

**Annual Report to the Vermont Legislature on
Management of the Deer Herd**

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

**Patrick H. Berry
Commissioner**

January 2014

Annual Report to the Vermont Legislature on Management of the Deer Herd

Introduction

This report fulfills the requirements of Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. 1 § 4082. An Act Relating to Management of the Deer Herd passed during the 2004 legislative session. Section 6 of the Act specifies:

Each January, the Commissioner shall publish an annual deer report. This report addresses:

- (1) The size of the deer population;*
- (2) The health of the deer population;*
- (3) The satisfaction of the hunting community;*
- (4) The Comprehensive Deer Management Evaluation;*
- (5) Wildlife Management Unit Realignment*

Deer management is one of the most important projects administered by the Fish and Wildlife Department (herein referred to as the Department). Few Vermonters have not had some level of contact with deer and even fewer are without an opinion as to how to manage them. In 2009 the Department completed a long range 10-year management plan for white-tailed deer and other big game species.

Deer management objectives are: 1) maintain a deer population at a level that is in balance with its habitat and the landscape that supports a variety of wildlife throughout Vermont – that is, an abundant healthy deer herd; and 2) maintain a deer population at a level that is satisfactory to the recreation, agriculture, forestry, and safety interests of the people of Vermont.

Findings

Deer Population Size

The Department utilizes multiple independent models (VT-DOEPOP, MARK, and Sex-Age-Kill) to predict the fall pre-hunt population (Figure 1). These models incorporate data on the severity of winter weather, buck and overall harvest, hunter effort, deer sighting rates by hunters, health indices, and the age distribution of each sex. The Department gathers these data at big game and biological check stations and from Vermont deer hunters themselves. Additional data, gathered by the Department, is incorporated to estimate survival and reproductive rates. In addition, the Department maintains 35 weather monitoring stations throughout the state allowing for regional interpretations of winter severity (Figure 2) and estimation of its impacts on deer populations. These statewide population estimates are averaged and allotted to six regions according to square miles of deer habitat within those regions and relative indices of deer abundance.

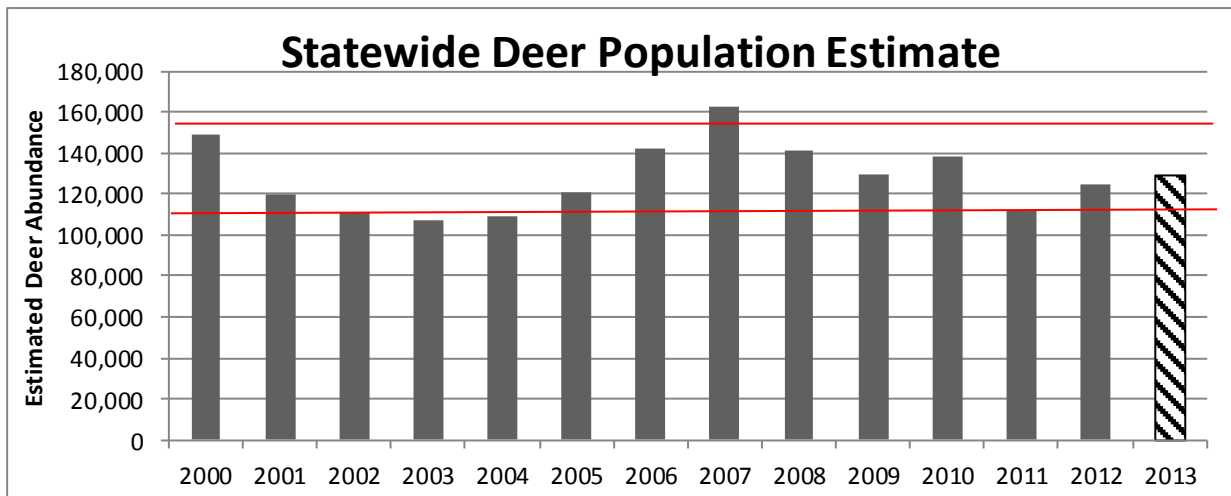


Figure 1. State-wide estimated pre-hunt abundance for 2000-2013. Red lines are upper and lower population objectives set forth in the 10-Year Big Game Plan.

The following documents contain much more information regarding regional winter severity, recent deer densities and objectives, harvest data, hunter effort and sighting data, and modeling techniques: 1) 2012 Vermont white-tailed deer harvest report, and 2) *Vermont Big Game Management Plan 2010–2020*. These documents are readily available at the Department’s website library:

http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library.cfm?libbase =Reports_and_Documents .

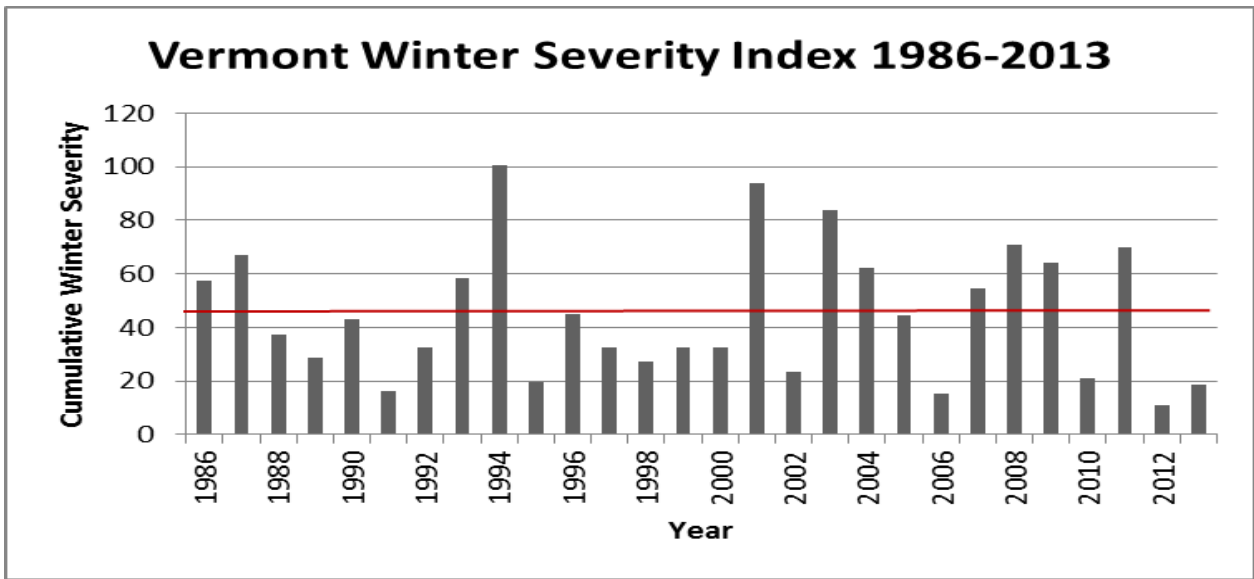


Figure 2. Statewide winter severity indices (WSI) in Vermont from 1986–2013. The horizontal red line equals a long-term average of about WSI=47. The Department maintains 35 volunteer weather stations statewide. From 1 December through 15 April, one WSI point is recorded for each day with a temperature at or below zero and each day equal to or greater than 18 inches of snow on the ground.

To help estimate the relative density of the deer population within regions of the state and to understand hunter distribution and activity levels, a hunter effort survey was initiated in 1999. This annual survey of 5,000 randomly selected Vermont deer hunters asks each hunter to keep a daily log of the hours hunted, Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) hunted, and the number of antlered and antlerless deer seen each day. By analyzing the returns, biologists are able to estimate the number of hours hunted and number of deer seen per 10 hours of hunting effort. These data are analyzed at the state and WMU level (Tables 1 & 2). The long-term average statewide sighting rate is 2.4 deer seen for every 10 hours of hunting (Table 1), and hunters annually hunt for an average of ~40 hours during the rifle season.

Because several factors can affect deer sighting rates other than actual deer population density, statewide sighting rates may not always be reflective of the actual population size. However, long-term trends or averages do provide meaningful comparisons (Table 1). Relative daily hunter effort is useful for population modeling but also provides insight into the importance of hunting early in the rifle season when the hunters' chances (i.e., catch-per-unit-effort) are best to find and take a legal buck (Figure 3). Toward the end of the rifle season, a hunter may be able to improve his/her odds of success by finding remote areas where previous hunting pressure was comparatively low.

Table 1. Sighting rates of deer (deer seen per 10 hours hunting) by rifle season hunters.

WMU	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Mean
A	2.00	6.03	2.72	3.51	4.57	4.47	3.04	1.48	4.08	2.60	4.94	3.58
B	3.35	3.18	2.10	3.62	3.56	4.07	3.35	2.98	3.04	1.95	3.26	3.13
C	2.07	2.67	1.23	2.41	1.87	3.20	2.73	2.90	2.40	1.20	2.13	2.25
D1	1.48	2.07	1.12	3.26	3.76	2.86	3.30	2.63	2.41	2.06	2.77	2.52
D2	1.74	1.69	1.01	2.70	2.03	3.43	2.79	2.39	2.35	2.01	2.10	2.20
E	0.26	0.53	0.52	0.75	1.16	1.89	1.08	0.97	0.86	0.72	1.60	0.94
F1	3.92	3.79	2.44	3.60	3.17	5.16	2.58	3.00	2.36	2.38	4.08	3.31
F2	3.50	2.66	2.09	3.11	3.01	3.85	3.63	1.69	3.48	1.83	4.56	3.03
G	1.42	2.79	1.69	1.57	1.86	2.93	2.04	2.18	1.68	1.67	1.75	1.96
H1	1.49	3.84	1.48	2.22	2.55	4.68	1.85	1.66	1.85	1.70	2.31	2.33
H2	2.60	2.88	1.95	2.71	2.86	3.15	2.74	2.46	2.23	1.67	3.12	2.58
I	2.18	1.63	1.05	1.63	1.32	3.07	1.04	1.57	1.42	1.00	1.30	1.56
J1	2.23	2.83	1.82	3.62	3.94	4.17	3.29	2.03	2.90	2.45	2.45	2.88
J2	2.92	4.08	2.60	3.40	3.33	4.25	2.29	1.88	2.39	2.29	2.19	2.87
K1	3.53	4.03	2.28	4.04	5.59	5.23	4.27	3.59	4.52	4.24	4.17	4.13
K2	2.71	1.98	2.33	3.49	2.57	3.07	4.02	3.03	1.96	2.49	3.49	2.83
L	2.28	1.24	1.23	1.62	1.52	1.79	1.73	1.80	1.58	1.38	1.30	1.58
M1	3.50	1.40	1.08	1.91	2.41	2.16	2.32	2.06	1.40	1.55	1.15	1.90
M2	2.28	3.63	2.31	3.94	4.37	4.58	3.32	2.23	2.50	1.67	4.45	3.20
N	3.75	2.81	3.53	3.13	3.25	2.79	3.24	3.65	2.25	1.86	2.45	2.97
O1	1.97	1.77	1.86	2.23	1.45	2.36	1.38	1.00	0.87	0.72	1.47	1.55
O2	2.82	2.00	1.03	2.39	2.49	3.99	2.03	1.86	1.42	1.40	1.70	2.10
P	1.62	0.87	1.80	2.10	1.22	1.24	1.17	1.00	0.73	1.01	1.19	1.26
Q	2.08	1.90	2.27	2.01	1.37	3.48	1.56	1.33	0.54	1.18	1.41	1.73
Total	2.43	2.56	1.75	2.75	2.74	3.51	2.64	2.24	2.22	1.76	2.52	2.46

Table 2. Rifle hunter effort analysis by wildlife management unit (WMU) in Vermont. Number of hours of hunting reflects returns from random mailings from 2000–2012. Number of hunters assumes a total of 75,000 licensed hunters. Area of WMU is area of deer habitat that does not include open water or pavement.

