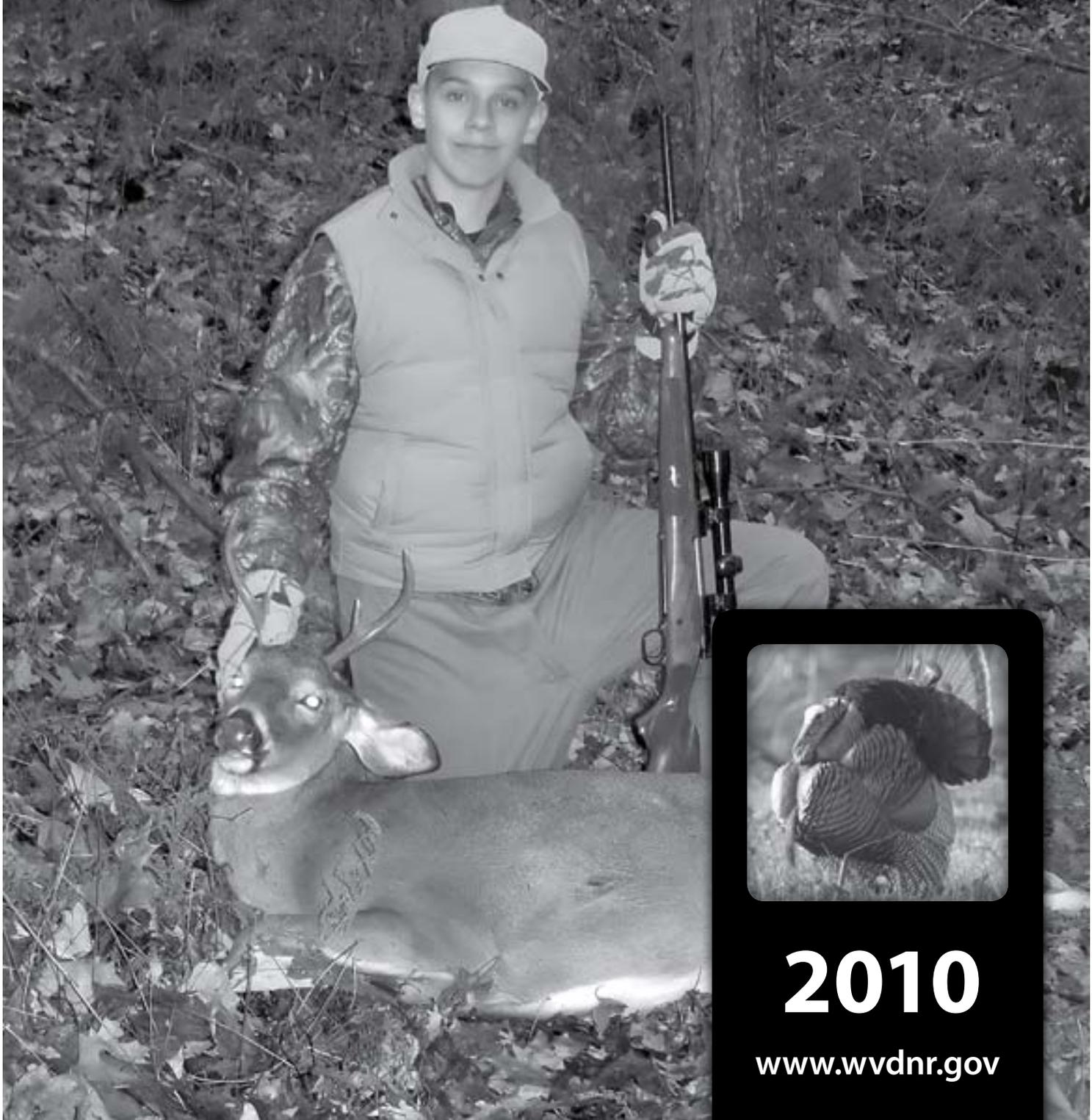


West Virginia
Wildlife Resources

Big Game Bulletin



2010

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WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION BULLETIN 11-1

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BLACK BEAR

By
Colin P. Carpenter

Season Results and Highlights

West Virginia hunters harvested a record 2,392 black bears during the combined 2010 archery and firearms seasons (Tables 1 and 2). This is only the second time the kill has topped 2,000. The harvest of 2010 is 15% above the previous record of 2,069 set in 2008 (Fig. 1).

Several factors contributed to this record bear harvest. Excellent oak mast conditions statewide made it harder for archery hunters to pattern bear movements. However, the abundant mast kept many bears from entering their dens, which made them available for firearms hunters. In addition, there were numerous counties opened to extended seasons designed to help those counties reach management objectives.

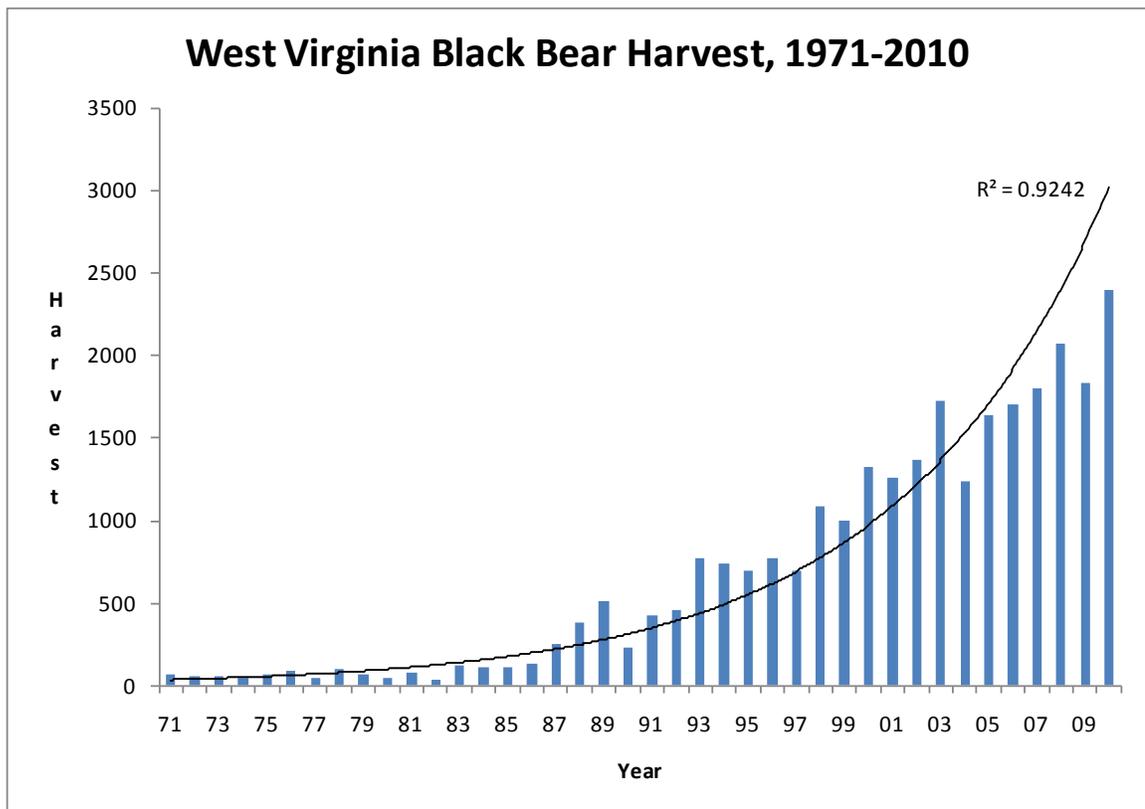


Figure 1. Black bear harvest in West Virginia, 1971-2010.

Hunters took 454 (310M: 144F) bears during the 2010 archery season (Tables 1 and 2). Biologists predicted that the archery harvest would decline due to the abundant mast crop. The top five counties were Randolph (44), Preston (39), Webster (38), Fayette (33), and Nicholas (25).

Firearms hunters harvested a record 1,938 (1,153M: 785F) bears during the 2010 combined gun seasons. This is a 22% increase over the previous record of 1,590 set in 2008 (Table 3). Hunters took 462 bears in September, 309 during the concurrent buck/bear season and 1,167 during the traditional December season (Table 1). Top five counties were Greenbrier (219), Pendleton (192), Randolph (190), Pocahontas (175), and Webster (135).

Non-hunting Mortalities

One-hundred twelve bears were killed on highways, died as a result of illegal or marauder activities, or succumbed from other non-hunting causes (electrocution, accidental poisoning, etc.; Tables 3 and 4). This is down 59% from the 274 non-hunting mortalities recorded in 2009 (Table 3). There were 66 deaths from vehicles in 2010 compared to 70 in 2009. The number of illegal and miscellaneous deaths was down from eleven to six and nine to five from 2009 to 2010, respectively. The largest decrease in non-hunting deaths was in bears killed for nuisance or damage activity, which was down from 184 in 2009 to 35 in 2010. The combined seasonal and non-seasonal deaths (2,504) is the largest recorded in West Virginia (Table 3).

Damage Payments and Nuisance Complaints

All hunters who pursue bears are required to buy bear damage stamps (Class DS). Funds derived from stamp sales are deposited in a special bear damage account to reimburse property owners for real and personal property damage caused by bears.

The number of bear damage claims was down 35% from 270 in 2009 to 176 in 2010 (Table 5). Total payments of \$114,201 were 61% lower than the \$295,450 paid out in 2009. Claims were reported in 27 counties in 2010 and 34 counties in 2009. There were 42 claims for bees (compared to 79 in 2009) totaling \$23,149, 28 for livestock at \$11,765 (27 in 2009), 25 for corn at \$30,907 (71 in 2009), and 81 (93 in 2009) miscellaneous claims at \$48,380.

Pocahontas County had the greatest dollar amount in compensations at \$18,420, followed by Greenbrier (\$16,031), Grant (\$9,811), Monroe (\$8,062), and Clay (\$6,900). The three counties with the most claims were Randolph, Pocahontas, and Greenbrier.

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) employees received 845 nuisance bear calls in 2010 compared to 1,607 in 2009. The top counties with most

complaints were Kanawha (82), Pocahontas (59), Raleigh (54), Greenbrier (49), and Nicholas (47).

Tooth Collections

Age data from the 2009 tooth samples have been received and hunters have been notified of their bear's age. Hunters only submitted 737 useable teeth (correct tooth, identification matched check tags, etc.) for age consideration. Fourteen (2%) were cubs, 30% (218) were yearlings, 31% (229) were 2-year olds, 12% (91) were 3-year olds, and the remaining 25% (185) were 4-years old or older.

Reproductive Tract Collections

Black bears have one of the lowest reproductive rates of any land mammal in North America. Studies throughout the range of the black bear have shown that litter size, adult female survival, and interbirth interval are the three key factors that influence black bear populations. However, adult female survival is the only factor that managers may control. Harvest regulations are adjusted to manipulate adult female survival. To help monitor these reproductive rates, wildlife managers and biologists have been collecting female reproductive tracts to estimate litter size in respective areas.

Managers collected 19 reproductive tracts that supplied useful information in 2009. Reproductive tract data lags one year behind because researchers are waiting on age data. Information from reproductive tracts obtained in 2009 cannot be fully analyzed until ages are determined. Two reproductive tracts had 1 placental scar, 1 tract had 2 placental scars, and 1 tract had 3 placental scars which indicated that they gave birth in 2009. Three yearling tracts were examined with the possibility of one having bred in 2009. Eleven of the remaining 12 females that were at least 3 years old showed evidence of breeding. The eleven females had an average of 2 corpora lutea per female.

Monitoring and Research Study

The Black Bear Monitoring and Research Project was initiated in 1999 to gather demographic information from bears in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, and Raleigh counties and to learn more about bears captured as a result of nuisance behavior. The study has played an important role in modifications of bear seasons. A northern study area primarily centered in Randolph and Tucker counties was added in 2004 to reexamine demographic parameters of the bear population from data previously collected in the 1970s and 1980s. One of the primary goals of this project was to identify the most cost effective way for the DNR to effectively manage the bear population.

After analyzing the long-term data sets from both study areas, it was determined that reproductive data obtained from den visits and reproductive tracts were not

statistically different. In addition, survival rates collected from radio-tagged bears closely matched survival rates calculated from population reconstruction using ages from teeth of harvested bears. In the future, reproductive tracts and tooth collections from harvested bears will provide the most cost-effective way to monitor the black bear population. We urge all hunters who harvest a bear to submit a tooth for age determination. In addition, we ask that hunters who harvest female bears submit reproductive tracts. These data are now more important than ever in monitoring the black bear population.

As a result of the data analysis from the Black Bear Monitoring and Research Project, DNR personnel began removing radio collars from both study areas during the 2010 den season. All radio collars in the southern study area will eventually be removed, while 8-10 females on the northern study area will continue to be radio-tagged. Wildlife managers removed collars from 9 bears on the southern study area and 11 bears on the northern study area during the 2010 den season.

Wildlife managers have handled 798 adult bears 1,645 times on the southern study area since 1999. Bears handled during nuisance complaints were given orange ear tags so that they could be easily identified; whereas, bears caught specifically on research trap lines for the purpose of marking additional bears were tagged with black ear tags. Fourteen tagged bears were harvested in the southern study area during the 2010 season. Six of these bears were tagged in 2010, the remaining 8 were tagged in previous years.

Wildlife managers have handled a total of 1,511 adult bears 3,137 times on the northern study area since the project began. These data include the historical data that began in the early 1970's. Nine tagged bears were harvested in the northern study area during the 2010 season. Six of these bears were tagged in 2010, the remaining 3 were tagged in previous years.

In 2010, wildlife managers handled 9 ($\bar{x} = 1.88$) and 8 ($\bar{x} = 2.0$) litters of cubs on the northern and southern study areas, respectively. On the southern study area, managers handled 6 dens with yearlings and 15 bears were in areas that were not accessible or did not den. They also tagged 1 yearling bear. Managers worked 5 yearling dens on the northern study area and tagged 10 yearlings in those dens.

A new black bear research project will be initiated in 2011. West Virginia is participating in a study with Pennsylvania and New Jersey to examine movements, home range, survival and harvest vulnerability of bears that live in and around urban areas. We will be deploying 15 satellite collars on black bears in 2011 around the cities of Charleston, Beckley, and Morgantown. These collars will transmit daily locations of the bears by text message. The data collected by all 3 states will be analyzed by a student at West Virginia University to complete a doctoral dissertation (Ph.D).

In August 2007, 23 GPS (Global Positioning System) radio collars were deployed on bears in our southern study area. Eighteen of these collars have been retrieved with useful data. A Wildlife Resources Section Wildlife Manager has been accepted at West Virginia University to analyze these data as part of the requirements for a Master of Science degree. These data will be used to help guide future management decisions.

The urban black bear study graciously accepted a donation from the West Virginia Bowhunter's Association. We thank them for their continued support.

