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BLACK BEAR

By

Colin P. Carpenter

Season Results and Highlights

West Virginia hunters harvested 2,425 black bears during the combined 2014 archery and firearms seasons (Tables 1, 2 and 3). This is the fifth time the kill has topped 2,000 in the past 5 years. The harvest of 2014 was 10% lower than the 2013 harvest of 2,692 bears and is the third highest harvest on record (Figure 1).

The 2014 Mast Survey and Hunting Outlook documented a large increase in oak mast production statewide over 2013. Historically, abundant oak mast has led to a decreased archery harvest and an increased December firearms harvest, and that scenario held true in 2014. Abundant oak mast statewide prevented archers from patterning bears effectively and led to a decreased archery harvest. However, abundant mast kept bruins out of their winter dens and available to be harvested in the December firearms season. Biologists had predicted a record bear harvest in 2014. However, the decrease in harvest during the archery and September/October firearms seasons (attributed to a decrease in hunting days from 6 in 2013 to 3 in 2014 in the 16 counties that were open) was not offset by the increases in the buck-gun and December firearms harvest.

Hunters took 532 bears during the 2014 archery season. The top five counties were Webster (53), Preston (45), Fayette (42), Nicholas (39) and Randolph (39)(Tables 1 and 2).

Firearms hunters harvested 1,893 (1,208M: 685F) bears during the 2014 combined gun seasons (Table 4). This is a 3% increase over the 1,839 bruins killed in 2013 (Table 4). Hunters took 465 bears in September and October, 401 during the concurrent buck/bear season and 1,027 during the traditional December season (Table 1). The top five counties were Pocahontas (182), Randolph (172), Greenbrier (167), Pendleton (167) and Webster (160).

Non-hunting Mortalities

One-hundred seventy 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 4 and 5). This is down 3% from the 175 non-hunting mortalities recorded in 2013 (Table 4). There were 78 deaths from vehicles in 2014 compared to 65 in 2013. The number of illegal deaths was down from 4 to 2 from 2013 to 2014, respectively. Miscellaneous deaths decreased from 12 in 2013 to 7 in 2014. Bears killed for nuisance or damage activity (marauders), decreased from 94 in 2013 to 83 in 2014. The combined seasonal and non-seasonal deaths (2,595) is the third largest recorded in West Virginia (Table 4).

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 21% from 206 in 2013 to 163 in 2014 (Table 6). Total payments of \$146,471 were 41% lower than the \$249,753 paid out in 2013. Claims were reported in 37 counties in 2013 and 33 counties in 2014. There were 44 claims for bees (compared to 60 in 2013) totaling \$28,547, 22 for livestock at \$2,600 (22 in 2013), 47 for corn at \$87,897 (69 in 2013), and 63 (55 in 2013) miscellaneous claims at \$27,427.

Greenbrier County had the greatest dollar amount in compensations at \$24,999 followed by Preston (\$23,758), Hardy (\$14,839), Pendleton (\$14,000) and Pocahontas (\$9,818). Greenbrier County had the highest number of claims (23) followed by Pendleton (13), Randolph (13), Pocahontas (11) and Fayette and Preston (10).

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) employees received 956 nuisance bear calls in 2014 compared to 1,287 in 2013. The 5 counties with the most complaints were Greenbrier (135), Fayette (109), Nicholas (97), Kanawha (58) and Raleigh (57).

Tooth Collections

Age data from the 2013 tooth samples have been received and hunters have been notified of their bear's age. Hunters submitted 702 useable teeth (correct tooth,

identification matched check tags, etc.) for age consideration. Six (<1%) were cubs, 22% (153) were yearlings, 34% (240) were 2-year olds, 10% (72) were 3-year olds, and the remaining 33% (231) were 4-years old or older. Biologists use age data from hunter-harvested bear teeth to calculate population estimates and mortality rates for black bears in West Virginia. The 702 useable teeth submitted in 2013 represent only 26% of the total black bear harvest. The percentage of teeth collected from the harvest has steadily declined through time. Biologists collected teeth from 67% of the bear harvest in 2000. Low numbers of bear teeth submitted by hunters for age analysis lead to reduced precision in estimation of vital rates that are critical for managing and monitoring West Virginia's black bear population. The West Virginia Bearhunters Association and West Virginia Bowhunters Association have pledged their support of mandatory tooth submission for all harvested bears in West Virginia. Sportsmen will be asked on the Questionnaire at the 2015 Hunting and Fishing Regulations meetings whether they support mandatory submission of a premolar tooth from each bear harvested in West Virginia. If approved, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources will work with the West Virginia Bearhunters Association and West Virginia Bowhunters Association to design an efficient means of collecting teeth from hunter-harvested bears.

Reproductive Tract Collections

The fact that black bears usually only reproduce every 2 years, have relatively small litters and take several years to reach sexual maturity can lead to slow population growth. Litter size, adult female survival, and interbirth interval are the three factors that influence black bear populations. However, adult female survival is the only factor that managers have control over. Hunting season timing and length are adjusted to manipulate adult female survival. Wildlife managers and biologists have been collecting female reproductive tracts to estimate litter size around the state. The data gathered from reproductive tracts (cubs/female) mirrors data collected from visiting the dens of radio-tagged females.

Managers collected 19 reproductive tracts that supplied useful information in 2013. Reproductive tract data lags one year behind because researchers are waiting on age data. Information from reproductive tracts obtained in 2013 cannot be fully analyzed until ages are determined. Three yearling tracts were examined and showed no evidence of breeding in 2013. Six 2-year olds showed evidence of breeding in 2013 and averaged 1 corpora lutea per female. These bears would have given birth at age 3 to their first litter. Four sows over the age of 3 showed evidence of breeding and averaged 3 corpora lutea per female. Six females showed evidence of giving birth in 2013 and averaged 2.33 placental scars.

Black Bear Research

Reproductive tracts and tooth collections from harvested bears provide the most cost-effective way to monitor the black bear population and are being used to help make decisions about changes in hunting regulations. Therefore, radio collars have only been left on a small number of females in the northern part of the state (6 in 2014). In 2014, managers handled 2 sows with yearlings and tagged 2 of 4 yearlings in one litter and none in the other. Managers visited 4 sows with neonate cubs ($\bar{x} = 2.75$).

A new black bear research project was initiated in 2011. West Virginia participated 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. Satellite collars were deployed on black bears around the cities of Charleston, Beckley, and Morgantown. These collars transmitted the daily locations of the bears by text message. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources provided the funding necessary to hire a student to analyze the data collected in all 3 states. The data analysis is complete and manuscripts from Dr. Tri's (student who compiled and analyzed data for the project) Doctoral Dissertation are being submitted for review by scientific journals.