WMU	Hours of Hunting	Percent of Total Effort	No. of Hunters	Area of WMU (mi²)	No. of Hunters per Sq.-Mile
A	4,802	1.2%	450	45	9.9
B	38,505	9.9%	3,607	514	7.0
C	19,968	5.2%	1,870	354	5.3
D1	21,740	5.6%	2,036	376	5.4
D2	25,319	6.5%	2,371	560	4.2
E	16,615	4.3%	1,556	603	2.6
F1	10,296	2.7%	964	221	4.4
F2	13,415	3.5%	1,257	221	5.7
G	15,197	3.9%	1,423	363	3.9
H1	24,110	6.2%	2,258	395	5.7
H2	12,471	3.2%	1,168	181	6.4
I	14,197	3.7%	1,330	397	3.4
J1	26,226	6.8%	2,456	491	5.0
J2	22,155	5.7%	2,075	476	4.4
K1	7,528	1.9%	705	98	7.2
K2	24,872	6.4%	2,330	288	8.1
L	14,172	3.7%	1,327	352	3.8
M1	8,281	2.1%	776	239	3.2
M2	9,442	2.4%	884	212	4.2
N	18,637	4.8%	1,746	299	5.8
O1	6,068	1.6%	568	191	3.0
O2	12,310	3.2%	1,153	263	4.4
P	12,484	3.2%	1,169	463	2.5
Q	8,744	2.3%	819	273	3.0
State	387,554	100%	36,300	7,874	4.6

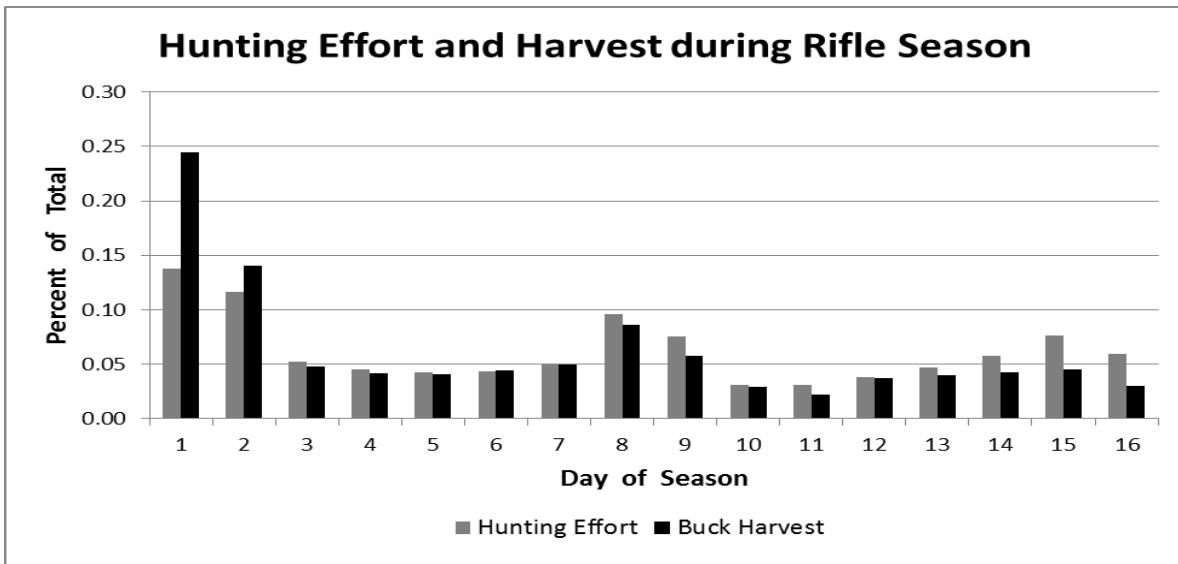


Figure 3. Standardized hunting effort and buck harvest during Vermont’s 2012 16-day rifle season. The daily buck harvest return (catch-per-unit-effort) given an amount of hunting effort is high during opening weekend. As the legal buck population gets reduced the amount of hunting effort needed to harvest a buck increases throughout the season.

The Department relies on archers, muzzleloader hunters, and youth to harvest female deer and manage Vermont’s deer populations from becoming overabundant. However, some muzzleloader permits remained unallocated in western Vermont in 2008, 2009, and 2012. The number and pattern of unallocated permits suggests that if additional antlerless harvest is required additional antlerless harvest strategies may be warranted in certain parts of the state.

Deer Hunter Satisfaction

Hunters seem generally pleased with the 2012 deer hunting seasons. Discussions with hunters at check stations and preliminary harvest totals gathered from check stations during the 2012 deer hunting seasons indicate hunters were seeing more deer. In addition, these deer appeared to be in good body condition and antler development appeared good to above average. Rifle harvest in 2012 increased compared to 2011 and remained stable compared to the three-year average. Under Vermont’s current deer management program, slight oscillations in harvest rates are to be expected and present no cause for concern. Final harvest numbers for the 2013 deer hunting season will be known by early February and reported in the 2013 deer report. Hunters seem to have a more positive outlook on deer hunting and deer management in Vermont. The Department will continue to use hunters to manage the deer herd and take further steps to maintain or improve the flow of data and other input to and from hunters.

Deer Herd Health

The primary way the Department can maintain the health of the deer population is by protecting critical habitat and by making appropriate annual antlerless deer harvest recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Board resulting in the issuance of adequate numbers of antlerless deer permits. An overabundance of deer results in over browsed food resources, damaged habitats, and unhealthy deer. Too many deer result in damage to deer wintering areas, thus making the population more susceptible to rapid declines when severe winters

follow in subsequent years. In addition, too many deer sharing a given summer-autumn food-base cannot store ample fat for the upcoming winter and are more susceptible to winter-kill. It is not possible to eliminate the influence winter weather can have on deer in Vermont. Maintaining a healthy deer herd is the best way to minimize the boom and bust population cycles that have occurred historically in Vermont. Vermont's deer herd is healthier than it has ever been in modern times, and thus, is in its best condition to survive winter (Figures 4 & 5).

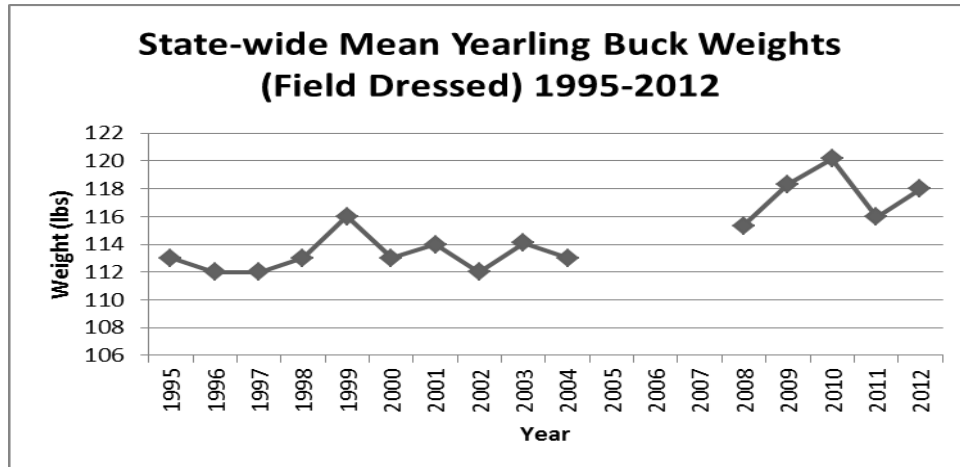


Figure 4. Field dressed yearling buck weights measured by Department biologists from 1995-2004 and 2008–2012. Data for 2005-2007 is unavailable as data collection occurred during the rifle season when the current Antler Point Restriction (APR) was in place. Comparable data were gathered in 2008 - 2012 at biological check stations during Youth Weekend because “spike-horn” bucks are legal during that weekend only.

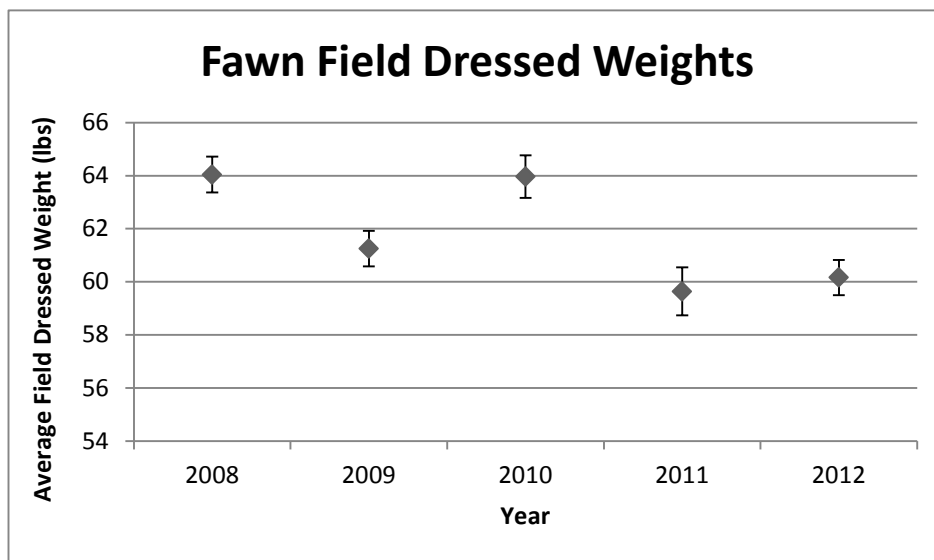


Figure 5. Annual average fawn weights (with 95% confidence limits) as reported by hunters to check stations from 2008–2012. All years exclude fawns reported over 99 pounds. With bio-check stations now operated during Youth Weekend (2008-Present), the Department will investigate the use of fawn weights as a more sensitive indicator of herd health, similar to the use of yearling buck weights.

The greatest challenge to current deer management in Vermont stems from the deer herd's superior health. Not only are overwinter survival rates across age and sex classes improved, but the adult females are now producing more fawns compared to when the deer herd was overabundant in the 1960s–1970s (Table 3). Indeed, with high reproductive potential, a mild winter or two, and reduced antlerless permit numbers, Vermont's deer herd grew from the lower limit of population objectives to being overabundant in just three years from 2004–2007 (Figure 1). With such a dynamic deer population, management action must also be dynamic and will continue to be tailored regionally and by WMU around the state.

Table 3. Pregnancy rates of incidentally-killed adult does examined by game wardens during winter in Vermont.