Table 1. West Virginia 2010 black bear harvest by season and county.

| County | Bow | September | Buck Gun | December | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Total | Total | Total | Total | |
| Barbour | 14 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 31 |
| Brooke | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hancock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrison | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Marion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Marshall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monongalia | 4 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 11 |
| Ohio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Preston | 39 | 17 | 0 | 35 | 91 |
| Taylor | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Tucker | 11 | 25 | 0 | 67 | 103 |
| Wetzel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| District I Subtotal | 72 | 43 | 7 | 118 | 240 |
| Berkeley | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Grant | 21 | 16 | 0 | 63 | 100 |
| Hampshire | 2 | 0 | 51 | 7 | 60 |
| Hardy | 18 | 30 | 0 | 79 | 127 |
| Jefferson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Mineral | 10 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 26 |
| Morgan | 2 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 12 |
| Pendleton | 15 | 42 | 0 | 150 | 207 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 70 | 88 | 58 | 320 | 536 |
| Braxton | 8 | 7 | 0 | 36 | 51 |
| Clay | 4 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 35 |
| Lewis | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Nicholas | 25 | 25 | 57 | 45 | 152 |
| Pocahontas | 10 | 42 | 0 | 133 | 185 |
| Randolph | 44 | 46 | 0 | 144 | 234 |
| Upshur | 1 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 22 |
| Webster | 38 | 34 | 0 | 101 | 173 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 133 | 154 | 57 | 513 | 857 |
| Fayette | 33 | 28 | 31 | 28 | 120 |
| Greenbrier | 21 | 76 | 47 | 96 | 240 |
| McDowell | 22 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 33 |
| Mercer | 7 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 10 |
| Monroe | 10 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 32 |
| Raleigh | 12 | 12 | 34 | 11 | 69 |
| Summers | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Wyoming | 15 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 25 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 125 | 129 | 115 | 166 | 535 |
| Boone | 12 | 22 | 35 | 28 | 97 |
| Cabell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kanawha | 13 | 16 | 37 | 12 | 78 |
| Lincoln | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Logan | 18 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 33 |
| Mason | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mingo | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Putnam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wayne | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 50 | 48 | 72 | 46 | 216 |
| Calhoun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Doddridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gilmer | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Jackson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pleasants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ritchie | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Roane | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Tyler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wirt | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wood | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| STATE TOTAL | 454 | 462 | 309 | 1,167 | 2,392 |

Table 2. Sex ratios of West Virginia black bears for November gun season, bow season, and December gun season, 1964-2010.

| Year | Bow or gun season | | Bow season | | Late Nov. or | | Annual | | Total* |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Late September | | and/or Early | | December | | Kill | | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | |
| 1964-1978 | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-Yr Total | 0 | 0 | 318 | 345 | 178 | 71 | 496 | 416 | 912 |
| Sex Ratios | 0 | 0 | 48% | 52% | 71% | 29% | 54% | 46% | |
| 1979 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 18 | 50 | 18 | 68 |
| 1980 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 34 | 9 | 36 | 11 | 47 |
| 1981 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 59 | 16 | 62 | 18 | 80 |
| 1982 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 16 | 4 | 27 | 9 | 36 |
| 1983 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 6 | 78 | 34 | 89 | 40 | 129 |
| 1984 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 51 | 43 | 59 | 51 | 110 |
| 1985 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 7 | 68 | 24 | 82 | 31 | 113 |
| 1986 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 14 | 61 | 26 | 92 | 40 | 132 |
| 1987 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 14 | 146 | 51 | 186 | 65 | 251 |
| 1988 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 16 | 198 | 165 | 219 | 181 | 400 |
| 1989 | 0 | 0 | 81 | 96 | 198 | 135 | 279 | 231 | 510 |
| 1990 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 20 | 114 | 60 | 155 | 80 | 235 |
| 1991 | 0 | 0 | 72 | 57 | 186 | 111 | 258 | 168 | 426 |
| 1992 | 0 | 0 | 112 | 89 | 169 | 85 | 281 | 174 | 455 |
| 1993 | 0 | 0 | 141 | 96 | 340 | 190 | 481 | 286 | 767 |
| 1994 | 0 | 0 | 111 | 73 | 290 | 258 | 401 | 331 | 732 |
| 1995 | 0 | 0 | 152 | 75 | 310 | 153 | 462 | 228 | 690 |
| 1996 | 0 | 0 | 114 | 101 | 355 | 198 | 469 | 299 | 768 |
| 1997 | 0 | 0 | 225 | 198 | 178 | 85 | 403 | 283 | 686 |
| 1998 | 0 | 0 | 167 | 97 | 481 | 337 | 648 | 434 | 1,082 |
| 1999 | 0 | 0 | 256 | 168 | 369 | 201 | 625 | 369 | 994 |
| 2000 | 0 | 0 | 196 | 102 | 655 | 364 | 851 | 466 | 1,317 |
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 302 | 165 | 482 | 301 | 784 | 466 | 1,250 |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 540 | 321 | 327 | 169 | 867 | 490 | 1,357 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 605 | 422 | 450 | 222 | 1,055 | 644 | 1,699 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 319 | 219 | 479 | 218 | 798 | 437 | 1,235 |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 | 432 | 285 | 616 | 301 | 1048 | 586 | 1,634 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 399 | 266 | 727 | 312 | 1,126 | 578 | 1,704 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 521 | 328 | 637 | 318 | 1,158 | 646 | 1,804 |
| 2008 | 348 | 322 | 292 | 187 | 589 | 331 | 1,229 | 840 | 2,069 |
| 2009 | 108 | 76 | 607 | 428 | 416 | 195 | 1,131 | 699 | 1,830 |
| 2010 | 214 | 248 | 310 | 144 | 939 | 537 | 1,463 | 929 | 2,392 |
| 32-Year Total | 670 | 646 | 6,136 | 4,011 | 10,068 | 5,471 | 16,874 | 10,128 | 27,002 |
| Average Sex Ratios | 51% | 49% | 60% | 40% | 65% | 35% | 62% | 38% | |
| 2009 Sex Ratios | 46% | 54% | 68% | 32% | 64% | 36% | 61% | 39% | |

*Represents bears of known sex and not the total harvest in each year.

| Table 3. Number of black bears killed each year in West Virginia and cause of death. | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---|------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Year | Hunting Season | | Illegal | Road | Marauders | Others | Total |
| | Bow | Gun | Kill | Kill | | | |
| 70's Subtotal | 14 | 523 | 70's Average Annual Bag: Bow 2; Gun 65 | | | | |
| 80's Subtotal | 261 | 1,542 | 80's Average Annual Bag: Bow 26; Gun 154 | | | | |
| 1990 | 61 | 174 | 14 | 23 | 13 | 10 | 295 |
| 1991 | 131 | 297 | 18 | 21 | 13 | 2 | 482 |
| 1992 | 201 | 254 | 17 | 48 | 18 | 8 | 546 |
| 1993 | 239 | 529 | 24 | 40 | 4 | 6 | 842 |
| 1994 | 185 | 550 | 10 | 31 | 5 | 5 | 786 |
| 1995 | 227 | 470 | 14 | 37 | 6 | 8 | 762 |
| 1996 | 214 | 558 | 6 | 23 | 15 | 7 | 823 |
| 1997 | 420 | 272 | 13 | 58 | 30 | 10 | 803 |
| 1998 | 265 | 825 | 12 | 30 | 8 | 6 | 1,146 |
| 1999 | 420 | 577 | 9 | 24 | 8 | 15 | 1,053 |
| 90's Subtotal | 2,363 | 4,506 | 90's Average Annual Bag: Bow 236; Gun 450 | | | | |
| 2000 | 305 | 1,023 | 6 | 16 | 8 | 4 | 1,362 |
| 2001 | 475 | 785 | 18 | 43 | 22 | 1 | 1,344 |
| 2002 | 726 | 670 | 14 | 82 | 28 | 10 | 1,530 |
| 2003 | 774 | 958 | 17 | 87 | 61 | 7 | 1,904 |
| 2004 | 374 | 861 | 7 | 55 | 22 | 11 | 1,330 |
| 2005 | 585 | 1,076 | 15 | 62 | 18 | 10 | 1,766 |
| 2006 | 516 | 1,188 | 8 | 61 | 36 | 10 | 1,819 |
| 2007 | 728 | 1,076 | 4 | 62 | 155 | 7 | 2,032 |
| 2008 | 479 | 1,590 | 3 | 38 | 34 | 6 | 2,150 |
| 2009 | 1,035 | 795 | 11 | 70 | 184 | 9 | 2,104 |
| 00's Subtotal | 5,997 | 10,022 | 00's Average Annual Bag: Bow 600; Gun 1,002. | | | | |
| 2010 | 454 | 1,938 | 6 | 66 | 35 | 5 | 2,504 |
| 10's Subtotal | 454 | 1,938 | 10's Average Annual Bag: Bow 454; Gun 1,938 | | | | |
| *November Gun Seasons held in 1989, and 2002 - 2010 in certain counties. | | | | | | | |
| **September Season held in 2008-2010 in certain counties. | | | | | | | |
| ***Check tags without season (<0.05%) marked were assumed gun kills for this table. | | | | | | | |

| Table 4. West Virginia 2010 nonseasonal black bear mortalities by county and type. | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| County | Roadkills | Illegal | Marauders | Misc. | Total |
| Barbour | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brooke | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hancock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrison | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Marion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Marshall | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Monongalia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Ohio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Preston | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Taylor | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Tucker | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wetzel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 20 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 21 |
| Berkeley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grant | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Hampshire | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Hardy | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Jefferson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Mineral | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Morgan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pendleton | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 6 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 13 |
| Braxton | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Clay | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Lewis | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Nicholas | 4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 9 |
| Pocahontas | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 10 |
| Randolph | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| Upshur | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Webster | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 25 | 4 | 22 | 1 | 52 |
| Fayette | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Greenbrier | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| McDowell | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Mercer | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Monroe | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Raleigh | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Summers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wyoming | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 13 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 20 |
| Boone | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Cabell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kanawha | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Lincoln | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Logan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Mason | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mingo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Putnam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wayne | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Calhoun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Doddridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gilmer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jackson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pleasants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ritchie | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Roane | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tyler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wirt | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wood | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| State Total | 66 | 6 | 35 | 5 | 112 |

Table 5. Black bear damage claims paid and payments by county 2006-2010.

| County | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 | | 2010 | |
|--------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| | Claims | Payments | Claims | Payments | Claims | Payments | Claims | Payments | Claims | Payments |
| Barbour | 1 | \$398 | 4 | \$1,745 | 3 | \$1,607 | 3 | \$832 | 1 | \$88 |
| Berkeley | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$274 | 0 | \$0 |
| Boone | 2 | \$372 | 15 | \$29,749 | 6 | \$5,319 | 2 | \$764 | 3 | \$4,968 |
| Braxton | 4 | \$3,430 | 3 | \$559 | 8 | \$3,139 | 3 | \$5,775 | 7 | \$3,205 |
| Brooke | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Cabell | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Calhoun | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Clay | 2 | \$227 | 6 | \$2,637 | 5 | \$2,322 | 3 | \$977 | 7 | \$6,900 |
| Doddridge | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$150 | 0 | \$0 |
| Fayette | 4 | \$2,929 | 8 | \$3,965 | 4 | \$1,105 | 5 | \$6,202 | 0 | \$0 |
| Gilmer | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$397 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Grant | 2 | \$608 | 4 | \$2,250 | 6 | \$4,570 | 5 | \$3,066 | 11 | \$9,811 |
| Greenbrier | 12 | \$19,468 | 19 | \$42,704 | 9 | \$16,770 | 35 | \$82,867 | 12 | \$16,031 |
| Hampshire | 3 | \$825 | 5 | \$3,857 | 2 | \$1,575 | 10 | \$7,421 | 4 | \$2,089 |
| Hancock | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Hardy | 6 | \$3,860 | 9 | \$15,767 | 9 | \$9,060 | 9 | \$12,317 | 11 | \$4,055 |
| Harrison | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$804 |
| Jackson | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$274 | 0 | \$0 |
| Jefferson | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$138 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$833 | 0 | \$0 |
| Kanawha | 1 | \$413 | 6 | \$2,444 | 3 | \$2,691 | 2 | \$114 | 5 | \$681 |
| Lewis | 2 | \$124 | 0 | \$0 | 4 | \$1,329 | 2 | \$1,163 | 0 | \$0 |
| Lincoln | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$2,574 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Logan | 1 | \$85 | 3 | \$745 | 5 | \$1,694 | 7 | \$5,004 | 2 | \$809 |
| Marion | 2 | \$803 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$218 | 1 | \$126 | 0 | \$0 |
| Marshall | 1 | \$753 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$776 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Mason | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| McDowell | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Mercer | 3 | \$842 | 3 | \$2,847 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$1,438 | 1 | \$390 |
| Mineral | 1 | \$840 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$1,327 | 7 | \$1,793 | 10 | \$5,320 |
| Mingo | 3 | \$657 | 1 | \$164 | 2 | \$1,292 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$666 |
| Monongalia | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$113 | 5 | \$2,114 | 2 | \$150 | 3 | \$785 |
| Monroe | 4 | \$5,688 | 2 | \$630 | 1 | \$177 | 1 | \$29 | 4 | \$8,062 |
| Morgan | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 4 | \$2,789 | 1 | \$129 |
| Nicholas | 11 | \$2,915 | 18 | \$5,287 | 6 | \$9,199 | 36 | \$23,123 | 11 | \$4,269 |
| Ohio | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Pendleton | 5 | \$1,446 | 22 | \$14,581 | 12 | \$5,115 | 17 | \$18,895 | 7 | \$5,133 |
| Pleasants | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Pocahontas | 11 | \$8,480 | 26 | \$14,305 | 4 | \$2,050 | 23 | \$41,204 | 19 | \$18,420 |
| Preston | 13 | \$13,178 | 8 | \$6,157 | 9 | \$5,857 | 15 | \$27,690 | 9 | \$6,080 |
| Putnam | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$268 | 0 | \$0 |
| Raleigh | 2 | \$379 | 3 | \$1,087 | 6 | \$3,000 | 8 | \$3,932 | 4 | \$1,344 |
| Randolph | 23 | \$15,324 | 20 | \$17,363 | 10 | \$3,077 | 23 | \$10,263 | 24 | \$6,499 |
| Ritchie | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$125 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Roane | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$138 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Summers | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$399 | 4 | \$1,094 | 0 | \$0 |
| Taylor | 1 | \$154 | 1 | \$324 | 1 | \$203 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Tucker | 11 | \$6,655 | 16 | \$10,850 | 5 | \$4,437 | 12 | \$24,477 | 4 | \$2,966 |
| Tyler | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Upshur | 2 | \$550 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$258 | 2 | \$738 | 0 | \$0 |
| Wayne | 1 | \$2,168 | 1 | \$106 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Webster | 10 | \$3,318 | 6 | \$1,127 | 6 | \$1,530 | 21 | \$8,725 | 7 | \$1,159 |
| Wetzel | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$410 |
| Wirt | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Wood | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$105 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Wyoming | 1 | \$1,200 | 7 | \$3,791 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$683 | 4 | \$3,127 |
| Total | 145 | \$98,089 | 221 | \$188,004 | 142 | \$92,837 | 270 | \$295,450 | 176 | \$114,201 |

WILD TURKEY

by
William K. Igo

Spring Harvest

The 2010 spring gobbler harvest was 10,209 (Table 1). The total is 4% higher than the kill in 2009 (9,787). Based on similar brood counts in 2007 and 2008, biologists had predicted a kill in 2010 to be near the take in 2009.

The top five counties in harvest were Mason (551), Putnam (323), Preston (321), Marshall (316), and Wyoming (287). The kill was similar to last years' harvest in Districts 1 and 4, and up slightly in District 6. The check-in was up significantly in District 5 and down 12% in District 2 and down 10% in District 3. District 5 in southwestern West Virginia led all districts with a kill of 2,377. Table 2 depicts the harvest by public wildlife management areas (WMAs). The top areas were R.D. Bailey (47), Cranberry (33), Potomac (28), Bluestone (26), Little River (22), and Cornstalk (22).

The opening day of the regular 2010 spring season showed a check-in of 1,934 gobblers, 19% of the total spring take (the same percentage on opening day of 2009). The second day 2010 harvest made up 12% of the total kill (10% in 2009), with a slightly lower take on the third day (8%). The harvest declined each day, with spikes of higher kills each Saturday. The first Saturday of the regular season showed a check-in of 875 birds, about 9% of the total harvest. All four Saturdays of the season accounted for 16% of total kill (17% in 2009). During 2010, the first week tallied 61% of the total spring take, a little higher than the 56% first week kill in 2009 (Table 3).

The one-day spring gobbler youth hunt, which occurred the Saturday preceding the regular Monday opening, yielded a harvest of 476 toms, up 38% from 2009. This youth hunt kill was the highest since this special season was initiated in 2005.

Fall Harvest

A total of 39 counties were open during the fall 2010 season. The kill of 1,126 turkeys was down 6.7% from the 1,208 birds taken during the 2009 fall season (Table 4). Biologists correctly predicted the 2010 harvest in traditional fall counties (Mountains and Eastern Panhandle regions and Preston County) would be much lower than the 2009 kill based on bountiful and widespread wild food supplies that would have birds widely dispersed, many in remote "hard-to-get-to" places. The take was down 20% in these areas. However, the harvest in 15 additional fall hunt counties did not make up for this low traditional area kill as predicted.

Top counties were Greenbrier with a take of 92, Preston (80), Monroe (59), Randolph (58), and Pocahontas (47). The traditional fall hunt counties with their four-

week season (except Preston with two weeks) accounted for 57% of the total fall kill (76% in 2009). The harvest on WMAs (Table 5) made up 10% of the 2010 fall harvest. Top WMAs were Neola (11), Little River (11), Bluestone (11), Blackwater (9), and Otter Creek (8).

There were 231 turkeys (21%) checked on the opening Saturday of the fall season (19% in 2009). The opening week accounted for 44% of total harvest (same as 2009). The last week of the season made up 8% of the kill, below the 13% in 2009 (Table 6).

The combined spring and fall harvests in 2010 was 11,341—this ranks 19th in total wild turkey kill since 1966 (Table 7). The 2010 tally was 3% higher than last year. The total spring harvest of bearded turkeys since 1966 (307,095) is 62% more than the number of wild turkeys killed in the fall during the same period (115,248).