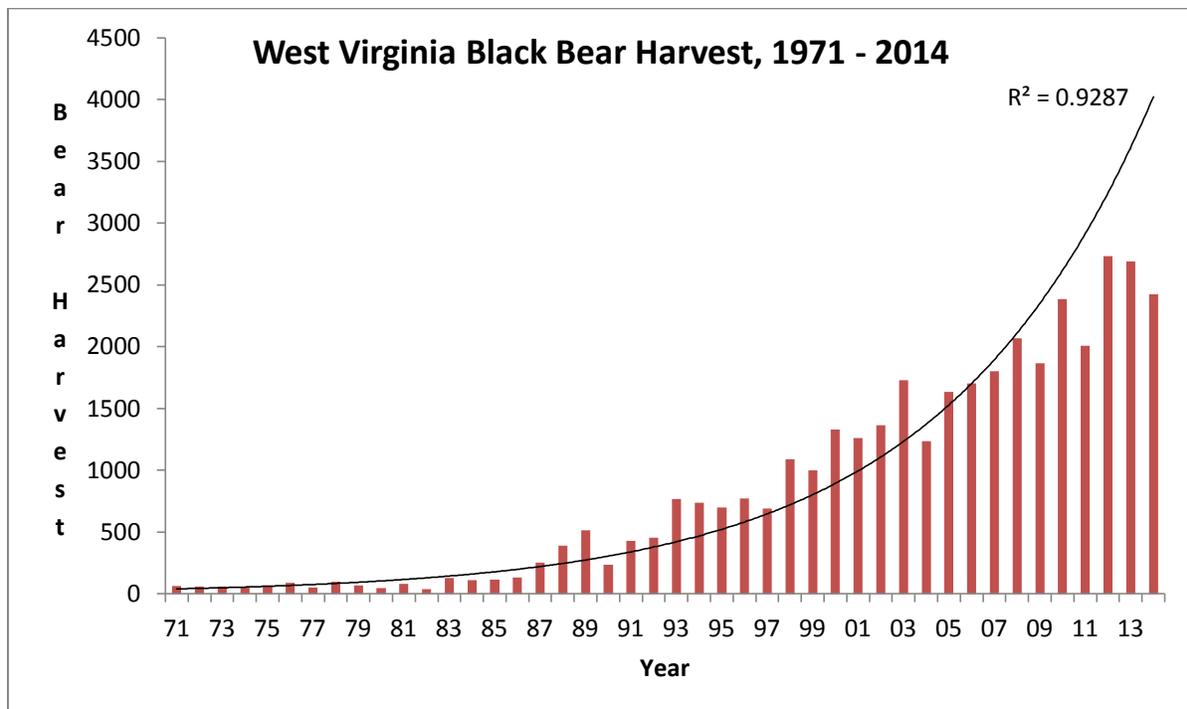


Figure 1. West Virginia black bear harvest, 1971-2014.

Table 1. West Virginia 2014 black bear harvest by season and county.

County	Bow Total	Sept/Oct Total	Buck Gun Total	December Total	TOTAL
Barbour	15	3	13	9	40
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	3	0	7
Ohio	0	0	0	0	0
Preston	45	16	30	22	113
Taylor	3	0	1	2	6
Tucker	17	24	7	55	103
Wetzel	2	0	0	0	2
District I Subtotal	87	43	54	88	272
Berkeley	4	0	0	0	4
Grant	5	5	9	58	77
Hampshire	4	0	14	6	24
Hardy	6	25	17	76	124
Jefferson	2	0	0	0	2
Mineral	1	2	0	7	10
Morgan	4	0	6	2	12
Pendleton	25	50	14	102	191
Dist. II Subtotal	51	82	60	251	444
Braxton	9	7	13	11	40
Clay	9	5	2	17	33
Lewis	2	0	5	4	11
Nicholas	39	44	35	46	164
Pocahontas	19	48	13	122	202
Randolph	39	56	11	111	217
Upshur	10	6	7	11	34
Webster	53	36	29	100	218
Dist. III Subtotal	180	202	115	422	919
Fayette	41	13	39	17	110
Greenbrier	23	37	21	110	191
McDowell	18	14	0	17	49
Mercer	8	0	4	1	13
Monroe	8	9	11	23	51
Raleigh	18	10	24	11	63
Summers	7	0	5	3	15
Wyoming	22	3	0	9	34
Dist. IV Subtotal	145	86	104	191	526
Boone	16	25	24	35	100
Cabell	0	0	0	0	0
Kanawha	16	20	44	23	103
Lincoln	1	0	0	0	1
Logan	18	5	0	11	34
Mason	0	0	0	0	0
Mingo	8	2	0	2	12
Putnam	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne	0	0	0	0	0
Dist. V Subtotal	59	52	68	71	250
Calhoun	3	0	0	4	7
Doddridge	0	0	0	0	0
Gilmer	2	0	0	0	2
Jackson	0	0	0	0	0
Pleasants	1	0	0	0	1
Ritchie	1	0	0	0	1
Roane	1	0	0	0	1
Tyler	0	0	0	0	0
Wirt	2	0	0	0	2
Wood	0	0	0	0	0
Dist. VI Subtotal	10	0	0	4	14
STATE TOTAL	532	465	401	1,027	2,425

Table 2. Sex ratios of West Virginia black bears for September or November gun season, bow season, and December gun season, 1964-2014.

Year	Bow or gun season Late September		Bow season and/or Early Nov. gun season		Late Nov. or December gun season		Annual Kill		Total*
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1964-1978	0	0							
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	1,048	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	283	177	597	343	1,228	842	2,070
2009	118	79	575	417	464	215	1,157	711	1,868
2010	215	248	314	146	932	530	1,461	924	2,385
2011	332	306	356	254	483	276	1,171	836	2,007
2012	380	310	462	261	844	478	1,686	1,049	2,735
2013	375	309	523	330	743	412	1,641	1,051	2,692
2014	251	214	367	165	957	471	1,575	850	2,425
36-Year Total	2,019	1,788	7,807	5,002	13,144	7,133	22,970	13,923	36,893
Average Sex Ratios	53%	47%	61%	39%	65%	35%	62%	38%	
2014 Sex Ratios	54%	46%	69%	31%	67%	33%	65%	35%	

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

Table 3. West Virginia total black bear harvest by county, 2010-2014.

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Barbour	31	31	43	46	40
Brooke	0	0	0	0	0
Hancock	0	0	0	0	0
Harrison	1	0	3	4	1
Marion	0	4	1	2	0
Marshall	0	1	0	0	0
Monongalia	11	4	8	11	7
Ohio	0	0	0	0	0
Preston	91	129	132	131	113
Taylor	3	4	7	4	6
Tucker	101	90	94	108	103
Wetzel	0	3	1	1	2
District I Subtotal	238	266	289	307	272
Berkeley	2	2	3	2	4
Grant	101	89	116	95	77
Hampshire	61	19	72	35	24
Hardy	126	123	146	123	124
Jefferson	2	1	12	3	2
Mineral	26	18	14	22	10
Morgan	12	7	18	11	12
Pendleton	207	146	197	221	191
Dist. II Subtotal	537	405	578	512	444
Braxton	51	26	42	48	40
Clay	35	28	47	37	33
Lewis	5	5	13	7	11
Nicholas	152	120	149	146	164
Pocahontas	185	127	187	140	202
Randolph	234	218	240	297	217
Upshur	22	8	22	18	34
Webster	174	151	223	178	218
Dist. III Subtotal	858	683	923	871	919
Fayette	120	98	192	138	110
Greenbrier	237	172	183	180	191
McDowell	29	46	67	69	49
Mercer	10	17	15	32	13
Monroe	32	21	34	63	51
Raleigh	69	71	71	103	63
Summers	6	13	13	18	15
Wyoming	25	49	52	99	34
Dist. IV Subtotal	528	487	627	702	526
Boone	97	55	117	116	100
Cabell	0	1	0	0	0
Kanawha	78	73	122	79	103
Lincoln	1	0	2	3	1
Logan	33	23	51	63	34
Mason	0	0	0	0	0
Mingo	6	2	11	32	12
Putnam	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne	1	0	2	1	0
Dist. V Subtotal	216	154	305	294	250
Calhoun	3	4	2	2	7
Doddridge	0	1	0	0	0
Gilmer	3	3	3	0	2
Jackson	0	0	0	0	0
Pleasants	0	0	0	0	1
Ritchie	1	2	4	3	1
Roane	1	2	4	1	1
Tyler	0	0	0	0	0
Wirt	0	0	0	0	2
Wood	0	0	0	0	0
Dist. VI Subtotal	8	12	13	6	14
STATE TOTAL*	2,385	2,007	2,735	2,692	2,425

*Totals change as late tags are added to the database.

Table 4. Number of black bears killed each year in West Virginia and cause of death.

Year	Hunting Season		Illegal Kill	Road Kill	Marauders	Others	Total
	Bow	Gun					
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	460	1,610	3	38	34	6	2,151
2009	992	876	11	70	184	9	2,142
00's Subtotal	5,935	10,123	00's Average Annual Bag: Bow 600; Gun 1,002.				
2010	460	1,925	6	66	35	5	2,497
2011	610	1,397	8	107	85	6	2,213
2012	723	2,012	5	72	104	2	2,918
2013	853	1,839	4	65	94	12	2,867
2014	532	1,893	2	78	83	7	2,595
10's Subtotal	3,178	9,066	10's Average Annual Bag: Bow 636; Gun 1,813				

*November Gun Seasons held in 1989, and 2002 - 2014 in certain counties.