Year	No. Doe	No. Pregnant	Percent Pregnant	No. Live Fetuses	No. Fetuses per Doe
1963*	99	82	83%	121	1.22
1966*	115	97	84%	122	1.06
1972*	139	121	87%	188	1.35
2001	121	115	95%	199	1.64
2004	78	72	92%	110	1.41
2008**	119	108	91%	172	1.45
2009	53	50	94%	93	1.75
2010	64	50	78%	67	1.36
2011	36	28	78%	33	1.19
1963-72	353	300	85%	431	1.22
2001-12	471	423	88%	674	1.47

*From Garland, L. E. 1978. 1978 Deer Season Prospects: Vermont's experience with a buck-only hunting season since 1887. Vermont Fish and Game Dept., Montpelier.

Disease concerns are another aspect of deer health with which the Department is concerned. Vermont's deer are largely disease free with respect to the major diseases that afflict deer and cause deer mortality in North America. In the past the Department has monitored for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) by sampling brainstems from hunter-harvested deer. A total of 2,755 deer have been tested for CWD since 2003 with zero positive cases. Due to changes in funding sources CWD surveillance has shifted to targeted suspect cervids. Target cervids include any cervid exhibiting signs of illness. In addition, all animals from captive facilities are targeted for testing as these facilities have often been shown to facilitate the spread of contagious diseases. Past and current levels of testing indicate more than a 99% chance of detecting a 0.1% infection rate. Thus it is concluded that Vermont is CWD-free and to be considered 'at-risk' for management purposes. However, given the spatial distribution and slow onset of these diseases, caution should be utilized when discussing the CWD-free status of Vermont. Moreover, in 2012, testing of brain stems has been replaced by the testing of retropharyngeal lymph nodes as they allow for more sensitive detection of infectious diseases at earlier clinical stages of the disease.

The Department will continue to provide outreach regarding disease threats to Vermont's deer herd and recommend management actions to the Fish and Wildlife Board to protect Vermont's deer herd from disease. Current relevant rules include carcass importation restrictions, feeding and baiting restrictions, and regulations regarding captive hunt facilities. In addition, outreach encouraging the limited use of urine-based lures is ongoing. Urine-based lures present a

potential source of CWD infection and the Department will explore actions to help mitigate the risk posed by urine based lures.

Vermont's CWD Strategic Management Plan was updated in 2010. Such plans are common among North American states and provinces, and they emphasize: 1) the importance of disease prevention, and 2) the need to take swift and decisive action when CWD is first detected in a new area.

When an area becomes CWD-prevalent with an infection rate greater than about 1%, the disease has not been eliminated from free ranging cervids. Most plans call for deer population reduction to 0–5 deer per square-mile for a period of at least five years within a 10-mile radius of an initial CWD-positive deer; that is equal to about 300 square-miles. This will be a formidable task that would be facilitated by public acceptance and assistance.

The Department has received many calls from concerned members of the public regarding ticks. At present the Department does not believe any threats are posed to the deer population from ticks. Furthermore, given the stabilization and/or reduction of deer populations coupled with continued increases in perceived tick prevalence and more reported cases of Lyme's disease, deer are not believed to be the sole causative agent behind these ecological processes.

Comprehensive Deer Management Evaluation

Starting in the summer of 2012, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board and Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department received a number of citizen petitions regarding Vermont's deer management program. These petitions addressed the length of the current archery season, utilization of crossbows during the various deer hunting seasons, the dates and structure of current and potential muzzleloader hunting opportunities and the current Antler Point Restriction (APR). In addition, the Department was in the process of evaluating the impact the 5-year experimental APR has had on Vermont's deer herd.

In order to avoid a series of several separate piecemeal changes that may not collectively achieve the desired end, the Department and the Board agreed to evaluate current and alternative deer management strategies and regulations that may best satisfy hunter interests and maintain herd health. Thus, the comprehensive deer management evaluation is a means to comprehensively evaluate Vermont's current deer management program and provide recommendations on how the Department's deer management goals and objectives can be best achieved while meeting the needs of Vermont's citizens and deer hunters.

The evaluation process began in January - March of 2013. Three public input meetings were held throughout the state to gather information on the drivers of deer hunter satisfaction and opinions of current deer management strategies and regulations. In addition, the Department elicited public input through the first of two deer hunter surveys scheduled to occur throughout the evaluation process. The survey was made available through the Department's website (1,918 respondents) and at public meetings held in January – March of 2013 specifically to discuss the evaluation process (145 respondents). This survey was intended to broadly gauge the key drivers of deer hunter satisfaction and opinions on current deer hunting regulations.

To further facilitate discussion between the Department and the general deer hunting public, the Department formed three regional working groups in April of 2013. These working groups were tasked with aiding the Department in two areas: 1) evaluation of public input gathered

through public meetings, deer hunter surveys, and other means of communication; 2) provide perspective to the Department on the goals, objectives, key drivers of satisfaction, and potential management alternatives that may help meet those desires. The three regional deer management working groups were delineated according to regional differences in habitat composition, land uses, environmental conditions, topography, and deer hunter distributions. Effort was given to ensure members represented a broad demographic and geographic spectrum of Vermont hunters. Regional working group members were picked to represent one of three distinct regions of Vermont – the Champlain Valley/Western Foothills, the Mountains/Northeast Kingdom, and the Connecticut River Valley.

Buck Age Structure Management

In 2005 the Fish and Wildlife Board (FWB) instituted an Antler Point Restriction (APR) that defined a legal antlered deer as an antlered deer with 2 or more points 1 inch in length or longer on one antler. Commonly referred to as the spike-horn rule, because it protects spike antlered deer, this regulation was implemented as a means of Buck Age Structure Management (BASM) with the intention of more 1.5 year old antlered bucks surviving into the 2.5 year old age class. At this time the Department believes the current APR is successful at increasing the percentage of 2.5 year old deer in the antlered buck population and antlered harvest (Figure 6). Over the same time period; however, increased mortality on legal antlered deer has resulted in either a stable or reduced percentage of antlered deer ≥ 3.5 years of age in the population and overall antlered harvest. Further analyses of the effects of the APR on the buck age structure continue, including a third-party review of the data by the Wildlife Management Institute. It is critical that public dialogue on the efficacy of APRs as a buck age structure management tool is based on the best available data and scientific conclusions.

There may be options other than antler point restrictions that should be considered for achieving objectives for buck age structure management. The original antler restriction was deemed as a 5-year experiment and after the ninth year of implementation has now run its course. Over the last nine years deer hunters have had time to hunt under the current antler point restriction. Thus, hunters now understand what an antler restriction means in term of harvest opportunities and have had time to see the changes in the buck age structure. Therefore, deer hunters are in a good position to formulate opinions regarding the current APR and potential harvest strategies regarding the buck age structure.

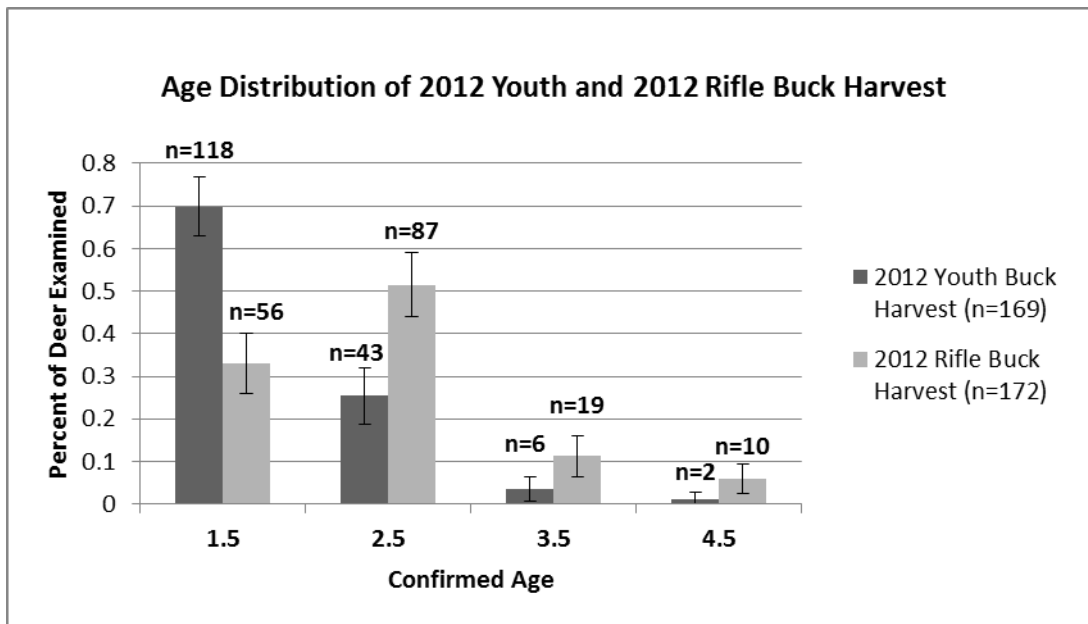


Figure 6: Age distribution of Department examined deer during the 2012 youth weekend, when no APR is in place, and the 2012 rifle season when spike-antlered deer are ineligible for harvest.

Next Steps of the Evaluation Process

The comprehensive evaluation of the current deer management strategies need not be an either/or evaluation of Vermont’s potential management alternatives where the current APR is either maintained or eliminated with no additional management strategies implemented. A comprehensive evaluation of Vermont’s deer season structures and hunting regulations may allow for a full array of opportunities to manage for a diverse buck age structure that can satisfy a diversity of hunter interests and maximize hunting opportunity. The continued involvement of Vermont hunters in this process will be crucial to its success and acceptance amongst the general hunting public.

In response to input received throughout the evaluation process and to validate the findings of the first deer hunter survey, the Department is in the process of conducting a structured random survey of Vermont hunters to gain further insights into their perception of current management strategies and potential management alternatives. Once the Department completes the second deer hunter survey and gathers additional public input from meetings and the regional working groups, recommendations on potential season structures and harvest regulations will be developed. These recommendations will be presented to the public through additional public input meetings prior to any recommendation being presented to the Fish and Wildlife Board.

WMU Redistricting

Wildlife Management Units (Figure 7) were established in 1978 to enable the Department to prescribe antlerless deer management recommendations on a regional habitat/deer density basis. To provide hunters with an identifiable boundary, major highways were used as legal definitions for the WMUs. The Department completed a new 10-year big game management plan in 2009. In that plan, there are recommendations for how WMU boundaries could be modified in a way that retains easy identification of boundaries for hunters, but makes the WMU more ecologically homogeneous and hence biologically relevant.

In 2012, the Department in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Board evaluated the re-districting of select WMU boundaries throughout the state. These proposed changes in WMU boundaries were undertaken to create WMUs with more homogeneity in terms of habitat composition and associated deer density. In part, these redistricting efforts will increase areas available to antlerless harvest and help mitigate the impact of deer damage to forest regeneration (Figure 6).