Surveys

Spring Gobbler Survey

The Wildlife Resources Section and the West Virginia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation conduct an annual survey of spring gobbler hunters. The survey is done entirely by volunteer sportsmen that donate their time and effort to gather information to help the DNR manage wild turkeys in the state. The West Virginia chapter sends survey forms to its members; the Wildlife Resources Section compiles the data from these and other participants. A survey report is written and provided free to cooperators.

During 2010, results were compiled from 177 hunters. Cooperators took 1,486 hunting trips and heard 2,673 gobblers. The gobbling rate (47 gobblers heard per 100 hours) was 15% higher (Fig. 1) than 2009 (41 per 100 hours) and down 13% from the 28-year average (54).

The survey showed the best gobbling in 2010 occurred in the Southwestern (76 gobblers per 100 hours) and Western (48 per 100 hours) regions of the state. Hunters heard about three gobblers per trip in the Southwestern region and about two per trip in the Western region. The survey also provides DNR biologists important data not only on wild turkeys, but also ruffed grouse, coyote, overwinter losses of turkeys and deer, and much other information. The data may provide accurate population trend information on white-tailed deer. This survey is also an important forum for hunters to express their opinions and ideas.

Hunters desiring a copy of the annual survey report need to participate in the survey. Spring gobbler hunters wanting to help are encouraged to contact Tammie Thompson, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241, phone 304-637-0245. Those wishing to participate will be sent necessary forms and a questionnaire prior to the spring hunting season. The survey is simple to conduct and a hunter does not have to harvest a gobbler to provide useful data. Most of the

information collected deals with what a hunter hears, sees, or has an opinion on regarding turkey hunting.

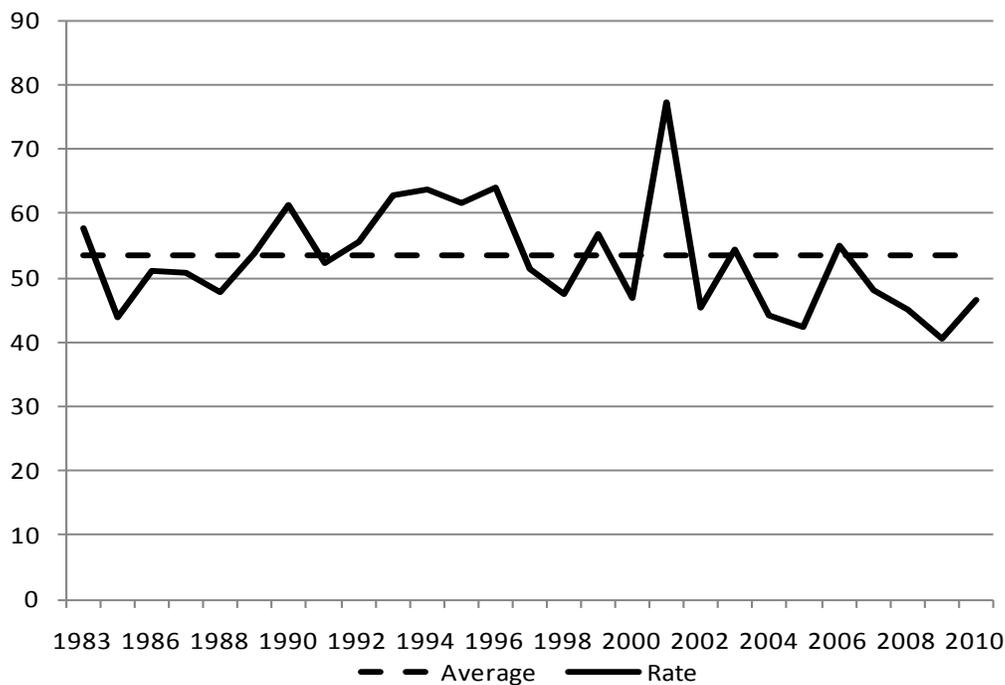


Figure 2. Gobblers heard per 100 hours by cooperators in West Virginia from 1983-2010.

Bowhunter Survey

Due to timing of season and analysis of data, results from the Bowhunter Survey lag one year behind other surveys. This survey not only monitors white-tailed deer, it is also valuable in determining population and harvest trends of other wildlife species, including wild turkey.

Turkey sightings by bowhunter cooperators during the fall of 2009 were the same as in 2008. The rate of 34 turkeys seen per 100 hours of bowhunting is 42% lower than the record rate (59 per 100 hours in 1999), and 15% below the long term average (40).

Like 2008, turkey observations in 2009 were in contradiction with brood reports for those years—a 14% decrease in broods was recorded in 2009 over that reported in 2008. And, again, the likely explanation for this contradiction: an even greater shortage of acorns and most all other major food sources in 2009, which probably resulted in flocks concentrating in and around fields, typical sites for set-ups by archers. We might also consider another plausible theory for the contradiction in low brood counts and high bowhunter sightings—one or the other is not an accurate indicator for fall-winter numbers during boom or bust mast years.

Brood Survey

Recent studies have shown that the quantity of gobblers born two years prior to a spring turkey season is a pretty good forecaster of that spring's gobbler harvest. Since brood counts in 2009 were down 14% from 2008, the expected spring kill for 2011 should be lower than the 10,209 2010 kill. Excellent mast conditions and good spring weather may have toms feeling their cheerios, resulting in good gobbling rates and a harvest still near 10,000 birds.

Brood reports in 2010 were drastically lower than counts in 2009 (down 25%). However, this may not all be due to turkey activity—like other entities, the DNR Wildlife Section is going through a baby boomer retirement spike. With a good percentage of field personnel absent, and field projects curtailed, opportunities for brood sightings in 2010 was much lower than previous years. But even under normal working conditions, brood counts would have been down, so the 2012 spring harvest is expected to be below this spring's (2011) kill.

Fall harvests are more of a challenge to accurately forecast. Regional mast conditions, brood success in fall hunt counties, and the number of eligible counties open to a fall season need to be considered in fall harvest predictions. Brood counts have accurately forecasted fall turkey harvests about two-thirds of the years since 1968. Due to lower reports of broods in 2010 and the tremendous amount of acorns, black cherries, and other wild foods, biologists predicated the kill in traditional fall hunt counties would be significantly lower than the 2009 harvest—the take in these counties was down 20%. With 15 additional counties added to the fall hunt, biologist believed the take would be slightly higher than the fall harvest of 2009. However, these added counties failed to make up the decreases in traditional area kill.

Mast Survey

The Wildlife and Law Enforcement Sections of the DNR and the Division of Forestry have conducted surveys for abundance of 18 wild foods since 1970. All species except yellow poplar and dogwood increased considerably from the 2009 estimate. Indices for chestnut oak and white oak increased 482 and 242 percent, respectfully! All oak (except scrub oak) indices increased more than 100 percent. Black cherry was also a heavy producer in 2010, increasing 124 percent from 2009. The indices for black/red oaks increased by 176 percent in 2010. The statewide index for combined hard mast species (beech, hickory, and oaks) and black cherry was well above the 40-year average. Acorn production was generally better at higher elevations in most regions. It was said that mast conditions in 2009 were a “bust”—we can say that the wild food situation in 2010 was a definite “boom.”

Table 1. Spring harvest of wild turkeys in West Virginia, 2006-2010.

| County | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 176 | 177 | 224 | 209 | 157 |
| Brooke | 121 | 101 | 79 | 86 | 91 |
| Hancock | 137 | 117 | 71 | 98 | 109 |
| Harrison | 254 | 237 | 291 | 310 | 265 |
| Marion | 190 | 201 | 178 | 175 | 179 |
| Marshall | 306 | 279 | 222 | 214 | 316 |
| Monongalia | 310 | 260 | 247 | 215 | 257 |
| Ohio | 137 | 77 | 53 | 64 | 94 |
| Preston | 400 | 330 | 371 | 378 | 321 |
| Taylor | 101 | 84 | 115 | 101 | 86 |
| Tucker | 98 | 83 | 85 | 68 | 68 |
| Wetzel | 200 | 204 | 253 | 213 | 199 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 2,430 | 2,150 | 2,189 | 2,131 | 2,142 |
| Berkeley | 107 | 71 | 70 | 83 | 89 |
| Grant | 130 | 144 | 115 | 121 | 102 |
| Hampshire | 220 | 163 | 165 | 194 | 149 |
| Hardy | 226 | 156 | 141 | 172 | 158 |
| Jefferson | 51 | 46 | 34 | 44 | 27 |
| Mineral | 135 | 114 | 107 | 135 | 121 |
| Morgan | 116 | 87 | 88 | 63 | 68 |
| Pendleton | 136 | 140 | 101 | 114 | 98 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 1,121 | 921 | 821 | 926 | 812 |
| Braxton | 282 | 211 | 199 | 226 | 186 |
| Clay | 82 | 80 | 77 | 89 | 65 |
| Lewis | 258 | 245 | 243 | 241 | 237 |
| Nicholas | 226 | 188 | 210 | 157 | 163 |
| Pocahontas | 128 | 127 | 102 | 117 | 106 |
| Randolph | 176 | 170 | 163 | 198 | 197 |
| Upshur | 258 | 212 | 288 | 298 | 241 |
| Webster | 108 | 98 | 98 | 113 | 102 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 1,518 | 1,331 | 1,380 | 1,439 | 1,297 |
| Fayette | 261 | 231 | 279 | 255 | 215 |
| Greenbrier | 298 | 264 | 292 | 266 | 226 |
| McDowell | 270 | 214 | 250 | 181 | 270 |
| Mercer | 311 | 269 | 253 | 215 | 175 |
| Monroe | 200 | 170 | 142 | 178 | 145 |
| Raleigh | 264 | 282 | 221 | 227 | 182 |
| Summers | 287 | 284 | 258 | 219 | 231 |
| Wyoming | 243 | 197 | 209 | 227 | 287 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 2,134 | 1,911 | 1,904 | 1,768 | 1,731 |
| Boone | 159 | 132 | 118 | 111 | 185 |
| Cabell | 146 | 125 | 138 | 157 | 236 |
| Kanawha | 263 | 254 | 247 | 219 | 261 |
| Lincoln | 223 | 172 | 188 | 183 | 278 |
| Logan | 169 | 112 | 157 | 160 | 194 |
| Mason | 493 | 407 | 394 | 419 | 551 |
| Mingo | 100 | 80 | 82 | 95 | 115 |
| Putnam | 246 | 178 | 232 | 256 | 323 |
| Wayne | 207 | 164 | 145 | 146 | 234 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 2,006 | 1,624 | 1,701 | 1,746 | 2,377 |
| Calhoun | 193 | 150 | 141 | 129 | 120 |
| Doddridge | 199 | 117 | 144 | 135 | 150 |
| Gilmer | 195 | 150 | 139 | 147 | 135 |
| Jackson | 353 | 332 | 310 | 257 | 286 |
| Pleasants | 97 | 59 | 89 | 63 | 72 |
| Ritchie | 317 | 244 | 208 | 206 | 239 |
| Roane | 293 | 268 | 229 | 219 | 207 |
| Tyler | 198 | 155 | 174 | 167 | 196 |
| Wirt | 272 | 216 | 185 | 175 | 166 |
| Wood | 409 | 337 | 315 | 279 | 279 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 2,526 | 2,028 | 1,934 | 1,777 | 1,850 |
| State Total | 11,735 | 9,965 | 9,929 | 9,787 | 10,209 |

Table 2. Spring turkey harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2006-2010.

| Land Type | Locality | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Monongahela NF | Beaver Dam | 7 | 17 | 8 | 16 | 11 |
| | Blackwater | 25 | 14 | 18 | 17 | 21 |
| | Cheat | 9 | 11 | 8 | 14 | 11 |
| | Cranberry | 20 | 31 | 32 | 47 | 33 |
| | Little River | 26 | 30 | 14 | 26 | 22 |
| | Neola | 42 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 19 |
| | Otter Creek | 14 | 16 | 19 | 8 | 13 |
| | Potomac | 41 | 42 | 31 | 34 | 28 |
| | Rimel | 25 | 31 | 15 | 13 | 16 |
| | Tea Creek | 18 | 14 | 19 | 13 | 14 |
| Monongahela NF Total | | 227 | 232 | 190 | 216 | 188 |
| George Washington NF | Shenandoah | 16 | 18 | 9 | 7 | 12 |
| | Wardensville | 49 | 42 | 26 | 52 | 17 |
| George Washington NF Total | | 65 | 60 | 35 | 59 | 29 |
| Jefferson NF | | 5 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 8 |
| Jefferson NF Total | | 5 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 8 |
| National River | | 10 | 14 | 25 | 21 | 7 |
| National River Total | | 10 | 14 | 25 | 21 | 7 |
| State Land | Allegheny | 4 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 8 |
| | Amherst/Plymouth | 8 | 16 | 19 | 11 | 16 |
| | Anawalt | 4 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | Bear Rocks | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Becky Creek | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | Beech Fork | 17 | 17 | 26 | 19 | 13 |
| | Berwind | 0 | 5 | 11 | 3 | 5 |
| | Beury Mtn | 5 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| | Big Ugly | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | Bluestone | 41 | 43 | 25 | 19 | 26 |
| | Burnsville | 26 | 19 | 13 | 12 | 14 |
| | Cabwaylingo Sf | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| | Calvin Price Sf | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| | Camp Creek Sf | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| | Castleman | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Castleman Run | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Center Branch | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | Conaway Run | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| | Coopers Rock Sf | 8 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 13 |
| | Cornstalk | 19 | 15 | 15 | 19 | 22 |
| | East Lynn | 6 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 16 |
| | Edwards Run | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Elk River | 17 | 16 | 12 | 19 | 9 |
| | Fork Creek | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| | Frozen Camp | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| | Greenbrier Sf | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| | Handley | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Hillcrest | 19 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 14 |
| | Horse Creek | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| | Hughes River | 19 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| | Huttonsville | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | Kanawha Sf | 8 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| | Kumbrabow Sf | 8 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 5 |

| Table 2. Continued. | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Land Type | Locality | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| State Land | Laurel Lake | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| | Lewis Wetzel | 9 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| | McClintic | 25 | 11 | 17 | 16 | 15 |
| | Meadow River | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Mill Creek | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Morris Creek | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| | Nathaniel Mnt | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| | Panther Sf | 14 | 16 | 12 | 7 | 11 |
| | Pleasants Creek | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| | Plum Orchard | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| | Pruntytown | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | R D Bailey | 24 | 24 | 26 | 24 | 47 |
| | Ritchie Mines | 7 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| | Seneca Sf | 5 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| | Shannondale | 3 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| | Short Mnt | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| | Sleepy Creek | 34 | 18 | 13 | 16 | 13 |
| | Snake Hill | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Stonecoal | 3 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| | Stonewall Jackson | 26 | 21 | 20 | 20 | 17 |
| | Sutton Res | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Tate Lohr | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | The Jug | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| | Upper Mud River | 2 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| | Wallback | 1 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| | Widmyer | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Summersville | 3 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| | Underwood | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Thorn Creek | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | South Branch | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Cross Creek | 0 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| | Pedlar | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Tug Fork | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| | Little Indian Creek | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| | Elk Creek | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| | Sand Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | Fort Mill Ridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Stumptown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| State Land Total | | 429 | 364 | 366 | 353 | 382 |
| Private Land | | 10,985 | 9,293 | 9,308 | 9,129 | 9,595 |
| Unknown | | 14 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| State Total | | 11,735 | 9,965 | 9,929 | 9,787 | 10,209 |

Table 3. Spring wild turkey harvest by week of season, 2009-2010.

| Week of Season | 2009 | | 2010 | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | N | % | N | % |
| Youth | 344 | 4% | 476 | 5% |
| Week 1 | 5,512 | 56% | 6,249 | 61% |
| Week 2 | 1,926 | 20% | 1,739 | 17% |
| Week 3 | 1,208 | 12% | 1,045 | 10% |
| Week 4 | 755 | 8% | 621 | 6% |
| Unknown | 42 | 0% | 79 | 1% |
| State Total | 9,787 | 100% | 10,209 | 100% |

Table 4. Fall harvest of wild turkeys in West Virginia, 2006-2010.

