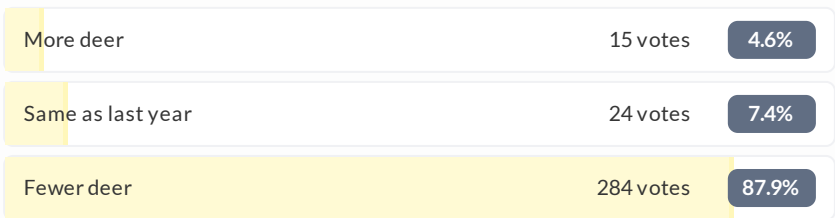


U.P. 2020 Firearm Deer Season Survey

Created on December 02, 2020

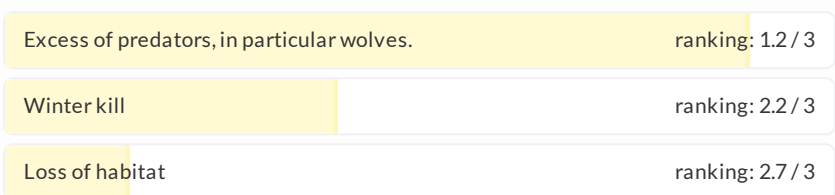
Now that the U.P. 2020 Firearm Deer Season is over, compared to the 2019 season do you feel there are;

323 answers



If you answered fewer deer pleased indicate what you feel is the main reason.

323 answers



How many days did you hunt in 2020?

319 answers

15

10

35

7

10

15 days

15

40

10

11

25

8

5

2

24

14

9 in the UP

10

5

9

1

7

14

15

Every day possible

10

40

10

12 days

16 days as of Dec. 6

15

13

11

28

6

5 days. We yoopers still have to work..

25

14

10

28

7

20+

15-20 days

More than 15 days

9

15

10

12

4

28

14

9

10 days

Every one currently still at it

45 days

16

15

30 plus

7

Almost every rifle day and some bow

13

30

11

12 days during rifle season every evening during early bow season

12

20

9

8

14

8 days

50

15

7

15

40 plus days

7

11

12

12

10

5

5.5

34

13

14

9

61 days including early archery

5

28

15

14

6

9

87

4

15

22

5

15

47 in the upper peninsula

7

12

12

40

15 days

6

37

8

7

14

30 plus

Every day I'm retired

12

10

10

10

10

15

15

14

40 so far

25

6

Every day I could at least 3 days a week

15

3 days in rifle. Still muzzle hunting. Did lots of bow hunting

15 rifle and around the same for bow.

12

10

6

26

35

31

10

18

25

34 days

7

4

15

13

20

50 plus days with bow season

14 days

10

10

Every day rifle season an 30 days with bow

8

6

10

25

10 or more between me and my wife

7

12

7

15

22 in the U.P.

7

30

10

15

8 days

2

22

50

12

12

15

6

45

22 days

7

13

15

45-50

14

26

Over 45

15

10

33

12

5

15

10

15

8

10

30

17

30

15 in rifle season

13

4

20+

25

12

8

25

10 days

30

8

13

30

10

9 days

26 with bow season

12

20

5

14

15

7

8

10

15 days so far, not counting muzzle load season.

45

3

10

41

10

20

12

12

15

25

One

13

5

5

4

8

20

12

12

15

8

30

15

30

28 days in the UP

15

15

15 days of firearm deer

15

5

12

15

Lots

40

28

7 DAYS

10

20

7

14

12

5

20

20

4

90 days

7

27

7 in the UP

every day of gun season, 15

6

15

12

5

9

60

All

All

6

10

All but 1 1/2 days

12

12

15

8 days

12

3

40

13

20

14 rifle a

25+

5 in gun and 10 in bow

40

13 in gun season and 8-12 in regular bow and plan to hunt late bow season

8

10

20

All

14

38

1, tagged out opener

10

13

25

13

25

10 in gun season U.P

9

7

9

Over 30 days

7

10

10

7

10

30+

13

15

5

10

12

Comments:

165 answers

I've hunted the UP since I was a kid. The deer population has never been so down. I have 10 different spots over a 10 sq mile area and some of the bait piles were put out on Oct 15th and still were not touched on Nov 30th. I couldn't believe this! In the past years, deer would eat a bait pile in one night. There are cameras on each pile and the ones with absolutely no deer picked up tons of wolves. And a few black bear and coyote. These are usually pretty good spots that deer have been taken out of but now not even one deer goes to the bait. This is awful! We so desperately need a wolf management!