**September Season held in 2008-2014 in certain counties.

***Check tags without season (<0.05%) marked were assumed gun kills for this table.

Table 5. West Virginia 2014 nonseasonal black bear mortalities by county and type.

County	Roadkills	Illegal	Marauders	Misc.	Total
Barbour	0	0	1	0	1
Brooke	0	0	0	0	0
Hancock	0	0	0	0	0
Harrison	0	0	1	0	1
Marion	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	0	0	0	0	0
Monongalia	0	0	1	0	1
Ohio	0	0	0	0	0
Preston	0	0	2	0	2
Taylor	0	0	0	0	0
Tucker	0	0	2	0	2
Wetzel	0	0	0	0	0
Dist. I Subtotal	0	0	7	0	7
Berkeley	1	0	0	0	1
Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	1	0	0	0	1
Hardy	0	0	1	0	1
Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0
Mineral	0	0	0	0	0
Morgan	1	0	0	1	2
Pendleton	1	0	7	1	9
Dist. II Subtotal	4	0	8	2	14
Braxton	11	0	1	0	12
Clay	2	0	2	0	4
Lewis	7	0	0	0	7
Nicholas	18	1	7	0	26
Pocahontas	4	0	24	0	28
Randolph	1	0	2	0	3
Upshur	1	0	1	1	3
Webster	1	0	6	0	7
Dist. III Subtotal	45	1	43	1	90
Fayette	3	0	6	1	10
Greenbrier	9	0	8	0	17
McDowell	1	0	3	0	4
Mercer	0	0	0	0	0
Monroe	1	0	0	1	2
Raleigh	4	0	1	1	6
Summers	1	0	0	0	1
Wyoming	3	0	0	0	3
Dist. IV Subtotal	22	0	18	3	43
Boone	2	1	1	0	4
Cabell	0	0	0	0	0
Kanawha	3	0	4	1	8
Lincoln	1	0	1	0	2
Logan	0	0	1	0	1
Mason	0	0	0	0	0
Mingo	1	0	0	0	1
Putnam	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne	0	0	0	0	0
Dist. V Subtotal	7	1	7	1	16
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	0	0
Dist. VI Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
State Total	78	2	83	7	170

Table 6. Black bear damage claims paid and payments by county 2010-2014.

County	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Claims	Payments								
Barbour	1	\$88	1	\$609	0	\$0	1	\$208	1	\$399
Berkeley	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$899	0	\$0
Boone	3	\$4,968	3	\$2,835	2	\$587	0	\$0	6	\$2,770
Braxton	7	\$3,205	4	\$4,664	1	\$383	9	\$3,332	4	\$750
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	1	\$55	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Clay	7	\$6,900	1	\$43	1	\$225	1	\$149	8	\$1,954
Doddridge	0	\$0	1	\$350	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$141
Fayette	0	\$0	1	\$3,600	4	\$1,672	8	\$5,352	10	\$6,695
Gilmer	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$1,040	2	\$185	1	\$398
Grant	11	\$9,811	6	\$14,983	5	\$9,064	5	\$7,425	2	\$5,578
Greenbrier	12	\$16,031	19	\$51,660	24	\$63,572	33	\$46,475	23	\$24,999
Hampshire	4	\$2,089	13	\$11,619	15	\$8,993	11	\$5,791	3	\$328
Hancock	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Hardy	11	\$4,055	13	\$50,839	13	\$28,052	15	\$40,965	8	\$14,839
Harrison	2	\$804	1	\$228	0	\$0	0	\$0	2	\$1,570
Jackson	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$1,817	0	\$0
Jefferson	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Kanawha	5	\$681	0	\$0	2	\$199	2	\$820	1	\$299
Lewis	0	\$0	0	\$0	3	\$888	1	\$669	1	\$541
Lincoln	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$328	0	\$0	0	\$0
Logan	2	\$809	3	\$2,167	8	\$3,256	6	\$1,868	5	\$1,793
Marion	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$834	2	\$952	4	\$1,360
Marshall	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Mason	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
McDowell	0	\$0	3	\$1,031	1	\$2	0	\$0	0	\$0
Mercer	1	\$390	2	\$530	2	\$580	6	\$5,679	2	\$633
Mineral	10	\$5,320	11	\$12,341	8	\$4,107	1	\$863	3	\$1,200
Mingo	2	\$666	0	\$0	1	\$313	3	\$824	0	\$0
Monongalia	3	\$785	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$54	2	\$7,999
Monroe	4	\$8,062	1	\$232	3	\$10,753	11	\$26,745	1	\$5,765
Morgan	1	\$129	3	\$1,088	1	\$1,150	2	\$610	5	\$5,523
Nicholas	11	\$4,269	12	\$7,080	15	\$5,039	9	\$7,206	5	\$1,107
Ohio	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Pendleton	7	\$5,133	25	\$29,434	17	\$32,054	14	\$9,910	13	\$14,000
Pleasants	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Pocahontas	19	\$18,420	18	\$29,782	22	\$22,211	8	\$9,190	11	\$9,818
Preston	9	\$6,080	26	\$74,074	11	\$33,158	12	\$39,988	10	\$23,758
Putnam	0	\$0	1	\$1,193	1	\$1,000	0	\$0	0	\$0
Raleigh	4	\$1,344	5	\$1,558	6	\$1,447	4	\$1,093	7	\$2,726
Randolph	24	\$6,499	19	\$7,773	9	\$1,651	8	\$2,581	13	\$3,123
Ritchie	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$350	0	\$0
Roane	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$2,403	2	\$854
Summers	0	\$0	2	\$1,396	2	\$742	2	\$813	3	\$2,557
Taylor	0	\$0	1	\$70	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Tucker	4	\$2,966	8	\$25,319	12	\$28,290	9	\$17,672	2	\$1,874
Tyler	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Upshur	0	\$0	6	\$1,299	0	\$0	1	\$75	1	\$227
Wayne	0	\$0	1	\$484	1	\$299	1	\$451	0	\$0
Webster	7	\$1,159	8	\$2,096	9	\$7,471	4	\$1,659	0	\$0
Wetzel	1	\$410	7	\$3,100	5	\$4,154	3	\$2,244	0	\$0
Wirt	0	\$0	1	\$1,041	0	\$0	1	\$919	2	\$775
Wood	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Wyoming	4	\$3,127	2	\$434	3	\$815	4	\$1,517	1	\$118
Total	176	\$114,201	229	\$345,007	210	\$274,329	206	\$249,753	163	\$146,471

WILD TURKEY

**By
Keith D. Krantz**

Spring Harvest

Spring gobbler season began in 1966 on our wildlife management areas (WMA) and went statewide in 1968. In those 49 seasons, the 2014 harvest ranks 24th overall and was quite similar to the 2011 season when 9,190 gobblers were checked in. The 2014 spring gobbler harvest was 9,128 birds (Table 1), which was 18.2% less than the 2013 harvest and 4.9% less than the 5-year average. Five of the six administrative districts saw their harvest decline from last year with District 2 (the eastern panhandle) seeing an increase. Contrasting this year's harvest against the 5-year average revealed that only District 2 and 4 were above it. The magnitude of difference between their 5-year averages and this year's harvest was fairly small for all districts except District 5 where their harvest was 27.7% off the mark.

The top county harvests were Preston (344), Mason and Jackson (293), Wood (271) and Harrison (264). Rounding out the top 10 counties were Wyoming (255), Greenbrier and Ritchie (245), Fayette (244) and Roane (232).

