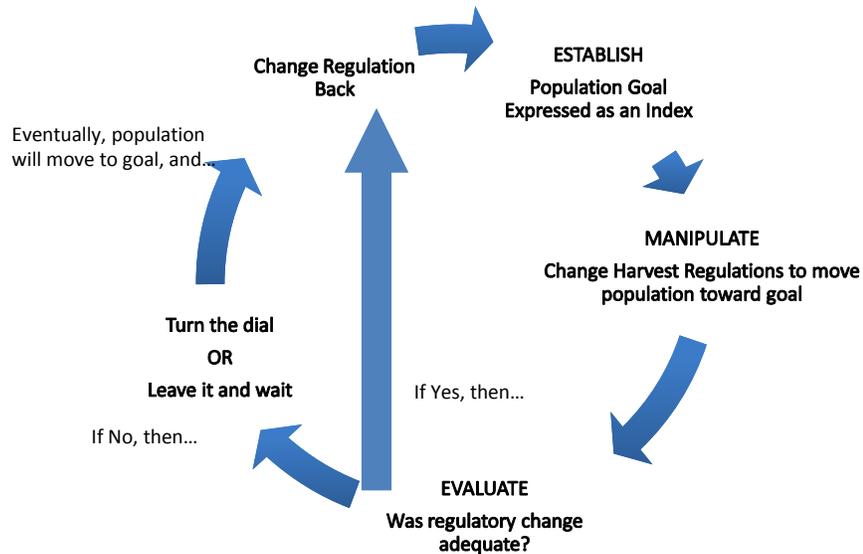


## Overview of the Goal-setting Process

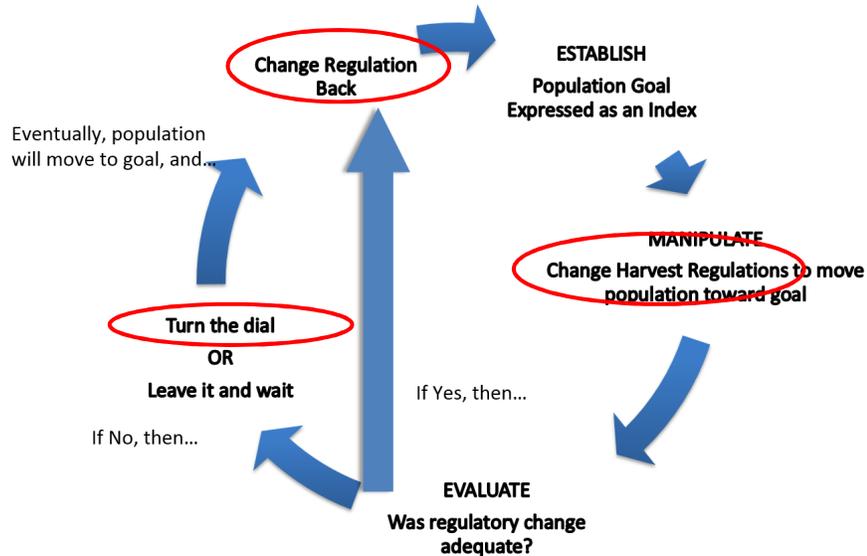
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Michael J. Tonkovich, Ph.D., Deer Program Administrator

## Deer Management Process



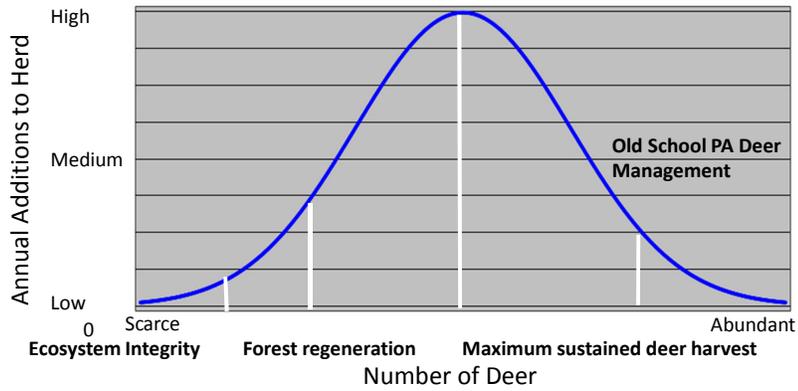
## Deer Management Process



## Deer Management Process

*We don't lack the data (population model says reduce harvest by 9% for zero growth), we simply **lack the tools** (status quo regulations will mean 4% reduction in harvest, removing antlerless permit will mean 17% reduction in harvest) .*

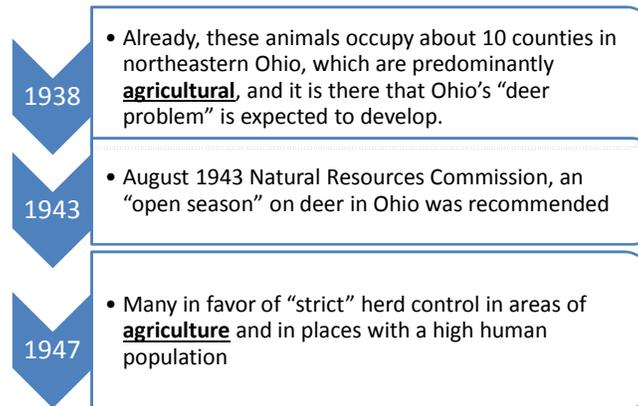
# Managing Ohio's White-tailed Deer Identifying Deer Population Goals



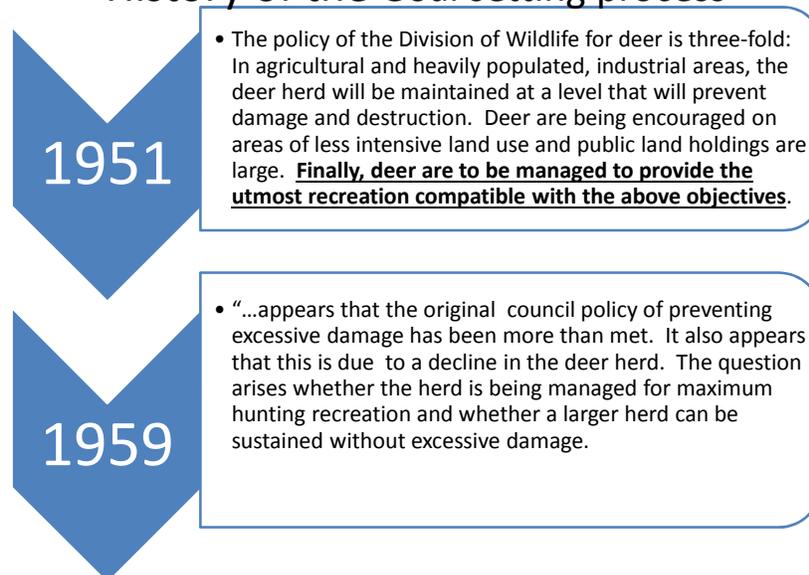
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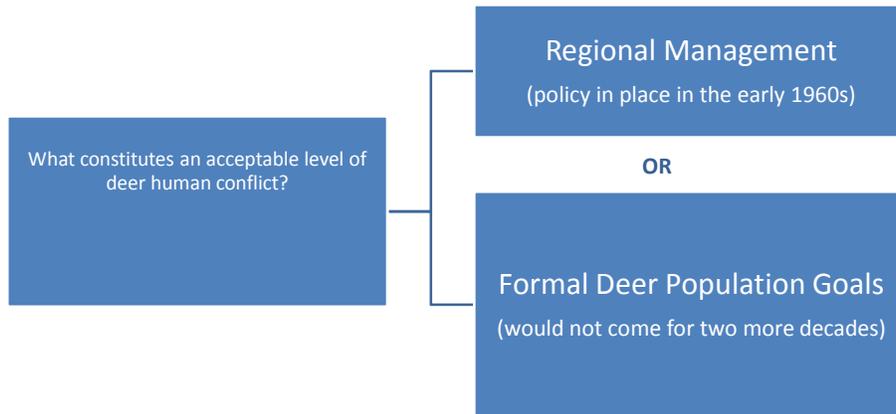
## Managing Ohio's White-tailed Deer: History of the Goal setting process



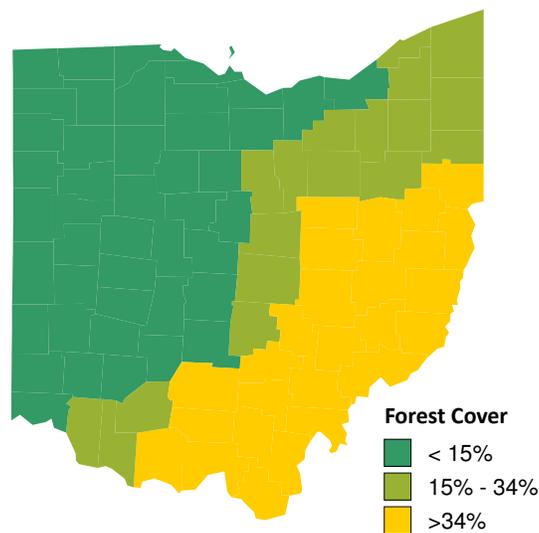
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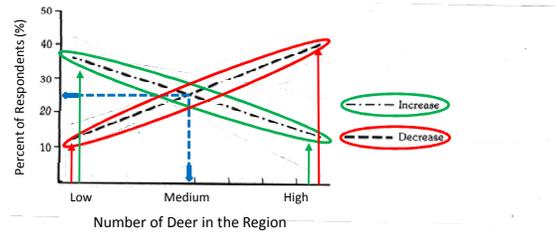
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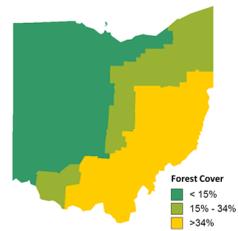
## Regions Used in Ohio's First Attempt to Quantify Agriculturally Optimum Deer Populations, 1979