| County | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Brooke | 5 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 6 |
| Hancock | 7 | 10 | 9 | 14 | 24 |
| Harrison | 0 | 0 | 34 | 25 | 0 |
| Marion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Marshall | 20 | 18 | 9 | 15 | 15 |
| Monongalia | 0 | 19 | 30 | 0 | 24 |
| Ohio | 10 | 14 | 0 | 7 | 16 |
| Preston | 137 | 90 | 89 | 83 | 80 |
| Taylor | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Tucker | 27 | 29 | 31 | 25 | 28 |
| Wetzel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 206 | 188 | 214 | 183 | 221 |
| Berkeley | 24 | 23 | 31 | 30 | 18 |
| Grant | 59 | 63 | 74 | 51 | 42 |
| Hampshire | 68 | 57 | 61 | 49 | 30 |
| Hardy | 63 | 78 | 74 | 58 | 33 |
| Mineral | 59 | 32 | 38 | 27 | 17 |
| Morgan | 31 | 34 | 26 | 24 | 14 |
| Pendleton | 55 | 60 | 47 | 51 | 38 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 359 | 347 | 351 | 290 | 192 |
| Lewis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Nicholas | 67 | 103 | 39 | 116 | 46 |
| Pocahontas | 69 | 107 | 74 | 53 | 47 |
| Randolph | 98 | 96 | 115 | 75 | 58 |
| Upshur | 0 | 0 | 35 | 38 | 40 |
| Webster | 48 | 52 | 36 | 66 | 37 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 282 | 358 | 299 | 348 | 240 |
| Greenbrier | 139 | 171 | 84 | 103 | 92 |
| Monroe | 102 | 142 | 60 | 105 | 59 |
| Summers | 0 | 118 | 35 | 0 | 36 |
| McDowell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Wyoming | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 241 | 431 | 179 | 208 | 234 |
| Mason | 0 | 67 | 101 | 81 | 46 |
| Putnam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 |
| Lincoln | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 |
| Cabell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 0 | 67 | 101 | 81 | 131 |
| Jackson | 0 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| Pleasants | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| Ritchie | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Tyler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Wirt | 37 | 38 | 30 | 36 | 21 |
| Wood | 60 | 43 | 28 | 61 | 37 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 97 | 120 | 62 | 97 | 108 |
| Unknown | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| State Total | 1,186 | 1,511 | 1,206 | 1,208 | 1,126 |

Table 5. Fall turkey harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2006-2010.

| Land Type | Locality | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Monongahela NF | Beaver Dam | 3 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| | Blackwater | 11 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| | Cheat | 9 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Cranberry | 6 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 3 |
| | Little River | 21 | 28 | 20 | 14 | 11 |
| | Neola | 24 | 18 | 12 | 15 | 11 |
| | Otter Creek | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| | Potomac | 6 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | Rimel | 19 | 22 | 13 | 9 | 7 |
| | Tea Creek | 5 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| Monongahela NF Total | | 106 | 113 | 88 | 79 | 61 |
| George Washington NF | Shenandoah | 15 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 11 |
| | Wardensville | 27 | 23 | 22 | 10 | 5 |
| George Washington NF Total | | 42 | 31 | 33 | 17 | 16 |
| Jefferson NF | Potts Creek | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Jefferson NF Total | | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| State Land | Allegheny | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Amherst/Plymouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Becky Creek | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Bluestone | 1 | 37 | 20 | 1 | 11 |
| | Calvin Price Sf | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| | Coopers Rock Sf | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Cornstalk | 0 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 3 |
| | Cross Creek | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| | Edwards Run | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Fort Mill Ridge | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Frozen Camp | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| | Greenbrier Sf | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Hillcrest | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Hughes River | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Kumbrabow Sf | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| | Little Indian Creek | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | McClintic | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| | Nathaniel Mnt | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Pleasants Creek | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | R D Bailey | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Seneca Sf | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| | Short Mnt | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Sleepy Creek | 4 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 2 |
| South Branch | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Summersville | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| Underwood | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Widmyer | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| State Land Total | | 32 | 82 | 68 | 30 | 40 |
| Private Land | | 1,004 | 1,285 | 1,015 | 1,081 | 1,009 |
| State Total | | 1,186 | 1,511 | 1,206 | 1,208 | 1,126 |

Table 6. Fall wild turkey harvest by week of season, 2009-2010.

| Week of Season | 2009 | | 2010 | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | N | % | N | % |
| Opening Day | 229 | 19% | 231 | 21% |
| Week 1 | 528 | 44% | 491 | 44% |
| Week 2 | 164 | 14% | 213 | 19% |
| Week 3 | 119 | 10% | 89 | 8% |
| Week 4 | 159 | 13% | 90 | 8% |
| Unknown | 9 | 1% | 12 | 1% |
| Grand Total | 1,208 | 100% | 1,126 | 100% |

Table 7. Total spring and fall wild turkey harvest, West Virginia, 1966-201

| Year | Spring | Fall | Total | Rank |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| 1966 | 12 | 1,334 | 1,346 | 44 |
| 1967 | 42 | 989 | 1,031 | 45 |
| 1968 | 134 | 1,697 | 1,831 | 43 |
| 1969 | 243 | 3,430 | 3,673 | 33 |
| 1970 | 370 | 3,020 | 3,390 | 36 |
| 1971 | 421 | 2,374 | 2,795 | 40 |
| 1972 | 589 | 2,353 | 2,942 | 39 |
| 1973 | 554 | 3,038 | 3,592 | 34 |
| 1974 | 596 | 2,158 | 2,754 | 41 |
| 1975 | 585 | 2,827 | 3,412 | 35 |
| 1976 | 721 | 1,860 | 2,581 | 42 |
| 1977 | 719 | 2,998 | 3,717 | 32 |
| 1978 | 566 | 2,803 | 3,369 | 37 |
| 1979 | 873 | 2,421 | 3,294 | 38 |
| 1980 | 1,459 | 3,696 | 5,155 | 29 |
| 1981 | 1,970 | 3,135 | 5,105 | 30 |
| 1982 | 2,458 | 5,684 | 8,142 | 25 |
| 1983 | 2,627 | 2,224 | 4,851 | 31 |
| 1984 | 3,387 | 2,414 | 5,801 | 28 |
| 1985 | 4,215 | 2,343 | 6,558 | 27 |
| 1986 | 4,774 | 3,130 | 7,904 | 26 |
| 1987 | 5,665 | 4,114 | 9,779 | 22 |
| 1988 | 6,526 | 2,939 | 9,465 | 23 |
| 1989 | 7,245 | 2,204 | 9,449 | 24 |
| 1990 | 9,152 | 3,504 | 12,656 | 15 |
| 1991 | 10,097 | 3,690 | 13,787 | 13 |
| 1992 | 11,299 | 3,518 | 14,817 | 8 |
| 1993 | 13,428 | 3,536 | 16,964 | 6 |
| 1994 | 15,501 | 3,351 | 18,852 | 4 |
| 1995 | 16,770 | 3,211 | 19,981 | 2 |
| 1996 | 16,618 | 2,870 | 19,488 | 3 |
| 1997 | 14,021 | 3,385 | 17,406 | 5 |
| 1998 | 12,467 | 1,678 | 14,145 | 11 |
| 1999 | 11,241 | 2,901 | 14,142 | 12 |
| 2000 | 12,794 | 1,541 | 14,335 | 10 |
| 2001 | 17,875 | 3,505 | 21,380 | 1 |
| 2002 | 13,385 | 2,808 | 16,193 | 7 |
| 2003 | 12,535 | 1,841 | 14,376 | 9 |
| 2004 | 10,573 | 1,357 | 11,930 | 17 |
| 2005 | 10,957 | 1,130 | 12,087 | 16 |
| 2006 | 11,735 | 1,186 | 12,921 | 14 |
| 2007 | 9,965 | 1,511 | 11,476 | 18 |
| 2008 | 9,929 | 1,206 | 11,135 | 20 |
| 2009 | 9,787 | 1,208 | 10,995 | 21 |
| 2010 | 10,209 | 1,126 | 11,335 | 19 |
| Total | 307,089 | 115,248 | 422,337 | |

WILD BOAR

by
Christopher W. Ryan

Hunters killed 16 boar during the 2010 season. This is down from the harvest of 35 in 2009. Poor mast production in the boar area during 2009 likely reduced reproduction and limited young of the year available for harvest. In addition, the record acorn crop of 2010 had boar widely dispersed over their range making it more difficult for hunters to locate and pattern these unique animals.

Firearms hunters took 8 (3 in Logan County and 5 in Boone County) and archers killed 8 (6 in Logan County and 2 in Boone County). Raleigh, and Wyoming counties had no reported kills. The bulk of the harvest came from Boone and Logan counties close to the original release site in the Spruce-Laurel Fork of the Little Coal River.

Boar were introduced in 1971 to supplement big game populations and did well enough to accommodate a hunting season in 1979. Harvests have ranged from 3 that year to 158 in 1995. The decline in the population since the late 1990's led to the removal of the December season in 2003. The single October firearms season is designed to reduce the harvest and allow numbers to improve and move into unoccupied habitats. Traditionally, hunters have been less successful during October when weather conditions are warm and dry and leaf fall makes boar sign more difficult to find.

Biologists do not believe that hunting contributed to the population decline. Hunting seasons have been short and hunter participation was restricted by permits. The main reason for fewer animals in Boone, Logan, Raleigh, and Wyoming counties is loss of habitat resulting in poor reproduction and survival. Impacts from mining and logging operations continue to decrease the mature oak-hickory forest favored by the boar.

Boar harvests will likely remain low and will fluctuate depending upon mast and weather conditions. The good acorn crop of 2010 should lead to increased reproduction and a higher harvest in 2011. However, hunters should not expect to achieve the harvest of the 1990's. Wildlife personnel will continue to monitor the wild boar population and will make management recommendations accordingly.

Table 1. Wild boar harvests in West Virginia, 1979–2010.

| Year | <u>Gun</u> | <u>Gun</u> | | Archery | Total |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| | Permits Available | Early Season | December | | |
| 1979 | 200 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 1980 | 600 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| 1981 | 1200 | 31 | 0 | 2 | 33 |
| 1982 | 1500 | 69 | 0 | 3 | 72 |
| 1983 | 1500 | 50 | 0 | 4 | 54 |
| 1984 | 3000 | 76 | 0 | 5 | 81 |
| 1985 | 3000 | 52 | 0 | 6 | 58 |
| 1986 | 4000 | 29 | 0 | 6 | 35 |
| 1987 | 5000 | 63 | 0 | 11 | 74 |
| 1988 | 5000 | 29 | 0 | 5 | 34 |
| 1989 | 6000 | 29 | 79 | 8 | 116 |
| 1990 | 6000 | 16 | 62 | 8 | 86 |
| 1991 | 6000 | 20 | 38 | 1 | 59 |
| 1992 | 6000 | 39 | 72 | 19 | 130 |
| 1993 | 6000 | 13 | 61 | 8 | 82 |
| 1994 | 6000 | 21 | 53 | 12 | 86 |
| 1995 | 6000 | 34 | 105 | 19 | 158 |
| 1996 | 6000 | 51 | 56 | 32 | 139 |
| 1997 | 6000 | 43 | 61 | 37 | 141 |
| 1998 | 6000 | 16 | 30 | 12 | 58 |
| 1999 | 6000 | 19 | 56 | 21 | 96 |
| 2000 | 6000 | 7 | 36 | 3 | 46 |
| 2001 | 4000 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 43 |
| 2002 | 4000 | 3 | 26 | 9 | 38 |
| 2003 | Permit Not Required | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| 2004 | Permit Not Required | 3 | 0 | 4 | 7 |
| 2005 | Permit Not Required | 10 | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| 2006 | Permit Not Required | 10 | 0 | 4 | 14 |
| 2007 | Permit Not Required | 7 | 0 | 15 | 22 |
| 2008 | Permit Not Required | 9 | 0 | 5 | 14 |
| 2009 | Permit Not Required | 15 | 0 | 20 | 35 |
| 2010 | Permit Not Required | 8 | 0 | 8 | 16 |
| Total | | 798 | 749 | 310 | 1,857 |

WHITE-TAILED DEER

by
James M. Crum

Deer Harvest 2010

The following Tables 1 through 9 contain the 2010 white-tailed deer hunter harvest information for each of West Virginia's 55 counties and the various public lands scattered across the state. In 2010, deer hunters harvested a total of 106,499 deer in the combined deer seasons. This is a 31% decrease from the 2009 harvest and 28% less than the previous five-year harvest average of 147,547. The combined deer season harvest for 2010 is the 26th largest total deer harvest on record for West Virginia. The 2010 total deer harvest represents one deer killed for every 138 acres of deer habitat in the state (Table 9), and a 45% harvest decrease from that of 10 years ago. From 1945 through 2010, a total of 5,472,196 deer have been recorded as harvested in West Virginia (Fig.1). Fifty percent (2,746,772) of the total recorded deer harvest of the past 66 years has occurred in the last 15 years.

WV DEER HARVEST 1945-2010

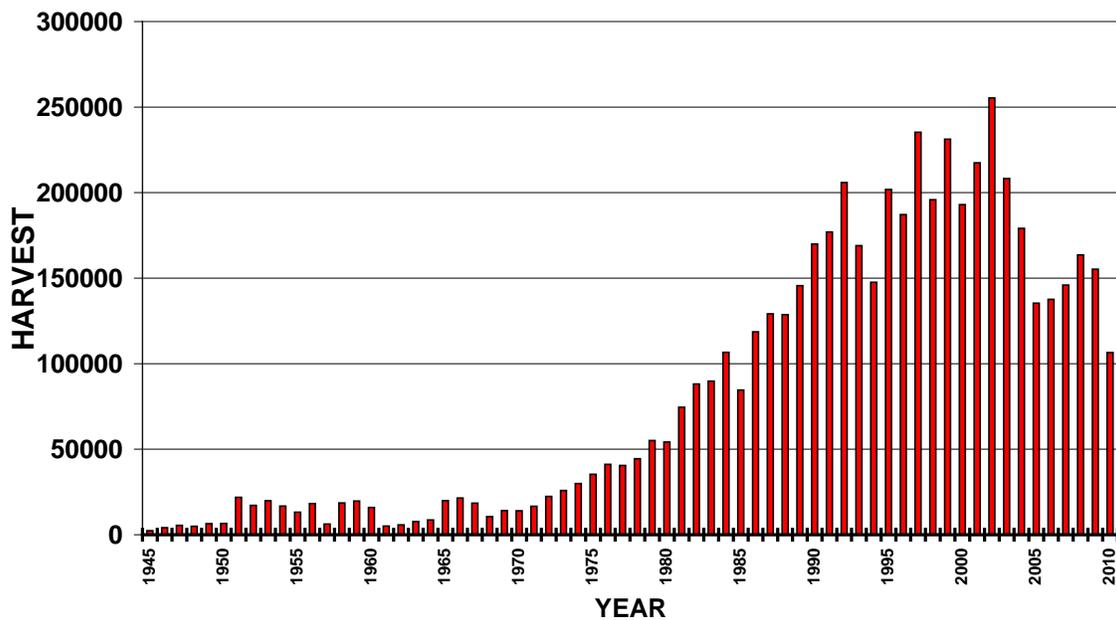


Figure 1. White-tailed deer harvest in West Virginia from 1945-2010.

In 2010, the traditional bucks-only firearm season harvest of antlered bucks was 43,461, a decrease of 31% from the 2009 harvest (Table 1). This is 32% less than the five-year average harvest of 64,116 and ranks 30th among all past years.

The 2010 antlerless season deer harvest decreased by 36.5% from 2009 and was down 67% from the record harvest of 104,199 recorded in 2002. A total of 34,600

antlerless deer (Table 5) were taken in an antlerless season where hunter opportunity was decreased in seven counties and a portion of one county and increased in three counties and portions of two counties from that of 2009. The antlerless season was open in 2010 for 21 days on private land in 38 counties and portions of eight more counties. In nine counties and portions of seven more, the season was closed. Of the counties open for antlerless deer hunting to resident and nonresident hunters, 26 counties and portions of one had a bag limit of four antlerless deer, five more counties had a bag limit of two antlerless deer, and four counties and portions of three counties had a one deer antlerless bag limit. Three counties and portions of four counties in 2010 were limited to resident hunters who had to apply for limited permits. The antlerless season was closed on the vast majority of National Forest land (Table 6) and open for 19 days on State owned or leased Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Qualifying youth and Class Q/QQ License (physically challenged) holders had an additional three-day antlerless-only season on private land in counties having a firearms deer hunting season and 47 WMA's plus three state forests. The 2010 special split deer season for youth and Class Q/QQ hunters was the fourth year for the season to be open on private land in all 51 counties open to a deer firearms season. The 2010 antlerless season harvest was 24th highest on record and 28% less than the five-year average antlerless harvest of 48,225. As in 2009, the 2010 maximum season bag limit for antlerless deer season was four deer.

