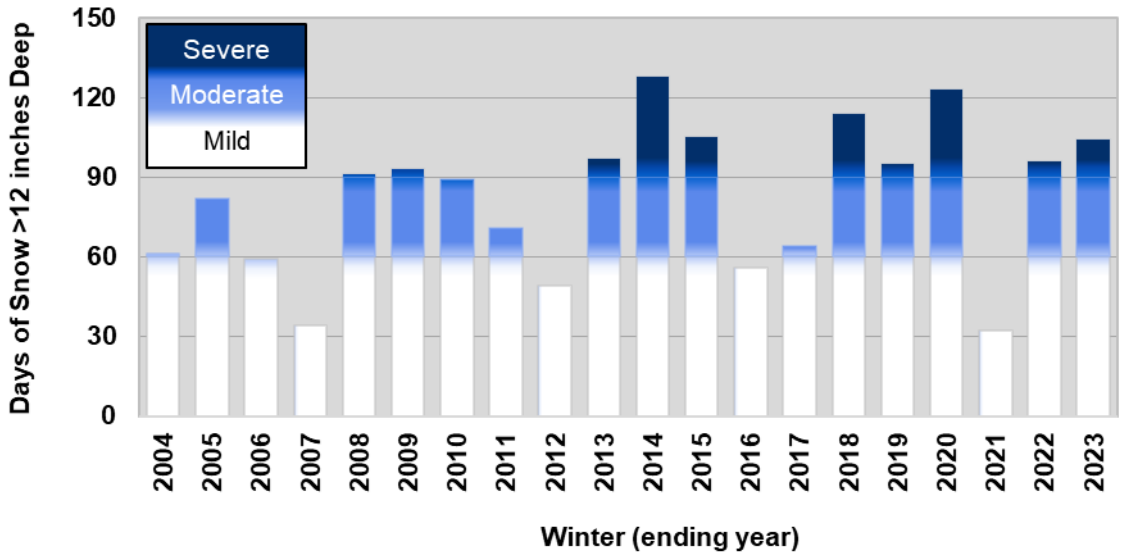
While buck harvest may not be clearly related to deer abundance, results in previous reports have regularly suggested that hunters seem more willing to pass on bucks in areas where they have multiple buck sightings per season. In contrast, hunters appear less willing to "let 'em go" in areas where few, if any, bucks are seen. The decision to take a buck is often voluntary and based on the choice of the hunter at the time of the buck sighting. However, there are some restrictions based on license type (which the hunter chooses when purchasing) and hunting location (buck regulations in DMU 117 – Drummond Island – differ some from the rest of the U.P.) that are regulatory.

Fawn to Doe Ratio: The number of fawns observed per 100 does varied from a low of 17 fawns per 100 does in DMU 066 (8 camps participating) to a high of 72 fawns per 100 does in DMU 249. The ratio increased in 4 of the 22 DMU's compared to 2022, decreased in 17, and remained similar (within 1) in one DMU (017). The fawn-to-doe ratio must be interpreted with caution because it can be sensitive to changes in doe observations rather than simply reflecting changes in fawn observations. For example, if fawn sightings compared to the previous year decreased, but not as much as doe sightings, higher rates can result. If fawn sightings increased, but not as much as doe sightings, lower rates can result.



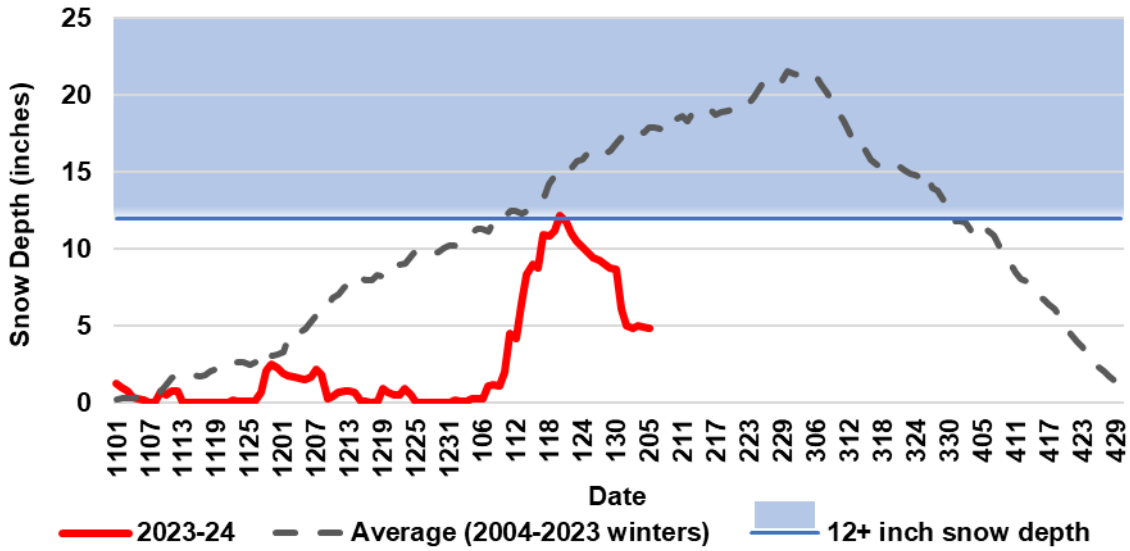
Winter Conditions: Wildlife Division staff in the U.P. currently monitor snow conditions each winter using Snow Data Assimilation System (SNODAS) results from the NOAA National Weather Service's National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center. While any snow can impact wildlife, decades of research have suggested that severe winter conditions including deeper snow can be more impactful to deer. Impacts include reduced mobility and access to food, increased energy expenditures, and other effects that ultimately lead to reduced overall health and reproductive success, and even mortality. Consecutive severe winters can be more impactful than a single severe winter. Deer trend indicators like harvest success often decrease following severe winters, and particularly consecutive severe winters. Currently, the duration of snow greater than 12 inches deep is one of the indicators used to monitor the intensity of winter. The graph on the next page shows the duration of snow > 12 inches deep by winter in the U.P. and Wildlife Division's approximate classification of a winter based on this duration.

Duration of 'Deep' Snow in the U.P. by Year
Number of Days the Average U.P. Snow Depth was > 12 inches



As of February 5, 2024, the average snow depth for the U.P. for the 2023-24 winter was 5 inches and there had been only 1 day when the U.P. average was > 12 inches deep. This is below the long-term average of 28 days for this date. While this has been a mild winter to date, the severity of this winter will likely depend on conditions during the latter half of it, similar to past years.

U.P. Average Snow Depths
based on SNODAS system



Antlerless Deer Harvest Opinions: Camps were asked whether they supported the availability of antlerless deer harvest opportunities in their location at this time. Forty-one percent of respondents answered yes, while 59% answered no. The percent of camps answering yes since 2018 is as follows: 2023 – 41%, 2022 – 51%, 2021 – 43%, 2020 – 45%,

2019 – 48%, 2018 – 50%. Responses varied by area. Support for antlerless harvest opportunities was generally highest in the southcentral U.P. where deer densities are highest and antlerless harvest opportunities have been greater than in other areas of the U.P.

Archery Participation: Camps were asked to indicate how many hunters participated in the early archery season (Oct. 1 – Nov. 14) and how many planned to hunt in the late archery season (Dec. 1 – Jan. 1). Twenty-three percent of participants hunted in the early archery season, and 9% planned to hunt in the late archery season. These results are similar to past years as shown in the table below. Some hunters have expressed concerns about the effects of archery hunting on the deer population, particularly late season hunting. Results here suggest that few hunters (<10%) participate in the late portion of the archery season (December); the majority of archery hunting effort appears to be in the early part of the season (October and early November). According to harvest reporting results, approximately 10% of the U.P. archery harvest in 2023 occurred in the late portion of the archery season (Dec. 1 – Jan. 1). Approximately 2% of all deer harvested in the U.P. during all seasons were harvested during the late portion of the archery season.