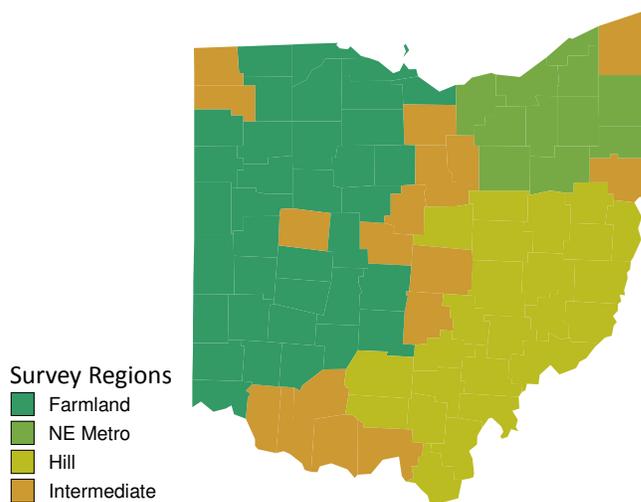
### Protocol Used to Define Agriculturally Optimum Deer Populations, 1979



< 15% Forest Region (n=1,480 farmers, 109 nonfarmers)



### Defining Agriculturally Optimum Deer Population Levels – 1995 and 2000

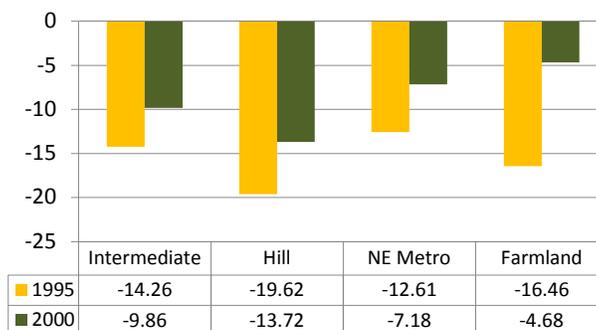


## Defining Agriculturally Optimum Deer Population Levels – 1995 and 2000

- Summer surveys of production landowners were conducted with the primary purpose of identifying a “mean percent change in the deer population” desired
- That desired change was then applied to the harvest-based population index from the fall hunting season
  - Hunters harvested 5 bucks/mi<sup>2</sup> in the fall hunting season
  - Production landowners wanted a 10% reduction in the deer herd
  - Population Goal: 4.5 bucks harvested /mi<sup>2</sup>

## Defining Agriculturally Optimum Deer Population Levels – 1995 and 2000

**% Change Desired in Regional Deer Populations**



## Agriculturally Optimum Deer Population Levels – Pitfalls of the Process

- Goal was tied to current harvest:
  - Harvest anomalies meant a disconnect between harvest and population size
  - If deer population was significantly larger than when goals were previously set, new goals would be based on current population, not the previous goal!

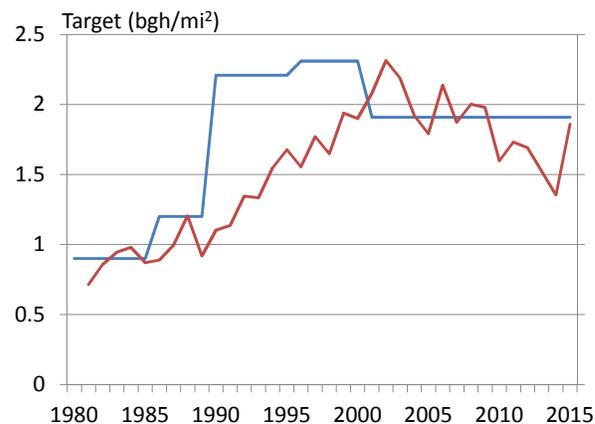
## Agriculturally Optimum Deer Population Levels – Pitfalls of the Process

- 1990 Hunters harvested 5 bucks/mi<sup>2</sup> in the fall hunting season
  - Production landowners wanted a 10% reduction in the deer herd
  - Population Goal: 4.5 bucks harvested /mi<sup>2</sup>
- 1995 Hunters harvested 8 bucks/mi<sup>2</sup>
  - Production landowners want 20% fewer deer
  - Population Goal 6.4 bucks harvested/mi<sup>2</sup>

## Agriculturally Optimum Deer Population Levels – Pitfalls of the Process

- “Desired percent change” in the population likely did not adequately capture dissatisfaction with the size of the deer population.
- Each iteration of the goal-setting process was completely independent of the previous event

### Athens County Deer Population Goals based on surveys in 1979, 1985, 1989, 1995, and 2000

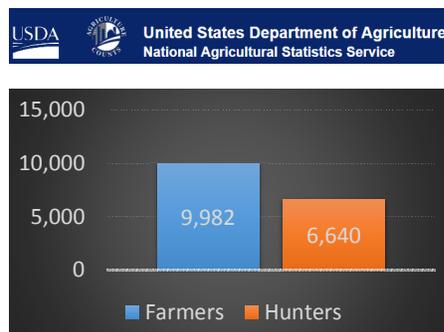


## Identifying Deer Population Goals: An Ideal Process?

- Independent of harvest and based on **satisfaction**
- Incorporates herd and habitat health
- Include hunters

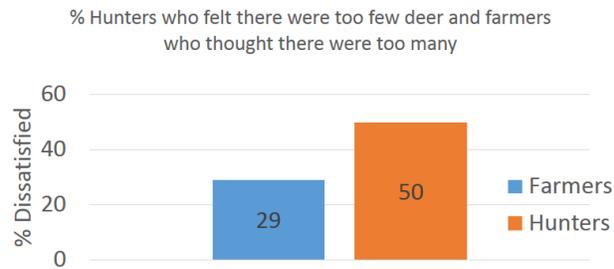


## Managing Ohio's White-tailed Deer Identifying Deer Population Goals



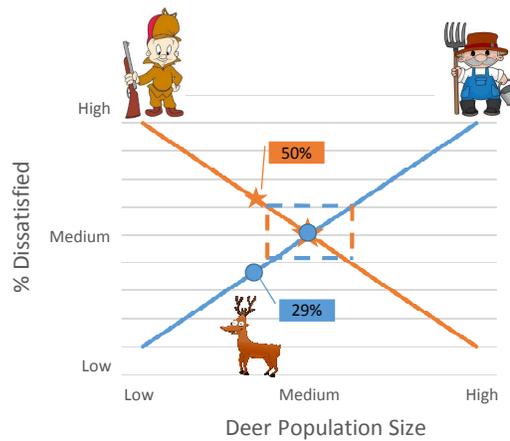
*Survey of Production Landowners and Hunters, Summer of 2015*

# Managing Ohio's White-tailed Deer Identifying Deer Population Goals

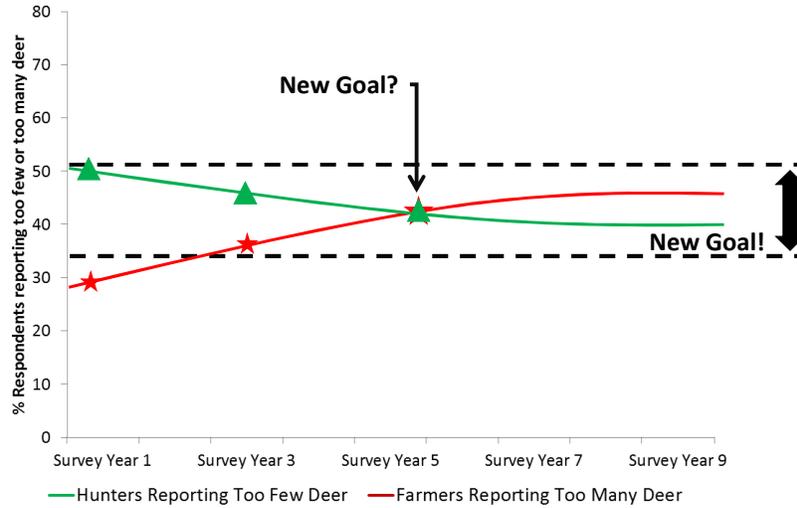


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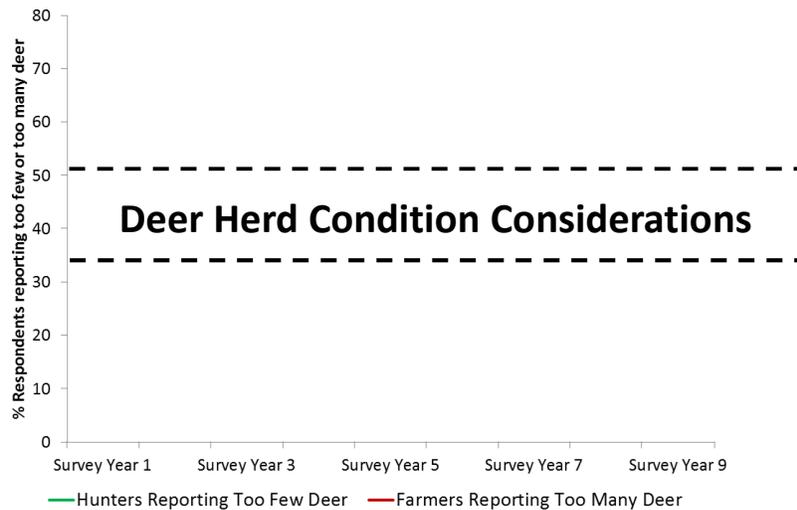
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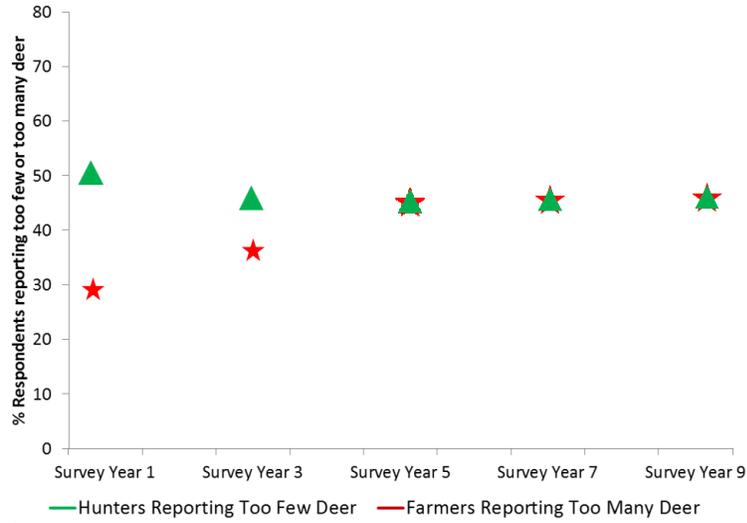
## Deer Population Goals: Balancing Public Input and Biology