Table 2 depicts harvest by WMA. Within the Monongahela National Forest, the Potomac management unit had the highest reported spring gobbler kill (29), followed by Little River (28) and Neola (26). Higher total harvests are expected on these National Forest Units because they are orders of magnitude larger than our state owned or operated WMAs. While the National Forest offers large tracts of huntable acreage, our state owned properties are typically comprised of better turkey habitat. Leading our state owned property in reported spring gobbler harvest was Stonewall Jackson WMA (19) followed by Bluestone and Sleepy Creek WMA (16). These harvest numbers were similar to those reported in 2012. Many of our more productive WMAs e.g., Bluestone, Burnsville, Cornstalk, Panther and R.D. Bailey saw their harvest decline by at least half. Utilizing the yearly column totals we see that the reported 2014 harvest on state land decreased by 42%. Clearly, it was an off year for spring gobbler hunters.

Not only did the adult spring gobbler hunters see a decline in harvest, but our one-day youth hunters did as well. Harvest declined from 563 gobblers reported in 2013 to 195 in 2014, a 65% decrease (Table 3). Typically, the first week of the spring season accounted for close to 60% of the harvest. In 2014 this was not the case and opening week hunters only bagged 11% of the total. It wasn't until the second week of

the season that a larger (56%) percent of the total harvest occurred. Late season hunters were more successful in 2014 compared to 2013, evidenced by 30% of the kill occurring in the last two weeks contrasted against 17% in the past.

Fall Harvest

A total of 34 counties were open to wild turkey hunting in 2014 and included:

- Fourteen (14) traditional fall hunting counties open to a four-week split season (October 11 – October 18 and October 27 – November 15, 2014).
- Seven (7) counties open to a two-week split season (October 11 – October 18 and October 27 – November 1, 2014).
- Thirteen (13) counties open to a one-week season (October 11 – October 18, 2014).

The statewide 2014 harvest was somewhat similar to 2013 despite 8 fewer counties being open for hunting (Table 4). Three of the six administrative districts reported increases in harvest from 2013 levels ranging from a modest 4% increase in District 1 to a 69% increase in District 6 despite having two additional counties closed to hunting. Districts 2, 4 and 5 reported declines in harvest. The decline in District 5 was likely due to only having 1 county open to hunting in 2014 compared to 5 counties open last year.

Top fall harvest counties for 2014 were Nicholas (88), Greenbrier (81), Randolph (83), Pocahontas (54) and Preston (53). Fall wild turkey harvests are highly influenced by hunter participation and effort, annual recruitment of young turkeys (they are more susceptible to harvest than adults in the fall) and hard mast conditions. While the brood counts of 2014 were 30% higher than 2013 and approximated the 5-year average it was anticipated that harvest would at least be equal to 2013. However, we experienced an excellent acorn crop in 2014 which kept flocks scattered across the forest, likely reducing their contact with hunters.

The Little River Unit continued to lead the Monongahela National Forest in fall turkey harvest, a distinction it has held for the past 5-years (Table 5). While total state land harvest declined elsewhere, the Monongahela units fared much better and the 2014 harvest exceeded 2 of the past 5-years. Given that most of this acreage has been fall hunted for decades, harvest is likely tied to participation more than mast crop. Of the other state-owned properties that offer fall hunting, only Bluestone WMA seems significant. While fall hunting opportunities exist on a number of WMAs, few birds are

checked in, supporting our prior supposition that traditional participation drives the majority of fall harvest.

While opening day hunters checked in fewer fall turkeys than in 2013, first week hunters took a greater percentage of the harvest in 2014 (Table 6). Similar to 2013, almost 80% of the harvest occurred in the first two weeks of the season. The combined spring and fall harvest in 2014 was 10,084 (Table 7) which ranks 24th since 1966 (the year spring gobbler season began) and was 17% less than the previous year.

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 who donate their time and effort to gather information to help the DNR manage wild turkeys. Typically, the West Virginia Chapter sends survey forms to its members and the Wildlife Resources Section compiles the data from these and other participants. A survey report is written and provided free to cooperators. Due to waning hunter participation and a lack of observers in certain counties, surveys were sent to an additional selection of successful spring gobbler hunters from the year before.

In 2012 and 2013, Charleston office staff actively solicited participation in this survey by hand keying names and addresses of successful spring gobbler hunters from regions of the state lacking participation. This activity succeeded in increasing the sample size of cooperators. Due to staff retirement this was not done in 2014 and the number of cooperators declined 18%, from 311 in 2013 to 254 in 2014. These cooperators went on 1,923 trips, heard 3,384 gobblers or 13.32 gobblers per season and called in 3.84 of them. Similarly to last year, the most gobblers heard was in the Southwestern Region (65.6 gobblers per 100 hours), the next closest region was the Western Region where they heard 48.2 gobblers/100 hours. The statewide average of gobblers heard/100 hours was 46.8 or a little less than 1 gobbler for every 2 hours they were hunting.

The survey also provides DNR biologist's important data on overwinter losses of turkeys and deer, observation rates of ruffed grouse and coyotes as well as providing a forum for hunters to express their opinions and ideas. The data may provide accurate population trend information on white-tailed deer.

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 hunters hear, see, or has an opinion on.

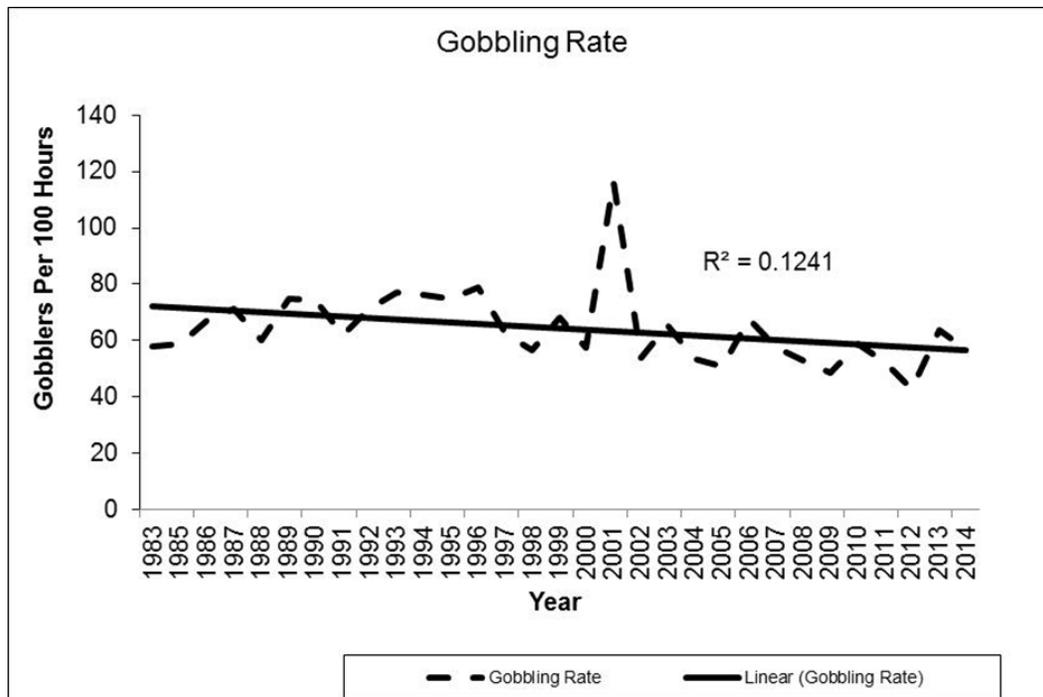


Figure 1. Gobblers heard per 100 hours by cooperators in West Virginia from 1983-2014.

Brood Survey

Past 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. In the near term, the number of turkey broods observed helps inform the fall hunter outlook. The 2014 brood observation season mimicked the 5-year average. The season's total was 30% higher than 2013 and 15% better than 2012. Although we experienced fairly consistent observations from June through August, the observation peak was in August. This was dissimilar to past years when typically more broods are seen in July. Except for July, the 5-year averages for individual monthly observations were exceeded every month. Because the spring of 2014 was fairly average, significant first nest losses were unlikely so this observation may be more reflective of observational effort than anything

else. If our observations are representative, expect an improved spring gobbler kill in two years.