Too many seasons!! One bucks per year per person. You choose your weapon..

Need wolf season

Seen some doe's and 2 spikes.

This is the first year I have only seen 2 bucks over 5points

Disappointed

I hunted on my private 200 acres

Seen wolf tracks and heard them in woods this is becoming a big issue.

got a 5point november 16th,tapiola mi

I saw abundant antlerless deer and small bucks with few racked deer in moderate snow zone (two) deer stands. I saw stronger numbers of antlerless deer and small bucks (spikes and forks) in my high snow zone stand I hunt early in the season. In all snow zones based on year around trail camera use and direct observation. I saw less medium sized bucks (6 and small 8's). I even saw twin fawns in several locations at my higher snow NW prevailing wind lake affect snow strands.

Worst year we have had at our camp in delta county since we bought it 29 years ago

These wolves are over running the deer. There needs to be management on them

I did shot a 3.5 year old deer on the 19th, 180 dressed but a smaller 8 point rack. Thinking if the last 2 winters weren't so tough the rack would have been much bigger!

Was lucky and shot a nice 8 point my first sit unfortunately I only bought the single tag so wasn't able to go out again.

Wolves and the ridiculous amount of tribal tags are killing the u.p. deer here. By the way you guys ever thought about trying antler restrictions?

I myself saw a wolf near my house. My friend who hunts near me had one on his bait the first week. Many other sighting in an around Eckerman, Hulbert, Paradise area. So when you get more wolf action than deer that answers the problem. I have not took my gun up to shoot for 2 years and usually see upwards of 20 deer a year.

Didnt see a horn all rifle season.

Have a wolf season.

Kill all wolfs

Need wolf trapping and hunting season in the right areas hunting season alone will be ineffective

Far less daytime activity this year.

Something really needs to be done about the predator situation.

I hunt Kinross/Rudyard area and didn't see a buck legal for me to shoot ! We have a to. Of Wolf tracks all over our 2 square mile hunting property

Too many hunters and wolves compared to deer population

Saw 2 bucks, shot a 10. Never seen a doe. Other hunters in my group saw fewer deer. Back to the 70's again. Group Saw 2 wolves and 1 coyote

Less hunter's to push deer around. No snow.

Still hunting

I am also a predator hunter, I've killed 11 coyotes in the last 14 days by strictly calling them in . I hear wolves every time I go damn near. In numerous occasions had wolves as many as 7 at a time come running in , had to wave my arms and turn on my flashlight. I have all this on video it's time for a season.

Deer hunting sucks now. There are no deer and too many hunters shooting just to fill a tag

Open a season for predators and close the season for deer for a year or two

Been hunting Pickford area 15 years worst year yet, saw no deer wolf tracks and howling on walk to seat in morning and heard howling through the night at camp. Will be considering selling/quitting deer hunting unless wolf situation is re-evaluated.

Hunted hard opening week and a couple days second week. Cameras out for over 2 months and not a single horn this year, and only a couple does and yearlings. Unheard of for the 30 years I've been hunting here.

Seems to be worse every year

Lots of big dog tracks ranging from Barbeau all the way over to Seney Wildlife Refuge. Family camp in Barbeau and I have a camp near refuge. Lots coyote to be heard at night as well. Management of large predators needs to be in place.

I feel tribal members get too many tags, and wolves are definitely a problem. Season should be closed for 2021. Hunters should only be able to purchase 1 tag the following season

I had more wolves on camera more than I have had and barely any deer.

Many hunters in our group never saw a single deer.