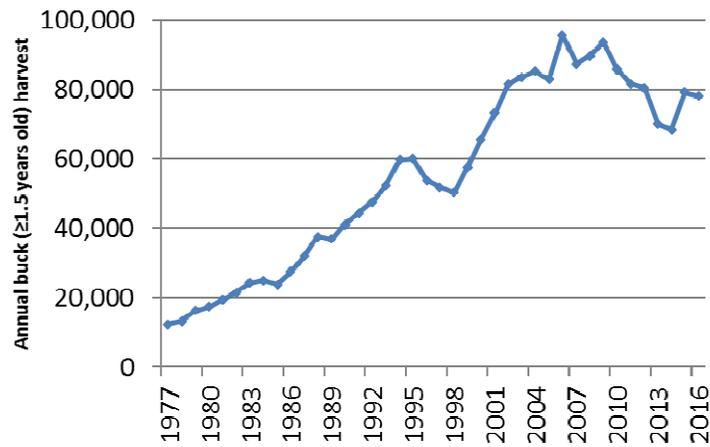
## Deer Population Goals: Balancing Public Input and Biology



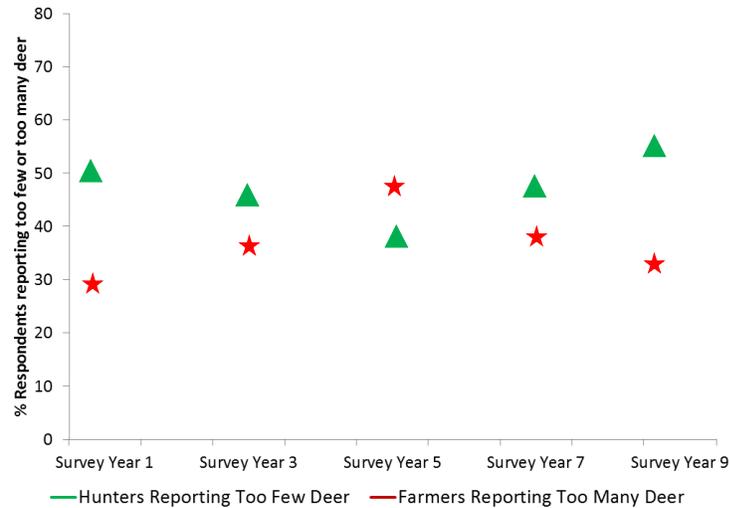
## Deer Population Goals: Balancing Public Input and Biology



## Statewide Buck Harvest, 1977-present



## Deer Population Goals: Balancing Public Input and Biology



## Ohio's Deer Management Tool Box

### Now...

Bag Limit

~~Antlerless Deer Permit~~

### Then...

County-specific gun season regulations - 1988

County-specific statewide primitive harvest regulations - 1988

County-specific antlerless permits - 1989

County-specific Special Management Antlerless Permits (SMADP) – 1993

Uncoupling of SMADP and Either-sex permit – 1997

Zone 3 Deer Hunting Permit - 1997

Single deer harvest per day – 1997

County-specific deer management – 1997

Special Management Antlerless Permits – 1999

Urban Deer Permit - 2006



## Overview of the Goal-setting Process

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Michael J. Tonkovich, Ph.D., Deer Program  
Administrator

## Deer Management Strategies: Potential tools we could add to the toolbox

**Clint McCoy**

Deer Biologist, ODNR-Division of Wildlife  
John.McCoy@dnr.state.oh.us  
740 - 362 - 2410 ext. 130



## Deer Management Tools

- **Outline**
  - Management units
  - Deer management assistance program (DMAP)
  - Antlerless permit allocations
  - Landowner deer permits
  - Public land regulations
  - Strategies/Tools used in other states

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## Deer Management Tools

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## Deer Management Tools

- **Outline**
  - Management units
    - What is a management unit?
    - Characteristics of an ideal management unit
    - Current management units and issues
    - Improvements

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## Management Units

- **What is a management unit?**
  - Level at which:
    1. Populations are monitored
    2. Harvest regulations are established

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# Management Units

- **Characteristics of an ideal management unit?**
  1. Large enough so that data collection efforts yield sufficient number of samples for meaningful analyses
  2. Its boundaries reflect biologically relevant differences in habitat and other factors affecting deer herd size

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# Management Units

- **What is Ohio's current management unit?**
  - County
  - WHY???

Nothing more than convenience



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## Management Units

- **So is there an issue with using counties?**
  1. Too many management units can be an obstacle for sufficient data collection and meaningful interpretation
  2. County boundaries have little to no biological relevance
    - Fail to reflect important variation in deer habitat
    - Potential for deer numbers to vary significantly within same county

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## Management Units

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## Management Units

- **So is there an issue with using counties?**
  1. Too many management units can be an obstacle for sufficient data collection and meaningful interpretation
  
- **We collect and analyze more than just harvest data**
  - Deer hunter and goal-setting surveys
  - Reproductive studies
  - Yearling beam diameter
  - Age-at-harvest

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## Management Units

- **So is there an issue with using counties?**
  1. Too many management units can be an obstacle for sufficient data collection and meaningful interpretation
  
- **Most of the time we do not have enough data from each county to conduct meaningful analyses at the county level**
  - For example...

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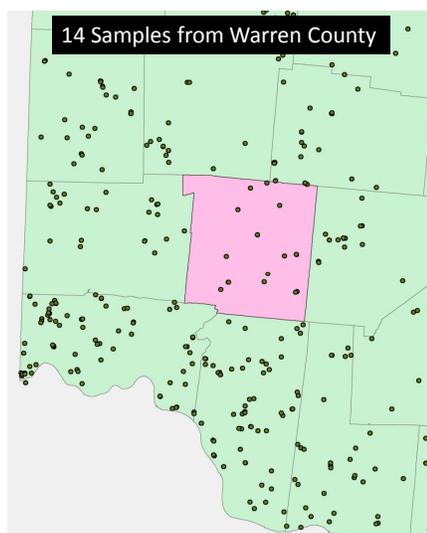
## Management Units

- **Annual Deer Hunter Survey**
  - Send 10,000 invitations for deer hunter survey each year
    - Typically receive ~1,500 completes (15% response rate)
- **Divide these among 88 counties...**
  - Average just **17** responses per county!
- **“Just send more surveys to get larger sample”**

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## Management Units



- **Survey of every deer hunter with an email address**
  - ~100,000 folks!!!
- **Not much you can do with 14 data points!!**

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## Management Units

- **So is there an issue with using counties?**
  1. Too many management units can be an obstacle for sufficient data collection and meaningful interpretation
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## Management Units

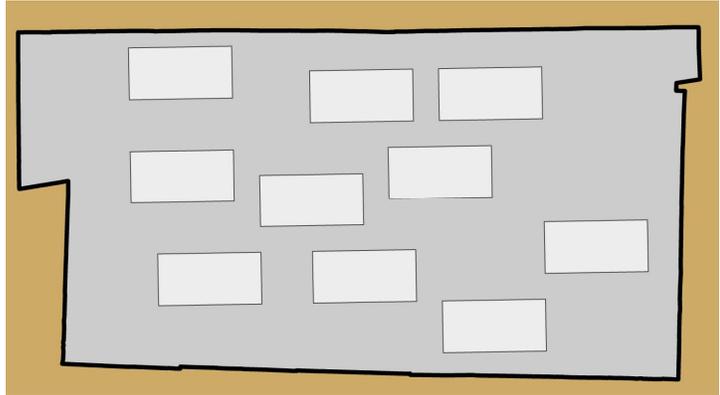
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# Management Units