Mast Survey

Eighty-one active duty personnel and retirees from the Wildlife and Law Enforcement Sections of the Division of Natural Resources and the Division of Forestry devoted their time to perform mast surveys this year. This, our longest running survey since 1970, had 229 locations covering all regions of West Virginia were surveyed in 2014. Mast from 18 tree and shrub species important to wildlife were monitored again this year.

Compared to the 2013 survey, the mast index for all species combined was up four percent. Last year beech, hickory and walnut were abundant while oaks were scarce. This year, indices for oaks were up and indices for beech, walnut and hickories were down. Compared to last year, indices for all oak species increased more than 100 percent indicating a substantial increase in oak production. Scarlet oak increased 262 percent compared to 2013. White, chestnut, black, red and scarlet oaks should be commonly found across the landscape. Statewide, beech did poorly compared to the bumper crop in 2013. Walnut and hickory followed a similar trend as beech, with a reduced production of nuts. Walnut and hickory decreased 32 and 55 percent, respectively.

For soft mast, black cherry was clearly abundant across the state but was only three % above the index for 2013. Dogwood and blackberry were noticeably higher with indices 23% and 12%, respectively above 2013 values. Sassafras increased 19%, similar to dogwood and blackberry. Apple and crabapple were lower than their 2013 values. Apple declined 21% and crabapple declined 17% compared to last year.

When comparing all species, the 2014 index almost mirrors the indices for 2012. The same pattern is true for hickory, cherry and oaks. In 2013, the abundance of beech, hickory and walnut offset the lack of oak mast. Although the abundance of oak may appear spotty in some locations this fall, it should be common in abundance across the state.

Table 1. Spring harvest of wild turkeys in West Virginia, 2010-2014.

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Barbour	157	160	182	162	178
Brooke	91	93	74	104	84
Hancock	109	107	92	110	110
Harrison	265	242	282	355	264
Marion	179	135	163	218	149
Marshall	316	253	224	300	220
Monongalia	257	218	221	262	174
Ohio	94	92	87	131	91
Preston	321	325	330	403	344
Taylor	86	76	93	103	87
Tucker	68	56	62	57	88
Wetzel	199	125	210	256	203
Dist. I Subtotal	2,142	1,882	2,020	2,461	1,992
Berkeley	89	86	88	98	112
Grant	102	102	114	129	129
Hampshire	149	119	120	124	138
Hardy	158	123	101	129	135
Jefferson	27	42	43	60	57
Mineral	121	78	86	87	96
Morgan	68	70	56	54	62
Pendleton	98	100	95	117	95
Dist. II Subtotal	812	720	703	798	824
Braxton	186	172	119	238	175
Clay	65	85	77	147	68
Lewis	237	201	181	221	180
Nicholas	163	166	161	221	164
Pocahontas	106	108	124	160	130
Randolph	197	142	94	217	186
Upshur	241	213	199	262	229
Webster	102	99	94	118	113
Dist. III Subtotal	1,297	1,186	1,049	1,584	1,245
Fayette	215	234	176	287	244
Greenbrier	226	253	235	299	245
McDowell	270	228	154	308	215
Mercer	175	186	146	177	170
Monroe	145	158	162	206	212
Raleigh	182	215	185	277	214
Summers	231	210	176	258	209
Wyoming	287	242	132	291	255
Dist. IV Subtotal	1,731	1,726	1,366	2,103	1,764
Boone	185	185	144	230	159
Cabell	236	134	129	138	80
Kanawha	261	311	214	332	231
Lincoln	278	188	157	213	178
Logan	194	169	133	246	181
Mason	551	445	343	370	293
Mingo	115	138	92	141	93
Putnam	323	236	196	225	150
Wayne	234	182	92	144	103
Dist. V Subtotal	2,377	1,988	1,500	2,039	1,468
Calhoun	120	96	138	179	135
Doddridge	150	121	111	138	126
Gilmer	135	137	132	191	147
Jackson	286	290	244	326	293
Pleasants	72	68	81	83	73
Ritchie	239	212	233	326	245
Roane	207	195	193	236	232
Tyler	196	135	133	211	136
Wirt	166	157	164	193	177
Wood	279	277	236	294	271
Dist. VI Subtotal	1,850	1,688	1,665	2,177	1,835
State Total	10,209	9,190	8,303	11,162	9,128

Table 2. Spring turkey harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2010-2014.

Land Type	Locality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Monongahela NF	Beaver Dam	11	3	8	11	10
	Blackwater	21	8	14	13	11
	Cheat	11	7	2	6	7
	Cranberry	33	27	31	28	20
	Little River	22	29	31	35	28
	Neola	19	36	21	22	26
	Otter Creek	13	10	8	23	14
	Potomac	28	28	41	38	29
	Rimel	16	17	15	18	15
	Tea Creek	14	5	17	17	21
Monongahela NF Total		188	170	188	211	181
George Washington NF	Shenandoah	12	11	10	11	1
	Wardensville	17	24	15	25	13
George Washington NF Total		29	35	25	36	14
Jefferson NF		8	7	0	4	4
Jefferson NF Total		8	7	0	4	4
National River		7	9	7	22	1
National River Total		7	9	7	22	1
State Land	Allegheny	8	7	3	5	4
	Amherst/Plymouth	16	10	13	10	5
	Anawalt	5	6	4	3	3
	Bear Rocks	0	0	0	1	1
	Becky Creek	3	2	0	0	1
	Beech Fork	13	21	10	12	9
	Berwind	5	0	1	1	1
	Beury Mtn	3	5	2	5	0
	Big Ugly	2	1	1	0	2
	Bluestone	26	28	19	36	16
	Burnsville	14	12	12	30	15
	Cabwaylingo Sf	3	1	1	4	1
	Calvin Price Sf	4	5	1	5	1
	Camp Creek Sf	3	0	2	4	2
	Castleman	2	2	3	3	8
	Center Branch	0	0	1	2	1
	Conaway Run	2	0	0	2	0
	Coopers Rock Sf	13	3	6	12	9
	Cornstalk	22	23	14	28	13
	Cross Creek	6	6	3	7	5
	East Lynn	16	11	6	6	8
	Elk Creek	3	7	0	0	0
	Elk River	9	13	6	14	14
	Fort Mill Ridge	0	1	0	0	1
	Frozen Camp	1	4	0	3	3
	Greenbrier Sf	0	3	0	3	4
	Handley	1	0	0	3	5
	Hillcrest	14	21	11	8	9
	Horse Creek	3	0	0	0	0
	Hughes River	6	5	10	11	11
Huttonsville	0	1	0	0	0	
Kanawha Sf	8	14	8	10	7	

Table 2. Continued.

Land Type	Locality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
State Land	Kumbrabow Sf	5	4	1	4	3
	Laurel Lake	9	7	2	3	5
	Lewis Wetzel	3	2	10	9	8
	Little Indian Creek	3	2	3	2	6
	McClintic	15	13	15	11	12
	Meadow River	1	1	1	0	1
	Mill Creek	1	2	1	1	1
	Moncove	0	0	0	1	0
	Morris Creek	3	3	4	6	3
	Nathaniel Mnt	5	3	3	2	3
	O'Brien	0	1	0	0	0
	Panther Sf	11	12	3	16	6
	Pedlar	1	2	5	3	1
	Pleasants Creek	0	5	4	5	2
	Plum Orchard	0	1	5	9	2
	Pruntytown	2	5	0	1	2
	R D Bailey	47	5	3	18	8
	Ritchie Mines	7	3	3	4	1
	Sand Hill	0	3	1	2	0
	Seneca Sf	4	5	0	5	3
	Shannondale	1	4	3	9	0
	Short Mnt	3	8	2	3	3
	Sleepy Creek	13	21	19	16	16
	Snake Hill	1	3	4	0	2
	Stonecoal	2	6	1	1	8
	Stonewall Jackson	17	22	14	24	19
	Stumptown	1	0	0	0	1
	Summersville	6	3	4	3	0
	Tate Lohr	1	1	0	1	1
	The Jug	5	4	1	1	4
	Tug Fork	1	0	0	0	0
	Underwood	1	1	2	0	0
	Upper Mud River	1	1	1	0	3
Wallback	1	5	8	6	3	
Widmyer	0	0	2	1	0	
Cotton Hill	0	0	0	11	0	
Teter Creek	0	0	0	1	0	
State Land Total		382	370	262	407	286
Private Land		9,595	8,599	7,821	10,482	8,642
State Total		10,209	9,190	8,303	11,162	9,128

Table 3. Spring wild turkey harvest in West Virginia by week of season, 2013-2014.