I walked right into howls of wolves!! I was surrounded, Thank God I made it to my ground blind.

Hunted dark to dark 8 days and didn't see a deer.

Wolves are too populated!

I saw few deer but shot a nice buck. I saw a total of three bucks, two of which were legal for me to shoot.

Have not shot one yet. Schoolcraft county is horrible

Saw 4 to 5 deer each day! Shot an 8 pt.

Wolf populations need to be controlled

Wolves wolves wolves

Change hunting area first time in 50 years. Little time to scout new area but saw some deer. After opening day (gun) no deer seen. Wolves in area so not many deer seen.

Less bucks do to allowing 2 bucks and no does, since the early 2000s, bad deer management by Monroe,

Buck to doe ratio way out of wack, harvesting too many bucks and no does will never have a healthy deer herd! The rut is almost unnoticeable in the UP. No competition for breeding, means the best genes are not being passed on!

Worst hunt I have had in years

No more doe permits in the U.P. Also make single tag restricted to 3 on a side!!!

I think I am done buying tags in Michigan till they do something

Hunting in the UP. Is pathetic. I've lived in the UP. Since 1983 and it's the worst deer season I've ever seen.

Open up baiting

Hunt in northern Iron, and southern Houghton counties. There is an abundance of bears. We have 9 blinds spread over 9 mi. We had a minimum of 3 different bears at every bait site. Some more. With the early snowfall in October it became very evident we had a lot of wolves around also. Tracks by every post and along the roads getting to them. With all of this going on I'm not sure how the herd stands a chance at recovery. The predation of fawns by the bears and the predation by the wolves when the deer are forced into yarding areas due to winter stress is insurmountable. I realize it's a combination of many factors but I believe these 2 are at the top of the list. We hunt the Ottawa National forest and enjoy every minute of it. The most deer we had in a single photo out of our 9 spots was 4. Most deer seen in a single sit out of our camp was 3. Now you might say that maybe we should of tried different spots and maybe that's the case. But these have been proven hunting locations for years, and hopefully years to come. I understand things change with habitat with logging and the forest just maturing. We took a lot of time the second week of rifle season scouting for new spots and we just didn't find the deer sign that would say that we were just in the wrong areas. I hope this helps, and thank you for the opportunity to give my two cents worth.

Does were down from last year and last year they were down enough to cause some concern. Had a wolf kill a fawn a hundred yards from me. Bucks were down big time. I hunt Delta county off of 41

Not many deer seen way too many wolves and yotes

Really think the DNR need to make some major changes... wolf season and better deer management

Still hunting

Predators are out of control in the UP. Something needs to change.

Camp of 4, hunting same area for 25 years. This was the least count we have experienced. None harvested.

One buck tag any weapon, 6pt restriction statewide, bounty on coyotes, season on wolves

The dnr rules are set up to just slaughter the herd I'm no trophy hunter but fawns don't fill the freezer

The rules need to be simpler

Saw far more action in bow season. Did not have any deer on cameras during rifle season

2 of my kids got deer and I got one in bow but it was slim pickings. Fewest deer I've ever seen.

Our deer hunting sucks !!!

Had wolf encounter. Delta county. Only saw 2 deer in 10 days.

in the western up wolves destroying are hunting heritage The packs are getting bigger and more of them

Kill the wolves

Be nice to have just one bow season and the firearm season no early or late hunts

Only saw two small does and hardly saw deer tracks.

On buck tag and shorter hunting seasons for a few year

Crop damage kills and cwd kills

Strongly encourage going to a 1 buck tag/ 1 doe tag or having an antler restriction of atleast 3pts on one side for any bucks taken.

I thought it was an average season.

The management of the heard on the a

Not even wasting time with muzzle or late bow will continue to feed the deer that made it through

The worst year by far

Much needed wolf season

terrible conservation efforts need to have 1 buck per person period

The deer herd needs so much help. Numbers so low, move at night what's there. Saw more pics of wovles then deer

I feel the number of bucks has increased and the antler restrictions are working. But the number of wolves are out of control

Kill all wolves

Open the wolf season U.P. wide so us hunters can do what we have already done and be the conservationists that we are.

saw 3 deer and countless wolf signs.