Holmes County Aerial Deer Surveys, Winter 2015

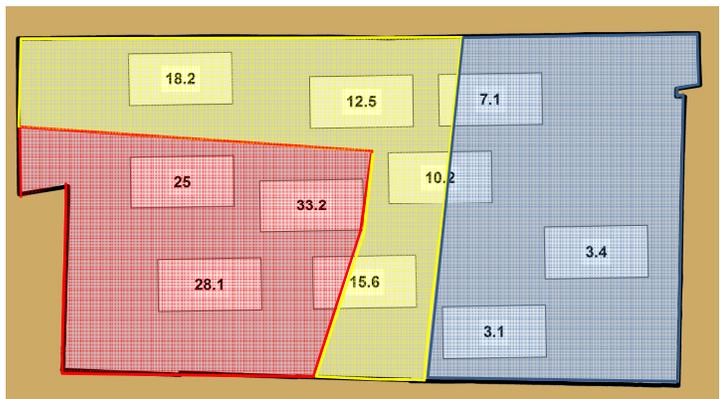


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# Management Units

Holmes County Aerial Deer Surveys, Winter 2015

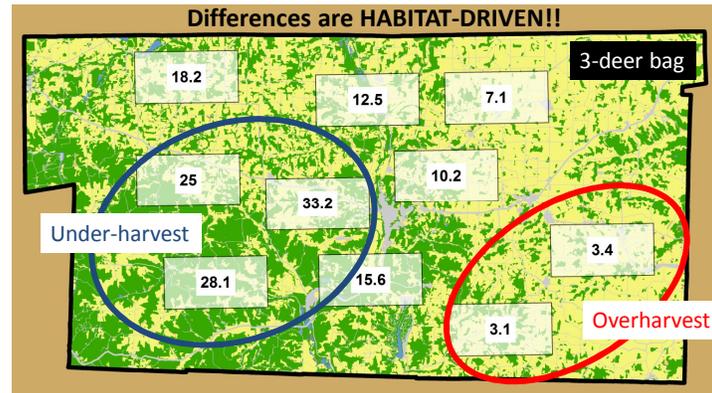


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## Management Units

### Holmes County Aerial Deer Surveys, Winter 2015



Widely varying deer populations managed with ONE county regulation

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## Management Units

- **So is there an issue with using counties?**
  1. Too many management units can be an obstacle for sufficient data collection and meaningful interpretation
  2. County boundaries have little to no biological relevance
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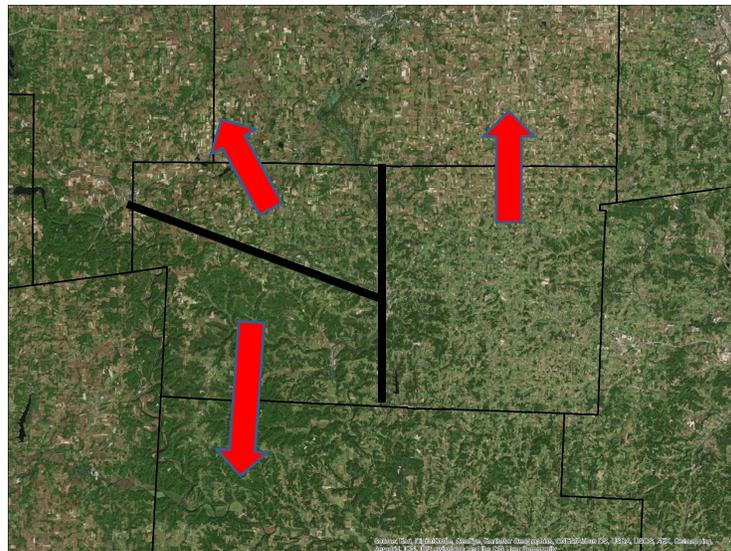
## Management Units

- **So how can we improve?**
    - Realign management unit boundaries to reflect important differences in habitat and deer populations
      - Split counties that differ markedly
        - Holmes, Richland, Licking
      - Combine areas that are similar
        - Athens, Hocking, Jackson, and Vinton
1. **Combining areas of the state with similar habitats should yield more stable and uniformly distributed deer populations**
  2. **Fewer, larger units help resolve issue with data collection limitations**

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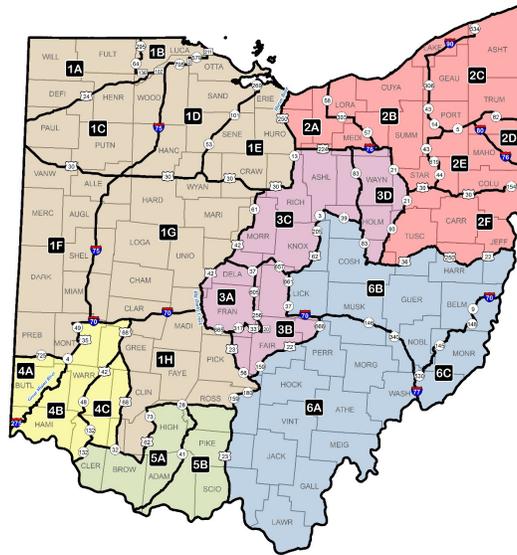
## Management Units



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## Habitat-based Management Units



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## Management Units

Discussion...

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## Deer Management Tools

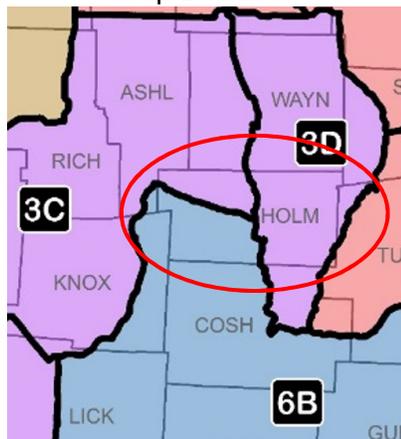
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  - Deer management assistance program (DMAP)
  - Antlerless permit allocations
  - Landowner deer permits
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  - Strategies/Tools used in other states

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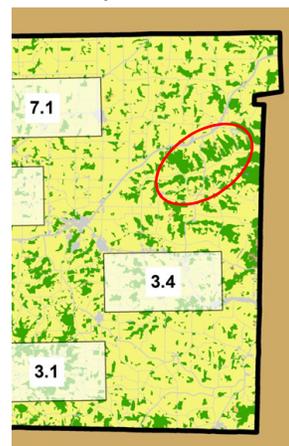


## DMAP – Taking DMUs One Step Further

Step 1 - DMUs



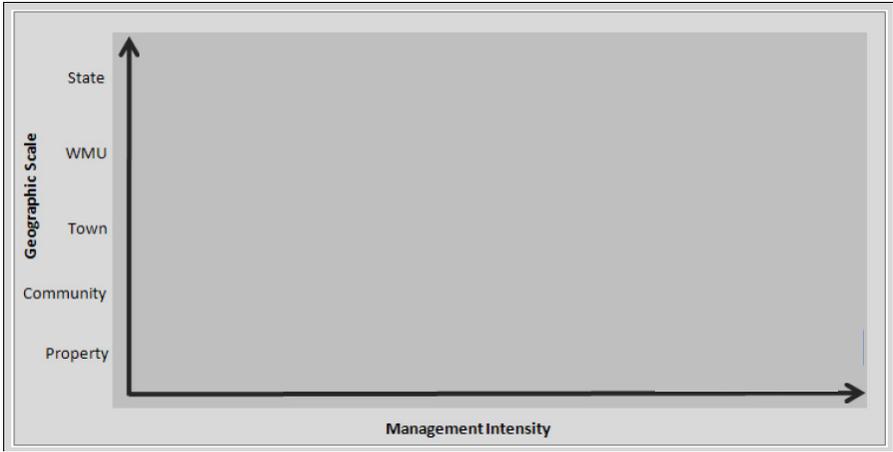
Step 2 - DMAP



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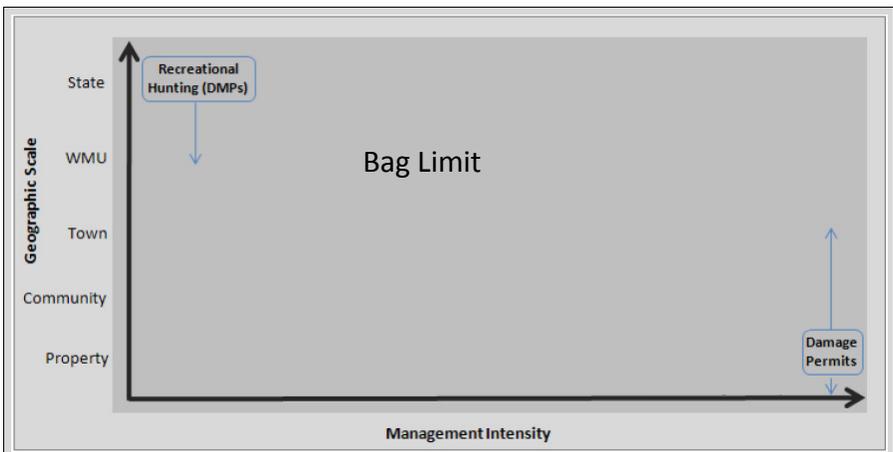
# Scale and Deer Management: NY



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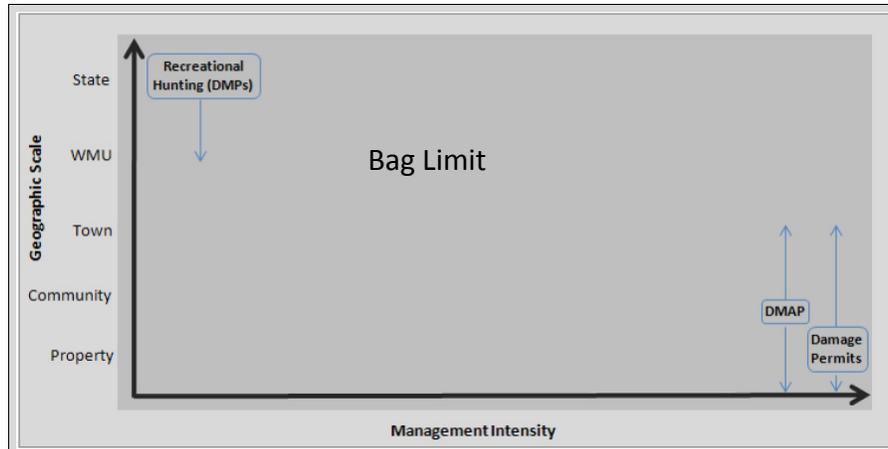
# Scale and Deer Management: OH



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## Scale and Deer Management: OH



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## Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

- What is it?
- Why now?

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## Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

---

### What is it?

- 1) **ARKANSAS** – It is a partnership between the Game and Fish Commission and willing landowners and deer clubs to cooperatively develop deer management plans on their lands and holdings.
- 2) **VIRGINIA** – A site specific management program for landowners and hunt clubs that increases management options by allowing a more liberal harvest of antlerless deer than could be obtained under the current system of county regulations. The primary goal of **DMAP is to allow landowners and hunt clubs to work together with resource managers on a local level to manage their deer herds.**
- 3) **FLORIDA** – Specific major objectives of their Antlerless Deer Program include:
  - a. To provide the opportunity for additional recreational harvest of antlerless deer on private lands
  - b. To encourage landowners or leaseholders to utilize technical and professional deer management assistance provided by professionally trained biologists or consulting biologists.
  - c. To provide landowners/leaseholders with flexibility in controlling deer densities and herd composition through participation in the antlerless deer program and use of deprecating deer permits where needed.
  - d. To provide for the compilation of data from private lands, where feasible, that would be useful for assessing the appropriateness of statewide deer harvest regulations.

## What is DMAP?



### What is the Deer Management Assistance Program?

The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) provides habitat and herd management assistance to landowners interested in managing their property for wildlife. The department will assist landowners with the implementation of forest regeneration and deer hunting practices that will emphasize property goals while considering the ecological and social impacts of white-tailed deer.

## What is DMAP?



### Program Objectives

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) set the following DMAP objectives:

- promote sound land stewardship practices;
- provide outreach and educational information to landowners about wildlife habitat management practices;
- **provide a means for site-specific deer management;**
- improve relationships.