Archery Participation by Year

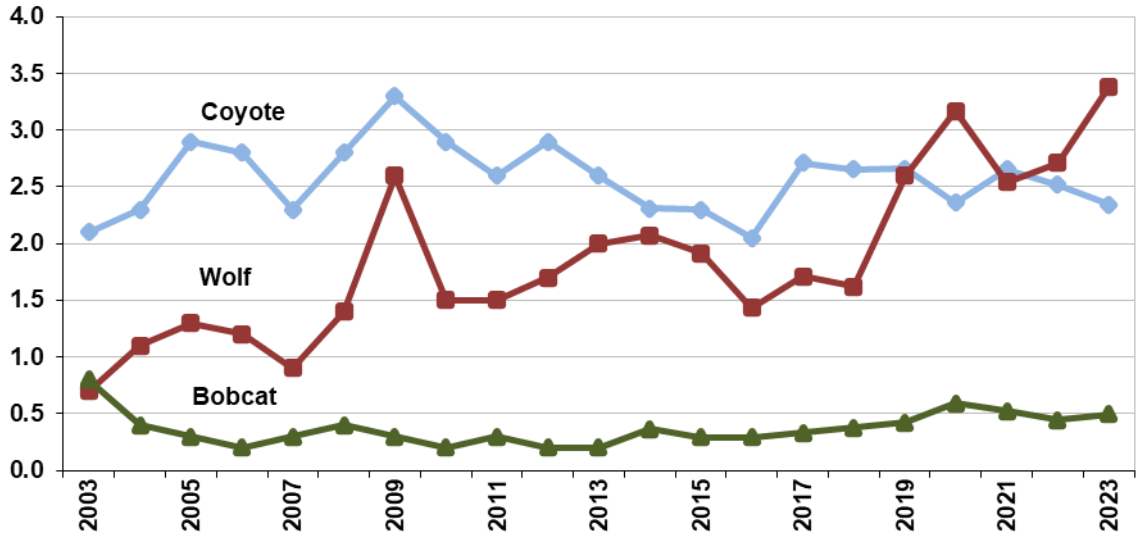
% of Camp Survey hunters participating in archery season

	2014	***2015***	***2016***	***2017***	***2018***	***2019***	***2020***	***2021***	***2022***	***2023***
Early Archery *(Oct. 1 – Nov. 14)*	24%	21%	23%	22%	21%	22%	22%	23%	18%	23%
Late Archery *(Dec. 1 – Jan. 1)*	8%	7%	7%	7%	5%	6%	9%	7%	7%	9%

Other Wildlife Sightings: Deer camps kept track of furbearing mammals and other select species observed while hunting during firearm season (see tables 5 and 6 on page 29). Wild turkeys topped the list of all species observed, as they typically do, with 2,749 sightings. This is a substantial increase from the 1,567 reported in 2022. Cougar observations have ranged from 0 to 7 per year during the past 10 years. In 2023, 1 sighting was reported.

When sightings are standardized to account for different numbers of hunter days each year, a sighting index can be developed (animals seen per 100 hunter days – see graph on next page). See Table 6 on page 29 for index values by year. We do not know whether these sighting indices depict the actual population trends of these furbearer populations.

COYOTE, WOLF, & BOBCAT SIGHTINGS PER 100 HUNTER DAYS
U.P. Deer Camp Survey



Comments by Hunters: Deer camps wrote many comments on their survey forms. To summarize these comments in a meaningful manner, we tallied each according to its subject matter. Comments mentioned by at least 5 camps were extracted from the forms and assigned to one of 3 major subject categories shown below. The subject matter receiving the greatest number of unsolicited comments was predators. The most common individual comment related to wolves or wolf sign in the area this season. Updates and information on some of the subjects follow.

COMMENTS PROVIDED BY CAMPS IN THE 2023 U.P. DEER CAMP SURVEY

Predators	
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	57
Wolves having a negative impact on deer	45
Control wolves or allow us to control them	35
Predators having a negative impact on deer	20
Numerous coyotes, tracks, or howls in my area	12
Observed fewer wolves or wolf sign	8
	177
Deer Abundance	
Less	
Fewer deer observed this season	101
Fawns were not abundant or fewer in number	29
Fewer mature bucks on camera/seen	13
Less does seen	11
	154

COMMENTS (continued)

More

More young bucks	9
More deer observed this season	5
	14

Deer abundance total: 168

Other

Severe winters affecting deer numbers	11
Less hunters in camp because of low deer numbers	8
Not going to hunt in the U.P. next year due to low numbers	7
Did not hunt in the U.P. due to low deer numbers	5
Thinking about selling camp	5
Deer habitat needs attention	5
	41

Updates on Comment Subjects & Other Items

Wolves and Coyotes: The most popular comment thread in 2023 was predators, particularly wolves. The most numerous predator comments were about numerous wolf observations and/or sign around hunting locations, the view that their presence was having a negative impact on deer, and requests for their control. Similar comments about coyotes, and predators in general, were made by several camps.

Wolves

Despite having secure populations in the three Great Lakes States (Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan) wolves remain on the list of federally protected species. Wolves in much of the Lower 48 states were removed from the Federal Endangered Species List in January 2021, only to be returned to the list in February 2022 due to a federal court decision that vacated the USFWS order. This action marked the 6th time, due to lawsuits or threat of lawsuits against the USFWS delisting efforts, that the Federal legal status of wolves changed in Michigan since 2003.

The DNR supports the federal rule to delist wolves because the state's wolf population has long surpassed federal and state goals for recovery. Currently, wolves in Michigan are classified as a protected game species. It remains illegal to kill a wolf, except in defense of human life. Livestock owners will continue to be compensated for wolf depredation losses. Hunting of wolves while they are on the endangered species list is not permitted.

The minimum winter wolf population in the U.P. is stable and has remained somewhere between 600 and 700 animals for more than a decade. The continued trend of statistical stability indicates that gray wolves may have reached their biological carrying capacity within the U.P. Wolf presence has only been confirmed twice genetically in the Lower Peninsula in recent times; in 2004 and 2014.

At one time we conducted our wolf track survey across the whole U.P., this task was becoming too time consuming so in 2007 we developed and evaluated a sampling survey to reduce the search area to allow more time to accurately count wolves in adjacent territories. This approach uses a geographic stratification and produces an unbiased, precise estimate of total wolf abundance during the winter months when wolves are at their lowest population level, which is why we report the estimate as the minimum winter wolf population estimate. In 2023, we started exploring an occupancy model method which utilizes a grid system of trail cameras to estimate wolf abundance. If this new method of estimating wolf abundance works it would allow us to provide estimates during the summer or fall when the yearly wolf population cycle is at a higher point, which would allow us to move away from only reporting the minimum wolf population estimate, something the sportsmen and women of Michigan have been requesting. This winter we are utilizing both methods which will allow us to evaluate the traditional track survey and the trail camera method.

For those hunting with dogs the DNR has produced a new online dashboard, making incidence of wolf-dog conflicts more accessible for viewers. The dashboard includes mapped data points of conflicts and a database of incidents over many years. The improvement in presenting the data was suggested from members of the Wolf Management Advisory Council.

For more information on gray wolves in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/wolves and to check out the new wolf-dog conflict online dashboard, visit Wolf and dog conflicts at that site.

Coyotes

Coyotes can be trapped from October 15 to March 1 and can be hunted year-round. Coyotes may be taken on private property at any time without a license if doing or about to do damage. Hunters have been able to harvest coyotes during firearm season since 2010.

Deer Abundance, Management, & Regulations: Deer abundance was the second-most popular comment thread in 2023. Most of these comments related to lower deer numbers than the previous season(s), similar to the past 2 seasons, and were consistent with camp ratings of the deer herd (see graph on page 10). The comments corresponded with lower deer sightings and lower hunter success rates. The reported harvest in the new statewide deer harvest reporting system was also lower in 2023 than 2022.

A December 21, 2023, DNR press release "Taking stock of Michigan's latest deer harvest" addressed the lower harvest reporting as of that date as well as other related issues. When reviewing the preliminary data available from the Midwest, the northern states appear to have very similar reductions in harvest.

The article indicated that, in Michigan, there are numerous factors that may act singularly or in combination to influence deer abundance, and they can vary over space and time. Some of these factors have a greater impact on deer populations and thus are more important than others. In addition, some of these limiting factors can be managed by state wildlife agencies, while others cannot. Predators (including wolves), winter weather, habitat quality, changes to deer harvest regulations, declining hunter numbers and changes in timber harvest all play a combined role in changes to the deer population in the U.P. The "Factors Limiting Deer Abundance in the Upper Peninsula" complete report available on the DNR's web site provides more information. Numerous factors can also affect deer harvest. For example, given that 50% of the deer harvests in rifle season occur within the first three to four days, unusual weather at

the beginning of the season can decrease harvest, like the warm, windy days we had this season. Even what day of the week the opener falls on can change harvest.

The article explained that the DNR has taken numerous actions, often in concert with partnering groups, agencies or individuals, to improve deer habitat and low deer numbers. Deer habitat management is ongoing, including managing food resources and shelter species on state-managed lands. The U.P. Habitat Workgroup has worked for several years to improve habitat for deer in areas where they spend the critical winter months. The workgroup membership is composed of DNR Wildlife and Forestry employees, federal forest managers, members of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, and wildlife and forestry interests. The Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative, a DNR grant program for the U.P., is supported by the state's Deer Range Improvement Program, which is funded by a portion of deer hunting license revenue, and has improved thousands of acres of deer habitat. The DNR's Wildlife Habitat grant program provides funding to enhance and improve the quality and quantity of game species habitat in support of specific goals from the DNR Wildlife Division's strategic plan.