Think the COVID had something to do with it, Hunters went home early in my area

North of Trout Lake. Only 2 Does on camera

Lots of does and fawns but few buck numbers

Go back to 1buck 4 points or bigger for 3years

I feel there were more doe's this season I personally seen 9 at one time at my location. No bucks seen at all.

I believe we need to change our deer season to one buck per year, with atleast 3 points on one side.

This is the worst U.P. Deer season in my 50 years of hunting the U.P.

Bow season and rifle, low numbers

Need to limit harvest through APRs, banning bait, and limiting seasons

Seen a wolf or tracks every day

Seen a total of 11 deer all year thru bow season and rifle

I hunt in iron county in the western part of the upper peninsula and have been doing so since I was old enough to hunt. There were multiple places I was this year where the number of wolf tracks far exceeded the number of deer tracks. Out of our hunting camp(6 hunters) only one person was successful and that was a doe. We average 3-4 bucks per year. This year I was the only person to even see a buck but it was too small for me to harvest due to my combo tag. I fully support the combo tag restrictions because it somewhat forces hunters who want multiple bucks in a year to practice some quality deer management practices. Multiple people I've talked to have hunted several days in a row over bait and had not even seen A DEER. The western up is overrun with wolves but I know that is not new news to you. I understand that it is and will be a process to have a management plan put into place to control the wolf population. I hope that sometime in the near future there will be a wolf hunt again and I also hope iron county will be included in that. I will never give up hunting as it is my passion, but I would love to see it get back to the way it was in years past. I understand that it is very much up to the hunters to practice some quality deer management practices and hopefully there will be a plan in place to regulate predator population in the near future now that wolves have been delisted. Thank you for reading this.

Harvested a 10pt during archery. Passed many young bucks in gun. Will hunt muzzle now

Days of hunting doesn't include all the time spent in the woods scouting. The deer are gone because of the wolves, it's that simple.

I was successful but did not see many deer this year

Lots of predators on camera as well as visual sightings.

Hard decision need to be made, cut the combo tags in the EUP, cut tribal tags. Mandatory register your kill for better data and age class. Bounty on coyotes and wolves. Work together with sportsman's clubs tribal and MDNR. Help MDNR control poaching, advances in hunting equipment yet DNR still uses old ways to catch and convict poachers.

Wolves were around the bait wait for deer, they push them around so less sighting

Seen 4 deer in total, 1 buck 3 does

Worst season in many years, season goes too long into December.

Best season our camp has ever had. APRs has done wonders to protect lots of year and a half old bucks.

Very discouraged, my family has hunted same corner of woods for over 50 years. This year I went by myself.

Way to many predators

To many wolves

Numbers are way down. Sat multiple days during rifle and bow season without seen a single animal. Multiple days with wolf track in the morning

Very few deer. Lots of wolves on trail cams

Deer numbers are way down!

Saw just 2 deer

Get rid of the fucking combo tag!

Lack of bucks was disappointing.

Northern Luce county

Warm weather limited deer movement and made it seem like less deer!

we have to take care of the wolfs

No venison in my freezer again this year. Thanks for nothing, DNR!

We have food plots and well developed deer property near Engadine. This was the least amount of deer sign we have ever seen. My Dad hunted all 15 days and saw only 2 deer.

Two buck tags, Efficiency of the hunt during bow and muzzleloader seasons do to improved bows and muzzleloaders also is not helping the deer herd..

Needs wolf management

Start regenerating cedar, manage wolves, no bait during hunting seasons, no crossbows, no spikes, no extended gun seasons & no does at all.

Out of 30 days in the woods, my son and I saw a total of 5 deer. In 2012 8 could see 7 to 15 a night.

5 hunters only saw 3deer and I saw them all.

Wolves very prevalent in Delta County

Did not see a single deer just Wolf tracks

This open doe kill in upper and lower is not cool... looking out of state for next year.