## What is DMAP?



DMAP provides an additional means for landowners **to manage deer to meet their land-use goals**. It also provides additional opportunities to the hunters who participate in the program.

## What is DMAP?



Hey Mike,

Basically, I would like to know is there any way that I can get additional antlerless tags that may be used on our farm in Monroe County? **The bag limit has gone from 6 to 3** and it has taken me a number of years of gradually shooting enough does to attempt to get the population under control. However, there is still a high population and I'm afraid that letting up will cause a population boom. **In addition, we just had 50 acres timbered and I won't get any regrowth if I let up on those does.** The neighbors hunt but it's pretty unique because of the steep hillside and the property just can't accommodate very many hunters.

I know the farmer just up the road said that ODNR gave him 40+ antlerless tags for I assume crop damage. Does [this program apply](#) to other landowners and is there any way for me to get extra antlerless tags?

DMAP provides an additional provides additional opportun

Again, don't feel like you have to answer my questions if you can tell me the name and number of the local person I could call.

Thanks, Chris

What is the primary reason for enrolling in DMAP? (**CHECK ONLY ONE**)

- Forest Regeneration**  
 Urban/suburban deer management  
 Agricultural Damage

- Custom Deer Management**  
 Biodiversity  
 Other; Please specify

## What is DMAP?

- **Historically, the goal of DMAP was a better deer population primarily through herd management and to a lesser degree, habitat manipulation**

## What is DMAP?

- Historically, the goal of DMAP was a better deer population primarily through herd management and to a lesser degree, habitat manipulation. **Midwestern and eastern states appear to be selling it as a land management tool as much as anything else! Deer herds are manipulated, but clearly in some cases only as a means to an end, not the end itself!**

## What is DMAP?



## DMAP: Why Now?

- **Interest in deer management has never been greater!**
- **Leasing and purchase of land exclusively for hunting continues to grow**
- **It's long overdue**
  - In a highly diverse, patchy environment, using a single regulation to manage an entire county simply is not practical, never has been

## DMAP: Why now?

- **Interest in deer management has never been greater!**
  - Landowners/hunters want to “tune-up” their deer herd and they are seeking technical guidance



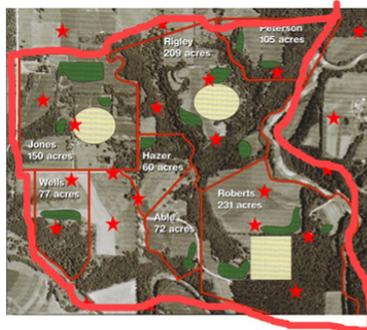
## DMAP: Why now?

- **Leasing and purchase of land exclusively for hunting**
  - Existing regulation framework and hunter numbers are **INCOMPATIBLE**

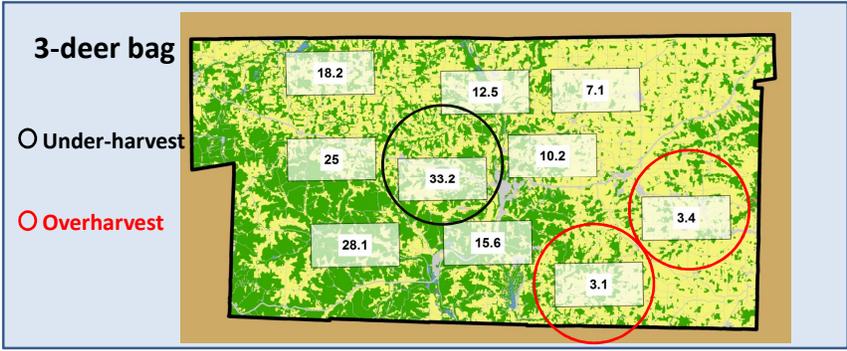


On intensively managed properties such as this, it may be necessary to harvest a doe per 25 acres. If a landowner(s) controls access to 1100 acres, he might need to harvest 30-45 does from that property. Under existing regulations, he cannot manage the deer herd with the 2 other co-owners.

## DMAP: Why now?



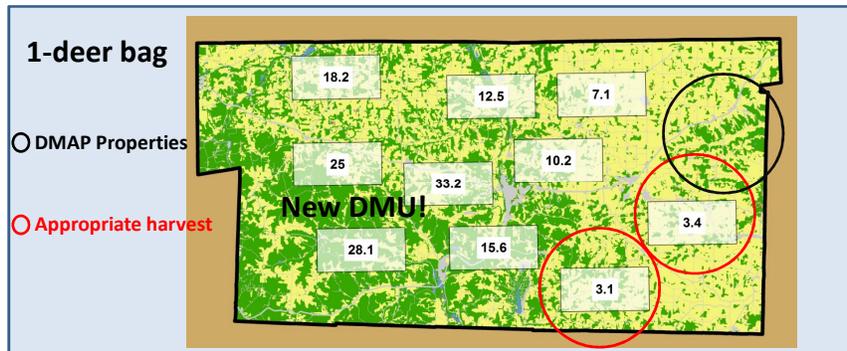
# DMAP: Why now?



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# DMAP: Why now?



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## DMAP Options

- **Create DMAP permits, which are free (like in-season damage permits), and charge an enrollment fee on a sliding scale according to the amount of land enrolled**
- **Simply elevate the bag limit for the property and limit hunters to existing deer permits (either-sex and antlerless only)**
- **Create a reduced-cost DMAP permit and issue to landowners based on need**



### Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

Taking DMUs One Step Further

## Deer Management Tools

- **Outline**
  - Management units
  - Deer management assistance program (DMAP)
  - Antlerless permit allocations
  - Landowner deer permits
  - Public land regulations
  - Strategies/Tools used in other states

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## Deer Management Tools

- **Outline**
  - Antlerless permit allocations
    - Primer on harvest management
    - Limitations of current tools
    - Advantages of an alternative

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## Antlerless Allocations

- **Herd size manipulated by hunter harvest of antlerless deer**
  - Increase antlerless harvest to reduce population
  - Reduce antlerless harvest to grow population
- **What do we know about this relationship in Ohio?**

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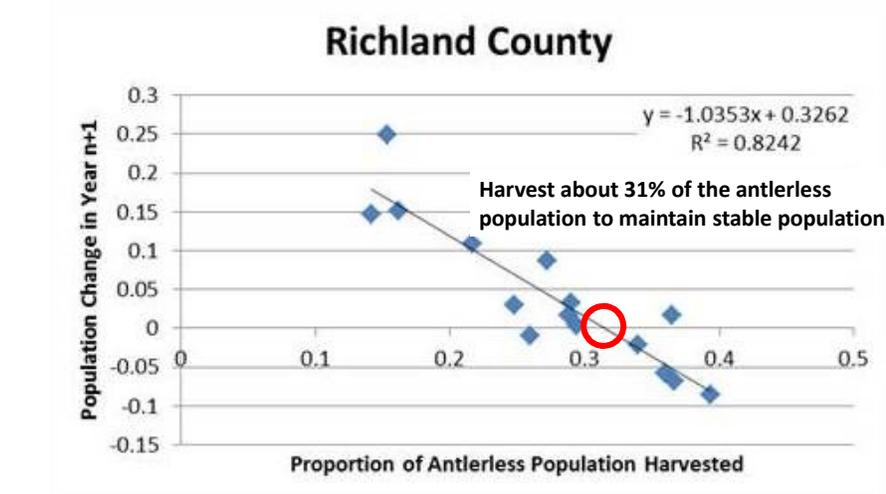
## Antlerless Allocations

- **We know:**
  1. There is a very predictable relationship between the level of antlerless harvest and its impact on population size the following year

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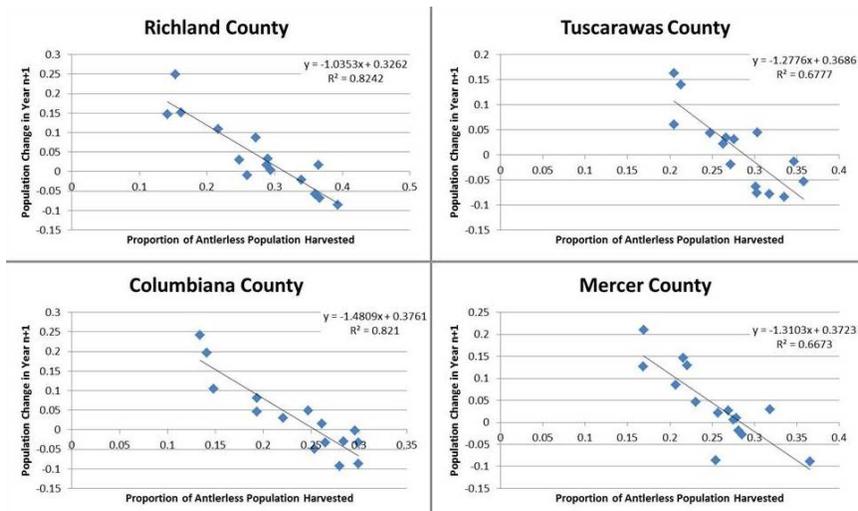
# Antlerless Allocations



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# Antlerless Allocations



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## Antlerless Allocations

- **We know:**

1. There is a very predictable relationship between the level of antlerless harvest and its impact on population size the following year

We can typically identify the level of antlerless harvest we would like to see each year

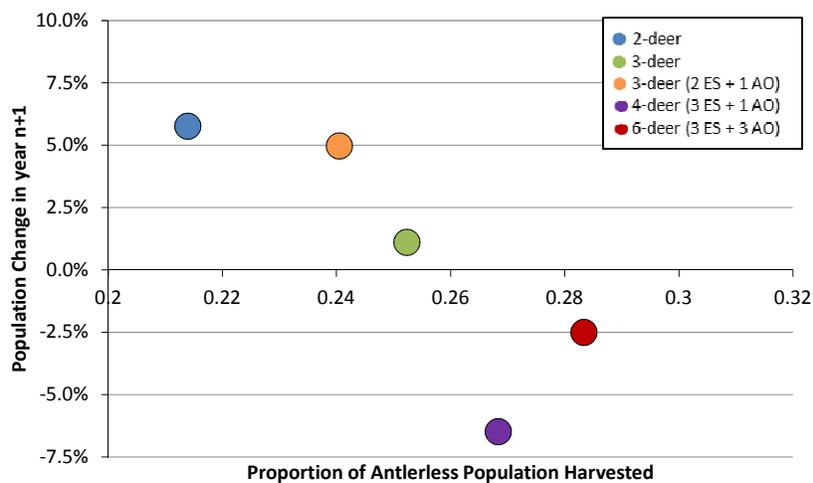
2. Any given harvest regulation (bag limit) can result in widely varying antlerless harvest