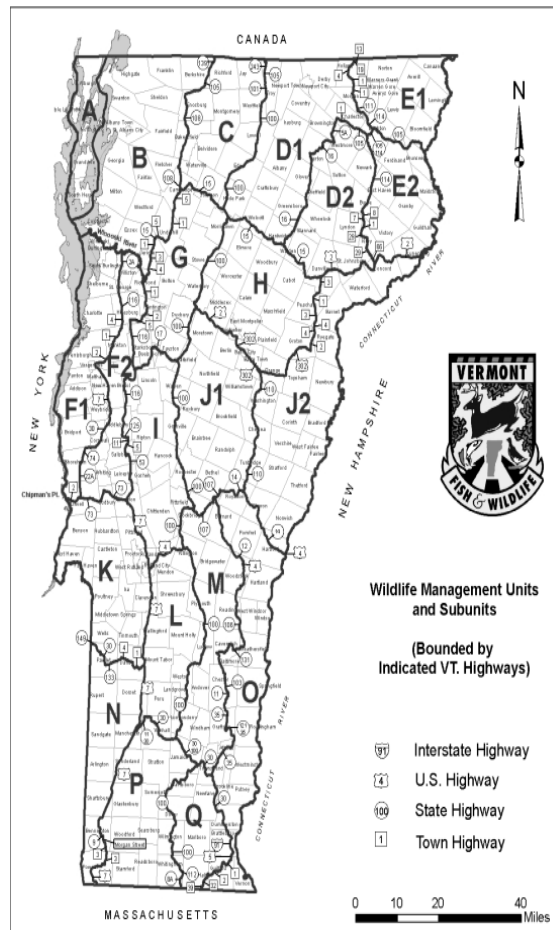


Figure 7. Present delineation of Vermont’s Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). Re-alignment of several WMUs occurred in 2013 to create WMUs with more homogeneity in terms of habitat composition and associated deer density.



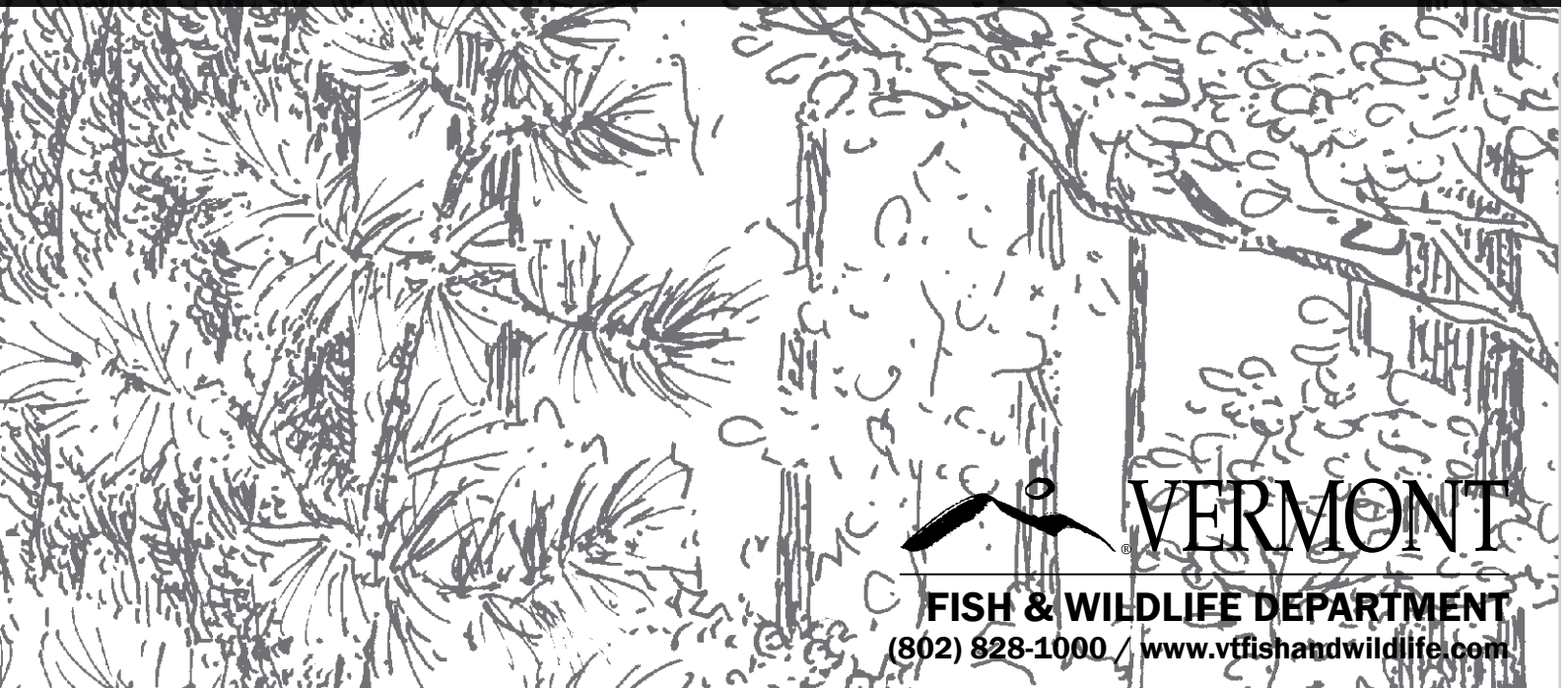
2013 VERMONT WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST REPORT



VT Big Game Trophy Club



VT Big Game Trophy Club



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Most of the programs described in this report are funded through the *Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program*. This program was initiated in 1937 as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Act and created a system whereby taxes are paid on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment by the public who hunts. Today this excise tax generates more than one hundred million dollars each year that are dedicated to state wildlife restoration and management projects across the United States. The State of Vermont uses these monies for acquiring land, and for restoring and managing wildlife. These excise tax dollars, coupled with state hunting license fees, have been the predominant source of money funding the successful restoration and management of Vermont's wildlife resources.

2013 VERMONT WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST REPORT

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The MISSION of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

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2013 White-tailed Deer Report

Overview

Hunters took 14,107 deer during the four Vermont deer seasons in 2013. The total deer harvest (14,107 deer) increased 2 percent from the previous three-year average (13,796 deer, Figure 1). The total buck harvest (8,831 deer) increased 11 percent from the previous three-year average (7,925 deer).

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department estimated there would be an increase in the deer population in 2013 due to two consecutive mild winters. The department recommended a 16 percent increase in antlerless deer permits in response to these mild winters, and maintained or reduced antlerless deer permits in other regions of the state to promote population growth.

Legal antlered bucks comprised 63 percent of the total harvest, while adult does made up 31 percent of the total antlerless harvest. Male and female fawns each added three percent to the 2013 harvest (Figure 2). Of the total deer harvest, 48 percent occurred during the rifle season, 23 percent during archery season, 17 percent during muzzleloader season, and 12 percent during youth season (Figure 3).

Abundant apple, acorn and beechnut crops were available to deer during the fall 2013 deer seasons and may have resulted in deer being more dispersed. Cold temperatures and the presence of snow during the November rifle season likely increased the ability of hunters to find, see and take deer.

The buck harvest during the opening weekend of rifle season accounted for 44 percent of the total rifle harvest (Figure 6, page 4). This is higher than the average of the previous five years when 39 percent of the rifle harvest occurred on opening weekend. Hunting effort on opening weekend of the 2013 rifle season (29 percent of total effort) was higher than the previous five-year average of 25 percent.

Harvest summary and percentages by season, age and sex is reported in Table 1 on page 3. Harvest summary by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) and seasons is reported in Table 4 and Figure 10 on page 7. County and town results for each season can be found in Table 5, and Table 6 shows the weights of deer reported in 2013 at 200 pounds or more.

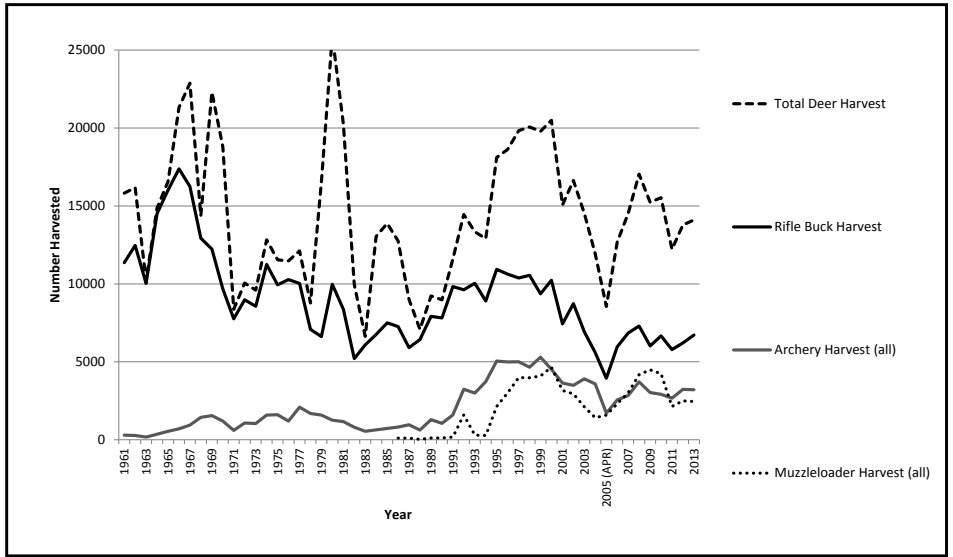


Figure 1. Annual total deer and antlered buck harvest trends in Vermont from 1960–2013.

FIGURE 2. AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST

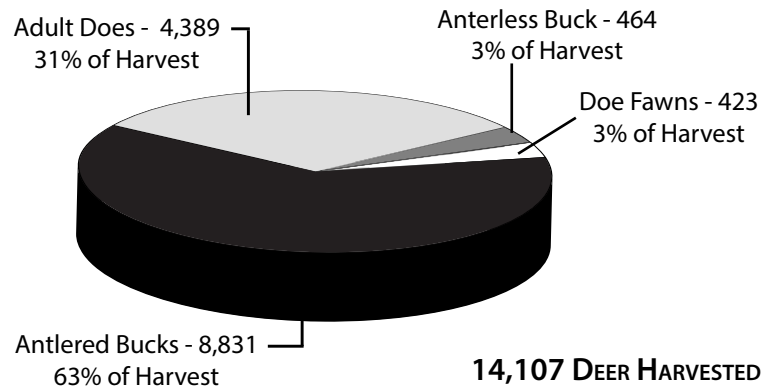
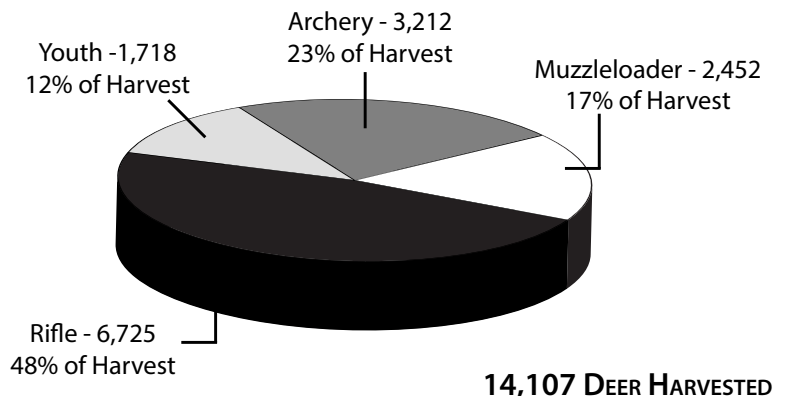


FIGURE 3. HARVEST TOTALS BY SEASON

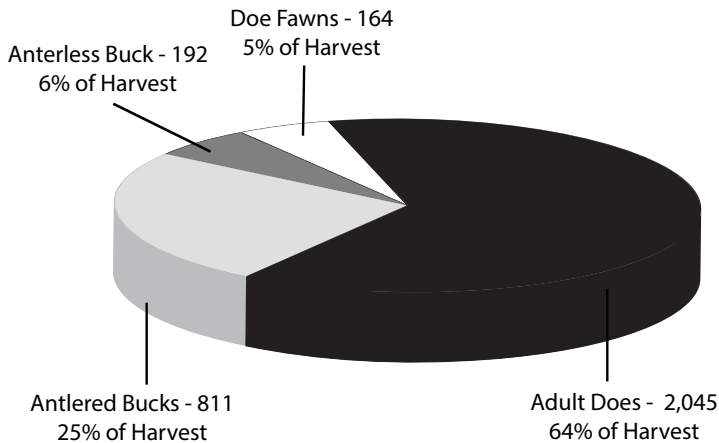


Season Results

Archery Season (October 5–27, December 7–15, 2013)

Archers took 3,212 deer during the split 32-day archery season (23 days in October and 9 days in December). Adult does comprised 64 percent of the archery season harvest. Antlered bucks comprised 25 percent of the archery harvest, while male fawns contributed six percent and doe fawns contributed five percent to the overall harvest (Figure 4). The late archery season often accounts for less than five percent of the overall archery harvest. In 2013, the late archery season accounted for six percent (189 deer) of the overall archery harvest.