On January 17, 2024, the new Deer Management Initiative was announced in a press release. The DNR, in collaboration with the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, is initiating a comprehensive Deer Management Initiative aimed at evaluating and responding to present-day deer management challenges. The initiative seeks to develop recommendations to address these challenges and ensure the sustainable and healthy management of deer populations and their habitats across the state. The DNR will actively engage with stakeholders from various natural resources organizations as well as tribal partners to develop recommendations that acknowledge these challenges and work toward improved deer management in the state. The DNR is also seeking to involve unaffiliated individuals who have concerns about deer management to encourage a far-reaching, representative discussion. Those interested in participating in this vital initiative were invited to submit their applications by Jan. 31, 2023, and successful applicants were to be notified shortly thereafter. To submit thoughts on topics that the groups should consider, or ideas for improvement, interested persons were asked to email DNR-Wildlife@Michigan.gov, including the term "DMI" in the subject line.

Deer harvest reporting became available in 2021 and was mandatory in 2022 and 2023. Data collected through harvest reporting is used to help manage the deer population in Michigan. Hunters were encouraged to go to www.michigan.gov/DNRHarvestReport or use the DNR Hunt Fish app to register a deer. As of February 4, 2024, approximately 16,900 deer harvested in the U.P. in 2023 had been reported, 75% of which were antlered bucks. This was approximately 26% fewer deer (~24% fewer bucks) than reported in 2022. The harvest reporting results can be viewed at www.mdnr-elicense.com/HarvestReportSummary.

Wildlife Division staff hold sportsperson coalition meetings to provide regular interaction with local stakeholders on an array of topics in the U.P., including regular discussions of deer management issues. Contact your local DNR wildlife biologist or technician for a meeting schedule if you are interested in attending.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): Chronic wasting disease is a fatal nervous system disease found in animals of the family Cervidae, including deer, moose, and elk. A 4-year-old doe killed in Dickinson County's Waucedah Township on a deer-damage shooting permit in September 2018 tested positive for CWD. This event marked the first confirmation of CWD in the U.P.

The DNR established a core surveillance area in 2018 (totals 660 sq. mi.) centered on Waucedah Township, where the DNR tested over 2,600 deer to better determine the extent of

infected deer. Given no additional CWD positives have been detected within the U.P. core surveillance area, the DNR is adapting its surveillance efforts within this area as well as within other areas of the state. The Department has established a team to revise CWD strategies including updating the 2012 CWD Response Plan, developing a Michigan CWD Management Plan, and address details of operations or implementation of those strategies. Thanks to hunters and others involved for submitting samples to try to reach the surveillance goals and becoming actively involved in preventing the spread of CWD. Visit www.michigan.gov/cwd for more information and the latest updates on CWD.

Acknowledgements: This survey was conducted through the DNR's Escanaba and Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Centers. Jo Ann Alexander, Kari Diffenderfer, Rachel Leggett, and Rebecca Randazzo handled administrative and processing aspects of the survey. David Jentoft and Colter Lubben coordinated the survey and prepared this report. This project was supported by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, Michigan Project W-147-R-5.

Table 1. SUMMARY OF THE U.P. DEER CAMP SURVEY – ENTIRE UPPER PENINSULA

Firearm Season

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of camps participating in survey		551	543	492	547	522	486	468	443	420	395	350	364
Number of hunters		2,429	2,469	2,046	2,277	2,043	1,962	1,901	1,803	1,519	1,572	1,334	1,394
Total days spent hunting		14,681	15,238	11,908	13,931	11,939	10,916	10,126	10,060	9,648	8,585	7,223	7,894
Days hunted per hunter		6	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	5	5	6
Percentage of hunters killing a buck		31%	25%	19%	14%	20%	29%	33%	26%	22%	26%	24%	19%
Percentage of buck sightings resulting in a kill		13%	14%	14%	16%	12%	9%	13%	14%	12%	11%	9%	9%
Percentage of hunters killing an antlerless deer		6%	4%	4%	1%	2%	5%	4%	4%	5%	6%	5%	5%
Bucks killed per 100 hunter days		5	4	3	2	3	5	7	5	4	5	5	3
Bucks observed per hunter - entire season		3	2	1	1	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	2
Antlerless observed per hunter - entire season		18	12	14	9	13	19	18	14	14	14	16	10
Total deer observed per hunter - entire season		20	14	16	10	15	22	21	16	16	16	19	12
Bucks observed per **10** hunter days		4.3	3.1	2.4	1.5	3.0	6.0	5.2	3.6	3.0	4.5	5.0	3.7
Antlerless deer observed per hunter day		2.9	2.0	2.5	1.4	2.2	3.4	3.4	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.9	1.8
Total deer observed per hunter day		3.3	2.3	2.7	1.6	2.5	4.0	3.9	3.0	2.6	3.0	3.4	2.2
Fawns observed per 100 does		52	40	41	50	65	58	51	49	49	56	53	44
Does per buck (observed) on opening day		3	3	5	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	2
Size of deer herd compared to last year:	More	34%	7%	10%	5%	35%	63%	37%	13%	9%	22%	21%	4%
	Same	40%	19%	17%	13%	35%	25%	40%	33%	28%	34%	34%	19%
	Less	26%	74%	73%	82%	30%	12%	23%	54%	63%	44%	45%	77%
Rating of the deer season:	Excellent	9%	5%	3%	1%	1%	10%	11%	6%	3%	6%	5%	2%
	Good	36%	13%	11%	6%	19%	41%	41%	24%	16%	23%	28%	11%
	Fair	33%	30%	26%	17%	36%	33%	30%	30%	28%	33%	30%	25%
	Poor	22%	52%	60%	76%	44%	16%	18%	40%	53%	38%	37%	62%

Table 2. U.P. DEER CAMP SURVEY – West U.P. Summary

Firearm Season - All Deer Management Units Combined

see map on page 12 for the West U.P. survey area

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of camps participating in survey	318	362	357	369	414	402	412	400	405	341	404	383	354	334	312	304	282	249	264
Number of hunters	1,510	1,744	1,738	1,740	1,930	1,790	1,805	1,780	1,837	1,490	1,694	1,478	1,430	1,323	1,254	1,101	1,064	905	1,008
Total days spent hunting	9,152	11,107	10,709	11,397	13,233	11,306	11,056	10,947	11,809	8,825	10,417	8,826	8,102	7,282	7,363	7,159	6,028	5,019	5,690
Days hunted per hunter	6	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	6	6	6
Percentage of hunters killing a buck	24%	29%	33%	30%	21%	25%	27%	34%	26%	19%	15%	20%	30%	34%	29%	24%	29%	28%	18%
Percentage of buck sightings resulting in a kill									13%	13%	16%	11%	8%	12%	14%	11%	11%	9%	9%
Percentage of hunters killing an antlerless deer	8%	8%	7%	8%	5%	4%	6%	7%	4%	4%	2%	2%	6%	5%	5%	5%	7%	5%	6%
Bucks observed per hunter - entire season	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	2	4	3	2	2	3	3	2
Antlerless observed per hunter - entire season	14	16	19	19	11	15	18	19	13	15	9	14	21	19	15	15	15	16	10
Total deer observed per hunter - entire season	16	18	22	22	13	17	21	22	15	17	10	16	25	22	17	18	18	19	12
Bucks observed per **10** hunter days	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.8	3.3	2.6	1.6	3.1	6.7	5.6	3.8	3.4	5.1	5.5	3.8
Antlerless deer observed per hunter day	2.4	2.5	3.1	2.8	1.6	2.3	3.0	3.1	2.0	2.6	1.5	2.3	3.6	3.5	2.6	2.4	2.7	3.0	1.8
Deer observed per hunter day	2.7	2.8	3.5	3.2	1.9	2.6	3.4	3.6	2.3	2.8	1.6	2.6	4.3	4.0	3.0	2.7	3.2	3.5	2.2
Fawns observed per 100 does	57	55	55	47	44	58	54	52	41	40	50	66	60	52	52	50	58	54	44
Does per buck (observed) on opening day	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2
Size of deer herd compared to last year: More	14%	23%	32%	10%	1%	23%	36%	34%	6%	9%	6%	35%	64%	35%	12%	10%	23%	19%	1%
Same	26%	38%	39%	30%	12%	34%	36%	40%	15%	17%	12%	33%	24%	41%	33%	28%	34%	34%	14%
Less	60%	39%	29%	60%	87%	43%	28%	26%	79%	74%	82%	32%	12%	24%	55%	62%	43%	47%	85%
Rating of the deer season: Excellent	6%	4%	9%	6%	2%	4%	8%	11%	5%	4%	1%	1%	11%	11%	5%	4%	7%	4%	2%
Good	13%	27%	34%	25%	9%	18%	29%	35%	12%	9%	7%	17%	43%	41%	26%	16%	25%	26%	9%
Fair	31%	32%	36%	33%	23%	33%	32%	33%	29%	25%	16%	37%	31%	29%	31%	27%	34%	35%	21%
Poor	50%	37%	21%	36%	66%	45%	31%	21%	54%	62%	76%	45%	15%	19%	38%	53%	34%	35%	68%