Very difficult to **consistently** achieve desired antlerless harvest with current tools

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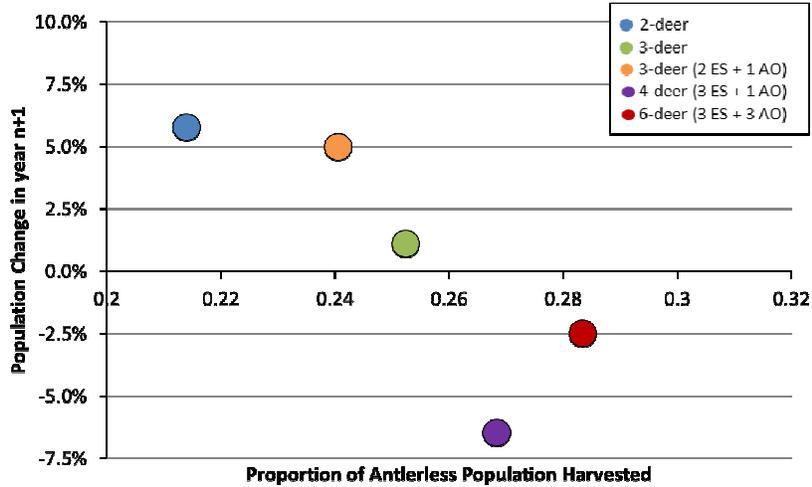
## Antlerless Allocations



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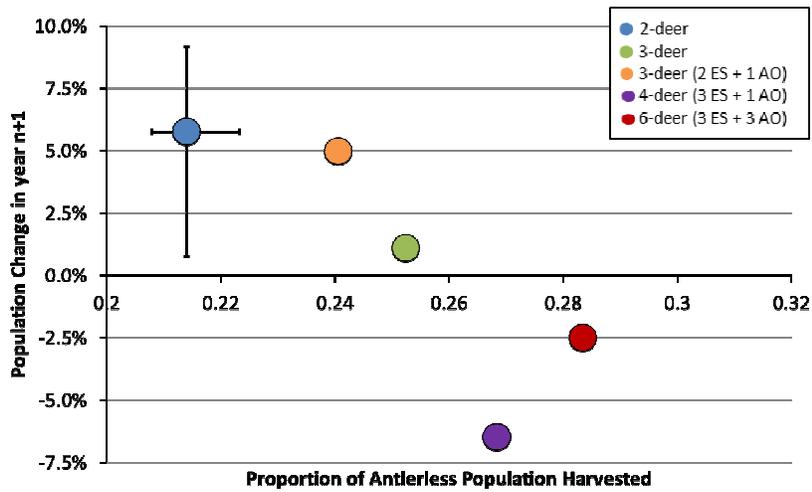
## Antlerless Allocations



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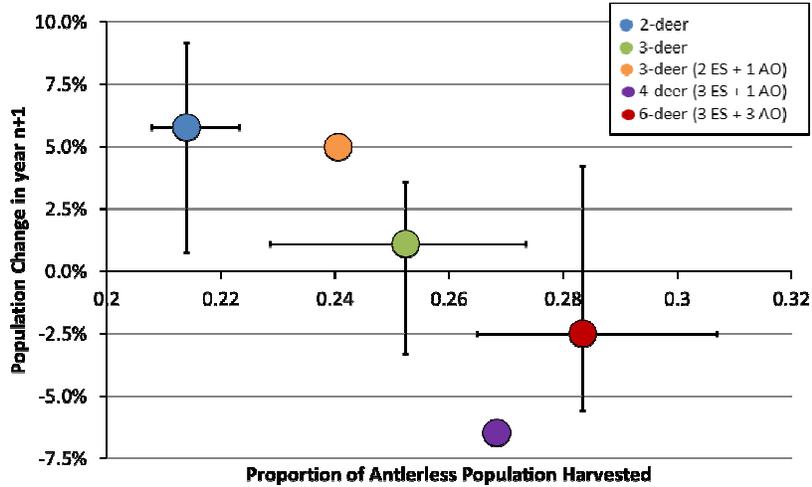
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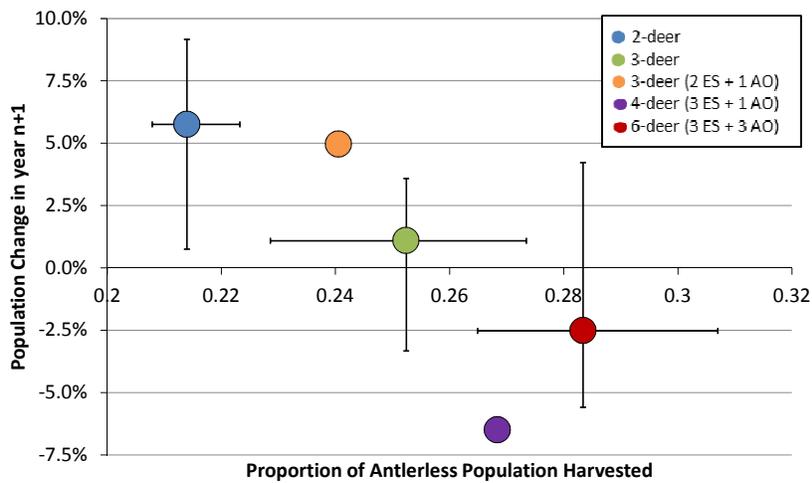
## Antlerless Allocations



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## Antlerless Allocations



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## Antlerless Allocations

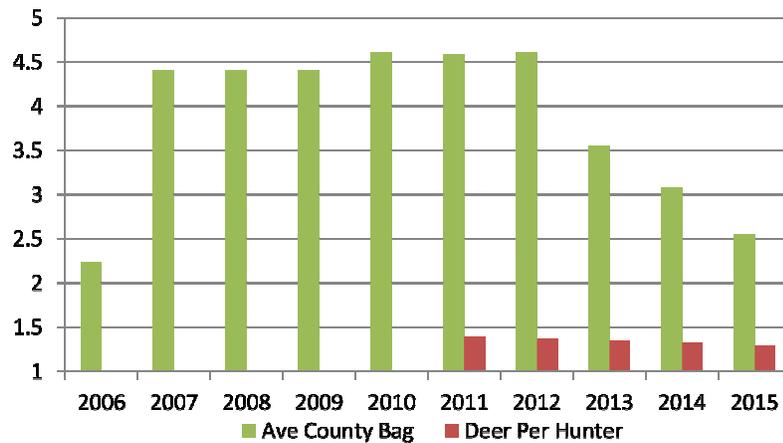
- **Limitations of bag limit**
  1. Imprecise, consistent under- or overharvest
  2. Sometimes unpredictable results
  3. Discrete options for post-hunt herd size
  4. Only limits the number of deer a hunter can harvest, NOT the number of hunters that can purchase a permit
  5. Lose effectiveness as deer populations grow

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## Antlerless Allocations

Average county bag limit has little impact on number of deer harvested per hunter



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## Antlerless Allocations

- **Limitations of bag limit**
  1. Imprecise, consistent under- or overharvest
  2. Sometimes unpredictable results
  3. Discrete options for post-hunt herd size
  4. Only limits the number of deer a hunter can harvest, NOT the number of hunters that can purchase a permit
  5. Lose effectiveness as deer populations grow
  6. "Lightning rod" – source of dissatisfaction
    - Resistance to change exacerbates problem

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## Antlerless Allocations



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## Antlerless Allocations

- **Another way to control harvest?**
- **Issue predetermined number of antlerless permits *by management unit***
  - Each management unit (county or otherwise) would have a cap on number of antlerless permits that could be sold in any given year.
  - Lottery for equal opportunity
  - Left-over permits sold first-come, first-served

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## Antlerless Allocations

- **Antlerless Permit Allocation in Practice...**
- **Data Needs**
  - Prior years' harvests
  - Permit success rates
  - Current population trajectory
  - Desired population direction

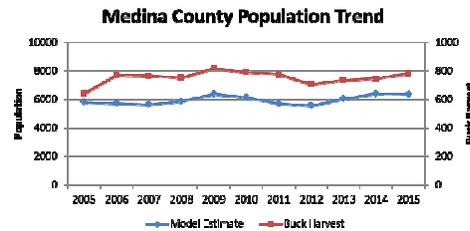
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## Antlerless Allocations

### • Antlerless Permit Allocation in Practice...

- **Population trend?**
  - Stable
- **Avg. antlerless harvest?**
  - 1,230 (2.9/mi<sup>2</sup>)
- **Permit success rate?**
  - 30%
- **How many permits to maintain stable population?**
  - $1,230 / .3 = 4,100$  permits



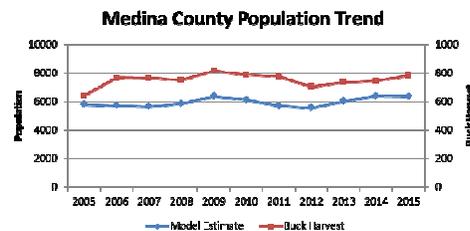
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## Antlerless Allocations

### • Antlerless Permit Allocation in Practice...

- **Change desired?**
- **How many permits to increase population?**
  - Reduce antlerless harvest by 1 deer/mi<sup>2</sup> (2.9 → 1.9/mi<sup>2</sup>)
    - $1.9/\text{mi}^2 = 800$  deer
    - $800 / .3 = 2,700$  permits



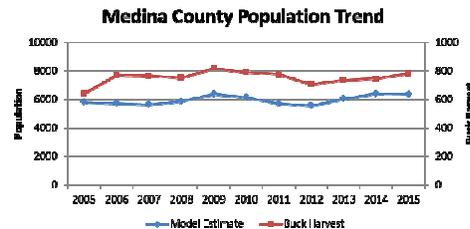
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## Antlerless Allocations