FIGURE 4. ARCHERY SEASON – 3,212 DEER HARVESTED



Youth Season (November 10–11, 2013)

Youth hunters, those under the age of 16 prior to the season, who have passed their hunter education exam and are accompanied by a licensed but unarmed adult hunter, harvested a total of 1,718 deer during the two-day youth season in 2013. Antlered bucks comprised 48 percent (825 deer) of the youth harvest. Adult does comprised 35 percent (604 deer) of the youth harvest. Male and female fawns, deer less than one-year old at the time of harvest, contributed nine percent (154 deer) and eight percent (135 deer) respectively, of the youth harvest (Figure 5).

FIGURE 5. YOUTH SEASON – 1,718 DEER HARVESTED

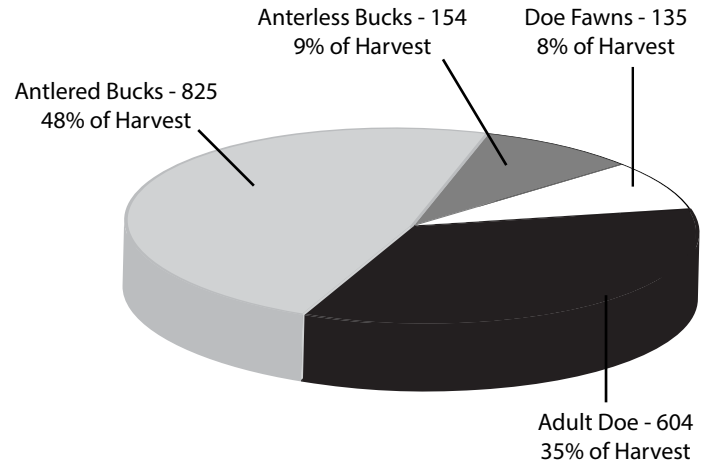


TABLE 1. 2013 LEGAL DEER HARVEST COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES BY SEASON AND AGE-SEX

Season	Season/Age Sex	Antlered Buck	Adult Doe	Male Fawn	Fawn Doe	Total
Archery	Count	811	2,045	192	164	3,212
	% of Archery Season	25%	64%	6%	5%	
	% of Deer Type	9%	47%	41%	39%	
	% of Total Deer Harvest	6%	15%	1%	1%	
Youth	Count	825	604	154	135	1,718
	% of Youth Season	48%	35%	9%	8%	
	% of Deer Type	9%	14%	34%	32%	
	% of Total Deer Harvest	6%	4%	1%	1%	
Rifle	Count	6,725	0	0	0	6,725
	% of Rifle Season	100%	0	0	0	
	% of Deer Type	76%	0	0	0	
	% of Total Deer Harvest	48%				
Muzzleloader	Count	470	1,740	118	124	2,452
	% of Muzzleloader Season	19%	71%	5%	5%	
	% of Deer Type	5%	39%	25%	29%	
	% of Total Deer Harvest	3%	12%	1%	1%	
Total	Count	8,831	4,389	464	423	14,107
	% of Total Deer Harvest	63%	31%	3%	3%	100%

Rifle Season (November 16–December 1, 2013)

More hunters participate in the November rifle season than in any of the other Vermont deer hunting seasons. Rifle season has the longest history in Vermont, dating back 116 years to 1897.

Hunters took 6,725 bucks during the traditional 16-day season, which ends annually the weekend after Thanksgiving. Hunter effort surveys were mailed to 5,000 randomly selected Vermont hunters for the fourteenth consecutive year in 2013. This survey helps measure the number of hunters actively participating in deer hunting, the hours they spend afield, and the number of deer and moose sighted while hunting.

Sighting data are used to monitor moose and deer population trends. Hunters returned 827 surveys, with 12 percent reporting they did not hunt in 2013, which is less than the three-year average of 18 percent of respondents who did not hunt. Twenty-two percent of hunters indicated they were successful in harvesting a deer during the November rifle. This success rate is more than the five-year average of 19 percent.

Hunters reported an average of 38 hours afield during the rifle season in 2013, which equals the previous five-year average. The opening weekend was responsible for the greatest buck harvest relative to the amount of effort expended, which has been the case for every survey year since

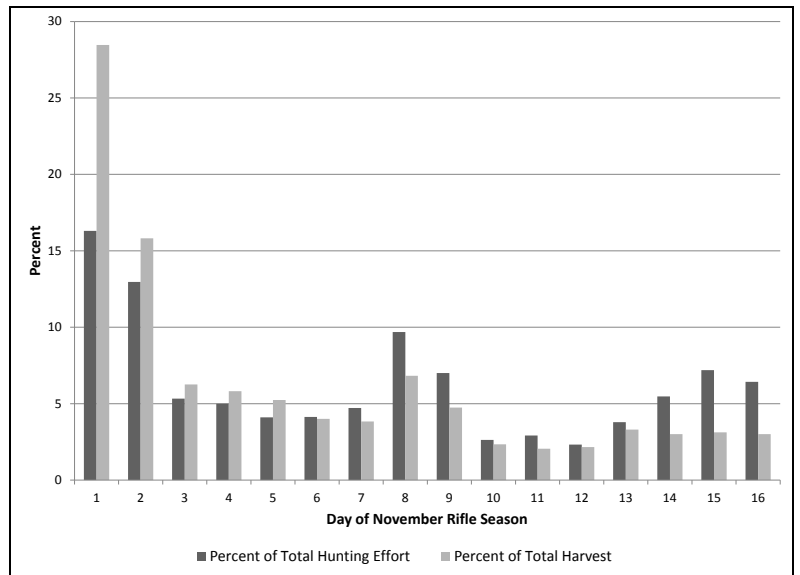


Figure 6. Percent of effort compared with percent of buck harvest by day of season

the survey began in 2000 (Figure 6). Results of the survey indicate most hunters are available to hunt on weekends more than weekdays.

Hunters reported seeing an average of 2.46 deer per 10 hours afield in 2013 (Table 2). This is two percent less than the rate reported in 2012 (2.52 deer/10 hours). Hunters reported seeing an average of 0.28 bucks per 10 hours afield in 2013, which is six percent more than the rate reported in 2012 (0.26 bucks/10 hours).

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF DEER SEEN PER 10 HOURS HUNTING BY WMU AS REPORTED BY RIFLE HUNTERS

WMU	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
A	2.00	6.03	2.72	3.51	4.57	4.47	3.04	1.48	4.08	2.60	4.94	6.29
B	3.35	3.18	2.10	3.62	3.56	4.07	3.35	2.98	3.04	1.95	3.26	3.88
C	2.07	2.67	1.23	2.41	1.87	3.20	2.73	2.90	2.40	1.20	2.13	2.51
D1	1.48	2.07	1.12	3.26	3.76	2.86	3.30	2.63	2.41	2.08	2.77	2.52
D2	1.74	1.69	1.01	2.70	2.03	3.43	2.79	2.39	2.35	2.01	2.10	2.91
E	0.26	0.53	0.52	0.75	1.16	1.89	1.08	0.97	0.86	0.72	1.60	1.07
F1	3.92	3.79	2.44	3.60	3.17	5.16	2.58	3.00	2.36	2.38	4.08	3.28
F2	3.50	2.66	2.09	3.11	3.01	3.85	3.63	1.69	3.48	1.83	4.56	1.81
G	1.42	2.79	1.69	1.57	1.86	2.93	2.04	2.18	1.68	1.67	1.75	2.88
H1	1.49	3.84	1.48	2.22	2.55	4.68	1.85	1.66	1.85	1.70	2.31	2.74
H2	2.60	2.88	1.95	2.71	2.86	3.15	2.74	2.46	2.23	1.67	3.12	2.11
I	2.18	1.63	1.05	1.63	1.32	3.07	1.04	1.57	1.42	1.00	1.30	1.95
J1	2.23	2.83	1.82	3.62	3.94	4.17	3.29	2.03	2.90	2.46	2.45	2.61
J2	2.92	4.08	2.60	3.40	3.33	4.25	2.29	1.88	2.39	2.29	2.19	1.93
K1	3.53	4.03	2.28	4.04	5.59	5.23	4.27	3.59	4.52	4.24	4.17	3.38
K2	2.71	1.98	2.33	3.49	2.57	3.07	4.02	3.03	1.96	2.49	3.49	2.12
L	2.28	1.24	1.23	1.62	1.52	1.79	1.73	1.80	1.58	1.38	1.30	1.69
M1	3.50	1.40	1.08	1.91	2.41	2.16	2.32	2.06	1.40	1.55	1.15	1.39
M2	2.28	3.63	2.31	3.94	4.37	4.58	3.32	2.23	2.50	1.67	4.45	4.2
N	3.75	2.81	3.53	3.13	3.25	2.79	3.24	3.65	2.25	1.86	2.45	2.01
O1	1.97	1.77	1.86	2.23	1.45	2.36	1.38	1.00	0.87	0.72	1.47	1.36
O2	2.82	2.00	1.03	2.39	2.49	3.99	2.03	1.86	1.42	1.40	1.70	2.25
P	1.62	0.87	1.80	2.10	1.22	1.24	1.17	1.00	0.73	1.01	1.19	0.94
Q	2.08	1.90	2.27	2.01	1.37	3.48	1.56	1.33	0.54	1.18	1.41	1.99
Total	2.43	2.56	1.75	2.75	2.74	3.51	2.64	2.24	2.22	1.76	2.52	2.46

Muzzleloader Season (December 7–15, 2013)

Hunters using single-shot muzzleloading rifles harvested 2,452 deer in the nine-day December season in 2013. Of that total, 19 percent (470 deer) were legal antlered bucks, 71 percent (1,740 deer) were adult does, and male and female fawns each contributed five percent (118 deer/124 deer) to the overall muzzleloader harvest.