Table 3. U.P. DEER CAMP SURVEY – East U.P. Summary

Firearm Season - All Deer Management Units Combined

see map on page 13 for the East U.P. survey area

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of camps participating in survey	98	100	96	100	118	129	140	151	138	151	143	139	132	134	131	116	113	101	100
Number of hunters	403	444	458	490	535	561	567	649	632	556	583	565	532	578	549	418	508	429	386
Total days spent hunting	2,375	2,750	2,625	3,041	3,318	3,385	3,327	3,734	3,527	3,015	3,514	3,113	2,814	2,844	2,697	2,489	2,557	2,204	2,204
Days hunted per hunter	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	5	5	5	6	5	5	6
Percentage of hunters killing a buck	19%	19%	26%	26%	15%	17%	22%	25%	21%	17%	10%	22%	25%	31%	21%	18%	20%	17%	19%
Percentage of buck sightings resulting in a kill	25%	17%	17%	14%	17%	16%	15%	15%	16%	17%	15%	15%	11%	15%	14%	16%	12%	9%	10%
Percentage of hunters killing an antlerless deer	6%	6%	5%	10%	3%	1%	0%	1%	3%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	1%	3%	3%	3%
Bucks observed per hunter - entire season	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2
Antlerless observed per hunter - entire season	10	10	12	11	7	10	11	13	10	12	8	10	14	15	13	12	10	14	12
Total deer observed per hunter - entire season	10	11	14	13	8	11	12	15	11	13	9	11	16	17	14	13	12	16	14
Bucks observed per **10** hunter days	1.4	1.9	2.8	3.2	1.5	1.7	2.4	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.1	2.6	4.2	4.1	3.0	1.9	3.3	3.8	3.3
Antlerless deer observed per hunter day	1.6	1.6	2.1	1.9	1.1	1.7	1.8	2.3	1.8	2.3	1.3	1.9	2.7	3.1	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.7	2.1
Deer observed per hunter day	1.7	1.8	2.4	2.2	1.2	1.9	2.1	2.6	2.1	2.5	1.4	2.1	3.1	3.5	2.9	2.2	2.3	3.0	2.4
Fawns observed per 100 does	61	54	47	41	43	57	51	52	39	47	49	60	51	48	41	44	50	50	43
Does per buck (observed) on opening day	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	6	4	3	4	4	5	5	3	3	3
Size of deer herd compared to last year: More	7%	22%	38%	24%	4%	12%	24%	36%	10%	14%	3%	35%	61%	42%	16%	5%	19%	26%	13%
Same	28%	38%	32%	30%	14%	32%	36%	40%	30%	15%	14%	40%	26%	38%	34%	30%	34%	36%	33%
Less	65%	40%	30%	46%	81%	57%	36%	24%	61%	71%	83%	25%	13%	20%	50%	65%	47%	38%	54%
Rating of the deer season: Excellent	2%	5%	10%	10%	1%	2%	2%	5%	4%	2%	0%	2%	7%	10%	6%	1%	2%	5%	2%
Good	15%	23%	30%	29%	13%	10%	19%	37%	18%	18%	4%	24%	34%	40%	20%	14%	21%	33%	18%
Fair	27%	26%	35%	31%	17%	33%	41%	34%	33%	27%	19%	35%	38%	36%	30%	30%	30%	22%	34%
Poor	56%	46%	25%	30%	69%	55%	35%	24%	46%	53%	77%	39%	21%	14%	44%	55%	47%	40%	46%

Table 4. SUMMARY OF 2023 U.P. DEER CAMP SURVEY

Firearm Season – Individual Deer Management Units

see map on page 4 for DMU locations

		Deer Management Unit																					
		007	**017**	**021**	**022**	**027**	**031**	**036**	**042**	**048**	**055**	**066**	**117**	**121**	**122**	**127**	**131**	**152**	**155**	**249**	**252**	**255**	**349**
Number of camps participating in survey		23	40	37	18	18	13	20	9	26	40	8	11	10	4	5	6	17	9	13	9	18	10
Number of hunters		84	150	140	55	58	53	66	46	86	179	22	57	50	11	11	23	69	25	49	35	81	44
Total days spent hunting		484	940	753	297	347	279	376	256	460	1,060	160	199	323	55	68	141	294	129	290	185	483	315
Days hunted per hunter		6	6	5	5	6	5	6	6	5	6	7	3	6	5	6	6	4	5	6	5	6	7
Percentage of hunters killing a buck		15%	21%	15%	18%	7%	13%	12%	13%	12%	26%	5%	28%	30%	27%	0%	22%	19%	20%	14%	17%	28%	14%
Percentage of buck sightings resulting in a kill		21%	8%	9%	10%	12%	13%	12%	30%	14%	6%	17%	11%	7%	6%	0%	31%	15%	8%	21%	24%	11%	11%
Percentage of hunters killing an antlerless deer		0%	3%	4%	5%	0%	2%	0%	9%	0%	16%	0%	4%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	6%	19%	14%
Bucks killed per 100 hunter days		3	4	3	3	1	3	2	2	2	5	1	8	5	7	0	4	4	4	2	3	6	2
Bucks observed per hunter - entire season		1	3	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	5	0	2	5	6	0	1	1	2	1	1	3	1
Antlerless observed per hunter - entire season		5	19	9	9	4	6	5	4	7	19	3	8	16	12	2	8	6	9	5	3	17	8
Total deer observed per hunter - entire season		6	22	11	11	4	7	6	5	8	24	3	10	21	17	3	9	8	11	6	4	20	10
*Bucks observed per **10** hunter days*		1.3	4.6	3.3	3.4	1.0	1.9	1.8	0.8	1.6	8.1	0.4	7.1	7.2	11.6	0.6	1.1	3.0	4.7	1.2	1.4	5.1	1.8
Antlerless deer observed per hunter day		0.9	3.0	1.7	1.7	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.3	3.2	0.4	2.2	2.5	2.3	0.4	1.3	1.5	1.7	0.9	0.6	2.8	1.2
Total deer observed per hunter day		1.0	3.5	2.0	2.0	0.7	1.3	1.0	0.8	1.5	4.1	0.5	3.0	3.3	3.5	0.4	1.4	1.8	2.2	1.0	0.8	3.3	1.3
Fawns observed per 100 does		51	46	56	22	33	59	24	25	39	46	17	21	40	34	35	69	27	48	72	27	54	47
Does per buck (observed) on opening day		3	3	3	3	2	2	3	N/A*	4	2	9	2	2	1	N/A*	3	2	1	2	3	2	3
Size of deer herd compared to last year:	*More*	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	6%	0%	40%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	0%	0%	0%
	Same	9%	38%	17%	0%	0%	15%	19%	0%	9%	19%	0%	60%	40%	75%	0%	0%	12%	12%	39%	29%	22%	30%
	Less	91%	51%	83%	100%	100%	85%	81%	100%	82%	75%	100%	0%	60%	25%	100%	100%	88%	88%	46%	71%	78%	70%
Rating of the deer season:	*Excellent*	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%
	Good	9%	21%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	28%	0%	40%	20%	0%	0%	20%	13%	11%	24%	0%	11%	0%
	Fair	23%	37%	40%	14%	13%	15%	6%	0%	17%	28%	0%	50%	40%	25%	20%	20%	13%	22%	38%	12%	24%	40%
	Poor	68%	37%	57%	86%	87%	85%	94%	100%	75%	38%	100%	10%	40%	75%	80%	60%	68%	67%	38%	88%	59%	60%

** no bucks observed on opening day*

Table 5. Number of furbearer and other wildlife sightings by Deer Management Unit
2023 Firearm Season
see map on page 4 for DMU locations

Deer Management Unit

	007	017	021	022	027	031	036	042	048	055	066	117	121	122	127	131	152	155	249	252	255	349	TOTALS
Turkey	27	279	417	172	52	147	125	47	7	769	72	0	126	0	36	43	30	79	0	4	309	8	2,749
Wolf	26	32	21	19	14	11	11	21	17	16	6	0	4	1	2	12	12	1	22	4	6	9	267
Coyote	14	20	6	7	15	3	10	15	3	48	4	3	3	2	1	0	6	0	6	3	8	8	185
Marten	16	2	2	0	8	0	1	11	23	0	7	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	4	0	1	3	85
Fox	5	1	9	3	5	1	4	0	3	19	1	7	0	1	1	6	2	0	3	0	5	0	76
Fisher	5	0	7	3	1	1	5	4	5	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	5	0	0	0	5	0	46
Bear	0	3	5	0	2	0	3	0	1	5	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	6	0	6	1	39
Bobcat	5	4	0	2	4	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	28
Moose	8	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	20
Cougar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Feral Pig	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sq. miles	1,780	792	1,471	897	1,237	818	987	798	2,024	909	862	135	284	163	328	538	385	249	859	297	463	468	16,744
Hunters	84	150	140	55	58	53	66	46	86	179	22	57	50	11	11	23	69	25	49	35	81	44	1,394