- **Antlerless Permit Allocation in Practice...**

- **Change desired?**



- **How many permits to decrease population?**

- Increase antlerless harvest by 1 deer/mi<sup>2</sup> (2.9 → 3.9/mi<sup>2</sup>)
  - 3.9/mi<sup>2</sup> = 1,700 deer
  - 1,700/.3 = 5,500 permits

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## Antlerless Allocations

- **Remember...**

- We can reliably identify the level of antlerless harvest needed
- Current tools lack precision to achieve appropriate level of harvest

- **An antlerless allocation is one way to reduce uncertainty in the annual antlerless harvest**

- Fine-tune population trajectory
- Maintain population at goal once it's reached
- Avoid the roller coaster ride

- **Other benefits?**

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## Antlerless Allocations

- **Other benefits of antlerless allocation**
  1. Bag limit and all its “baggage” become irrelevant
  2. Stable harvest regulations!!!
    - Any adjustment needed for antlerless harvest accomplished simply by adjusting number of permits made available
    - No visible “changes” in regulation digest to illicit confusion or dissatisfaction
  3. Current year harvest used to gauge current population change
    - Current methods rely on buck harvest to gauge change which is subject to a 2-year lag effect
    - Under stable regulations, current year antlerless harvest can be used as an additional gauge of population change
  4. Year to year variation in harvest susceptibility easily corrected with minor adjustments to allocation
    - Minimize short-term population fluctuations

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## Antlerless Allocations



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## Deer Management Tools

- **Outline**
  - Management units
  - Deer management assistance program (DMAP)
  - Antlerless permit allocations
  - Landowner deer permits
  - Public land regulations
  - Strategies/Tools used in other states

### Ohio's Landowner Exemption: Time for a change?

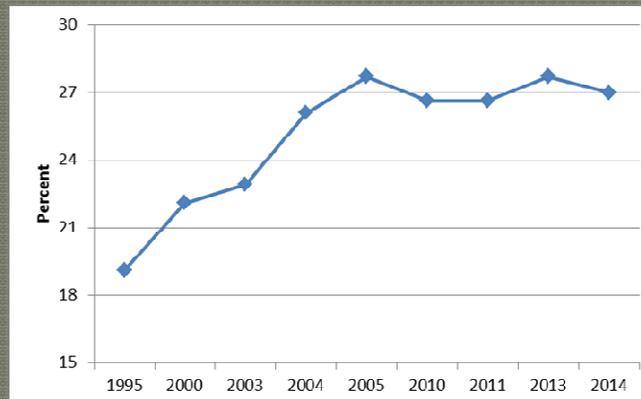
- Antlerless allocations would give us greater control over the harvest, which would lead to **stability** in both **populations** as well as **REGULATIONS**.
- Antlerless permit allocations by DMU would be **challenging** without landowner participation in the permit allocation process.
- **FREE** landowner permits issued prior to hunting would address a number of issues aside from antlerless allocations.

## Landowners and **FREE** deer permits – WHY?

- Enhanced Deer Program Performance
- Provide Landowners a “Voice” in Deer Management Decisions via Annual Deer Hunter Surveys
- **May help to address suspected abuse (non-landowners posing as landowners) of the current Landowner Exemption that allows property owners to hunt for free on their property**

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption: Time for a change?

Percent of Annual Statewide Harvest by Landowners



## Ohio's Landowner Exemption: Time for a change?

County	Total Harvest by Landowners (%)	Antlerless Harvest by Landowners (%)
Meigs	43	48
Washington	42	45
Gallia	39	41
Monroe	38	43
Jackson	38	42

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by non-landowners?

- Landowner harvest records for Athens and Meigs counties were cross-referenced with county tax records using the hunter's **first** and **last** name

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by non-landowners?

County	WOCRMS Harvest Records		Records worth a "second look"	
	Unique landowners	Unmatched	% of Unmatched	% of Total
Athens	781	317 (41%)	30	<b>12</b>
Meigs	882	287 (33%)	42	<b>14</b>

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by non-landowners?

- In 2014-15, 39,000 individuals reported a landowner harvest (47,477 deer)
- If we assume 15% of 39,000 do NOT qualify for the landowner exemption, they are costing the **DOW** more than a **\$250,000** each year in licenses and deer permit revenue

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by non-landowners?

- **Estimated License Revenue Lost**
  - $39,000 * 0.15 = 5,850$  hunters \* \$19 = **\$111,150**
- **Estimated Permit Revenue Lost**
  - $5,850$  hunters \*  $1.2$  deer/hunter =  $7,020$  deer \*  $24$ \$ = **\$168,480**
- **Estimated Total Revenue Lost**
  - $\$111,150 + \$168,480 = \$279,630$

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by non-landowners?

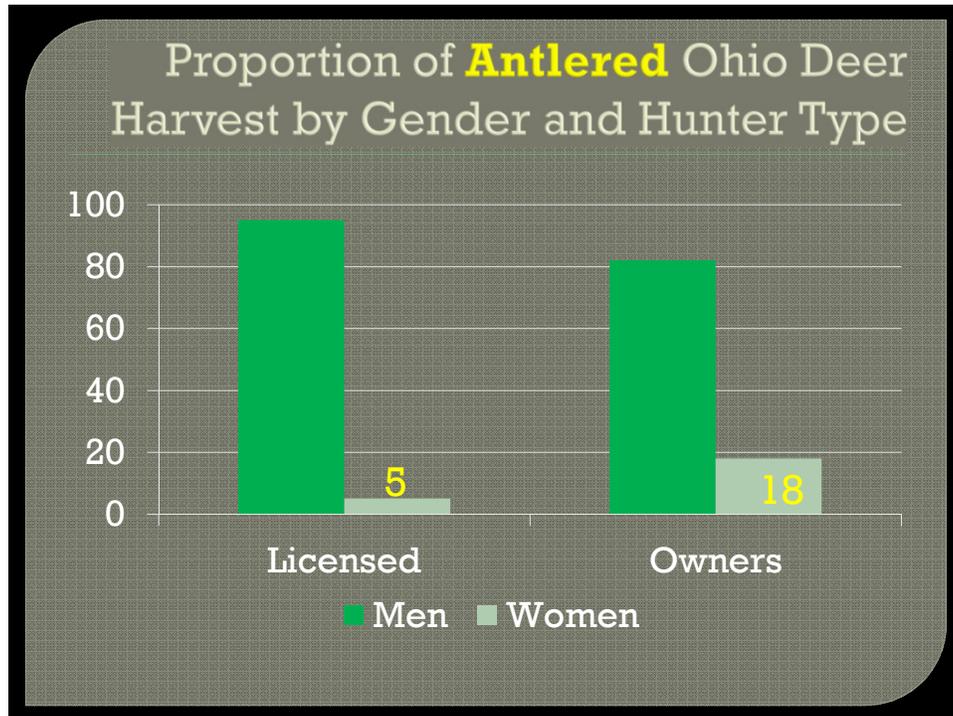
- **Estimates based on harvest records from two counties involving records "worth a second look"**
- **Conjecture until actual cases have been made**
- **"Incidental discovery" during analyses may have as much or more significance**

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by **landowners**?

- Is Ohio's landowner exemption being abused by landowners as well?
  - An analysis of Ohio's harvest data, and a comparison with other Midwestern states, revealed some very dramatic differences in harvest patterns between landowners and paid hunters.
    - where **OWNERS** hunt for **free** and are limited to a **single buck**

## Proportion of Total Annual Ohio Deer Harvest by Gender and Hunter Type





### Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by landowners?

- In IA, OH, MN, and MO, males account for approximately **95%** of all **bucks** harvested each year among:
  - Licensed hunters **AND**
  - Landowners who **PAY** to hunt their own property

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by landowners?

- In OHIO, males only account for **80%** of the bucks harvested by LANDOWNERS, compared to **95%** for **licensed hunters!**
- **Are male landowners in Ohio really that much different than their counterparts across the Midwest, or are they having their "significant others" or daughters checking their first buck for them in some cases?**

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by landowners?

- In MISSOURI, **males** only account for **80%** of the **landowner** buck harvest, compared to **92%** for **licensed hunters!**
- Coincidentally, MO is the only other Midwestern state considered (MO, MN, and IA) with a landowner exemption rule **identical** to **Ohio's** and a buck bag limit very similar to Ohio's!

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by landowners?

- Why are **female landowners** killing disproportionately more bucks (18% vs. 5% of the total owner and licensed buck harvest) than their licensed counterparts in OH and MO? Alternatively, why do male landowners in Ohio only account for 80% of the landowner buck harvest, whereas males account for 95% of the annual buck harvest among licensed hunters?
- And how is this affecting the hunting public and perhaps our bottom line?

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by landowners?

- Perhaps some male landowners loosely interpret a bag limit as a "household" limit – rather than a hunter bag limit.
- In **some** cases, the first buck harvested by a male landowner is actually assigned to someone else in the household, typically the female spouse or daughter.

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by landowners?

- A better buck never presents a shot, but antlerless opportunities abound
- Thus, by season's end, the female spouse is the only successful buck hunter in the house, thereby artificially driving up the proportion of the antlered harvest that is taken by females

## Ohio's Landowner Exemption Law: Abuse by landowners?

- Male landowners hunting under a "multi-buck" limit are stealing opportunities from others by harvesting deer that they very likely would not have harvested under a single buck limit.

## Is change needed in Ohio's landowner exemption law?

### Summary:

- Ohio's landowner exemption law is likely encouraging cheating by both **non-owners** as well as landowners.
  - As many as 15% of landowner checks may be illegal each year, costing sportsmen and women as much as \$250,000 annually
  - In 2004, resident license fees increased and we saw the single largest jump in landowner harvest. Future license and permit fee increases could make matters worse.

## Is change needed in Ohio's landowner exemption law?

### Summary:

- Ohio's landowner exemption law encourages cheating by both non-owners as well as **landowners**.
  - Some male landowners may not only be falsifying harvest records, but also stealing opportunities from licensed hunters by harvesting deer they may have otherwise passed on if they were limited to a single buck.
  - No question, it is easier to justify your decision from the privacy of your home!