Bounty on coyotes and a season on wolves to start things off

saw 2 barely legal spikes, 3-4 years old had on camera last 2 years maybe. need to change rules before the only thing you see up there is a spike. get them big rack genes in the pool again.

Bucks had big bodies this year with small racks.

A lot less deer seen at camp in Republic area, Marquette County. A lot of predators in the woods.

Quit! The doe hunts! Morans

Generally I'm hunting eight hours a day with only a day every two weeks taken off from hunting. I hunt from one October to 1 January and generally see 10 deer a day this year I seen a total of 18 in 90 days. Everything being the same other than the wolf issue I'm 90% sure that is the issue

In 27 days of hunting I only saw 7 different deer between the two spots I hunt. I usually average around 20 different deer. Out of the four does I saw, only one had a fawn. I had more pictures of predators on Camera than ever before.
(Foxes,coyotes,wolfs,bears

Saw all foes during day lite , had some nice bucks on camera , no sign of wolfs , coyote though !

I hunted 6 days in the UP but I also have 24 cameras operating. My cameras indicate fewer deer.

Saw more wolves than deer. No bucks.

Need some sort of control on the wolf population. Deer population in the U.P. is ridiculously slim. No one enjoys going out hunting and not seeing ONE DEER AT ALL, young hunters are becoming uninterested.To small of bucks are being taken, need better harvest regulations. Loss of habitat? I see people complain about clear cuts, etc. these cuttings are provide a food source for the deer herd.

Predators are getting out of control

How can the state let doe harvest continue with archery in some parts of UP! I am archery hunter. Deer herd behind sold out for revenue is what it looks like to me.

2 separate packs of wolves 10 miles apart at the same time. Lots of bears this year. On camera seen half the bucks and a third of the does as last year between 5 different blinds

Weird season took a 6pt opening morning and then didn't see anything except for a pair of buttons until thanksgiving morning when I had a big 8pt wander through in front of my blind. Private property, no sign of wolves, normal coyote activity for the property...

We harvest to many deer. Should be one buck only

Only saw a total of 5 deer,worst year in my 53 years of hunting!

Saw one doe!

Was circled and approached by wolves in a brush blind, approximately 15 yards away

surveys for 20 years, nothing has changed

I moved to marquette county from houghton county, i have only seen the same 3 doe 4 or 5 times all year no a single buck, to many coyotes in the area but to many people moving in the area to set traps with fear of someone messing with them. DNR needs to get their head out of their asses and allow hunters to harvest a doe in the UP with a rifle, especially in houghton county. The last 4 years i had hunted up there and every sit i would see 6-20 doe and no bucks, id see maybe 5 different bucks all season

Lots of deer alot more bucks this season

I keep a detailed record of every hunting season, from the same blind I've been hunting out of for over 9 years. This year marks the fewest overall deer seen as well as the fewest bucks, as well as a significant decrease in the amount of gunshots heard throughout the season.

Need antlerless permits, easily 20:1 doe to buck ratio is out of control on the East end

Get rid of the wolves.

Many, many people around me saw fewer deer. I had Bear and Wolves during the night on camera. I feel an increase to 5 gallons of bait is a must change to Michigans Hunting Regulations!!! Crossbow use during late deer is also a must

pockets of deer. depends where you live and hunt. most people are too lazy to find the BUCKS

Saw two deer in 13 days

Get rid of the wolves

Tons of wolf tracks and pictures on our trail cams. Never saw a deer at the blind.

Way too many wolves. They have lost their fear of humans. My son was surrounded by them in his brush blind on Nov.18th. They only left after he began screaming at them. I like Wolves and think they have a place here, but they need to be controlled through hunting & trapping.

Interesting what the results might be

In Menominee county just north of carney

Seen one. Doe

In a typical year I see 5-10 different deer and see the same deer daily, this year I saw one fawn only. by far the worst year I have ever had in 48 of hunting the same section of land

Never saw a single deer.

WORST. SEASON. IN 30 YEARS.