Table 6. Furbearer Sightings per 100 Hunter Days

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*
Coyote	2.1	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.3	2.8	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.3
Wolf	0.7	1.1	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.4	2.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.4	1.7	1.6	2.6	3.2	2.5	2.7	3.4
Fisher	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6
Marten	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.1
Bobcat	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5
Fox	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.4
Cougar	0.0	<0.1	<0.1	0.0	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 007

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	38	41	41	38	39	40	23	33	36	33	33	32	31	30	22	23
Hunters	164	193	178	164	164	177	101	152	133	146	131	141	110	124	79	84
% killing a buck	32%	13%	26%	23%	36%	26%	12%	12%	22%	26%	34%	23%	17%	20%	22%	15%
Deer seen per day	2.0	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.3	1.6	0.9	1.3	2.0	2.6	2.4	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.0
Fawns seen per 100 does	45	50	69	52	52	36	41	65	67	58	46	39	43	44	47	51
Does seen per buck	3	4	4	4	3	3	9	4	3	2	4	4	4	4	4	3
More deer than last year	8%	0%	17%	44%	32%	3%	0%	6%	35%	66%	30%	3%	0%	22%	19%	0%
Same number deer	30%	26%	29%	41%	42%	21%	4%	6%	33%	19%	40%	26%	28%	44%	38%	9%
Fewer deer	62%	74%	54%	15%	26%	76%	96%	88%	32%	15%	30%	71%	72%	33%	43%	91%
Season good-to-excellent	24%	7%	10%	34%	43%	15%	5%	6%	12%	50%	52%	22%	4%	23%	29%	9%
Season fair-to-poor	76%	93%	90%	66%	57%	85%	95%	94%	88%	50%	48%	78%	96%	77%	71%	91%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	9
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in area	8
Wolves having a negative impact on deer	6
Control wolves or allow us to control them	6
Worst season ever	5
Predators having a negative impact on deer	4

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 017

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	39	48	59	55	60	57	58	52	51	49	51	47	44	41	41	40
Hunters	192	216	244	229	253	246	211	193	205	193	212	191	171	196	158	150
% killing a buck	21%	12%	16%	19%	25%	21%	13%	13%	21%	26%	28%	20%	18%	21%	20%	21%
Deer seen per day	2.5	1.3	2.0	1.9	2.9	2.3	2.7	1.8	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	3.6	3.5
Fawns seen per 100 does	41	37	56	49	52	41	54	56	69	50	50	42	42	42	45	46
Does seen per buck	3	4	5	4	3	4	8	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
More deer than last year	13%	6%	14%	20%	37%	13%	17%	6%	44%	54%	43%	19%	5%	16%	29%	11%
Same number deer	29%	15%	30%	36%	44%	36%	17%	17%	38%	33%	37%	30%	21%	24%	37%	38%
Fewer deer than last year	58%	79%	56%	44%	19%	51%	66%	77%	18%	13%	20%	51%	74%	60%	34%	51%
Season good-to-excellent	28%	10%	14%	17%	47%	19%	15%	8%	33%	45%	47%	27%	18%	29%	51%	26%
Season fair-to-poor	72%	90%	87%	79%	53%	81%	85%	92%	67%	55%	53%	73%	82%	71%	49%	74%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	7
Wolves having a negative impact on deer	7
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	5
Control wolves or allow us to control them	4
Fawns were not abundant or fewer in number	4
Fewer mature bucks on camera/seen	4

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 021

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	48	56	53	54	54	53	54	55	53	51	49	44	44	37	37	37
Hunters	200	255	223	221	222	236	226	223	196	177	195	165	146	139	139	140
% killing a buck	19%	12%	13%	14%	27%	13%	15%	9%	14%	27%	23%	22%	23%	22%	24%	15%
Deer seen per day	2.6	0.8	1.1	1.7	1.9	1.0	2.0	0.8	1.4	2.7	3.4	3.3	2.4	2.8	2.6	2.0
Fawns seen per 100 does	45	37	59	56	50	30	28	55	62	50	63	54	71	60	61	56
Does seen per buck	5	4	3	3	2	3	5	4	3	3	5	3	3	3	2	3
More deer than last year	25%	0%	13%	33%	42%	8%	13%	6%	33%	61%	28%	28%	8%	22%	22%	0%
Same number deer	33%	4%	31%	31%	35%	19%	31%	9%	28%	31%	42%	27%	47%	24%	32%	17%
Fewer deer	42%	96%	56%	36%	23%	73%	56%	85%	39%	8%	30%	45%	45%	54%	46%	83%
Season good-to-excellent	32%	2%	2%	25%	40%	10%	13%	5%	22%	54%	41%	40%	28%	24%	28%	3%
Season fair-to-poor	68%	98%	98%	75%	60%	90%	87%	95%	78%	46%	59%	60%	72%	76%	72%	97%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	12
Control wolves or allow us to control them	5
Reduce or eliminate antlerless licenses in unit	4
Fawns were not abundant or fewer in number	3
Weather was mild/poor for hunting	3
Less shooting heard	3

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 022

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	26	29	24	22	26	23	25	26	25	23	24	21	19	15	17	18
Hunters	137	138	108	87	109	99	95	104	100	74	78	79	68	45	60	55
% killing a buck	40%	41%	34%	28%	40%	33%	22%	13%	17%	32%	46%	42%	16%	33%	30%	18%
Deer seen per day	3.2	2.7	3.7	4.7	3.1	2.1	3.0	1.7	3.2	5.5	6.3	2.8	3.3	4.4	4.3	2.0
Fawns seen per 100 does	42	40	46	49	41	30	30	42	60	60	46	38	44	63	38	22
Does seen per buck	2	2	3	3	3	3	6	4	5	2	4	2	4	2	2	3
More deer than last year	4%	0%	17%	36%	12%	9%	8%	4%	42%	78%	75%	11%	16%	15%	29%	0%
Same number deer	38%	18%	48%	32%	46%	13%	12%	4%	33%	13%	20%	21%	16%	38%	36%	0%
Fewer deer	58%	82%	35%	32%	42%	78%	80%	92%	25%	9%	5%	68%	68%	46%	35%	100%
Season good-to-excellent	54%	20%	30%	37%	54%	39%	12%	4%	13%	61%	65%	30%	10%	18%	31%	0%
Season fair-to-poor	46%	80%	70%	63%	46%	61%	88%	96%	87%	39%	35%	70%	90%	82%	69%	100%

Most frequent comments received:

Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	5
Fewer deer observed this season	4
Worst season ever	3
Worst deer season in a long time	3

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 027

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	9	18	22	25	27	28	20	27	24	22	21	23	25	23	17	18
Hunters	39	69	86	102	108	117	86	92	71	74	72	78	82	73	47	58
% killing a buck	28%	20%	26%	25%	33%	25%	10%	9%	14%	27%	28%	31%	30%	16%	28%	7%
Deer seen per day	1.7	1.3	2.1	3.4	3.7	2.1	1.4	1.3	1.9	3.0	3.3	2.1	1.7	1.4	2.5	0.7
Fawns seen per 100 does	15	32	37	38	53	28	22	30	63	50	36	42	37	43	53	33
Does seen per buck	4	4	6	5	4	4	9	11	5	3	5	4	5	5	3	2
More deer than last year	22%	0%	32%	33%	30%	8%	5%	0%	24%	57%	42%	10%	14%	32%	21%	0%
Same number deer	11%	0%	41%	17%	44%	16%	16%	18%	24%	24%	47%	25%	31%	21%	21%	0%
Fewer deer	67%	100%	27%	50%	26%	76%	79%	82%	52%	19%	11%	65%	55%	47%	58%	100%
Season good-to-excellent	33%	5%	32%	30%	41%	19%	10%	13%	0%	38%	42%	20%	27%	17%	14%	0%
Season fair-to-poor	67%	95%	68%	70%	59%	81%	90%	87%	100%	62%	58%	80%	73%	83%	86%	100%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	6
Worst deer season in a long time	3
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	2
Worst season ever	2