In the 2010 archery season, a harvest of 21,962 was recorded and includes 464 deer harvested during the early special antlerless archery season held September 13 through 18, 2010. This year's archery harvest was a decrease of 23% from the 2009 archery season but was 19th highest on record and 26% below the five-year average of 26,916 (Table 3).

The 2010 muzzleloader season harvest was 6,476, a decrease of 30% from 2009. This is 22% below the five-year average harvest of 8,290, and the 21st highest harvest recorded for this season (Table 7). This was the second year for a special antlerless muzzleloader deer season which was open September 20 through 25, 2010 in 31 counties and a portion of one county, reduced from 33 counties and portions of three counties in 2009. In 2010, opportunity for muzzleloader hunters to take a deer of either sex was increased in one county and portions of two counties during December. The reported deer harvest during the early special antlerless muzzleloader season was 606 deer.

In 2010, hunting on Sunday was permissible in West Virginia for the tenth year since 1956. In 2001, all counties were open to hunting on Sunday. In 2002, a total of 20 counties were open to hunting on Sunday. From 2003 through 2010, there were 14 counties open to hunting on Sunday. These 14 counties had eight additional days available for deer hunting in 2010 deer seasons. All eight days were open for archery hunters who recorded taking 437 deer on Sundays, or 2% of the total 2010 archery harvest. One Sunday was open for firearms deer hunting (the Sunday after Thanksgiving November 28th), and 224 deer were recorded as harvested.

In the 2010 deer season, 51 counties were open to the two-week bucks-only season. The desired buck harvest per square mile was not exceeded by more than one buck per square mile in any county for the first time in recent history. In 37 counties, the

buck harvest was at least one buck per square mile lower than the desired harvest. For the remaining 14 counties, the buck harvest was within one buck per square mile of the desired harvest for the county. In contrast to 2009, five counties (8% of deer habitat in the state) exceeded the desired buck harvest per square mile by at least one buck per square mile. Of the remaining 46 counties in 2009, 14 were lower than the desired harvest and 32 were within one buck per square mile of the desired buck harvest for the county.

The harvest of antlerless deer is the key to healthier, heavier, and more productive deer herds. This is because there are natural limits to the number of deer the land can support. When these natural limits are exceeded, deer body weights, reproductive rates, antler development, and herd health declines, including an increased likelihood that deer will die over winter. If deer exceed natural limits long enough, habitat quality is reduced which produces a long-term reduction in the natural limit of deer the land can support. To avoid these problems a minimum of 70 females for every 100 bucks is generally required just to stabilize a deer herd. If a decrease in the herd is warranted, the percentage of females needs to be above 40%. Prior to the 2000 deer season, West Virginia's deer herd was on track for a better healthier herd. Decreases in antlerless harvest (Fig. 2) in the 2000 and 2001 deer seasons temporarily slowed progress toward a better deer herd but, with landowners and hunters in the 2002 through 2004 deer season recognizing the need to harvest antlerless deer, the pace toward a better deer herd quickened. From the 2002 through 2004 deer seasons, the recorded antlerless deer harvest exceeded the traditional firearm antlered buck harvest. The percentage of does in the statewide harvest exceeded 40% for the 2002 through 2004 seasons even though the total harvest in 2003 and 2004 declined. In 2005, the reductions in hunter opportunity to harvest antlerless deer resulted in a lower total deer harvest and a reduction of the percentage of female deer in the harvest, but the percentage was still 40%. In 2006, the antlered deer harvest rebounded somewhat, but with further reductions in the opportunity to harvest antlerless deer, the percentage of female deer in the harvest was well below the 40% mark. This allowed the deer herd to increase in 2007. The percentage of female deer in the harvest in 2007 increased over that of 2006 but was still below the 40% mark, and the deer harvest in 2008 increased. The percentage of female deer in the 2008 harvest increased to the 40% level and slowed deer herd growth in 2009. The percentage of female deer in the harvest in 2009 exceeded the 40% level and this contributed to the lower deer harvest in 2010. The percentage of female deer in the harvest in 2010 declined to slightly below the 40% level and this should stabilize the deer herd growth in 2011.

Over the last 18 years the yearly average number of antlered bucks harvested during all deer seasons has been four antlered bucks per square mile of deer habitat in West Virginia. Hunters and landowners must continually assess their expectations of the proper number of deer sightings versus the visible impacts deer have on vegetation, and manage the state's deer herd by participating and encouraging antlerless deer harvest where needed to benefit not only the deer herd, but all wildlife dependent on our state's woodland habitat and conversely reduce antlerless deer harvest to stabilize or increase deer populations.

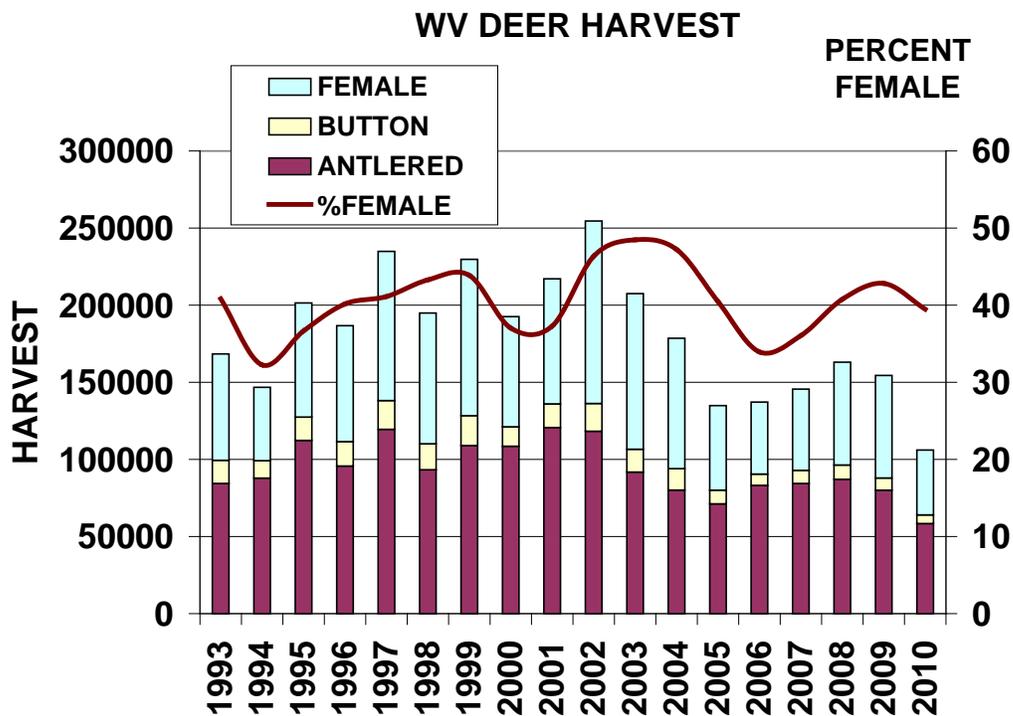


Figure 2. Deer harvested by sex in West Virginia from 1993-2010.

Special Deer Management Areas

Hunters took 387 deer in the special urban deer season in 2010. This special archery deer hunting season is available to incorporated cities and homeowner associations, which may open 14 days prior to the opening of archery season and close December 31. During this special season, two deer may be taken which do not count toward the regular archery deer season bag limit. Note however, that special exempt rules apply to the City of Charleston. In 2010, ten cities (Alderson, Barboursville, Bethlehem, Bridgeport, Charleston, Granville, Harrisville, Ronceverte, Weirton, and Wheeling) reported harvesting 301 deer, which are included in Tables 3, 4, 8, and 9. In addition, 86 deer were harvested during urban deer archery hunts conducted by six homeowner associations. This is the seventh year that homeowner associations have taken advantage of the special urban archery deer season to address deer population management. The Whiting's Neck Farm Estate was the first homeowner's association to use this special archery season. They have continued to use this season to safely and economically manage deer numbers for the past seven years. For information regarding implementing a special season contact your local city government or homeowner's association.

In the special split Youth and Class Q/QQ deer season, a total of 2,729 antlerless deer were harvested and are included in antlerless deer harvest tables 5, 6, 8, and 9.

This season was open on private land in any county open to a firearms deer season, 47 DNR WMAs, and three state forests on October 30, 2010, and again December 27 and 28, 2010. This was the 13th year this special season was held. To participate, hunters had to hold a Class Q license or be a youth at least eight and less than 18 years of age on the day of the season. Youth hunters, ages 8-14, must be accompanied by a licensed adult at least 21 years of age and youths ages 15-17 must comply with all regular season license requirements for junior sportsman hunting or hunt with resident landowner privileges. The 2010 season was the first year for participation by the 15 -17 age youths. The daily bag limit was one antlerless deer, which did not count against the hunter's annual antlerless deer season bag limit. Youth and Class Q hunters harvested 2,035 deer on October 30th and an additional 318 and 376 deer on December 27th and 28th, respectively. The harvest for the 2010 special Youth and Class Q deer season decreased 15% from 2009. This decrease in total season harvest can probably be attributed to the weather during the December season segment. The harvest for the second and third days of the season was down 44% from the reported harvest in 2009.

The deer harvest tables do not include 23 deer harvested by 109 hunters during the sixteenth year of a controlled two-day deer hunt at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) October 8 and 9, 2010. The NRAO continues to set the example to demonstrate that deer hunting and thus good land stewardship is compatible with almost any other activities taking place on an area.

All hunting was stopped on West Virginia State Parks in the fall of 1959, until the year 2001. On November 5, 2001, Blennerhassett Island State Park became the first West Virginia State Park in 42 years to be open for deer hunting and the first in 49 years to be open for firearms deer hunting. The controlled deer hunt on Blennerhassett Island State Park in 2001 harvested 185 deer; in 2002 deer hunters harvested 87 deer; the harvest was 50 deer in 2007 and 56 in 2010. Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park became the second West Virginia State Park in recent times to open for deer hunting on November 17, 18, and 19, 2008. Seventy deer were harvested on the park during that controlled deer hunt. In 2009 another controlled hunt was held on Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park November 16, 17, and 18, 2009 and 57 deer were harvested. In 2010 59 deer were harvested November 15, 16, and 17, 2010. It is anticipated that more state parks will conduct controlled deer hunts in the future. Deer are a keystone species in West Virginia's natural world and proper stewardship of our State's flora and fauna require that deer management be addressed on all lands.

Nonseasonal Mortalities

Nonseasonal mortalities are those deer deaths that are not associated with the harvest of deer by hunters. Figure 3 depicts nonseasonal deer mortalities that are associated with human/deer conflicts (i.e., vehicle collisions and crop damage). The public, DNR Natural Resources Police Officers, and DNR Wildlife Resources personnel routinely report nonseasonal mortalities. The WV Department of Transportation, Division of Highways (DOH) -Traffic Engineering Division, provides monthly summaries of vehicle killed deer that are encountered by DOH personnel. DNR Natural Resources

Police Officers provide wildlife damage investigation reports from which the number of deer killed for crop damage is obtained.

The reported nonseasonal mortalities from vehicle collisions and crop damage decreased 24% from 25,906 in 2009 to 19,712 in 2010. Deer killed on crop damage permits decreased in all DNR Districts. Overall, deer killed through the crop damage permit system was 5,738 in 2009 and 3,502 in 2010. Reported vehicle kills decreased statewide by 20% in 2010. Percent change by DNR Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were -19%, -24%, -10%, -6%, -7%, and -34%, respectively.

The occurrence of deer reportedly killed by collisions with vehicles and deer reported as killed for crop damage follow similar trends. Factors such as deer food supply (such as acorns), number and average speed of vehicles, crop growing conditions such as drought, and deer population affect these statistics (Fig. 3).

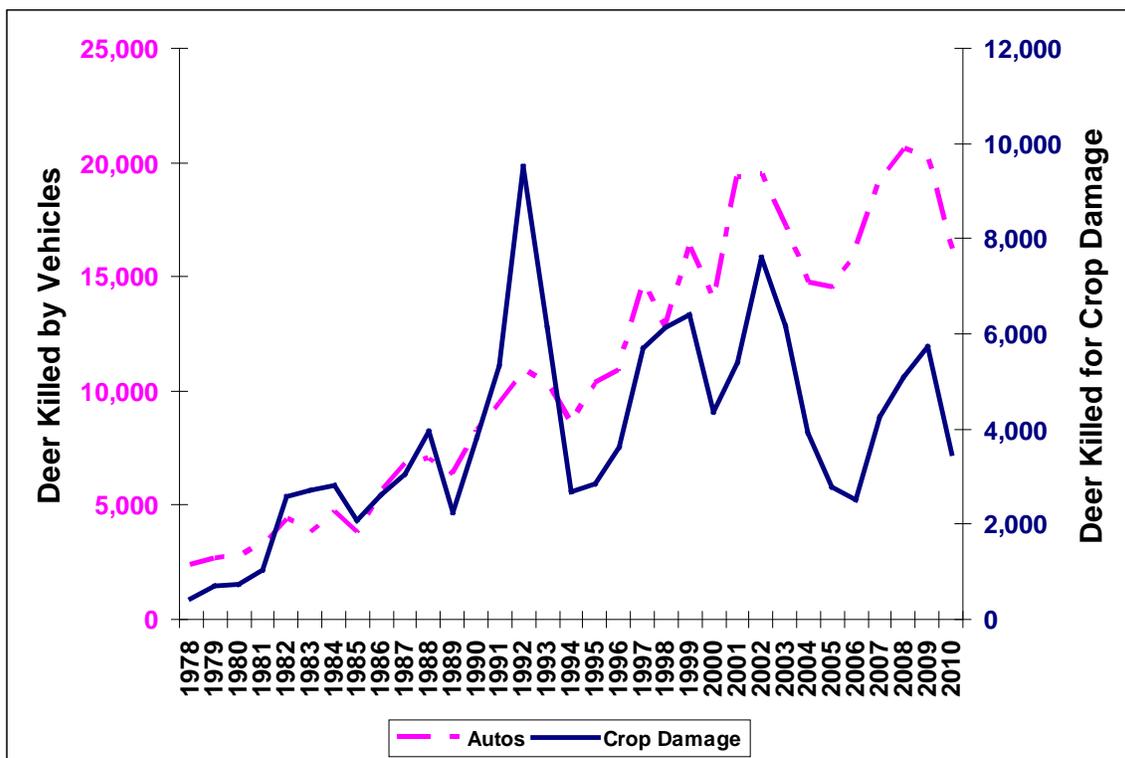


Figure 3. Vehicle and crop damage kills in West Virginia from 1978-2010.

Deer Hunting Outlook

For the 2011 antlerless deer season, the DNR proposes that 35 counties and portions of seven additional counties be open to antlerless deer Class N hunting. The DNR proposes on private land in these counties there be a 22-day split antlerless season, 12 days of which would be concurrent with the traditional bucks-only deer season. Private land in these counties would open from November 21 through

December 10, and open again December 28 through December 31. Public land in these counties would be open for antlerless deer Class N hunting from November 23 through December 10, and December 28 through December 31, except all national forest land in Greenbrier, Monroe, Pendleton, Pocahontas, and Randolph counties would be closed to antlerless hunting, as well as Wallback WMA in Roane, Clay, and Kanawha counties. The antlerless deer Class N season is proposed to be closed in 13 counties and portions of six counties, including all national forest and WV state-owned or leased lands in Fayette (except Beury Mountain WMA), northern Greenbrier, Lincoln, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, southern Wayne and Webster counties. Hunters would need to apply for limited permits to hunt during the antlerless deer Class N season in five counties and portions of Greenbrier, Pendleton, Pocahontas, and Randolph counties plus four Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). These counties and WMAs with limited licenses are proposed to have a bag limit of one antlerless deer. Eight counties and a portion of Hardy County are proposed to have an antlerless deer Class N season with a bag limit of four antlerless deer, 11 counties and portions of two counties are proposed to have a bag limit of two antlerless deer. Sixteen counties and portions of Greenbrier, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph and Wayne counties, and 44 WMAs are proposed to have a bag limit of one antlerless deer during the antlerless deer Class N season. Since 2006 antlerless deer have not been allowed to be taken on an unfilled RG or RGG additional deer license during the antlerless deer Class N season or muzzleloader season and this will be unchanged in 2011. Thus, the maximum total season deer bag limit that can be taken on antlerless Class N licenses in 2011 is four.

During the 2011 muzzleloader deer season the DNR proposes that, in counties with an antlerless deer Class N season bag limit of two or more, hunters would be able to take two deer of either sex during the muzzleloader season, provided the second muzzleloader deer is taken on an additional muzzleloader deer stamp (RM for residents and RMM for nonresident hunters). In counties with a one antlerless deer Class N season bag limit, hunters in the 2011 muzzleloader season can take one deer of either sex but the second muzzleloader season deer taken on the RM or RMM additional muzzleloader deer stamp can only be an antlered deer, provided the hunter has not filled the maximum annual bag limit (excluding special urban archery hunts) of three antlered bucks.