## Is change needed in Ohio's landowner exemption law?

- In addition to continued abuse, without change to Ohio's current landowner exemption law, implementation of DMU-specific antlerless allocations **will be more difficult, but not impossible.** Landowners account for as much as 50% of the antlerless deer in some counties. Landowners really need to be part of the allocation process.

## Is change needed in Ohio's landowner exemption law?

- **Recommendations**
  - At a minimum, we have a meaningful conversation about requiring landowners to obtain a free permit to hunt deer on their own property.
  - Ideally, before they receive a permit, they should attest to and/or provide the following:
    - Parcel ID number
    - Own at least 10 acres of land
    - List qualifying hunters for the property (spouse/children)
  - In IA, imposing landowner restrictions reduced landowner licenses from 91,000 to 64,000!

## Closing Remarks

- Data presented here make a strong case for abuse of Ohio's landowner exemption, by both landowner's as well as non-landowners.
- Information presented is **conjecture**. Not until cases are made, will these data be substantiated.



Landowner Licenses: Time for Change?

## Deer Management Tools

- **Outline**
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  - Antlerless permit allocations
  - Landowner deer permits
  - Public land regulations
  - Strategies/Tools used in other states

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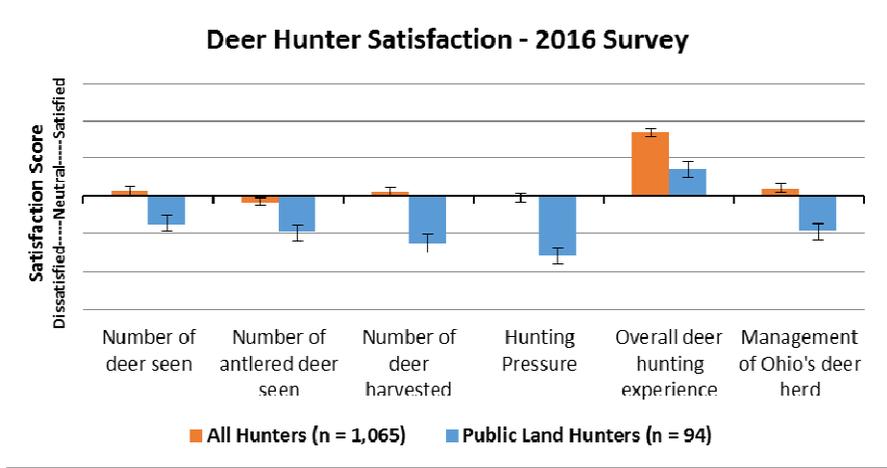
## Public Land Conundrum

- **History:**
  - Complaints of crowding and low deer numbers
  - 2012 Survey
    - Would you support designating some wildlife areas as “Quality Hunting Areas”?
      - Lottery draw for access
      - Reduce hunting pressure and allow herd growth
    - **60% of public land hunters did NOT support this idea**
- **But, complaints continue and have increased**

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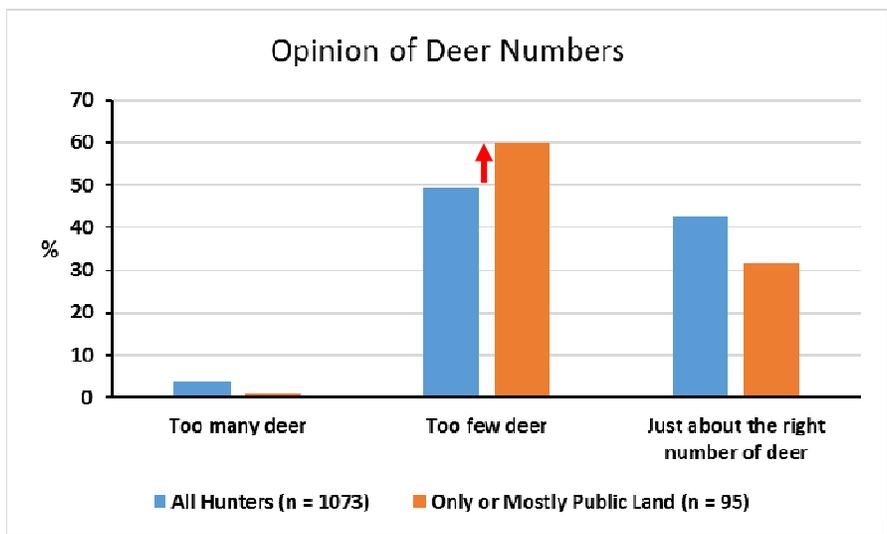
# Public Land Conundrum



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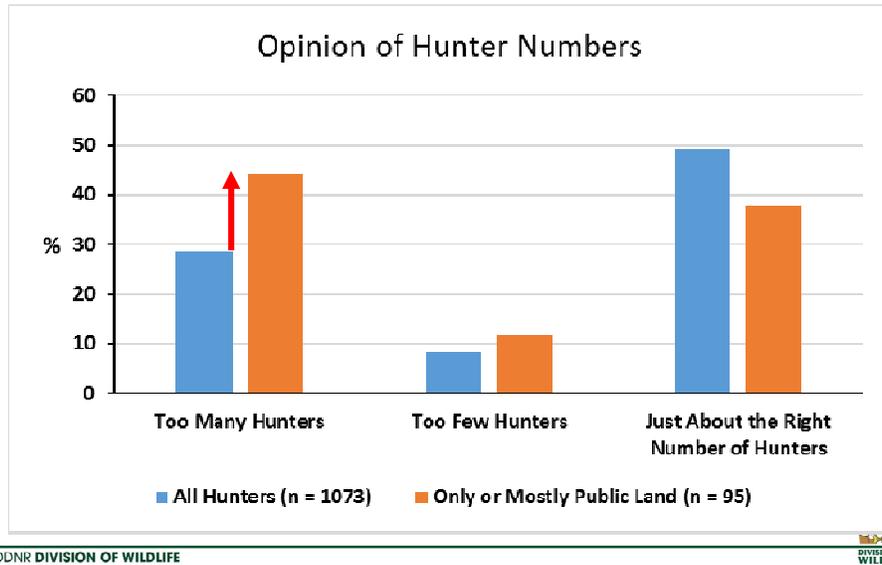
# Public Land Conundrum



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## Public Land Conundrum



## Public Land Conundrum

- **The Problem is Clear:**

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Too Many} \\ \text{Hunters} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Too Few} \\ \text{Deer} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{Low Hunter} \\ \text{Satisfaction} \end{array}$$

- **The Solution is Anything but Clear:**
  - Launched another attempt in 2015 to identify potential solutions with a survey of 25,000 deer hunters

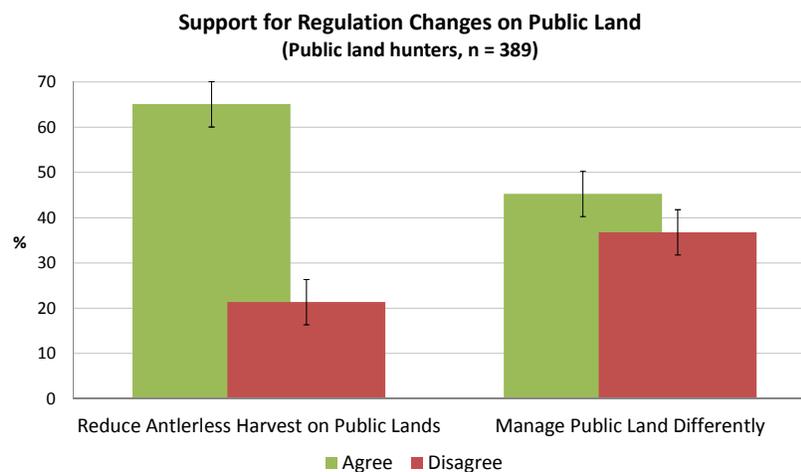
## Public Land Conundrum

- **Asked two relatively simple questions...**
  1. Should regulations be put in place to reduce antlerless harvest and encourage herd growth on public lands?
  2. Should public lands be treated differently than private land when setting deer harvest regulations?

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## Public Land Conundrum



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## Public Land Conundrum

- **Clear support for reducing antlerless harvest on public lands, BUT...**
  - Majority did not agree that public land should be treated separately when setting harvest regulations

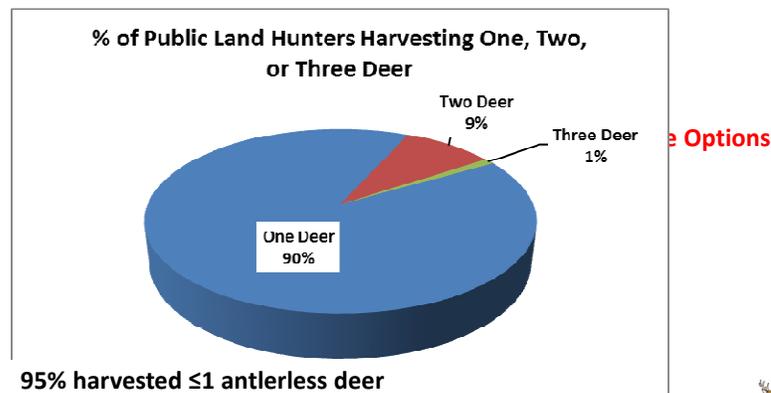


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## Public Land Conundrum

- **Even if public land hunters were in support of managing public land differently...**



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## Public Land Conundrum

- **What to do?**
  - Low satisfaction among public land hunters,  
BUT...
  - ...feedback from multiple surveys indicate little support for regulating public lands differently

## Your thoughts?

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## Deer Management Tools

- **Outline**
  - Management units
  - Deer management assistance program (DMAP)
  - Antlerless permit allocations
  - Landowner deer permits
  - Public land regulations
  - Strategies/Tools used in other states

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## Deer Management Tools use Elsewhere

- **Earn-a-buck**
- **Conditional seasons**
- **Season-specific bag limits**
- **Season-specific licenses**
- **Permit-bundles**
- **Other**