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 031

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	7	12	6	16	16	13	12	14	14	11	14	12	11	14	14	13
Hunters	30	63	29	65	65	71	47	71	54	57	61	62	52	61	57	53
% killing a buck	27%	21%	24%	45%	32%	30%	28%	21%	24%	30%	44%	31%	15%	28%	23%	13%
Deer seen per day	4.3	1.4	5.0	6.0	4.3	2.2	4.8	1.6	2.2	4.3	3.9	3.3	3.1	4.1	4.2	1.3
Fawns seen per 100 does	48	33	69	49	54	46	37	53	71	53	55	45	47	51	51	59
Does seen per buck	3	3	4	4	4	3	5	3	5	2	5	3	4	2	3	2
More deer than last year	17%	0%	50%	71%	38%	8%	20%	25%	31%	73%	31%	0%	10%	38%	7%	0%
Same number deer	33%	0%	17%	22%	31%	8%	0%	25%	38%	0%	54%	55%	10%	54%	36%	15%
Fewer deer	50%	100%	33%	7%	31%	84%	80%	50%	31%	27%	15%	45%	80%	8%	58%	85%
Season good-to-excellent	50%	0%	33%	79%	40%	0%	8%	16%	15%	55%	54%	18%	27%	33%	23%	0%
Season fair-to-poor	50%	100%	67%	21%	60%	100%	92%	84%	85%	45%	46%	82%	73%	67%	77%	100%

Most frequent comments received:

Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	4
Wolves having a negative impact on deer	3
Worst season ever	2
Control wolves or allow us to control them	2

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 036

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	32	31	33	35	32	33	25	32	26	26	23	19	20	19	16	20
Hunters	144	137	137	139	140	147	124	139	93	93	93	84	73	69	57	66
% killing a buck	29%	20%	33%	25%	38%	22%	15%	9%	8%	32%	40%	20%	15%	20%	18%	12%
Deer seen per day	3.4	1.5	3.1	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.6	1.2	1.8	4.2	3.8	2.0	2.3	1.6	2.4	1.0
Fawns seen per 100 does	42	34	61	52	38	36	30	43	70	57	41	43	50	46	27	24
Does seen per buck	3	3	2	3	3	3	6	13	3	3	4	5	3	2	3	3
More deer than last year	3%	3%	27%	36%	22%	6%	4%	0%	35%	84%	43%	6%	12%	13%	8%	0%
Same number deer	45%	19%	46%	49%	56%	25%	8%	13%	35%	16%	48%	44%	23%	24%	31%	19%
Fewer deer	52%	78%	27%	15%	22%	69%	88%	87%	30%	0%	9%	50%	65%	63%	61%	81%
Season good-to-excellent	29%	10%	21%	42%	53%	19%	0%	0%	4%	56%	57%	27%	11%	19%	14%	0%
Season fair-to-poor	71%	90%	79%	58%	47%	81%	100%	100%	96%	44%	43%	73%	89%	81%	86%	100%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	8
Wolves having a negative impact on deer	4
Worst season ever	4
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	3
Control wolves or allow us to control them	3
Weather was mild/poor for hunting	3

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 042

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	6	7	12	12	11	12	10	12	9	10	9	10	8	8	6	9
Hunters	34	45	78	73	77	75	48	59	49	58	38	42	37	37	34	46
% killing a buck	35%	24%	31%	42%	32%	32%	15%	10%	29%	33%	32%	19%	16%	22%	21%	13%
Deer seen per day	2.4	1.0	1.5	2.4	2.2	1.2	1.3	0.8	1.1	2.3	2.3	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	0.8
Fawns seen per 100 does	11	4	18	28	26	18	15	26	33	56	41	29	26	39	19	25
Does seen per buck	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	7	3	4	4	3	6	3	4	N/A*
More deer than last year	20%	0%	33%	27%	9%	0%	10%	0%	33%	40%	43%	0%	0%	38%	17%	0%
Same number deer	20%	0%	34%	64%	82%	17%	10%	8%	23%	40%	28%	11%	13%	13%	17%	0%
Fewer deer	60%	100%	33%	9%	9%	83%	80%	92%	44%	20%	29%	89%	87%	49%	66%	100%
Season good-to-excellent	34%	0%	33%	64%	46%	33%	0%	0%	33%	30%	28%	0%	0%	13%	17%	0%
Season fair-to-poor	66%	100%	67%	36%	54%	67%	100%	100%	67%	70%	72%	100%	100%	87%	83%	100%

** no bucks were observed on opening day in 2023*

Most frequent comments received:

Worst season ever	3
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	3
Control wolves or allow us to control them	2

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 048

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	26	24	23	33	37	31	34	36	36	36	36	38	30	32	24	26
Hunters	130	103	99	138	161	147	116	148	140	136	150	133	101	128	79	86
% killing a buck	29%	15%	19%	28%	29%	23%	17%	3%	23%	29%	31%	23%	11%	16%	23%	12%
Deer seen per day	2.2	1.2	1.7	1.9	2.6	1.6	2.1	0.9	1.4	2.9	2.9	2.4	1.3	1.8	2.7	1.5
Fawns seen per 100 does	47	51	58	55	52	25	47	54	51	48	57	51	43	67	59	39
Does seen per buck	3	5	3	2	4	3	6	3	3	5	4	5	15	3	6	4
More deer than last year	38%	4%	9%	30%	50%	13%	14%	0%	31%	81%	37%	13%	13%	16%	20%	9%
Same number deer	21%	4%	43%	48%	25%	19%	0%	13%	36%	5%	29%	27%	26%	42%	40%	9%
Fewer deer than last year	42%	92%	48%	21%	25%	68%	86%	87%	33%	14%	34%	60%	61%	42%	40%	82%
Season good-to-excellent	48%	13%	13%	36%	53%	22%	18%	0%	17%	44%	44%	33%	8%	9%	35%	8%
Season fair-to-poor	52%	88%	87%	63%	47%	78%	82%	100%	83%	56%	56%	67%	92%	91%	65%	92%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	8
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	7
Worst season ever	4
Did not hunt in the U.P. due to low deer numbers	3

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 055

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	57	54	56	57	54	52	46	52	52	51	45	43	40	38	36	40
Hunters	286	281	273	289	284	262	240	249	241	226	182	199	149	160	153	179
% killing a buck	34%	28%	31%	29%	40%	34%	30%	29%	29%	42%	37%	43%	38%	48%	38%	26%
Deer seen per day	3.6	2.8	3.4	3.5	4.5	3.2	3.0	2.6	3.6	6.0	4.8	4.4	4.3	5.0	5.4	4.1
Fawns seen per 100 does	49	48	63	64	61	59	50	62	67	74	60	65	61	78	64	46
Does seen per buck	2	2	2	2	3	4	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	2
More deer than last year	2%	4%	27%	27%	29%	6%	2%	8%	39%	56%	14%	20%	22%	18%	16%	6%
Same number deer	28%	7%	31%	39%	44%	14%	33%	25%	30%	36%	59%	43%	37%	41%	38%	19%
Fewer deer	70%	89%	42%	34%	27%	80%	65%	67%	31%	8%	27%	37%	41%	41%	46%	75%
Season good-to-excellent	30%	17%	33%	41%	52%	24%	20%	23%	37%	69%	61%	55%	43%	56%	56%	34%
Season fair-to-poor	70%	83%	67%	59%	48%	76%	80%	77%	63%	31%	29%	45%	57%	44%	44%	66%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	5
Fawns were not abundant or fewer in number	4
Worst season ever	3
Numerous coyotes, tracks, or howls in my area	3
Reduce or eliminate antlerless licenses in unit	3

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 066

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	8	13	14	16	14	18	9	16	16	14	11	13	10	12	11	8
Hunters	43	39	50	62	51	73	26	44	54	48	37	46	33	37	28	22
% killing a buck	14%	10%	14%	29%	35%	36%	12%	18%	24%	31%	32%	35%	27%	49%	14%	5%
Deer seen per day	2.1	1.2	1.8	3.3	4.3	2.0	0.7	0.8	1.3	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.4	2.4	2.3	0.5
Fawns seen per 100 does	47	33	62	65	51	21	42	42	39	23	24	26	43	9	30	17
Does seen per buck	13	31	3	5	3	3	9	2	3	4	5	5	6	2	8	9
More deer than last year	0%	0%	8%	37%	57%	6%	0%	0%	27%	31%	18%	15%	0%	8%	11%	0%
Same number deer	13%	0%	31%	50%	36%	11%	11%	0%	33%	31%	27%	23%	40%	34%	33%	0%
Fewer deer	87%	100%	61%	13%	7%	83%	89%	100%	40%	38%	55%	62%	60%	58%	56%	100%
Season good-to-excellent	25%	7%	7%	25%	50%	11%	0%	6%	7%	23%	19%	23%	10%	36%	11%	0%
Season fair-to-poor	75%	93%	93%	75%	50%	89%	100%	94%	93%	77%	81%	77%	90%	64%	89%	100%

Most frequent comments received: there was only one share comment (left), individual camp comments (right)