Again, as in 2010, a split three-day Special Youth and Class Q/QQ antlerless deer season is proposed to be held on October 29th and December 26th and 27th on private land in 51 counties and 47 wildlife management areas and three State Forests. Like last year the proposed 2011 Special Youth and Class Q/QQ antlerless deer season **would not** be limited to those counties open to antlerless (Class N) deer hunting, but the season would be open in the 51 counties that are open to a firearms deer season. Therefore, this season **would be closed** in Logan, Mingo, McDowell, and Wyoming counties. In addition, all national forest lands, six state forests, and 27 wildlife management areas **would be closed** to this season.

Early special antlerless deer archery and muzzleloader deer seasons are proposed in 20 counties and a portion of Kanawha County where the antlerless Class N season bag limit is two or more deer. The special, early antlerless deer archery season would open on September 12, 2011 and close on September 17, 2011 and allow for the taking of one additional deer that must be checked on a Class RB or Class RRB Stamp.

The special, early antlerless deer muzzleloader season would open on September 19, 2011 and close on September 24, 2011 and allow for the taking of one additional deer that must be checked on a Class RM or Class RRM Stamp. These early special antlerless archery and muzzleloader seasons were open in September 2009 and 2010 and are being proposed to be open again in 2011.

Overall there should be antlerless deer hunting opportunities for hunters across the state in 2011. However, antlerless deer bag limits in 22 counties and portions of two counties are proposed to be reduced from that of the 2010 deer seasons and two counties (Braxton and Grant) and portions of two counties (Greenbrier and Pendleton) will be reduced from antlerless hunting opportunity for resident and non-resident hunters in 2010, to resident only lottery permits for antlerless deer hunting in 2011. In addition, antlerless deer hunting in two counties (Lincoln and Summers) and portions of two counties (Clay and Mercer) which were open to antlerless deer hunting in 2010 are proposed to be closed in 2011. Please refer to the 2011-2012 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for further details on all deer hunting seasons because the above proposed seasons and bag limits have not been approved by the Natural Resources Commission at this time. White-tailed deer hunting season regulations for 2011 will be published and available to hunters in July of 2011. This newsprint-like pamphlet contains complete information on gun, archery, muzzleloading, and antlerless deer hunting, plus other hunting regulations on turkey, bear, boar, and small game. Hunters will be able to obtain a copy from any DNR office or any business that sells West Virginia hunting licenses or visit the Wildlife Resources Section on the web at www.wvdnr.gov.

In the past year at least two state wildlife agencies have experienced threats to the wild deer resource because of individuals possessing live deer in pens for commercial purposes under state agricultural regulatory agencies. These continuing examples in other states makes the retention of the DNR's regulatory authority over individuals possessing live deer in pens even more important in protecting our state's valuable wildlife resources and associated recreation. The principal threat of transferring authority to an agricultural agency stems from the commerce of live deer that lack any federally approved biologics commonly used by domestic livestock for disease prevention and control. The translocation of a deer and co-mingling of captive native and exotic ungulates is a recipe for a disease problem. Couple this with the fact that the movement of live animals from distant places is a translocation of a biological package which includes known and unknown diseases and pests, then the chances for an unwanted organism to be introduced into West Virginia is increased. There are too many examples of introductions that have caused disastrous results for responsible persons not to take heed and reflect on the costs and benefits of commercializing captive wildlife. Clearly, the agricultural model used to assure the wholesomeness and vigor of domestic animals is not successful with captive deer held for commercial purposes. It is ironic that the captive white-tailed deer industry's economic prosperity is linked to providing "shooter bucks" to shooting preserve operations that exist because of the success of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation that has made the pursuit of white-tailed deer in the wild the leading hunting recreation in West Virginia and the United States. The irony is that the private ownership of white-tailed deer in pens jeopardizes the viability of the wild white-tailed deer resource that drives the demand for deer from pens. This gamble with animal health by the small elk and deer

farming industry jeopardizes the hunting heritage of an estimated 11 million elk and deer hunters nationwide as well as the \$27.9 billion annual economic impact associated with deer hunting. In addition, these initiatives by agricultural interests go against the basic tenets that wildlife species are not to be privately owned commodities for commercial sale. These misguided attempts are a direct threat to the four principles that have made our state's and national wildlife management programs so successful -- public ownership of wildlife; elimination of markets in the meat, parts, and products of game mammals and birds; allocation of the material benefits of wildlife by law, not by the marketplace, birthright, land ownership, or social position; and prohibition of frivolous killing of wildlife. In the minds of West Virginia hunters and non-hunters, hunting is not shooting a privately-owned, semi-tame, semi-domesticated, genetically-engineered, supplementally-fed buck standing over a bait pile in a fenced enclosure.

Efforts to control the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in free-ranging deer in Hampshire County by DNR, landowners, and hunters are ongoing. In the 2010 deer seasons, samples from 1,056 hunter-harvested deer brought to game checking stations in Hampshire County and one station in northern Hardy County were tested for CWD. Ten samples were found to have the abnormal proteins associated with CWD. CWD has now been detected in a total of 83 deer in Hampshire County and one deer in Hardy County: two road-killed deer, one in 2005 and one in 2008; four deer collected by the DNR in 2005; five deer collected by the DNR in 2006; one hunter-harvest deer taken during the 2006 deer season; three deer collected by the DNR in 2007; six hunter-harvested deer taken during the 2007 deer season; 11 deer collected by the DNR in 2008; six hunter-harvested deer taken during the 2008 deer season; nine deer collected by the DNR in 2009; 15 hunter-harvested deer taken during the 2009 deer season; 12 deer collected by the DNR in 2010; and 10 hunter-harvested deer taken during the 2010 deer season.

Lowering encounter rates between infected and non-infected animals by prohibiting artificial supplemental feeding and baiting are generally accepted management practices for slowing the spread of an infectious disease among wildlife and initiating these prohibitions on a statewide or regional basis for deer is a major tool used by other states combating CWD. Currently (February 2011) in West Virginia only Hampshire County has regulations prohibiting the baiting and feeding of deer. However, there are 62 square miles in Hardy County within 5 miles of a known location of a detected CWD positive deer. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources have detected CWD-positive deer adjacent to Hampshire County in Frederick and Allegany counties respectively. Considering the CWD management actions available, documented disease transmission risks associated with artificial supplemental feeding and baiting of deer and the current known distribution of CWD in West Virginia, it would be wise to prohibit and discourage the artificial supplemental feeding and baiting of deer in Hampshire County and in the surrounding counties of Grant, Hardy, Mineral, and Morgan.

For more information on CWD and the current status of the disease in West Virginia contact any DNR office or visit the Wildlife Resources Section on the web at www.wvdnr.gov.

| Table 1. West Virginia antlered buck harvest, 2006-2010. | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| County | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Barbour | 1,527 | 1,380 | 1,413 | 1,307 | 875 |
| Brooke | 479 | 386 | 427 | 377 | 337 |
| Hancock | 447 | 361 | 357 | 339 | 299 |
| Harrison | 1,810 | 1,508 | 1,680 | 1,730 | 1,053 |
| Marion | 1,443 | 1,114 | 1,489 | 1,183 | 764 |
| Marshall | 1,648 | 1,126 | 1,339 | 1,321 | 1,087 |
| Monongalia | 1,953 | 1,474 | 1,927 | 1,536 | 1,116 |
| Ohio | 505 | 438 | 485 | 412 | 412 |
| Preston | 2,616 | 2,309 | 2,618 | 2,122 | 2,034 |
| Taylor | 903 | 724 | 808 | 727 | 494 |
| Tucker | 1,020 | 974 | 951 | 874 | 743 |
| Wetzel | 1,926 | 1,767 | 2,210 | 1,474 | 958 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 16,277 | 13,561 | 15,704 | 13,402 | 10,172 |
| Berkeley | 924 | 973 | 855 | 651 | 661 |
| Grant | 1,544 | 1,733 | 1,531 | 1,228 | 959 |
| Hampshire | 1,949 | 2,223 | 2,153 | 1,634 | 1,271 |
| Hardy | 2,178 | 2,111 | 2,046 | 1,601 | 1,315 |
| Jefferson | 713 | 657 | 605 | 461 | 482 |
| Mineral | 1,388 | 1,420 | 1,383 | 1,158 | 947 |
| Morgan | 845 | 953 | 806 | 573 | 457 |
| Pendleton | 1,850 | 1,698 | 1,416 | 1,257 | 893 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 11,391 | 11,768 | 10,795 | 8,563 | 6,985 |
| Braxton | 1,308 | 2,005 | 1,731 | 1,891 | 986 |
| Clay | 399 | 551 | 540 | 552 | 353 |
| Lewis | 1,778 | 1,952 | 2,027 | 2,227 | 1,130 |
| Nicholas | 991 | 1,216 | 1,082 | 1,176 | 846 |
| Pocahontas | 1,410 | 1,277 | 1,223 | 1,346 | 1,100 |
| Randolph | 1,862 | 1,968 | 2,126 | 1,930 | 1,858 |
| Upshur | 1,432 | 1,517 | 1,536 | 1,383 | 1,088 |
| Webster | 796 | 929 | 887 | 901 | 807 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 9,976 | 11,415 | 11,152 | 11,406 | 8,168 |
| Fayette | 873 | 1,101 | 905 | 896 | 742 |
| Greenbrier | 2,143 | 2,204 | 1,925 | 1,976 | 1,367 |
| Mercer | 662 | 820 | 537 | 604 | 362 |
| Monroe | 1,886 | 2,150 | 1,431 | 1,569 | 1,002 |
| Raleigh | 651 | 842 | 577 | 706 | 446 |
| Summers | 944 | 1,282 | 932 | 931 | 536 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 7,159 | 8,399 | 6,307 | 6,682 | 4,455 |
| Boone | 495 | 676 | 577 | 628 | 471 |
| Cabell | 683 | 947 | 787 | 695 | 464 |
| Kanawha | 1,025 | 1,395 | 1,259 | 1,257 | 896 |
| Lincoln | 832 | 1,126 | 983 | 860 | 747 |
| Mason | 2,067 | 2,154 | 1,892 | 2,099 | 1,298 |
| Putnam | 1,051 | 1,401 | 1,311 | 1,065 | 794 |
| Wayne | 837 | 898 | 768 | 880 | 570 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 6,990 | 8,597 | 7,577 | 7,484 | 5,240 |
| Calhoun | 1,039 | 1,163 | 1,252 | 1,124 | 570 |
| Doddridge | 1,328 | 1,227 | 1,605 | 1,416 | 767 |
| Gilmer | 1,182 | 1,401 | 1,585 | 1,398 | 701 |
| Jackson | 2,122 | 2,081 | 1,948 | 2,504 | 1,225 |
| Pleasants | 588 | 398 | 630 | 531 | 332 |
| Ritchie | 2,147 | 1,564 | 2,369 | 2,010 | 1,195 |
| Roane | 1,691 | 1,873 | 2,010 | 2,112 | 1,049 |
| Tyler | 1,429 | 1,125 | 1,590 | 1,210 | 833 |
| Wirt | 919 | 1,006 | 1,186 | 1,265 | 659 |
| Wood | 1,877 | 1,635 | 1,655 | 1,879 | 1,110 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 14,322 | 13,473 | 15,830 | 15,449 | 8,441 |
| State Total | 66,115 | 67,213 | 67,365 | 62,986 | 43,461 |

| Table 2. Antlered buck gun harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2006-2010. | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Area | Locality | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Monongahela NF | Beaver Dam | 72 | 64 | 79 | 84 | 74 |
| | Blackwater | 196 | 164 | 179 | 168 | 164 |
| | Cheat | 133 | 111 | 93 | 111 | 109 |
| | Cranberry | 172 | 185 | 135 | 209 | 184 |
| | Little River | 304 | 274 | 237 | 273 | 252 |
| | Neola | 208 | 127 | 146 | 125 | 110 |
| | Otter Creek | 113 | 127 | 116 | 144 | 112 |
| | Potomac | 453 | 432 | 327 | 305 | 244 |
| | Rimel | 177 | 92 | 134 | 115 | 120 |
| | Tea Creek | 77 | 96 | 70 | 74 | 70 |
| | Monongahela NF Total | | 1,905 | 1,672 | 1,516 | 1,608 |
| George Washington NF | Shenandoah | 157 | 60 | 56 | 38 | 47 |
| | Wardensville | 291 | 278 | 226 | 151 | 150 |
| | Wilson Cove | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| George Washington NF Total | | 448 | 338 | 283 | 189 | 199 |
| Jefferson NF | | 107 | 68 | 51 | 39 | 50 |
| Jefferson NF Total | | 107 | 68 | 51 | 39 | 50 |
| State Land | Allegheny | 8 | 17 | 15 | 6 | 4 |
| | Amherst/Plymouth | 17 | 29 | 19 | 15 | 17 |
| | Bear Rocks | 7 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | Becky Creek | 0 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 16 |
| | Beech Fork | 7 | 20 | 9 | 13 | 3 |
| | Beury Mtn | 4 | 14 | 13 | 14 | 13 |
| | Big Ditch | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | Big Ugly | 4 | 17 | 15 | 15 | 17 |
| | Bluestone | 15 | 22 | 17 | 17 | 16 |
| | Briery Mnt | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| | Burches Run | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Burnsville | 2 | 25 | 22 | 21 | 7 |
| | Cabwaylingo Sf | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| | Calvin Price Sf | 23 | 8 | 14 | 2 | 5 |
| | Camp Creek Sf | 21 | 4 | 15 | 17 | 5 |
| | Castleman Run | 14 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 8 |
| | Center Branch | 8 | 4 | 13 | 9 | 3 |
| | Conaway Run | 8 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| | Coopers Rock Sf | 12 | 31 | 28 | 16 | 19 |
| | Cornstalk | 96 | 112 | 73 | 72 | 61 |
| | Cross Creek | 20 | 27 | 20 | 23 | 20 |
| | Dents Run WMA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Dunkards Fork | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | East Lynn | 26 | 27 | 29 | 8 | 14 |
| | Edwards Run | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| | Elk Fork | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Elk River | 48 | 106 | 63 | 55 | 42 |
| | Fork Creek | 18 | 24 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | Fort Mill Ridge | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | Fox Forest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Frozen Camp | 24 | 21 | 10 | 25 | 12 |
| | Green Bottom | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| | Greenbrier Sf | 16 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 11 |
| Handley | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | |
| Hillcrest | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | |
| Hughes River | 54 | 13 | 50 | 54 | 31 | |
| Huttonsville | 7 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | |
| Kanawha Sf | 19 | 14 | 10 | 16 | 26 | |
| Kumbrabow Sf | 9 | 9 | 18 | 16 | 11 | |
| Lantz Farm | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Lewis Wetzel | 80 | 108 | 117 | 70 | 46 | |

| Table 2. Continued. | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Area | Locality | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| State Land | Little Indian Cr | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | McClintic | 6 | 16 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| | Meadow River | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 4 |
| | Mill Creek | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| | Moncove | 9 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| | Morris Creek | 10 | 17 | 4 | 10 | 6 |
| | Nathaniel Mnt | 46 | 52 | 54 | 47 | 30 |
| | Pedlar | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| | Pleasants Creek | 17 | 5 | 11 | 7 | 3 |
| | Plum Orchard | 5 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 1 |
| | Pruntytown | 10 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 3 |
| | Ritchie Mines | 15 | 9 | 14 | 3 | 7 |
| | Seneca Sf | 36 | 22 | 39 | 32 | 25 |
| | Shannondale | 25 | 31 | 27 | 12 | 16 |
| | Short Mnt | 72 | 61 | 52 | 43 | 49 |
| | Sleepy Creek | 204 | 202 | 190 | 69 | 77 |
| | Smoke Camp | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | Snake Hill | 9 | 13 | 12 | 7 | 5 |
| | South Branch | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | Stonecoal | 19 | 19 | 18 | 24 | 11 |
| | Stonewall Jck | 130 | 174 | 157 | 170 | 95 |
| | Stumptown | 5 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| | Summersville | 17 | 23 | 8 | 12 | 8 |
| | Sutton Res | 8 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 1 |
| | Tate Lohr | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Teter Creek | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | The Jug | 16 | 25 | 31 | 16 | 12 |
| | Thorn Creek | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Underwood | 14 | 11 | 3 | 9 | 17 |
| | Upper Mud River | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| | Wallback | 6 | 5 | 9 | 27 | 6 |
| | Widmyer | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Woodrum | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| State Land Total | | 1,275 | 1,435 | 1,313 | 1,106 | 845 |
| Private Land | | 62,355 | 63,651 | 64,202 | 60,034 | 40,926 |
| Unknown | | 25 | 49 | 0 | 10 | 2 |
| State Total | | 66,115 | 67,213 | 67,365 | 62,986 | 43,461 |