Week of Season	2013		2014	
	N	%	N	%
Youth	563	5%	195	2%
Week 1	6,593	59%	978	11%
Week 2	2,036	18%	5,148	56%
Week 3	1,042	9%	1,815	20%
Week 4	876	8%	951	10%
Unknown	52	0%	41	1%
State Total	11,162	100%	9,128	100%

Table 4. Fall harvest of wild turkeys in West Virginia, 2010-2014.

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Barbour	0	0	30	0	18
Brooke	6	6	7	9	2
Hancock	24	8	11	8	5
Harrison	0	20	26	20	20
Marion	12	0	15	4	6
Marshall	15	11	28	10	22
Monongalia	24	13	18	24	15
Ohio	16	12	12	9	3
Preston	80	76	63	77	53
Taylor	7	0	11	8	5
Tucker	28	17	25	14	25
Wetzel	9	0	14	2	18
Dist. I Subtotal	221	163	260	185	192
Berkeley	18	35	18	36	19
Grant	42	31	31	41	17
Hampshire	30	22	22	41	15
Hardy	33	27	30	34	18
Mineral	17	32	22	28	16
Morgan	14	18	5	14	15
Pendleton	38	38	46	26	31
Dist. II Subtotal	192	203	174	220	131
Lewis	12	22	0	8	0
Nicholas	46	61	98	39	88
Pocahontas	47	68	79	57	54
Randolph	58	142	77	59	83
Upshur	40	42	43	28	0
Webster	37	44	58	35	50
Dist. III Subtotal	240	379	355	226	275
Greenbrier	92	90	138	64	81
McDowell	16	0	0	33	0
Mercer	0	52	0	0	2
Monroe	59	63	89	71	52
Summers	36	31	73	42	41
Wyoming	31	0	0	37	35
Dist. IV Subtotal	234	236	300	247	211
Cabell	6	5	12	4	0
Lincoln	41	0	0	14	0
Mason	46	57	41	26	33
Putnam	38	21	21	2	0
Logan	0	0	0	17	0
Dist. V Subtotal	131	83	74	63	33
Calhoun	0	0	14	8	0
Gilmer	0	0	0	6	0
Jackson	19	33	39	18	37
Pleasants	2	2	5	4	3
Ritchie	12	0	0	2	12
Tyler	17	9	6	1	8
Wirt	21	34	23	19	23
Wood	37	43	44	20	31
Dist. VI Subtotal	108	121	131	78	114
Unknown	0	1	0	0	0
State Total	1,126	1,186	1,294	1,019	956

Table 5. Fall turkey harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2010-2014.

Land Type	Locality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Monongahela NF	Beaver Dam	3	2	4	3	6
	Blackwater	9	3	9	2	8
	Cheat	2	5	1	1	1
	Cranberry	3	9	8	6	4
	Little River	11	18	13	13	19
	Neola	11	9	11	7	8
	Otter Creek	8	6	9	9	7
	Potomac	5	9	8	3	3
	Rimel	7	6	11	4	7
Tea Creek	2	12	7	7	3	
Monongahela NF Total		61	79	81	55	66
George Washington NF	Shenandoah	11	4	8	6	3
	Wardensville	5	8	6	5	7
George Washington NF Total		16	12	14	11	10
National River	New River Gorge	0	1	0	0	0
National River Total		0	1	0	0	0
	Allegheny	1	2	0	0	0
	Amherst/Plymouth	1	2	6	1	0
	Anawalt	0	0	0	1	0
	Big Ditch	0	0	0	0	2
	Bluestone	11	17	21	15	13
	Calvin Price SF	4	1	1	0	0
	Camp Creek SF	0	2	0	0	0
	Coopers Rock SF	1	0	0	2	0
	Cornstalk	3	3	3	3	9
	Cross Creek	0	2	0	1	0
	Edwards Run	0	1	0	0	0
	Fort Mill Ridge	0	0	1	0	0
	Frozen Camp	3	0	1	1	0
	Greenbrier SF	0	0	0	0	2
	Hillcrest	1	2	0	0	1
	Hughes River	0	1	1	1	0
	Kumbrabow SF	2	3	1	2	0
	Little Indian Creek	0	1	0	1	0
	McClintic	6	3	1	2	2
	Meadow River	0	1	0	0	0
	Mill Creek	0	0	1	0	0
	Nathaniel Mnt	0	0	1	0	0
	Panther SF	0	0	0	2	0
	Pleasants Creek	1	0	1	0	0
	R D Bailey	1	0	0	0	1
	Seneca SF	2	0	4	2	0
	Sleepy Creek	2	10	4	1	1
	South Branch	0	0	1	0	1
	Stonecoal	0	3	0	1	0
	Stonewall Jackson	0	3	0	1	0
	Summersville	1	0	1	0	1
	Tate Lohr	0	0	2	0	0
	Underwood	0	0	1	0	0
	Widmyer	0	3	1	0	0
	Wilson Cove	0	0	0	1	0
State Land Total		40	60	53	38	33
Private Land		1,009	1,034	1,146	915	847
State Total		1,126	1,186	1,294	1,019	956

Table 6. Fall wild turkey harvest in West Virginia by week of season, 2013-2014.

Week of Season	2013		2014	
	N	%	N	%
Opening Day	169	17%	133	14%
Week 1	413	41%	443	46%
Week 3	212	21%	131	14%
Week 4	84	8%	89	9%
Week 5	123	12%	96	10%
Unknown	18	2%	64	7%
State Total	1,019	100%	956	100%

Table 7. Total spring and fall wild turkey harvest, West Virginia, 1966-2014.

Year	Spring	Fall	Total	Rank
1966	12	1,334	1,346	48
1967	42	989	1,031	48
1968	134	1,697	1,831	47
1969	243	3,430	3,673	37
1970	370	3,020	3,390	40
1971	421	2,374	2,795	44
1972	589	2,353	2,942	43
1973	554	3,038	3,592	38
1974	596	2,158	2,754	45
1975	585	2,827	3,412	39
1976	721	1,860	2,581	46
1977	719	2,998	3,717	36
1978	566	2,803	3,369	41
1979	873	2,421	3,294	42
1980	1,459	3,696	5,155	33
1981	1,970	3,135	5,105	34
1982	2,458	5,684	8,142	29
1983	2,627	2,224	4,851	35
1984	3,387	2,414	5,801	32
1985	4,215	2,343	6,558	31
1986	4,774	3,130	7,904	30
1987	5,665	4,114	9,779	25
1988	6,526	2,939	9,465	27
1989	7,245	2,204	9,449	28
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	18
2005	10,957	1,130	12,087	17
2006	11,735	1,186	12,921	14
2007	9,965	1,511	11,476	19
2008	9,929	1,206	11,135	21
2009	9,787	1,208	10,995	22
2010	10,209	1,126	11,335	20
2011	9,190	1,186	10,376	23
2012	8,303	1,272	9,575	26
2013	11,162	1,019	12,181	16
2014	9,128	956	10,084	24
Total	344,872	119,681	464,553	

WILD BOAR

By

Travis G. Bowman

Hunters killed 51 boars during the 2014 season (Table 1). This closely relates to the harvest of 49 boars taken last season. Hard mast was plentiful in the fall of 2014 in the boar counties. With great mast conditions boars would be moving less to find food and therefore would be tough to hunt. West Virginia boar hunters knowing their quarry were very successful given the tough hunting conditions this year.