Fewer deer observed this season	5	Worst season ever
		Reduce or eliminate antlerless licenses in unit
		Wolves having a negative impact on deer
		Weather was mild/poor for hunting
		Worst deer season in a long time
		Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area
		Control wolves or allow us to control them
		Limit hunters to 1 buck per year
		Shorten the deer season

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 117

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	19	23	23	23	22	21	23	18	15	16	17	17	14	15	11	11
Hunters	71	93	97	85	89	103	92	97	72	78	87	91	45	76	59	57
% killing a buck	30%	30%	19%	21%	21%	20%	12%	12%	18%	19%	28%	18%	20%	18%	10%	28%
Deer seen per day	2.3	1.6	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.7	3.1	2.1	2.0	3.6	4.8	3.7	2.2	3.8	4.0	3.0
Fawns seen per 100 does	35	25	53	35	39	41	37	29	24	36	30	19	23	34	39	21
Does seen per buck	2	2	4	4	4	4	6	5	3	3	5	4	4	3	3	2
More deer than last year	21%	4%	4%	9%	10%	5%	14%	12%	14%	47%	57%	25%	0%	27%	27%	40%
Same number deer	32%	31%	22%	48%	45%	33%	23%	19%	43%	33%	43%	50%	83%	40%	55%	60%
Fewer deer than last year	47%	65%	74%	43%	45%	62%	63%	69%	43%	20%	0%	25%	17%	33%	18%	0%
Season good-to-excellent	42%	26%	8%	13%	23%	24%	23%	6%	21%	25%	64%	33%	17%	36%	36%	40%
Season fair-to-poor	58%	74%	92%	82%	77%	76%	77%	94%	79%	75%	36%	67%	83%	64%	64%	60%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer mature bucks on camera/seen	3
More young bucks	2
Increase bear permits	2
Increase antlerless licenses in unit	2

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 121

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	14	14	15	13	13	16	16	18	17	14	11	11	10	11	9	10
Hunters	66	68	65	50	43	58	62	68	67	50	48	52	47	42	35	50
% killing a buck	36%	16%	15%	28%	42%	26%	21%	22%	22%	46%	54%	46%	45%	43%	49%	30%
Deer seen per day	3.8	1.9	2.3	3.4	3.6	2.1	3.1	1.7	3.0	5.2	4.7	4.2	4.5	3.9	4.9	3.3
Fawns seen per 100 does	24	31	40	45	29	23	30	39	47	60	56	54	38	45	54	40
Does seen per buck	2	2	5	3	3	2	4	4	3	3	4	2	2	3	2	2
More deer than last year	7%	0%	13%	38%	38%	13%	13%	0%	40%	54%	45%	0%	11%	18%	22%	0%
Same number deer	43%	0%	40%	39%	31%	13%	25%	12%	47%	38%	37%	82%	22%	64%	33%	40%
Fewer deer	50%	100%	47%	23%	31%	74%	62%	88%	13%	8%	18%	18%	67%	18%	45%	60%
Season good-to-excellent	28%	0%	7%	38%	31%	13%	25%	12%	13%	62%	64%	54%	50%	55%	44%	20%
Season fair-to-poor	72%	100%	93%	62%	69%	87%	75%	88%	87%	38%	36%	46%	50%	45%	56%	80%

Most frequent comments received: only two shared comments (left), individual camp comments (right)

Fawns were not abundant or fewer in number	2	Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area
Less does seen	2	Worst season ever
		3 pts/side APR for every first buck
		Predators having a negative impact on deer
		More deer observed this season
		Fawns were abundant or higher in number

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 122

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	5	10	7	6	3	6	6	6	7	6	7	5	5	4	4	4
Hunters	27	37	34	23	9	27	26	25	25	29	28	15	14	12	12	11
% killing a buck	37%	11%	24%	22%	22%	26%	27%	16%	16%	17%	29%	40%	14%	8%	33%	27%
Deer seen per day	4.3	4.8	5.1	6.8	6.1	4.9	5.6	3.6	4.8	7.1	5.1	3.8	4.3	6.3	5.0	3.5
Fawns seen per 100 does	35	76	49	56	58	72	57	63	74	83	63	48	75	52	37	34
Does seen per buck	5	3	4	4	2	4	3	3	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1
More deer than last year	0%	0%	14%	50%	67%	0%	0%	0%	43%	67%	29%	0%	0%	0%	25%	0%
Same number deer	40%	30%	29%	17%	0%	17%	0%	50%	57%	33%	14%	75%	25%	50%	0%	75%
Fewer deer	60%	70%	57%	33%	33%	83%	100%	50%	0%	0%	57%	25%	75%	50%	75%	25%
Season good-to-excellent	60%	20%	43%	50%	33%	17%	33%	0%	57%	50%	29%	25%	0%	25%	50%	0%
Season fair-to-poor	40%	80%	57%	50%	67%	83%	67%	100%	43%	50%	71%	75%	100%	75%	50%	100%

Most frequent comments received: only two shared comments (left), individual camp comments (right):

Fawns were not abundant or fewer in number	2	Less does seen
Predators having a negative impact on deer	2	Worst deer season in a long time
		Not going to hunt in the U.P. next year due to low numbers
		Shorten crossbow season

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 127

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	10	17	14	17	10	12	9	14	11	7	6	6	6	5	4	5
Hunters	34	61	49	61	31	37	24	26	22	16	11	12	11	9	9	11
% killing a buck	35%	13%	35%	30%	42%	16%	25%	19%	27%	38%	27%	25%	9%	22%	44%	0%
Deer seen per day	4.0	1.2	1.6	1.9	3.6	1.5	1.4	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.4
Fawns seen per 100 does	52	51	53	31	33	34	10	44	71	84	46	17	46	67	0	35
Does seen per buck	3	4	6	4	6	10	4	N/A*	1	4	12	2	N/A*	1	1	N/A*
More deer than last year	0%	6%	14%	6%	40%	0%	0%	20%	10%	57%	80%	17%	0%	20%	25%	0%
Same number deer	30%	12%	36%	47%	40%	9%	11%	10%	30%	14%	0%	33%	33%	20%	25%	0%
Fewer deer	70%	82%	50%	47%	20%	91%	89%	70%	60%	29%	20%	50%	67%	60%	50%	100%
Season good-to-excellent	10%	0%	21%	12%	50%	8%	0%	0%	10%	43%	40%	17%	0%	20%	33%	0%
Season fair-to-poor	90%	100%	79%	88%	50%	92%	100%	100%	90%	57%	60%	83%	100%	80%	67%	100%

* no bucks were observed on opening day in 2015, 2020, and 2023

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	5
Severe winters affecting deer numbers	3
Predators having a negative impact on deer	2

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 131

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	4	7	7	6	8	8	6	10	8	8	7	5	6	5	4	6
Hunters	19	32	31	24	39	41	21	41	25	31	22	13	26	23	12	23
% killing a buck	37%	19%	23%	46%	36%	24%	33%	15%	4%	26%	27%	23%	23%	57%	33%	22%
Deer seen per day	2.0	1.4	4.5	5.0	4.6	1.9	1.6	0.7	2.1	3.0	4.9	2.2	2.5	4.0	4.9	1.4
Fawns seen per 100 does	46	42	87	54	47	34	47	28	50	72	68	88	43	64	82	69
Does seen per buck	2	2	3	1	2	5	7	3	4	5	5	2	5	2	3	3
More deer than last year	0%	0%	86%	100%	71%	0%	0%	10%	38%	78%	33%	40%	33%	40%	50%	0%
Same number deer	0%	0%	14%	0%	15%	14%	0%	10%	62%	11%	50%	20%	17%	60%	50%	0%
Fewer deer	100%	100%	0%	0%	14%	86%	100%	80%	0%	11%	17%	40%	50%	0%	0%	100%
Season good-to-excellent	50%	0%	71%	83%	61%	13%	0%	20%	14%	50%	66%	40%	17%	60%	50%	20%
Season fair-to-poor	50%	100%	29%	17%	29%	87%	100%	80%	86%	50%	34%	60%	83%	40%	50%	80%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	3
Wolves having a negative impact on deer	2