In response to the mild winters of 2012 and 2013 antlerless permit allocations were increased in some regions during the 2013 deer hunting seasons. In other regions, past antlerless harvest appears to have resulted in stable deer populations and corresponding stabilization or decrease in allocated antlerless deer permits for the late muzzleloader season. A total of 14,400 antlerless permits were authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Board for 20 of the state's 24 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) during the 2013 muzzleloader season.

Those units not recommended for antlerless permits were largely in the mountain and northeast highland regions of Vermont, where deer populations were estimated to be below established long-term goals. As mandated by statute, landowners received first preference, with 10 percent of the remaining permits reserved for nonresidents, and the remainder distributed by lottery to resident applicants. Permit holder success varied from a high of 35 percent in WMU G to a low of 10 percent in WMUs A and K2.

Biological Check Stations

Each fall department biologists are present at big game check stations to collect biological information from deer taken by hunters. These data are important for monitoring the health of Vermont's deer herd and evaluating the impact of deer management strategies. During the 2013 youth and rifle seasons biologists examined 1,091 deer, which is eight percent of the deer taken in 2013.

Youth season is an important data collection period because youth hunters may take any deer regardless of sex, age or antler characteristics. This provides biological data on female and male deer, including spike-antlered bucks, an opportunity that does not occur during other deer hunting seasons.

Biologists working at 24 biological check stations examined 36 percent

(617 deer) of the 1,718 deer taken during youth weekend. Yearling bucks comprised 71 percent (200 deer) of antlered bucks examined during youth weekend, 25 percent (69 deer) were 2.5 years of age and 4 percent (12 deer) were 3.5 years of age or older (Table 3). Of yearling bucks examined by biologist 58 percent were spike-antlered.

In addition to collecting data during the youth weekend, the department operated eight biological check stations during the November rifle season and examined seven percent (495 deer) of the 6,725 deer taken in the rifle season. The rifle season is an important data collection period as antlered deer make up more than 60 percent of the overall annual deer harvest, and more than 70 percent of the annual antlered deer harvest occurs during the rifle season. Yearling bucks comprised 27 percent (133 deer) of the harvest, 51 percent (255 deer) were 2.5 years of age, and 22 percent (107 deer) were 3.5 years of age or older (Figure 8).

FIGURE 7. MUZZLELOADER SEASON – 2,452 DEER HARVESTED

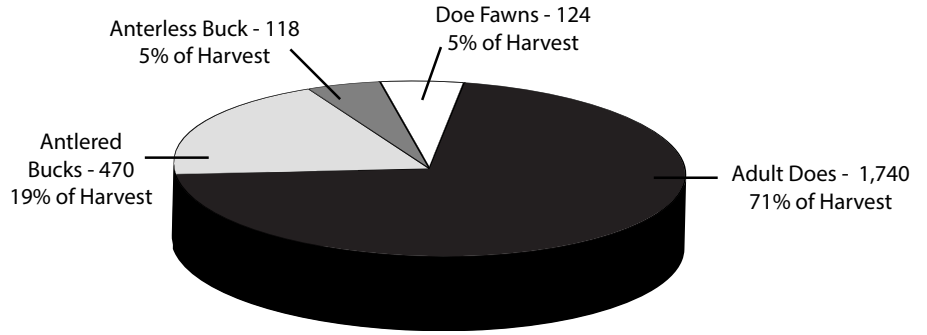


TABLE 3. MEAN DRESSED WEIGHTS OF WHITE-TAILED DEER BY AGE AND SEX FROM BIO-CHECK STATIONS

	Age Class	Mean Weight	<i>n</i>	%*
Males	0.5	66.7	56	
	1.5	116.5	200	71%
	2.5	142.1	69	25%
	3.5	174.5	6	2%
	4.5+	157.1	6	2%
Females	0.5	59.2	52	
	1.5	97.1	41	21%
	2.5	110.0	36	19%
	3.5	121.0	32	16%
	4.5+	121.0	85	44%

* Adult age distribution only, *n* equals number of deer examined

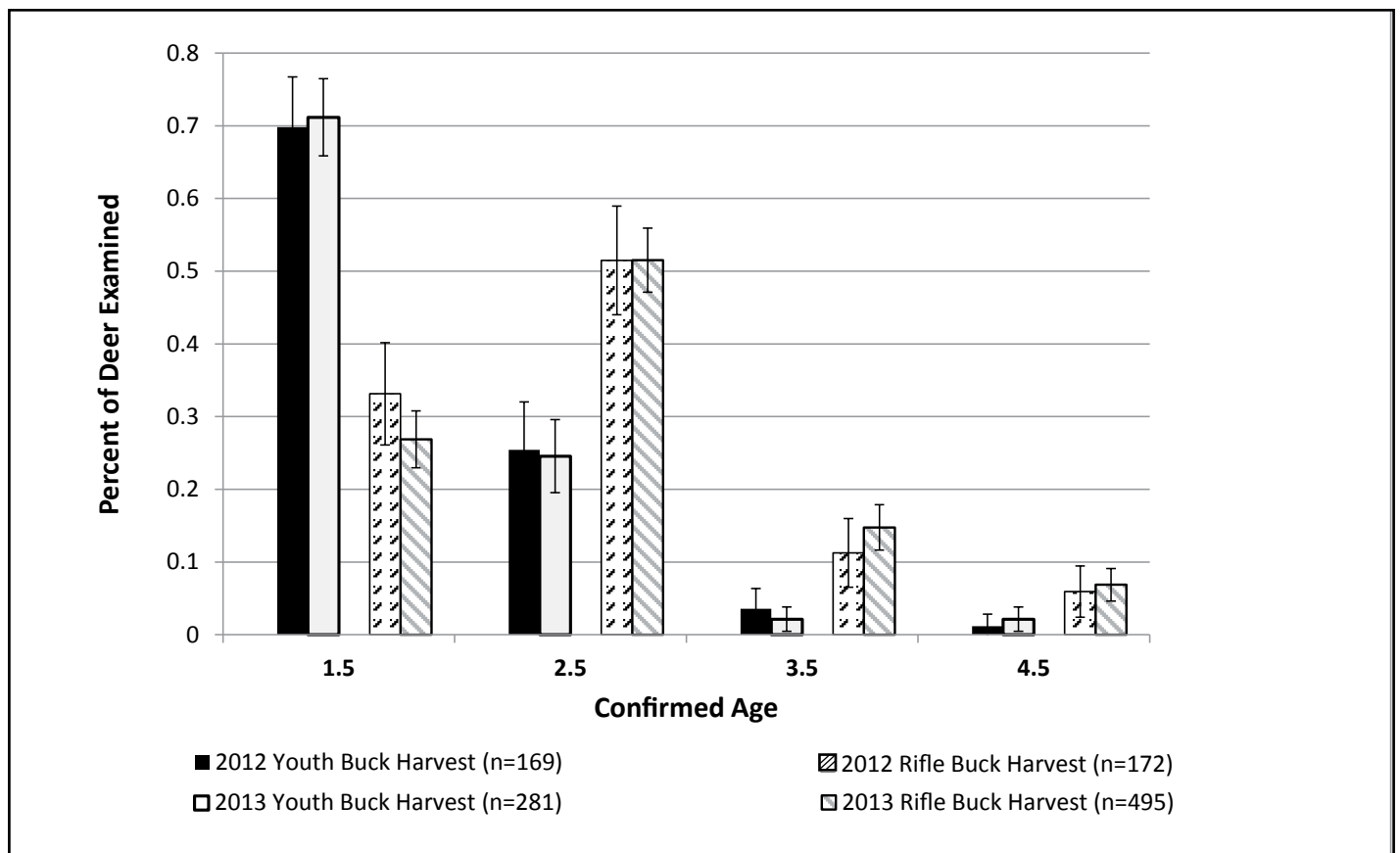


Figure 8. Age Distribution of Youth and Rifle Antlered Buck Harvest 2012 and 2013 Deer Seasons

Winter Severity Index

From December 1 through April 15 the department maintains 35 weather monitoring stations throughout the state to track the severity of winter weather. This is known as the Winter Severity Index (WSI). WSI points are assigned for each day with snow at or deeper than 18 inches and temperatures at or below zero degrees. On days when snow-depth exceeds 18 inches and temperatures drop below 0°F two points are assigned. Winters are considered mild if the WSI remains below 50 points, moderate between 51 and 80 points, severe between 81 and 100 points, and very severe if in excess of 100 points.

The winters of 2012 and 2013 were below the long-term WSI average of 49.2 points (11 and 19 points, respectively). As of mid-March the WSI for the winter of 2014 (42.1 points) indicates this year's winter will likely be moderate in nature (Figure 9).

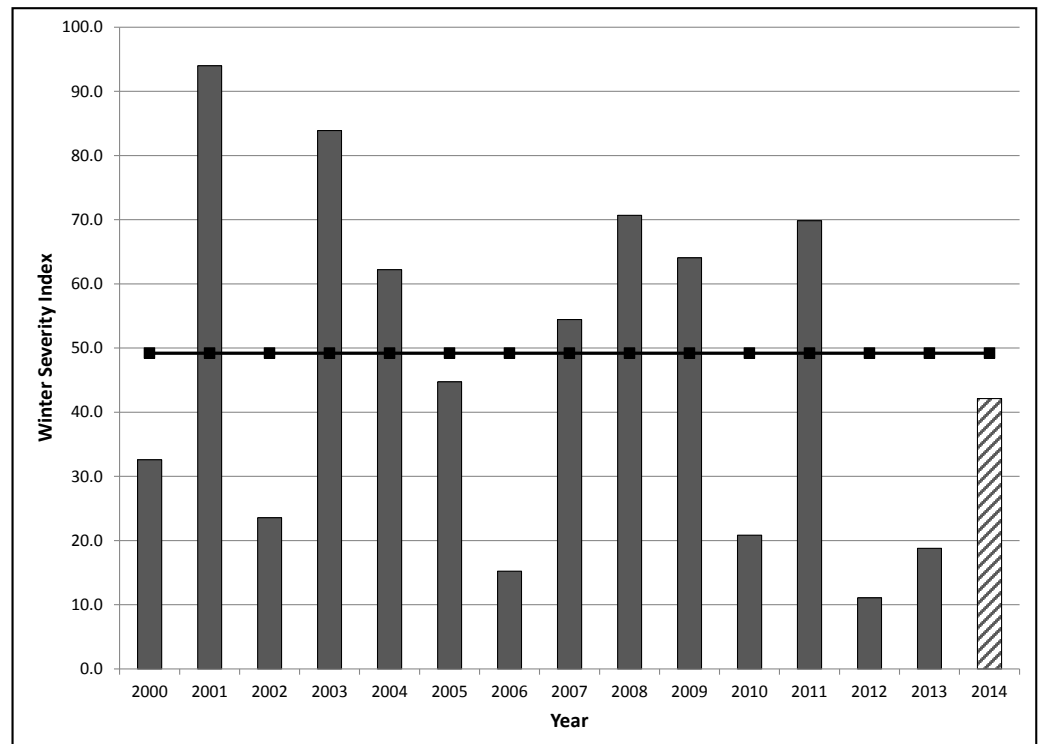


Figure 9. Vermont's Statewide Winter Severity Index 2000 through mid-March 2014.