Table 3. West Virginia white-tailed deer bow harvest, 2006-2010.

| County | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 520 | 556 | 678 | 522 | 429 |
| Brooke | 330 | 257 | 299 | 297 | 215 |
| Hancock | 381 | 284 | 402 | 419 | 343 |
| Harrison | 504 | 475 | 563 | 572 | 466 |
| Marion | 494 | 396 | 670 | 494 | 366 |
| Marshall | 435 | 303 | 449 | 409 | 392 |
| Monongalia | 715 | 625 | 870 | 685 | 691 |
| Ohio | 263 | 203 | 222 | 227 | 213 |
| Preston | 1,230 | 1,171 | 1,473 | 1,213 | 1,140 |
| Taylor | 276 | 257 | 375 | 286 | 273 |
| Tucker | 495 | 482 | 597 | 431 | 407 |
| Wetzel | 358 | 317 | 525 | 353 | 222 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 6,001 | 5,326 | 7,123 | 5,908 | 5,157 |
| Berkeley | 382 | 375 | 465 | 457 | 374 |
| Grant | 422 | 461 | 535 | 453 | 301 |
| Hampshire | 254 | 278 | 400 | 317 | 179 |
| Hardy | 419 | 465 | 479 | 441 | 269 |
| Jefferson | 362 | 344 | 385 | 361 | 354 |
| Mineral | 333 | 342 | 378 | 323 | 238 |
| Morgan | 180 | 255 | 264 | 225 | 164 |
| Pendleton | 438 | 482 | 413 | 372 | 233 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 2,790 | 3,002 | 3,319 | 2,949 | 2,112 |
| Braxton | 421 | 595 | 736 | 661 | 400 |
| Clay | 229 | 262 | 329 | 309 | 209 |
| Lewis | 458 | 488 | 588 | 610 | 352 |
| Nicholas | 809 | 862 | 864 | 842 | 652 |
| Pocahontas | 393 | 455 | 396 | 408 | 348 |
| Randolph | 1,002 | 998 | 1,286 | 1,048 | 1,011 |
| Upshur | 536 | 604 | 710 | 603 | 472 |
| Webster | 494 | 548 | 650 | 628 | 528 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 4,342 | 4,812 | 5,559 | 5,109 | 3,972 |
| Fayette | 656 | 830 | 723 | 752 | 516 |
| Greenbrier | 800 | 929 | 777 | 832 | 556 |
| McDowell | 642 | 944 | 739 | 609 | 412 |
| Mercer | 483 | 646 | 575 | 547 | 331 |
| Monroe | 558 | 702 | 641 | 645 | 370 |
| Raleigh | 640 | 786 | 664 | 718 | 595 |
| Summers | 490 | 636 | 620 | 526 | 335 |
| Wyoming | 611 | 884 | 747 | 681 | 560 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 4,880 | 6,357 | 5,486 | 5,310 | 3,675 |
| Boone | 276 | 288 | 381 | 380 | 349 |
| Cabell | 310 | 364 | 444 | 387 | 303 |
| Kanawha | 579 | 750 | 919 | 939 | 723 |
| Lincoln | 300 | 304 | 428 | 428 | 418 |
| Logan | 491 | 668 | 714 | 729 | 469 |
| Mason | 774 | 818 | 861 | 778 | 691 |
| Mingo | 273 | 286 | 343 | 329 | 259 |
| Putnam | 485 | 560 | 611 | 542 | 446 |
| Wayne | 298 | 296 | 366 | 326 | 311 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 3,786 | 4,334 | 5,067 | 4,838 | 3,969 |
| Calhoun | 248 | 273 | 384 | 299 | 202 |
| Doddridge | 235 | 239 | 278 | 279 | 167 |
| Gilmer | 226 | 251 | 420 | 348 | 200 |
| Jackson | 560 | 651 | 751 | 795 | 505 |
| Pleasants | 114 | 88 | 139 | 108 | 84 |
| Ritchie | 477 | 385 | 601 | 486 | 390 |
| Roane | 440 | 476 | 661 | 632 | 400 |
| Tyler | 310 | 264 | 421 | 272 | 258 |
| Wirt | 291 | 343 | 433 | 391 | 274 |
| Wood | 601 | 639 | 766 | 758 | 597 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 3,502 | 3,609 | 4,854 | 4,368 | 3,077 |
| State Total | 25,301 | 27,440 | 31,408 | 28,482 | 21,962 |

Table 4. Deer bow harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2006-2010.

| Area | Locality | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Monongahela NF | Beaver Dam | 43 | 37 | 38 | 42 | 24 |
| | Blackwater | 74 | 89 | 99 | 96 | 80 |
| | Cheat | 58 | 36 | 55 | 39 | 40 |
| | Cranberry | 93 | 96 | 90 | 84 | 72 |
| | Little River | 103 | 91 | 106 | 99 | 89 |
| | Neola | 30 | 45 | 27 | 24 | 13 |
| | Otter Creek | 33 | 27 | 63 | 30 | 45 |
| | Potomac | 124 | 170 | 148 | 134 | 82 |
| | Rimel | 17 | 26 | 17 | 12 | 22 |
| | Tea Creek | 13 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Monongahela NF Total | | 588 | 628 | 656 | 573 | 480 |
| George Washington NF | Shenandoah | 33 | 26 | 20 | 11 | 10 |
| | Wardensville | 48 | 42 | 49 | 31 | 24 |
| George Washington NF Total | | 81 | 68 | 69 | 42 | 34 |
| Jefferson NF | | 11 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 9 |
| Jefferson NF Total | | 11 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 9 |
| State Land | Allegheny | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| | Amherst/plymouth | 0 | 11 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| | Anawalt | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | Bear Rocks | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| | Becky Creek | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| | Beech Fork | 6 | 3 | 13 | 9 | 5 |
| | Berwind | 23 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| | Beury Mtn | 9 | 20 | 13 | 16 | 6 |
| | Big Ditch | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | Big Ugly | 0 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| | Bluestone | 62 | 67 | 60 | 27 | 20 |
| | Briery Mnt | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Burches Run | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Burnsville | 20 | 43 | 49 | 31 | 19 |
| | Cabwaylingo Sf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | Calvin Price Sf | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | Camp Creek Sf | 4 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| | Castleman Run | 1 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| | Center Branch | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| | Conaway Run | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Coopers Rock Sf | 8 | 18 | 19 | 7 | 13 |
| | Cornstalk | 51 | 59 | 48 | 31 | 39 |
| | Cross Creek | 3 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| | Dents Run WMA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | East Lynn | 3 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| | Edwards Run | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Elk Creek | 0 | 0 | 8 | 12 | 6 |
| | Elk Fork | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Elk River | 30 | 31 | 32 | 37 | 35 |
| | Fork Creek | 2 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Fort Mill Ridge | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Frozen Camp | 5 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| | Green Bottom | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| | Greenbrier Sf | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | Handley | 3 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | Hillcrest | 20 | 9 | 15 | 7 | 17 |
| Horse Crk | 3 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 0 | |
| Hughes River | 14 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | |
| Huttonsville | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | |
| Kanawha Sf | 5 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 10 | |
| Kumbrabow Sf | 4 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 5 | |
| Laurel Lake | 4 | 5 | 13 | 9 | 8 | |
| Lewis Wetzel | 6 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 9 | |

| Table 4. Continued. | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Area | Locality | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| State Land | Little Indian Cr | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| | Mcclintic | 14 | 24 | 8 | 7 | 19 |
| | Meadow River | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| | Mill Creek | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Moncove | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Morris Creek | 3 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| | Nathaniel Mnt | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| | Panther Sf | 16 | 23 | 25 | 21 | 6 |
| | Pedlar | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| | Pleasants Creek | 6 | 13 | 16 | 1 | 10 |
| | Plum Orchard | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| | Pruntytown | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| | R D Bailey | 91 | 133 | 117 | 87 | 18 |
| | Ritchie Mines | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Seneca Sf | 5 | 4 | 11 | 7 | 5 |
| | Shannondale | 14 | 24 | 23 | 18 | 22 |
| | Short Mnt | 7 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| | Sleepy Creek | 28 | 35 | 25 | 26 | 13 |
| | Smoke Camp | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Snake Hill | 6 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| | South Branch | 0 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| | Stonecoal | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| | Stonewall Jck | 41 | 40 | 60 | 53 | 28 |
| | Stumptown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Summersville | 13 | 20 | 14 | 11 | 9 |
| | Sutton Res | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Tate Lohr | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Teter Creek | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | The Jug | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| | Tug Fork | 14 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 1 |
| | Underwood | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Upper Mud River | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| | Wallback | 12 | 10 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| Widmyer | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| State Land Total | | 622 | 797 | 721 | 533 | 436 |
| Private Land | | 23,980 | 25,927 | 29,956 | 27,302 | 20,997 |
| Unknown | | 19 | 13 | 0 | 23 | 6 |
| State Total | | 25,301 | 27,440 | 31,408 | 28,482 | 21,962 |

Table 5. West Virginia antlerless gun harvest, 2006-2010.

| County | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 1,127 | 1,361 | 1,733 | 1,580 | 1,184 |
| Brooke | 613 | 609 | 560 | 590 | 501 |
| Hancock | 533 | 477 | 444 | 545 | 373 |
| Harrison | 2,055 | 1,632 | 1,919 | 1,939 | 1,208 |
| Marion | 1,464 | 863 | 1,538 | 1,488 | 895 |
| Marshall | 1,540 | 1,069 | 1,208 | 1,257 | 926 |
| Monongalia | 1,827 | 1,243 | 1,712 | 1,589 | 1,235 |
| Ohio | 602 | 471 | 443 | 477 | 348 |
| Preston | 1,956 | 2,178 | 2,832 | 2,421 | 1,920 |
| Taylor | 933 | 735 | 889 | 875 | 662 |
| Tucker | 0 | 257 | 702 | 582 | 266 |
| Wetzel | 1,680 | 1,336 | 1,872 | 1,417 | 942 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 14,330 | 12,231 | 15,852 | 14,760 | 10,460 |
| Berkeley | 651 | 659 | 775 | 728 | 557 |
| Grant | 565 | 739 | 1,116 | 954 | 559 |
| Hampshire | 1,369 | 1,503 | 1,850 | 1,575 | 905 |
| Hardy | 1,513 | 1,395 | 1,694 | 1,610 | 800 |
| Jefferson | 565 | 469 | 565 | 529 | 410 |
| Mineral | 1,213 | 1,128 | 1,171 | 1,160 | 861 |
| Morgan | 598 | 612 | 793 | 723 | 477 |
| Pendleton | 303 | 789 | 979 | 1,046 | 358 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 6,777 | 7,294 | 8,943 | 8,325 | 4,927 |
| Braxton | 0 | 478 | 1,556 | 1,656 | 1,032 |
| Clay | 0 | 25 | 44 | 172 | 114 |
| Lewis | 1,660 | 1,470 | 2,132 | 2,583 | 1,350 |
| Nicholas | 0 | 131 | 179 | 267 | 197 |
| Pocahontas | 0 | 59 | 81 | 93 | 267 |
| Randolph | 0 | 171 | 292 | 724 | 539 |
| Upshur | 638 | 1,397 | 1,485 | 1,307 | 1,021 |
| Webster | 0 | 86 | 134 | 164 | 131 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 2,298 | 3,817 | 5,903 | 6,966 | 4,651 |
| Fayette | 0 | 340 | 856 | 357 | 73 |
| Greenbrier | 0 | 1,337 | 1,273 | 1,145 | 574 |
| Mercer | 0 | 661 | 441 | 414 | 110 |
| Monroe | 521 | 1,865 | 1,487 | 1,745 | 952 |
| Raleigh | 1 | 49 | 296 | 75 | 57 |
| Summers | 112 | 275 | 1,039 | 1,041 | 329 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 634 | 4,527 | 5,392 | 4,777 | 2,095 |
| Boone | 0 | 22 | 25 | 34 | 51 |
| Cabell | 196 | 417 | 627 | 560 | 452 |
| Kanawha | 213 | 510 | 718 | 649 | 547 |
| Lincoln | 0 | 25 | 60 | 54 | 225 |
| Mason | 2,262 | 2,191 | 2,390 | 2,204 | 1,617 |
| Putnam | 738 | 802 | 1,382 | 1,020 | 840 |
| Wayne | 155 | 289 | 313 | 324 | 242 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 3,564 | 4,256 | 5,515 | 4,845 | 3,974 |
| Calhoun | 735 | 683 | 918 | 1,004 | 527 |
| Doddridge | 912 | 729 | 1,113 | 1,233 | 550 |
| Gilmer | 359 | 741 | 1,447 | 1,165 | 664 |
| Jackson | 2,259 | 2,053 | 2,104 | 2,508 | 1,270 |
| Pleasants | 585 | 332 | 461 | 509 | 347 |
| Ritchie | 1,466 | 1,505 | 2,087 | 2,069 | 1,188 |
| Roane | 656 | 1,337 | 1,587 | 1,603 | 1,050 |
| Tyler | 1,459 | 1,119 | 1,566 | 1,440 | 899 |
| Wirt | 1,265 | 1,113 | 1,225 | 1,240 | 753 |
| Wood | 2,020 | 1,889 | 2,108 | 2,070 | 1,245 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 11,716 | 11,501 | 14,616 | 14,841 | 8,493 |
| State Total | 39,319 | 43,626 | 56,221 | 54,514 | 34,600 |

| Table 6. Antlerless deer harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2006-2010. | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Area | Locality | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Monongahela NF | Beaver Dam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | Blackwater | 10 | 18 | 114 | 85 | 44 |
| | Cheat | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Cranberry | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | Little River | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | Neola | 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | Otter Creek | 0 | 1 | 33 | 26 | 7 |
| | Potomac | 35 | 46 | 160 | 155 | 17 |
| | Rimel | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Monongahela NF Total | | 45 | 71 | 314 | 272 | 71 |
| George Washington NF | Shenandoah | 3 | 10 | 41 | 25 | 2 |
| | Wardensville | 44 | 36 | 83 | 51 | 39 |
| George Washington NF Total | | 47 | 46 | 124 | 76 | 41 |
| Jefferson NF | | 2 | 3 | 8 | 16 | 3 |
| Jefferson NF Total | | 2 | 3 | 8 | 16 | 3 |
| State Land | Allegheny | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| | Amherst/Plymouth | 0 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 13 |
| | Bear Rocks | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | Becky Creek | 0 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| | Beech Fork | 4 | 15 | 21 | 21 | 13 |
| | Beury Mtn | 0 | 3 | 37 | 4 | 12 |
| | Big Ugly | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| | Bluestone | 113 | 188 | 145 | 169 | 83 |
| | Briery Mnt | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| | Burches Run | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Burnsville | 0 | 20 | 28 | 47 | 51 |
| | Cabwaylingo Sf | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Camp Creek Sf | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| | Castleman Run | 4 | 17 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| | Center Branch | 9 | 4 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| | Conaway Run | 7 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Coopers Rock Sf | 30 | 21 | 55 | 42 | 65 |
| | Cornstalk | 51 | 33 | 127 | 76 | 79 |
| | Cross Creek | 8 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| | Dunkards Fork | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | East Lynn | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| | Edwards Run | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| | Elk Fork | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Elk River | 0 | 0 | 1 | 36 | 27 |
| | Fort Mill Ridge | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| | Frozen Camp | 38 | 24 | 43 | 40 | 23 |
| | Green Bottom | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| | Greenbrier Sf | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | Hillcrest | 9 | 9 | 4 | 12 | 4 |
| | Hughes River | 32 | 20 | 61 | 45 | 30 |
| | Huttonsville | 0 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| | Kanawha Sf | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Kumbrabow Sf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Lewis Wetzel | 17 | 14 | 50 | 27 | 19 |
| | Little Indian Cr | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| | McClintic | 31 | 30 | 49 | 31 | 26 |
| Meadow River | 0 | 10 | 15 | 9 | 0 | |
| Mill Creek | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Moncove | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | |
| Morris Creek | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | |
| Nathaniel Mnt | 5 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 1 | |
| Pedlar | 4 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 6 | |
| Pleasants Creek | 11 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 13 | |
| Plum Orchard | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | |
| Pruntytown | 7 | 4 | 7 | 20 | 2 | |
| Ritchie Mines | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | |
| Shannondale | 13 | 18 | 27 | 19 | 18 | |