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 152

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	26	28	27	25	21	20	20	20	21	19	20	19	18	19	14	17
Hunters	137	142	134	115	105	98	91	93	91	93	96	71	70	72	57	69
% killing a buck	27%	21%	22%	27%	32%	28%	7%	16%	19%	22%	36%	18%	16%	35%	23%	19%
Deer seen per day	2.6	1.2	2.2	3.4	2.8	2.7	1.5	1.9	2.5	4.3	4.4	3.2	2.1	3.4	2.8	1.8
Fawns seen per 100 does	50	28	32	47	37	33	37	36	58	45	39	44	41	41	43	27
Does seen per buck	4	4	3	5	3	5	9	7	4	4	4	6	7	4	4	2
More deer than last year	8%	4%	23%	46%	28%	0%	5%	33%	26%	84%	37%	16%	0%	41%	15%	0%
Same number deer	23%	8%	35%	37%	28%	26%	10%	0%	53%	11%	42%	31%	19%	24%	38%	12%
Fewer deer	69%	88%	42%	17%	44%	74%	85%	67%	21%	5%	21%	53%	81%	35%	47%	88%
Season good-to-excellent	24%	15%	31%	37%	42%	21%	5%	16%	10%	53%	60%	42%	12%	39%	21%	19%
Season fair-to-poor	76%	85%	69%	63%	58%	79%	95%	84%	90%	47%	40%	58%	88%	61%	79%	81%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	8
Wolves having a negative impact on deer	2
Severe winters affecting deer numbers	2
Worst season ever	2
Weather was mild/poor for hunting	2

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 155

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	23	21	18	16	19	17	14	16	16	17	14	12	13	11	10	9
Hunters	106	90	71	75	80	69	52	67	59	63	51	42	39	36	28	25
% killing a buck	29%	21%	20%	28%	24%	28%	17%	13%	19%	25%	41%	26%	26%	22%	46%	20%
Deer seen per day	4.8	2.6	4.3	5.0	6.0	4.5	6.2	2.8	4.5	7.3	6.2	4.6	5.1	4.9	4.9	2.2
Fawns seen per 100 does	62	58	67	55	53	49	43	46	76	60	62	51	49	71	76	48
Does seen per buck	3	3	4	4	2	2	4	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	2	1
More deer than last year	14%	0%	29%	53%	55%	6%	14%	0%	25%	75%	58%	8%	17%	18%	20%	0%
Same number deer	18%	10%	47%	7%	28%	13%	22%	0%	44%	19%	34%	50%	0%	37%	50%	12%
Fewer deer	68%	90%	24%	40%	17%	81%	64%	100%	31%	6%	8%	42%	83%	45%	30%	88%
Season good-to-excellent	26%	10%	18%	40%	64%	24%	21%	0%	20%	75%	69%	25%	23%	30%	30%	11%
Season fair-to-poor	74%	90%	82%	60%	36%	76%	79%	100%	80%	25%	31%	75%	77%	70%	70%	89%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	5
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	4
Fawns were not abundant or fewer in number	3
Reduce or eliminate antlerless licenses in unit	2
Less does seen	2
Control wolves or allow us to control them	2

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 249

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	7	10	14	17	18	16	20	22	21	17	17	17	15	13	13	13
Hunters	45	68	72	73	86	85	65	76	81	72	72	81	55	54	49	49
% killing a buck	27%	10%	10%	22%	22%	20%	20%	12%	26%	19%	36%	16%	24%	22%	18%	14%
Deer seen per day	0.7	0.5	0.7	1.6	1.6	0.8	1.3	0.4	1.0	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.0
Fawns seen per 100 does	27	47	80	65	55	22	45	68	44	54	56	44	88	79	74	72
Does seen per buck	6	3	2	3	3	4	5	5	4	4	2	5	4	3	2	2
More deer than last year	14%	0%	14%	29%	44%	0%	7%	5%	37%	44%	29%	13%	0%	33%	38%	15%
Same number deer	43%	0%	15%	30%	50%	25%	20%	0%	47%	50%	64%	37%	29%	25%	15%	39%
Fewer deer than last year	43%	100%	71%	41%	6%	75%	73%	95%	16%	6%	7%	50%	71%	42%	47%	46%
Season good-to-excellent	0%	0%	7%	12%	28%	13%	12%	0%	25%	31%	47%	12%	20%	25%	31%	24%
Season fair-to-poor	100%	100%	92%	88%	72%	88%	88%	100%	75%	69%	53%	88%	80%	75%	69%	76%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	4
Wolves having a negative impact on deer	2
Worst season ever	2
Weather was mild/poor for hunting	2
Predators having a negative impact on deer	2
More deer observed this season	2
Deer habitat needs attention	2

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 252

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	21	22	20	23	21	21	15	18	17	13	13	13	14	10	9	9
Hunters	102	107	85	95	90	89	65	63	54	44	44	57	46	35	30	35
% killing a buck	28%	18%	20%	22%	33%	20%	18%	3%	13%	25%	25%	18%	17%	9%	17%	17%
Deer seen per day	3.1	1.1	2.4	2.7	3.4	1.6	2.5	0.8	1.7	2.6	2.5	1.8	1.9	2.8	1.8	0.8
Fawns seen per 100 does	35	34	54	55	55	29	39	57	78	49	38	41	35	64	74	27
Does seen per buck	3	1	6	4	2	7	6	8	2	7	4	5	5	5	3	3
More deer than last year	10%	0%	20%	18%	43%	0%	13%	0%	44%	42%	31%	8%	0%	44%	14%	0%
Same number deer	25%	9%	25%	32%	33%	5%	0%	0%	18%	25%	23%	9%	15%	9%	14%	29%
Fewer deer	65%	91%	55%	50%	24%	95%	87%	100%	38%	33%	46%	83%	85%	33%	72%	71%
Season good-to-excellent	24%	5%	10%	23%	48%	0%	7%	0%	13%	33%	24%	8%	0%	20%	14%	0%
Season fair-to-poor	76%	95%	90%	77%	52%	100%	93%	100%	87%	67%	76%	92%	100%	80%	86%	100%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	3
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	2
Control wolves or allow us to control them	2
Reduce or eliminate antlerless licenses in unit	2

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 255

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	35	34	33	32	32	33	31	35	31	29	27	24	24	21	19	18
Hunters	172	173	159	160	163	161	156	178	144	151	136	96	98	90	68	81
% killing a buck	34%	24%	30%	31%	24%	29%	25%	16%	20%	26%	32%	24%	24%	23%	25%	28%
Deer seen per day	4.6	2.9	4.0	4.8	5.1	3.1	5.1	2.4	4.1	5.3	4.9	3.1	2.2	4.2	4.4	3.3
Fawns seen per 100 does	62	50	75	68	67	49	49	52	82	60	56	72	58	64	68	54
Does seen per buck	3	3	3	3	3	3	7	4	3	3	4	5	4	2	4	2
More deer than last year	9%	0%	24%	34%	26%	10%	23%	0%	48%	66%	37%	5%	9%	19%	17%	0%
Same number deer	31%	15%	33%	44%	35%	13%	20%	23%	26%	24%	37%	18%	41%	33%	39%	22%
Fewer deer	60%	85%	42%	22%	39%	77%	57%	77%	26%	10%	26%	77%	50%	48%	44%	78%
Season good-to-excellent	38%	20%	27%	37%	33%	19%	29%	6%	19%	55%	74%	18%	21%	35%	29%	17%
Season fair-to-poor	62%	80%	73%	63%	67%	81%	71%	94%	81%	45%	26%	82%	79%	65%	71%	83%

Most frequent comments received:

Fewer deer observed this season	4
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	4
Wolves having a negative impact on deer	4
Fawns were not abundant or fewer in number	4
Weather was mild/poor for hunting	3

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	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Camps	9	13	10	12	14	13	16	15	16	14	13	12	13	12	12	10
Hunters	52	61	49	42	60	51	72	69	67	53	57	53	46	54	84	44
% killing a buck	31%	13%	18%	17%	23%	12%	22%	10%	13%	25%	37%	25%	26%	22%	7%	14%
Deer seen per day	2.4	1.5	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.3	2.9	1.9	2.8	4.0	5.8	3.9	2.3	2.5	2.4	1.3
Fawns seen per 100 does	48	75	56	59	65	59	41	49	82	83	46	49	46	80	59	47
Does seen per buck	2	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	7	4	4	5	3
More deer than last year	33%	0%	20%	42%	31%	15%	14%	0%	38%	65%	47%	8%	0%	8%	8%	0%
Same number deer	34%	15%	60%	33%	38%	31%	21%	20%	43%	21%	38%	34%	15%	50%	33%	30%
Fewer deer than last year	33%	85%	20%	25%	31%	54%	65%	80%	19%	14%	15%	58%	85%	42%	59%	70%
Season good-to-excellent	67%	15%	10%	25%	46%	31%	43%	0%	31%	54%	61%	16%	15%	18%	8%	0%
Season fair-to-poor	33%	85%	90%	67%	54%	69%	57%	100%	69%	46%	39%	84%	85%	82%	92%	100%

Most frequent comments received: only two shared comments (left), individual camp comments (right):

Fewer deer observed this season	3	Wolves having a negative impact on deer
Numerous wolves, tracks, or howls in my area	2	Fawns were not abundant or fewer in number
		Numerous coyotes, tracks, or howls in my area
		More young bucks
		Not going to hunt in the U.P. next year due to low numbers
		Less does seen
		Observed fewer wolves or wolf sign
		Worst deer season in a long time
		Thinking about selling camp