TABLE 4. 2013 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT AND SEASON

WMU	Archery Buck	Archery Antlerless	Youth Buck	Youth Antlerless	Rifle Buck	Muzzleloader Buck	Muzzleloader Antlerless	Total Buck Harvest	Total Antlerless Harvest	Total Harvest
A	39	79	24	12	116	5	89	184	180	364
B	162	345	145	123	702	39	449	1048	917	1,965
C	30	98	32	42	302	32	102	396	242	638
D1	59	188	84	92	403	30	115	576	395	971
D2	51	196	71	99	451	21	21	594	316	910
E	4	0	6	15	186	14	0	210	15	225
F1	18	62	29	25	158	9	30	214	117	331
F2	29	86	29	37	198	15	63	271	186	457
G	25	92	29	21	288	19	35	361	148	509
H1	50	176	36	42	389	21	27	496	245	741
H2	17	78	13	41	198	12	27	240	146	386
I	18	53	7	18	189	18	12	232	83	315
J1	41	119	37	57	412	33	22	523	198	721
J2	50	206	47	65	517	43	150	657	421	1,078
K1	20	28	19	21	152	7	138	198	187	385
K2	53	125	50	46	414	23	276	540	447	987
L	14	53	21	20	177	10	23	222	96	318
M1	4	26	11	12	158	6	3	179	41	220
M2	16	60	15	24	203	9	74	243	158	401
N	53	100	51	31	393	36	241	533	372	905
O1	7	11	1	2	85	11	5	104	18	122
O2	23	100	29	22	230	16	48	298	170	468
P	12	64	25	9	205	22	1	264	74	338
Q	16	52	14	17	181	17	23	228	92	320
Unknown	0	4	0	0	18	2	8	20	12	32
TOTALS	811	2,401	825	893	6,725	470	1,982	8,831	5,276	14,107

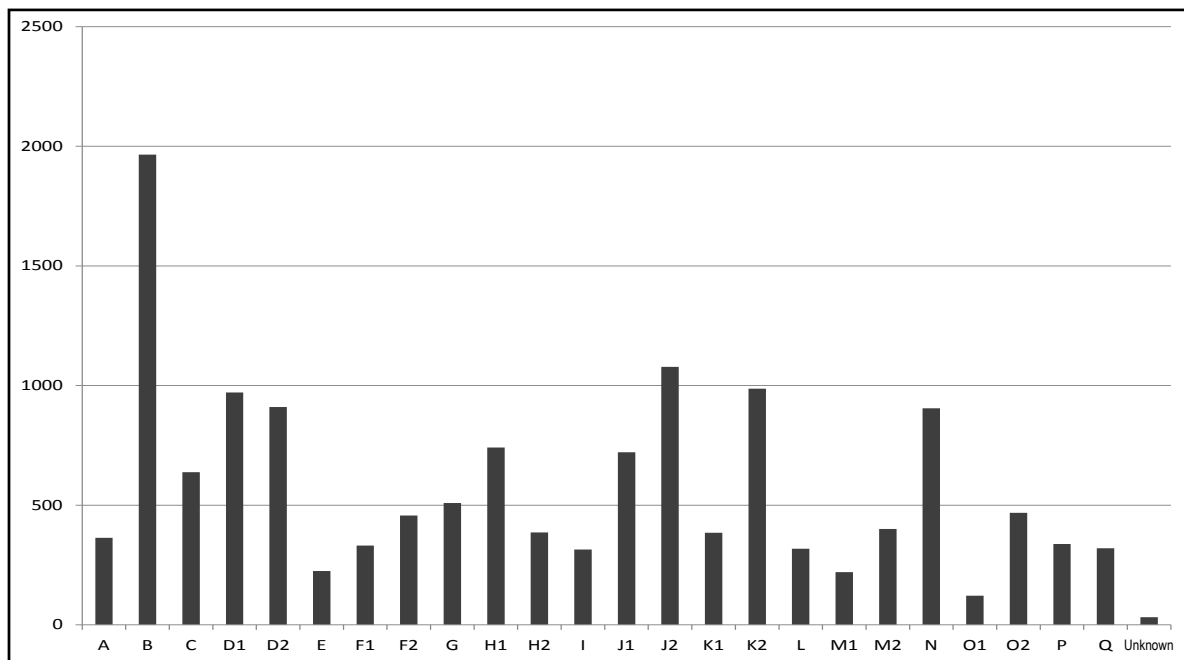


Figure 10. 2013 Legal Deer Harvest by Wildlife Management Unit

TABLE 5. 2013 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest	Deer Harvest per Square Mile	
ADDISON	ADDISON	9	3	11	5	28	0.57	
	BRIDPORT	4	1	17	3	25	0.54	
	BRISTOL	1	6	18	2	27	0.66	
	CORNWALL	7	5	17	5	34	1.18	
	FERRISBURGH	16	10	26	4	56	0.91	
	GOSHEN	1	0	12	1	14	0.67	
	GRANVILLE	0	0	7	4	11	0.22	
	HANCOCK	0	1	5	0	6	0.16	
	LEICESTER	4	4	9	5	22	1.01	
	LINCOLN	18	3	36	3	60	1.31	
	MIDDLEBURY	19	6	29	8	62	1.56	
	MONKTON	13	7	23	8	51	1.41	
	NEW HAVEN	17	20	31	13	81	1.95	
	ORWELL	17	20	49	33	119	2.39	
	PANTON	0	1	4	1	6	0.27	
	RIPTON	7	2	27	4	40	0.81	
	SALISBURY	5	6	18	7	36	1.20	
	SHOREHAM	13	10	30	7	60	1.30	
	STARKSBORO	11	10	28	13	62	1.36	
	VERGENNES	0	0	2	0	2	0.79	
	WALTHAM	1	0	5	0	6	0.65	
	WEYBRIDGE	5	1	7	5	18	1.02	
	WHITING	4	2	4	3	13	0.95	
	TOTAL		172	118	415	134	839	1.04
BENNINGTON	ARLINGTON	11	6	49	12	78	1.85	
	BENNINGTON	30	11	50	41	132	3.12	
	DORSET	5	4	33	20	62	1.31	
	GLASTENBURY	0	1	7	0	8	0.18	
	LANDGROVE	0	0	2	1	3	0.34	
	MANCHESTER	7	6	24	6	43	1.02	
	PERU	0	0	7	0	7	0.19	
	POWNAI	21	11	59	36	127	2.70	
	READSBORO	12	2	11	2	27	0.74	
	RUPERT	15	14	62	38	129	2.88	
	SANDGATE	17	4	44	17	82	1.94	
	SEARSBURG	0	0	4	0	4	0.19	
	SHAFTSBURY	46	27	50	56	179	4.16	
	STAMFORD	11	3	22	1	37	0.93	
	SUNDERLAND	3	3	9	10	25	0.55	
	WINHALL	0	0	8	0	8	0.18	
	WOODFORD	6	0	22	4	32	0.67	
	TOTAL		184	92	463	244	983	1.45
	CALEDONIA	BARNET	16	11	49	7	83	1.91
		BURKE	6	6	18	0	30	0.89
DANVILLE		24	9	47	4	84	1.38	
GROTON		5	3	30	9	47	0.85	

TABLE 5. 2013 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest	Deer Harvest per Square Mile
CALEDONIA (CONT.)	HARDWICK	28	11	34	13	86	2.22
	KIRBY	6	3	13	3	25	1.01
	LYNDON	15	11	19	0	45	1.13
	NEWARK	2	3	18	2	25	0.67
	PEACHAM	7	2	23	4	36	0.75
	RYEGATE	23	6	33	8	70	1.90
	SHEFFIELD	7	3	10	2	22	0.67
	ST. JOHNSBURY	44	17	31	3	95	2.58
	STANNARD	2	0	4	1	7	0.55
	SUTTON	5	6	24	1	36	0.94
	WALDEN	6	8	19	1	34	0.87
	WATERFORD	27	29	43	11	110	2.76
	WHEELOCK	7	3	28	3	41	1.02
	TOTAL		230	131	443	72	876
CHITTENDEN	BOLTON	5	3	26	5	39	0.93
	BUELS GORE	0	0	1	0	1	0.20
	BURLINGTON	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
	CHARLOTTE	6	4	23	9	42	0.83
	COLCHESTER	16	4	24	15	59	0.98
	ESSEX	21	4	24	11	60	1.52
	HINESBURG	18	12	28	11	69	1.74
	HUNTINGTON	12	2	23	5	42	1.10
	JERICO	19	3	21	15	58	1.63
	MILTON	22	15	38	34	109	1.79
	RICHMOND	13	6	26	12	57	1.73
	SHELBURNE	16	0	8	2	26	0.59
	SOUTH BURLINGTON	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
	ST. GEORGE	0	1	2	1	4	1.09
	UNDERHILL	24	9	46	20	99	1.93
	WESTFORD	21	6	32	21	80	2.04
	WILLISTON	16	2	10	2	30	0.97
	WINOOSKI	1	0	0	0	1	0.68
	TOTAL		210	71	332	163	776
ESSEX	AVERILL	0	0	9	0	9	0.23
	AVERYS GORE	0	0	3	0	3	0.16
	BLOOMFIELD	2	1	18	1	22	0.55
	BRIGHTON	1	2	16	0	19	0.35
	BRUNSWICK	0	1	5	2	8	0.32
	CANAAN	0	3	21	1	25	0.76
	CONCORD	6	5	28	1	40	0.75
	EAST HAVEN	0	1	6	1	8	0.21
	FERDINAND	0	0	11	1	12	0.23
	GRANBY	0	0	7	1	8	0.21
	GUILDHALL	0	4	7	0	11	0.33
	LEMINGTON	0	2	10	2	14	0.40
	LEWIS	0	0	3	0	3	0.08

TABLE 5. 2013 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest	Deer Harvest per Square Mile
ESSEX (CONT.)	LUNENBURG	1	3	25	4	33	0.73
	MAIDSTONE	0	0	5	2	7	0.22
	NORTON	0	2	24	0	26	0.67
	VICTORY	0	0	1	0	1	0.02
	WARNERS GRANT	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
	WARREN GORE	0	0	2	0	2	0.19
	TOTAL	10	24	201	16	251	0.37
FRANKLIN	BAKERSFIELD	21	17	55	31	124	2.94
	BERKSHIRE	35	11	54	39	139	3.32
	ENOSBURG	36	21	58	28	143	2.97
	FAIRFAX	46	19	36	30	131	3.24
	FAIRFIELD	39	44	89	64	236	3.45
	FLETCHER	13	7	33	30	83	2.16
	FRANKLIN	62	34	62	36	194	4.75
	GEORGIA	34	20	29	28	111	2.45
	HIGHGATE	80	27	86	50	243	4.05
	MONTGOMERY	16	7	48	26	97	1.72
	RICHFORD	20	7	25	19	71	1.64
	SHELDON	21	22	30	26	99	2.52
	ST. ALBANS CITY	12	3	12	8	35	17.84
	ST. ALBANS TOWN	4	10	6	0	20	0.33
	SWANTON	23	15	44	24	106	1.72
TOTAL	462	264	667	439	1,832	2.66	
GRAND ISLE	ALBURGH	35	9	51	43	138	2.90
	GRAND ISLE	28	8	23	17	76	2.17
	ISLE LA MOTTE	5	2	4	4	15	0.81
	NORTH HERO	18	4	17	11	50	1.09
	SOUTH HERO	32	14	19	20	85	1.83
	TOTAL	118	37	114	95	364	1.88
LAMOILLE	BELVIDERE	4	1	21	4	30	0.84
	CAMBRIDGE	23	12	55	20	110	1.73
	EDEN	10	4	31	4	49	0.77
	ELMORE	14	5	26	5	50	1.27
	HYDE PARK	17	7	25	9	58	1.49
	JOHNSON	14	8	50	24	96	2.10
	MORRISTOWN	18	10	38	7	73	1.42
	STOWE	47	12	47	8	114	1.57
	WATERVILLE	10	14	21	10	55	3.50
	WOLCOTT	21	14	31	14	80	2.04
TOTAL	178	87	345	105	715	1.53	
ORANGE	BRADFORD	23	10	30	11	74	2.47
	BRAINTREE	5	6	25	5	41	1.06
	BROOKFIELD	14	7	42	3	66	1.60
	CHELSEA	19	15	47	12	93	2.32