| Table 6. Continued. | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Area | Locality | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| State Land | Short Mnt | 33 | 29 | 42 | 22 | 21 |
| | Sleepy Creek | 38 | 32 | 108 | 70 | 42 |
| | Snake Hill | 3 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| | South Branch | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| | Stonecoal | 16 | 15 | 16 | 3 | 7 |
| | Stonewall Jck | 140 | 127 | 84 | 196 | 90 |
| | Stumptown | 3 | 0 | 16 | 5 | 7 |
| | Sutton Res | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | Tate Lohr | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| | Teter Creek | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | The Jug | 14 | 5 | 15 | 13 | 16 |
| | Underwood | 16 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 11 |
| | Upper Mud River | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Wallback | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Widmyer | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Woodrum | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| State Land Total | | 679 | 721 | 1,063 | 1,062 | 755 |
| Private Land | | 38,532 | 42,769 | 54,712 | 53,081 | 33,724 |
| Unknown | | 14 | 16 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| State Total | | 39,319 | 43,626 | 56,221 | 54,514 | 34,600 |

| Table 7. Muzzleloader deer seasons in West Virginia, 2006-2010. | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| County | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Barbour | 221 | 220 | 256 | 247 | 226 |
| Brooke | 62 | 53 | 63 | 96 | 88 |
| Hancock | 91 | 69 | 100 | 121 | 103 |
| Harrison | 216 | 210 | 241 | 268 | 197 |
| Marion | 143 | 79 | 179 | 177 | 128 |
| Marshall | 179 | 161 | 208 | 227 | 177 |
| Monongalia | 251 | 173 | 195 | 189 | 185 |
| Ohio | 74 | 71 | 66 | 62 | 65 |
| Preston | 330 | 321 | 323 | 450 | 314 |
| Taylor | 107 | 90 | 105 | 102 | 130 |
| Tucker | 25 | 208 | 159 | 105 | 140 |
| Wetzel | 204 | 191 | 246 | 247 | 118 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 1,903 | 1,846 | 2,141 | 2,291 | 1,871 |
| Berkeley | 107 | 102 | 91 | 118 | 109 |
| Grant | 219 | 240 | 231 | 278 | 124 |
| Hampshire | 129 | 185 | 216 | 224 | 119 |
| Hardy | 228 | 213 | 196 | 213 | 128 |
| Jefferson | 90 | 93 | 78 | 82 | 55 |
| Mineral | 121 | 137 | 149 | 162 | 137 |
| Morgan | 83 | 87 | 111 | 108 | 81 |
| Pendleton | 192 | 205 | 164 | 209 | 50 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 1,169 | 1,262 | 1,236 | 1,394 | 803 |
| Braxton | 39 | 403 | 541 | 333 | 271 |
| Clay | 4 | 20 | 7 | 39 | 28 |
| Lewis | 390 | 356 | 399 | 455 | 225 |
| Nicholas | 34 | 39 | 33 | 33 | 36 |
| Pocahontas | 44 | 32 | 19 | 18 | 106 |
| Randolph | 39 | 46 | 36 | 310 | 398 |
| Upshur | 257 | 274 | 233 | 195 | 176 |
| Webster | 15 | 22 | 9 | 20 | 24 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 822 | 1,192 | 1,277 | 1,403 | 1,264 |
| Fayette | 25 | 275 | 181 | 175 | 18 |
| Greenbrier | 76 | 293 | 216 | 240 | 115 |
| Mercer | 25 | 114 | 78 | 120 | 28 |
| Monroe | 289 | 320 | 189 | 275 | 146 |
| Raleigh | 22 | 32 | 91 | 36 | 22 |
| Summers | 36 | 52 | 167 | 134 | 82 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 473 | 1,086 | 922 | 980 | 411 |
| Boone | 9 | 20 | 21 | 25 | 15 |
| Cabell | 82 | 102 | 93 | 126 | 86 |
| Kanawha | 90 | 137 | 119 | 154 | 123 |
| Lincoln | 20 | 18 | 38 | 44 | 167 |
| Mason | 288 | 258 | 321 | 308 | 245 |
| Putnam | 112 | 146 | 160 | 147 | 131 |
| Wayne | 66 | 67 | 73 | 84 | 45 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 667 | 748 | 825 | 888 | 812 |
| Calhoun | 144 | 117 | 165 | 194 | 102 |
| Doddridge | 158 | 96 | 180 | 197 | 78 |
| Gilmer | 211 | 124 | 271 | 240 | 101 |
| Jackson | 279 | 252 | 285 | 380 | 200 |
| Pleasants | 64 | 46 | 54 | 57 | 53 |
| Ritchie | 268 | 195 | 301 | 288 | 181 |
| Roane | 186 | 233 | 277 | 212 | 141 |
| Tyler | 158 | 124 | 202 | 192 | 124 |
| Wirt | 154 | 135 | 210 | 224 | 154 |
| Wood | 230 | 202 | 263 | 292 | 181 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 1,852 | 1,524 | 2,208 | 2,276 | 1,315 |
| State Total | 6,886 | 7,658 | 8,609 | 9,232 | 6,476 |

Table 8. Deer mortality by type of season, 2010.

| County | Buck Gun | Antlerless | Bow | Muzzleloader | Total |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Barbour | 875 | 1,184 | 429 | 226 | 2,714 |
| Brooke | 337 | 501 | 215 | 88 | 1,141 |
| Hancock | 299 | 373 | 343 | 103 | 1,118 |
| Harrison | 1,053 | 1,208 | 466 | 197 | 2,924 |
| Marion | 764 | 895 | 366 | 128 | 2,153 |
| Marshall | 1,087 | 926 | 392 | 177 | 2,582 |
| Monongalia | 1,116 | 1,235 | 691 | 185 | 3,227 |
| Ohio | 412 | 348 | 213 | 65 | 1,038 |
| Preston | 2,034 | 1,920 | 1,140 | 314 | 5,408 |
| Taylor | 494 | 662 | 273 | 130 | 1,559 |
| Tucker | 743 | 266 | 407 | 140 | 1,556 |
| Wetzel | 958 | 942 | 222 | 118 | 2,240 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 10,172 | 10,460 | 5,157 | 1,871 | 27,660 |
| Berkeley | 661 | 557 | 374 | 109 | 1,701 |
| Grant | 959 | 559 | 301 | 124 | 1,943 |
| Hampshire | 1,271 | 905 | 179 | 119 | 2,474 |
| Hardy | 1,315 | 800 | 269 | 128 | 2,512 |
| Jefferson | 482 | 410 | 354 | 55 | 1,301 |
| Mineral | 947 | 861 | 238 | 137 | 2,183 |
| Morgan | 457 | 477 | 164 | 81 | 1,179 |
| Pendleton | 893 | 358 | 233 | 50 | 1,534 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 6,985 | 4,927 | 2,112 | 803 | 14,827 |
| Braxton | 986 | 1,032 | 400 | 271 | 2,689 |
| Clay | 353 | 114 | 209 | 28 | 704 |
| Lewis | 1,130 | 1,350 | 352 | 225 | 3,057 |
| Nicholas | 846 | 197 | 652 | 36 | 1,731 |
| Pocahontas | 1,100 | 267 | 348 | 106 | 1,821 |
| Randolph | 1,858 | 539 | 1,011 | 398 | 3,806 |
| Upshur | 1,088 | 1,021 | 472 | 176 | 2,757 |
| Webster | 807 | 131 | 528 | 24 | 1,490 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 8,168 | 4,651 | 3,972 | 1,264 | 18,055 |
| Fayette | 742 | 73 | 516 | 18 | 1,349 |
| Greenbrier | 1,367 | 574 | 556 | 115 | 2,612 |
| McDowell | 0 | 0 | 412 | 0 | 412 |
| Mercer | 362 | 110 | 331 | 28 | 831 |
| Monroe | 1,002 | 952 | 370 | 146 | 2,470 |
| Raleigh | 446 | 57 | 595 | 22 | 1,120 |
| Summers | 536 | 329 | 335 | 82 | 1,282 |
| Wyoming | 0 | 0 | 560 | 0 | 560 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 4,455 | 2,095 | 3,675 | 411 | 10,636 |
| Boone | 471 | 51 | 349 | 15 | 886 |
| Cabell | 464 | 452 | 303 | 86 | 1,305 |
| Kanawha | 896 | 547 | 723 | 123 | 2,289 |
| Lincoln | 747 | 225 | 418 | 167 | 1,557 |
| Logan | 0 | 0 | 469 | 0 | 469 |
| Mason | 1,298 | 1,617 | 691 | 245 | 3,851 |
| Mingo | 0 | 0 | 259 | 0 | 259 |
| Putnam | 794 | 840 | 446 | 131 | 2,211 |
| Wayne | 570 | 242 | 311 | 45 | 1,168 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 5,240 | 3,974 | 3,969 | 812 | 13,995 |
| Calhoun | 570 | 527 | 202 | 102 | 1,401 |
| Doddridge | 767 | 550 | 167 | 78 | 1,562 |
| Gilmer | 701 | 664 | 200 | 101 | 1,666 |
| Jackson | 1,225 | 1,270 | 505 | 200 | 3,200 |
| Pleasants | 332 | 347 | 84 | 53 | 816 |
| Ritchie | 1,195 | 1,188 | 390 | 181 | 2,954 |
| Roane | 1,049 | 1,050 | 400 | 141 | 2,640 |
| Tyler | 833 | 899 | 258 | 124 | 2,114 |
| Wirt | 659 | 753 | 274 | 154 | 1,840 |
| Wood | 1,110 | 1,245 | 597 | 181 | 3,133 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 8,441 | 8,493 | 3,077 | 1,315 | 21,326 |
| State Total | 43,461 | 34,600 | 21,962 | 6,476 | 106,499 |

Table 9. West Virginia 2010 deer kill per square mile of habitat by season (calculated using deer habitat open by county for season, all seasons combined kill based on total deer harvest).

| County | Area | Bucks | Antlerless | Muzzleloader | Archery | All Seasons Combined |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Barbour | 324 | 2.70 | 3.65 | 0.70 | 1.32 | 8.38 |
| Brooke | 76 | 4.43 | 6.59 | 1.16 | 2.83 | 15.01 |
| Hancock | 61 | 4.90 | 6.11 | 1.69 | 5.62 | 18.33 |
| Harrison | 390 | 2.70 | 3.10 | 0.51 | 1.19 | 7.50 |
| Marion | 273 | 2.80 | 3.28 | 0.47 | 1.34 | 7.89 |
| Marshall | 270 | 4.03 | 3.43 | 0.66 | 1.45 | 9.56 |
| Monongalia | 312 | 3.58 | 3.96 | 0.59 | 2.21 | 10.34 |
| Ohio | 85 | 4.85 | 4.09 | 0.76 | 2.51 | 12.21 |
| Preston | 612 | 3.32 | 3.14 | 0.51 | 1.86 | 8.84 |
| Taylor | 157 | 3.15 | 4.22 | 0.83 | 1.74 | 9.93 |
| Tucker | 412 | 1.80 | 0.65 | 0.34 | 0.99 | 3.78 |
| Wetzel | 353 | 2.71 | 2.67 | 0.33 | 0.63 | 6.35 |
| Dist. I Subtotal | 3325 | 3.06 | 3.15 | 0.56 | 1.55 | 8.32 |
| Berkeley | 279 | 2.37 | 2.00 | 0.39 | 1.34 | 6.10 |
| Grant | 474 | 2.02 | 1.18 | 0.26 | 0.64 | 4.10 |
| Hampshire | 621 | 2.05 | 1.46 | 0.19 | 0.29 | 3.98 |
| Hardy | 567 | 2.32 | 1.41 | 0.23 | 0.47 | 4.43 |
| Jefferson | 192 | 2.51 | 2.14 | 0.29 | 1.84 | 6.78 |
| Mineral | 318 | 2.98 | 2.71 | 0.43 | 0.75 | 6.86 |
| Morgan | 222 | 2.06 | 2.15 | 0.36 | 0.74 | 5.31 |
| Pendleton | 689 | 1.30 | 0.74 | 0.07 | 0.34 | 2.23 |
| Dist. II Subtotal | 3362 | 2.08 | 1.55 | 0.24 | 0.63 | 4.41 |
| Braxton | 499 | 1.98 | 2.07 | 0.54 | 0.80 | 5.39 |
| Clay | 336 | 1.05 | 1.08 | 0.08 | 0.62 | 2.10 |
| Lewis | 381 | 2.97 | 3.54 | 0.59 | 0.92 | 8.02 |
| Nicholas | 616 | 1.37 | 0.32 | 0.06 | 1.06 | 2.81 |
| Pocahontas | 930 | 1.18 | 0.63 | 0.11 | 0.37 | 1.96 |
| Randolph | 1015 | 1.83 | 0.80 | 0.39 | 1.00 | 3.75 |
| Upshur | 340 | 3.20 | 3.00 | 0.52 | 1.39 | 8.11 |
| Webster | 544 | 1.48 | 0.24 | 0.04 | 0.97 | 2.74 |
| Dist. III Subtotal | 4661 | 1.75 | 1.92 | 0.27 | 0.85 | 3.87 |
| Fayette | 594 | 1.25 | 0.12 | 0.03 | 0.87 | 2.27 |
| Greenbrier | 986 | 1.39 | 1.62 | 0.12 | 0.56 | 2.65 |
| McDowell | 486 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.85 | 0.85 |
| Mercer | 367 | 0.99 | 0.65 | 0.08 | 0.90 | 2.26 |
| Monroe | 466 | 2.15 | 2.20 | 0.31 | 0.79 | 5.30 |
| Raleigh | 548 | 0.81 | 0.10 | 0.04 | 1.09 | 2.04 |
| Summers | 344 | 1.56 | 0.96 | 0.24 | 0.97 | 3.73 |
| Wyoming | 495 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.13 | 1.13 |
| Dist. IV Subtotal | 4286 | 1.35 | 1.18 | 0.12 | 0.86 | 2.48 |
| Boone | 490 | 0.96 | 0.10 | 0.03 | 0.71 | 1.81 |
| Cabell | 247 | 1.88 | 1.83 | 0.35 | 1.23 | 5.28 |
| Kanawha | 804 | 1.11 | 2.10 | 0.15 | 0.90 | 2.85 |
| Lincoln | 424 | 1.76 | 0.53 | 0.39 | 0.99 | 3.67 |
| Logan | 444 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.06 | 1.06 |
| Mason | 407 | 3.19 | 3.97 | 0.60 | 1.70 | 9.46 |
| Mingo | 403 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.64 | 0.64 |
| Putnam | 331 | 2.40 | 2.54 | 0.40 | 1.35 | 6.68 |
| Wayne | 499 | 1.14 | 1.13 | 0.09 | 0.62 | 2.34 |
| Dist. V Subtotal | 4049 | 1.64 | 2.11 | 0.25 | 0.98 | 3.46 |
| Calhoun | 277 | 2.06 | 1.90 | 0.37 | 0.73 | 5.06 |
| Doddridge | 310 | 2.47 | 1.77 | 0.25 | 0.54 | 5.04 |
| Gilmer | 333 | 2.11 | 1.99 | 0.30 | 0.60 | 5.00 |
| Jackson | 452 | 2.71 | 2.81 | 0.44 | 1.12 | 7.08 |
| Pleasants | 119 | 2.79 | 2.92 | 0.45 | 0.71 | 6.86 |
| Ritchie | 439 | 2.72 | 2.71 | 0.41 | 0.89 | 6.73 |
| Roane | 476 | 2.20 | 2.21 | 0.30 | 0.84 | 5.55 |
| Tyler | 246 | 3.39 | 3.65 | 0.50 | 1.05 | 8.59 |
| Wirt | 232 | 2.84 | 3.25 | 0.66 | 1.18 | 7.93 |
| Wood | 309 | 3.59 | 4.03 | 0.59 | 1.93 | 10.14 |
| Dist. VI Subtotal | 3193 | 2.64 | 2.66 | 0.41 | 0.96 | 6.68 |
| State Total | 22,876 | 2.06 | 2.19 | 0.31 | 0.96 | 4.66 |

*Note counties or portions thereof not open to Class N antlerless deer season include special youth Class Q season harvest but kill per square mile is calculated only on area open to Class N season if a portion of the county is closed to Class N season

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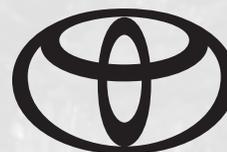
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