Firearms hunters (Table 2) took 21 boars (7 in Logan County and 14 in Boone County) and archers killed 30 (21 in Logan County, 8 in Boone County, and 1 in Wyoming County). Raleigh County had no reported kills. Wyoming County's first harvest in many years was killed very close to the Boone County line.

Boars 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 1990s led to the removal of the December season in 2003. The single October firearms season is designed to reduce the harvest and to allow boars to 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 be the same next year in response to the good mast we had in 2014. Harvest is expected to change from year to year due to changing weather patterns and mast conditions. The good acorn crop of 2010 led to increased reproduction and a higher harvest in 2011, and then we saw an increase in harvest in 2012 due to favorable boar hunting conditions. Wildlife personnel will continue to monitor the wild boar population in the southern four counties and will make management recommendations accordingly.

Table 1. Wild boar harvest in West Virginia, 1979-2014.

Year	Total Kill
1979	3
1980	10
1981	33
1982	72
1983	54
1984	81
1985	58
1986	35
1987	74
1988	34
1989	116
1990	86
1991	59
1992	130
1993	82
1994	86
1995	158
1996	139
1997	141
1998	58
1999	96
2000	46
2001	43
2002	38
2003	5
2004	7
2005	12
2006	14
2007	22
2008	14
2009	35
2010	16
2011	37
2012	62
2013	49
2014	51
Total	2056

Table 2. 2014 West Virginia wild boar harvest by weapon.

County	Archery	Gun	Total
Boone	8	14	22
Logan	21	7	28
Wyoming	1	0	1
Total	30	21	51

WHITE-TAILED DEER

By

JAMES M. CRUM

Deer Season 2014

The following Tables 1 through 9 contain the 2014 white-tailed deer hunter harvest information for each of West Virginia's 55 counties and the various public lands scattered across the state. In 2014, deer hunters harvested a total of 104,707 deer in the combined deer seasons. This is a 31% decrease from the 2013 harvest and 23% less than the previous five-year harvest average of 136,168. The combined deer season harvest for 2014 is the 30th largest total deer harvest on record for West Virginia. The 2014 total deer harvest represents one deer killed for every 140 acres of deer habitat in the state (Table 9), and a 59% harvest decrease from the record harvest of 255,356 deer in 2002. From 1945 through 2014, a total of 5,996,032 deer have been recorded as harvested in West Virginia (Fig.1). Fifty-eight percent (3,472,423) of the total recorded deer harvest of the past 69 years has occurred in the last 20 years.

WV DEER HARVEST 1945-2014

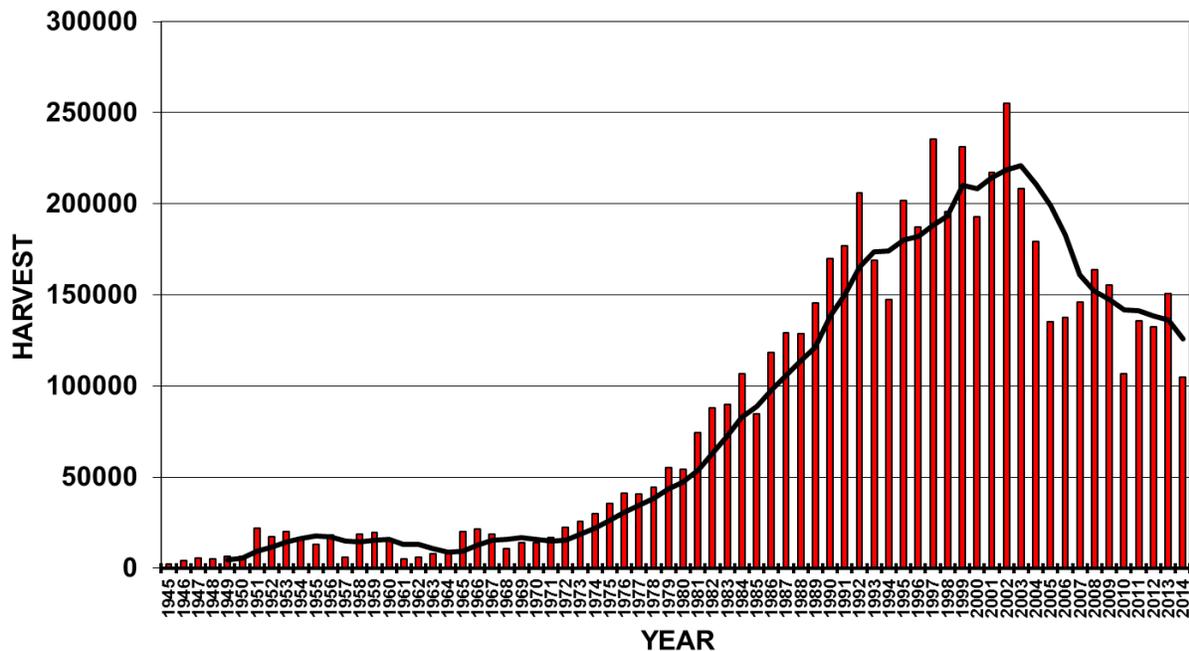


Figure 1. White-tailed deer harvest in West Virginia from 1945-2014.

In 2014, the traditional bucks-only firearm season harvest of antlered bucks was 37,450, a decrease of 34% from the 2013 harvest (Table 1). This is 33% less than the five-year average bucks-only firearm season harvest of 55,902 and ranks 34th among all past years.

The 2014 antlerless deer harvest taken with a firearm decreased by 30% from that of 2013 but was 62% less than the record harvest of 104,199 recorded in 2002. A total of 39,433 antlerless deer (Table 5) were taken with a firearm during the antlerless deer season and the Youth, Class Q/QQ and Senior Lifetime Class XS deer season. This year marked the third year for a three-day October firearm antlerless deer season and a reduction of the traditional December antlerless season from six to three days that was moved to follow muzzleloader season in mid-December (December 18-20). The antlerless deer maximum season bag limit was decreased from four to three in 2012 and continued to remain at three for 2014. In comparison to 2013, the antlerless bag limit in 2014 was increased in two counties and portions of one county, and decreased in one county and portions of three counties. The firearm antlerless deer season was open in 2014 for 21 days on private land in 50 counties or portions thereof. In five counties and portions of seven more, the season was closed. Of the counties open for antlerless deer hunting to resident and nonresident hunters, 34 counties and portions of three counties had a bag limit of three antlerless deer, and two more counties and portions of five counties had a bag limit of one antlerless deer. Three counties and portions of five counties in 2014 were limited to resident and nonresident hunters who had to apply for limited permits. The antlerless season was closed on a large portion of National Forest land. However, antlerless deer hunting opportunities on National Forest and other public land in 2014 remained similar to 2013 and resident and nonresident hunters could apply for limited permits on public lands in Pocahontas, Randolph and Pendleton counties (Table 6). Qualifying youth, Class Q/QQ (physically challenged) and Senior Lifetime Class XS license holders had an additional three-day antlerless-only season on private and public land in counties having a firearms deer hunting season. The 2014 special split deer season for youth, Class Q/QQ and Senior Lifetime Class XS hunters was the seventh year for the season to be open on private land in all 51 counties open to a deer firearms season, the third year that all public lands in the 51 counties were open and also the third year that Senior Lifetime Class XS license holders could participate. The 2014 antlerless season harvest was 23rd highest on record and 15% less than the five-year average antlerless harvest of 46,204.

The 2014 deer archery season opened September 27, 2014, one day earlier than the 2013 season and two weeks earlier than any season prior to 2011. In the 2014 archery season, a harvest of 22,281 was recorded which includes 1,367 deer harvested during the archery season with a crossbow. Deer reported as harvested with a crossbow represented 6% of the total archery season harvest and ranged from 2.3% to 13.5% of archery harvest of antlered deer by county. This year's archery harvest was an decrease of 26% from the 2013 archery season, 22nd highest on record and 17% below the five-year average of 26,721 (Table 3).