TABLE 5. 2013 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest	Deer Harvest per Square Mile
ORANGE (CONT.)	CORINTH	6	7	35	21	69	1.43
	FAIRLEE	4	1	33	6	44	2.09
	NEWBURY	20	9	66	18	113	1.75
	ORANGE	6	5	34	5	50	1.28
	RANDOLPH	18	11	35	8	72	1.50
	STRAFFORD	22	16	43	16	97	2.19
	THETFORD	46	12	55	23	136	3.07
	TOPSHAM	8	8	34	9	59	1.20
	TUNBRIDGE	19	18	48	22	107	2.39
	VERSHIRE	12	1	30	10	53	1.47
	WASHINGTON	11	1	37	12	61	1.56
	WEST FAIRLEE	5	4	2	4	15	0.66
	WILLIAMSTOWN	37	14	43	4	98	2.43
	TOTAL		275	145	639	189	1,248
ORLEANS	ALBANY	14	10	37	18	79	2.03
	BARTON	32	21	32	5	90	2.03
	BROWNINGTON	14	11	28	9	62	2.19
	CHARLESTON	23	19	36	5	83	2.15
	COVENTRY	9	11	30	7	57	2.05
	CRAFTSBURY	14	5	31	11	61	1.54
	DERBY	61	41	76	15	193	3.36
	GLOVER	12	12	26	16	66	1.71
	GREENSBORO	12	6	23	8	49	1.24
	HOLLAND	28	28	44	2	102	2.64
	IRASBURG	34	20	46	11	111	2.72
	JAY	6	4	24	10	44	1.30
	LOWELL	8	6	37	9	60	1.06
	MORGAN	14	13	43	4	74	2.17
	NEWPORT CITY	1	0	4	0	5	0.66
	NEWPORT TOWN	30	23	28	14	95	2.18
	TROY	21	24	42	11	98	2.69
	WESTFIELD	2	2	9	1	14	0.35
	WESTMORE	3	6	13	0	22	0.59
	TOTAL		338	262	609	156	1,365
RUTLAND	BENSON	14	12	52	64	142	3.13
	BRANDON	12	2	30	15	59	1.47
	CASTLETON	28	18	45	33	124	2.93
	CHITTENDEN	9	8	36	7	60	0.81
	CLARENDON	24	12	33	30	99	3.14
	DANBY	9	6	47	19	81	1.94
	FAIR HAVEN	5	9	15	5	34	1.87
	HUBBARDTON	10	3	36	23	72	2.52
	IRA	8	5	12	11	36	1.62
	KILLINGTON	1	0	8	1	10	0.21
	MENDON	6	4	11	3	24	0.63
	MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS	4	6	29	23	62	2.73

TABLE 5. 2013 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest	Deer Harvest per Square Mile
RUTLAND (CONT.)	MOUNT HOLLY	14	5	43	6	68	1.40
	MOUNT TABOR	0	1	4	1	6	0.14
	PAWLET	20	14	76	49	159	3.70
	PITTSFIELD	4	0	15	7	26	1.27
	PITTSFORD	27	8	25	10	70	1.61
	POULTNEY	22	12	58	26	118	2.71
	PROCTOR	5	5	14	19	43	5.68
	RUTLAND	28	9	24	35	96	5.00
	RUTLAND CITY	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
	SHREWSBURY	7	10	44	3	64	1.28
	SUDBURY	7	4	18	15	44	1.99
	TINMOUTH	8	5	38	23	74	2.57
	WALLINGFORD	11	14	36	9	70	1.63
	WELLS	19	5	35	20	79	3.40
	WEST HAVEN	16	7	43	22	88	3.06
	WEST RUTLAND	1	3	9	0	13	0.72
	TOTAL		319	187	836	479	1,821
WASHINGTON	BARRE CITY	2	2	14	2	20	4.97
	BARRE TOWN	35	10	20	2	67	2.18
	BERLIN	16	10	28	2	56	1.53
	CABOT	11	0	29	3	43	1.12
	CALAIS	18	2	36	2	58	1.50
	DUXBURY	6	2	16	3	27	0.63
	EAST MONTPELIER	35	13	34	5	87	2.72
	FAYSTON	3	2	13	3	21	0.58
	MARSHFIELD	8	3	38	7	56	1.28
	MIDDLESEX	12	3	51	1	67	1.68
	MONTPELIER	25	1	11	0	37	3.61
	MORETOWN	4	5	24	3	36	0.90
	NORTHFIELD	12	5	29	5	51	1.14
	PLAINFIELD	21	12	22	4	59	2.80
	ROXBURY	0	1	20	0	21	0.50
	WAITSFIELD	8	2	18	3	31	1.20
	WARREN	6	1	13	4	24	0.60
	WATERBURY	24	11	52	10	97	1.96
	WOODBURY	5	6	21	0	32	0.81
	WORCESTER	7	2	24	6	39	1.01
TOTAL		258	93	513	65	929	1.34
WINDHAM	ATHENS	0	0	6	0	6	0.43
	BRATTLEBORO	19	5	24	3	51	1.56
	BROOKLINE	4	1	9	4	18	1.39
	DOVER	6	3	17	3	29	0.81
	DUMMERSTON	29	9	31	8	77	2.49
	GRAFTON	2	1	11	4	18	0.47
	GUILFORD	16	8	39	3	66	1.66
	HALIFAX	6	3	22	6	37	0.93

TABLE 5. 2013 LEGAL DEER HARVEST BY COUNTY, TOWN AND SEASON

COUNTY	Town of Kill	Archery	Youth	Rifle	Muzzleloader	Total Deer Harvest	Deer Harvest per Square Mile	
WINDHAM (CONT.)	JAMAICA	0	1	19	5	25	0.51	
	LONDONDERRY	5	0	12	1	18	0.50	
	MARLBORO	3	1	23	2	29	0.71	
	NEWFANE	8	3	16	6	33	0.82	
	PUTNEY	6	1	22	4	33	1.24	
	ROCKINGHAM	17	13	32	4	66	1.56	
	SOMERSET	0	1	4	2	7	0.25	
	STRATTON	0	0	15	3	18	0.38	
	TOWNSHEND	0	1	16	3	20	0.47	
	VERNON	5	3	15	7	30	1.50	
	WARDSBORO	3	3	13	2	21	0.72	
	WESTMINSTER	1	4	21	8	34	0.75	
	WHITINGHAM	12	8	20	0	40	1.02	
	WILMINGTON	18	7	22	5	52	1.22	
	WINDHAM	0	0	14	1	15	0.57	
	TOTAL		160	76	423	84	734	0.93
	WINDSOR	ANDOVER	2	1	9	4	16	0.55
BALTIMORE		3	0	5	0	8	1.68	
BARNARD		4	0	19	4	27	0.56	
BETHEL		5	7	26	2	40	0.87	
BRIDGEWATER		6	0	19	0	25	0.50	
CAVENDISH		4	6	27	1	38	0.96	
CHESTER		8	0	33	11	52	0.93	
HARTFORD		16	14	40	10	80	1.74	
HARTLAND		36	17	54	28	135	2.98	
LUDLOW		6	4	14	3	27	0.74	
NORWICH		56	7	36	12	111	2.48	
PLYMOUTH		4	1	18	0	23	0.47	
POMFRET		4	2	28	8	42	1.06	
READING		3	2	28	1	34	0.82	
ROCHESTER		3	3	16	4	26	0.45	
ROYALTON		5	4	32	10	51	1.25	
SHARON		8	6	33	14	61	1.51	
SPRINGFIELD		37	10	56	15	118	2.38	
STOCKBRIDGE		1	1	14	1	17	0.37	
WEATHERSFIELD		21	13	42	8	84	1.91	
WEST WINDSOR		5	2	16	0	23	0.93	
WESTON		5	0	6	0	11	0.31	
WINDSOR		8	8	27	10	53	2.68	
WOODSTOCK		13	14	46	7	80	1.80	
TOTAL			263	122	644	153	1,182	1.21
UNKNOWN			35	9	81	58	183	
STATE		TOTAL	3,212	1,718	6,725	2,452	14,107	1.47

TABLE 6. WEIGHTS OF DEER REPORTED AT 200 POUNDS OR MORE

Season	Weight	Town of Kill
Rifle	200	Halifax
Rifle	200	Troy
Rifle	200	West Rutland
Rifle	200	Belvidere
Rifle	200	Fairfield
Rifle	200	Cabot
Rifle	200	Lyndon
Rifle	200	Bethel
Rifle	200	St. Johnsbury
Rifle	200	Whitingham
Rifle	200	Brownington
Rifle	200	Ripton
Rifle	200	Strafford
Rifle	200	Westfield
Rifle	200	Bradford
Rifle	201	Lunenburg
Rifle	201	Brighton
Rifle	201	Duxbury
Rifle	201	Marshfield
Rifle	201	Wolcott
Rifle	201	Brighton
Rifle	202	Mendon
Rifle	202	Berlin
Bow	202	Berkshire
Bow	202	Northfield
Youth	202	Highgate
Rifle	202	Averill
Rifle	203	Highgate
Rifle	203	Danville
Rifle	203	Waitsfield
Rifle	204	Lunenburg
Rifle	205	Fairlee
Rifle	205	Lewis

Season	Weight	Town of Kill
Rifle	205	Waterford
Rifle	205	Bradford
Rifle	206	Guildhall
Youth	206	Charleston
Rifle	207	Lunenburg
Rifle	207	Mount Holly
Rifle	208	Waltham
Rifle	208	Irasburg
Rifle	208	Lunenburg
Rifle	208	Ferdinand
Rifle	208	Bloomfield
Rifle	209	Waterford
Rifle	209	Roxbury
Rifle	210	Duxbury
Rifle	210	Moretown
Rifle	210	Wilmington
Rifle	210	East Haven
Rifle	210	Newark
Rifle	211	Lunenburg
Youth	212	Charleston
Muzzleloader	212	Hubbardton
Rifle	212	Brighton
Rifle	215	Belvidere
Rifle	216	Lunenburg
Rifle	219	Townshend
Rifle	220	Lowell
Rifle	222	Guildhall
Rifle	222	Wheelock
Rifle	223	Averill
Rifle	225	Burke
Bow	237	West Windsor
Rifle	243	Newark

FIGURE 11. DISTRIBUTION OF VERMONT'S 2013 DEER HARVEST BY TOWN