The 2014 muzzleloader season harvest was 5,543, a decrease of 28% from 2013. This is 24% below the five-year average harvest of 7,341, and the 25th highest harvest recorded for this season (Table 7). Major changes to the muzzleloader season that occurred in 2012 remained in place for 2014. In 2012 the early 6-day special antlerless muzzleloader deer season in September was dropped and the traditional mid-December portion of the season was moved to early December opening the Monday following the close of buck firearm season.

In 2014, hunting on Sunday was permissible in West Virginia for the 14th year since 1956. In 2001, all counties were open to hunting on Sunday. In 2002, 20 counties were open to hunting on Sunday. From 2003 through 2013, there were 14 counties open to hunting on Sunday. In 2014 19 counties were open to hunting on Sunday. These 19 counties had 11 additional days available for deer hunting in 2014 deer seasons. All eleven days were open for archery hunters who recorded taking 909 deer on Sundays, or 4% of the total 2014 archery harvest. One Sunday was open for firearms deer hunting (the Sunday after Thanksgiving November 30th), and 375 deer were recorded as harvested.

In the 2014 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 open to firearms deer hunting. There were 17 counties with a buck harvest one buck per square mile lower than the desired harvest. For the remaining 34 counties, the buck harvest was within one buck per square mile of the desired harvest for the county. In contrast to 2013, 10 counties exceeded the desired buck harvest per square mile by at least one buck per square mile and two counties were lower than the desired harvest while 39 counties were within one buck per square mile of the desired buck harvest.

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%. Figure 2 depicts the total deer harvest in West Virginia from 1993 through 2014 by the sex composition of the harvest for each year in relation to the percentage of female deer harvested. This figure appears to reflect the stabilizing effect the 40% female harvest has on the number of deer harvested. The 2014 deer harvest records indicate the percentage of female deer in the harvest was 45% which is expected to decrease the statewide deer herd. However, the percentage of female deer in the harvest of individual counties in 2014 varied from 25% to 54% which reflects antlerless deer season frameworks design for individual counties to grow, reduce, or stabilize the deer population on a county basis.

Over the past 10 years the yearly average number of reported antlered bucks harvested during all deer seasons is 3.2 antlered bucks per square mile of deer habitat in West Virginia or one buck per 200 acres. 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. This benefits 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.

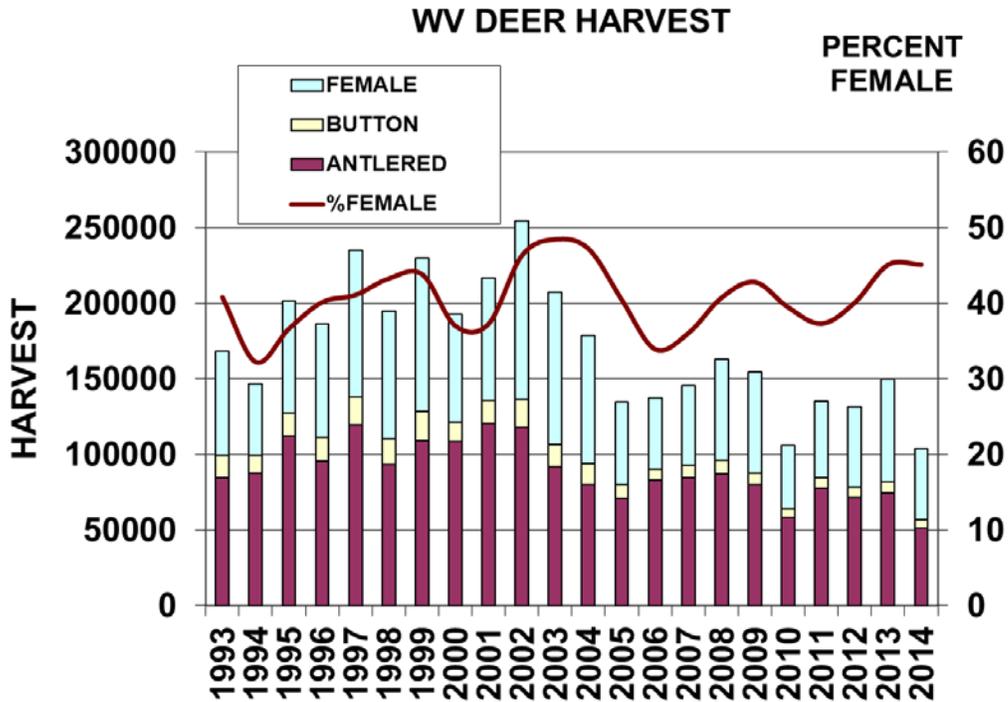


Figure 2. Deer harvested by sex in West Virginia from 1993-2014.

Special Deer Management Areas

Hunters took 886 deer in the special urban deer season in 2013. This special archery deer hunting season is available to incorporated cities and homeowner associations, which may open three weeks prior to the opening of statewide deer archery season and close December 31. During this special season, seven deer may be taken which do not count toward the regular archery deer season bag limit. In 2014, 14 cities (Alderson, Barboursville, Bethlehem, Bridgeport, Charleston, Harpers Ferry, Harrisville, Morgantown, North Hills, Parkersburg, Ronceverte, South Charleston, Weirton, and Wheeling) reported harvesting 671 deer, which are included in Tables 3, 4, 8, and 9. In addition, 215 deer were harvested during urban deer archery hunts conducted by 10 homeowner associations. This is the 11th 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 association to use this special archery season. They have continued to use this season to safely and economically manage deer numbers for the past 11 years. For information regarding implementing a special season contact your local city government or homeowner's association.

In the special split Youth, Class Q/QQ and Senior Lifetime Class XS deer season, 2,529 antlerless deer were harvested and are included in antlerless deer harvest tables 5, 6, 8, and 9. This season was open on private land and public land in any county open to a firearms deer season on October 18, 2014, and again December 26 and 27, 2014. This was the 17th year a Youth special season was held. To participate, hunters had to hold a Class Q license, or be a youth at least 8 and less than 18 years of age on the day of the season, or possess a Senior Lifetime Class XS license. Youth hunters, age 8-14, must be accompanied by a licensed adult at least 21 years of age and youths age 15-17 must comply with all regular season license requirements for junior sportsman hunting or hunt with resident landowner privileges. The 2014 season was the fifth year for participation by the 15 -17 age youths and the third year for participation by Class XS license holders. The daily bag limit was one antlerless deer, which did not count against the hunter's annual antlerless deer season bag limit. Hunters harvested 1,799 deer on the first day, October 18th and an additional 349 and 381 deer December 26th and 27th, respectively. Overall the harvest for the 2014 special Youth, Class Q and Senior Lifetime Class XS deer season decreased 37% from 2013. The harvest for the 2014 first day was down 34% from the first day of the 2013 season and the second and third days of the 2014 season were down 44% from the reported harvest in 2013.

Special controlled deer hunts were held in 2014 at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), and Blennerhassett Island State Park. Seventeen deer were harvested on the NRAO property during a two-day hunt October 17 and 18, 2014. Sixteen deer were harvested by 53 hunters on Blennerhassett Island State Park during a one-day controlled hunt November 6, 2014. It is anticipated that controlled deer hunts on additional state park land will be held 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 Resource 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 Resource 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 14% from 19,839 in 2013 to 17,120 in 2014. Deer killed on crop damage permits decreased in four DNR Districts and increased in two DNR Districts. Overall, deer killed through the crop damage permit system in 2014 decreased by 13.5%, with 4,132 deer killed on crop damage permits in 2013 and 3,573 recorded in 2014. Reported vehicle kills decreased statewide by 14% in 2014, from 15,707 in 2013 to 13,547 in 2014 and represents an 18% decline from the 5-year average of 16,612. Percent change by DNR Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were -14%, -20%, -5%, -23%, +11%, and -21%, respectively.

The occurrence of deer reportedly killed by collisions with vehicles and deer reported as killed for crop damage follow similar trends. Although other factors such as deer food supply (such as acorns), number and average speed of vehicles, and crop growing conditions like drought influence these trends, a major factor is deer population (Fig. 3).

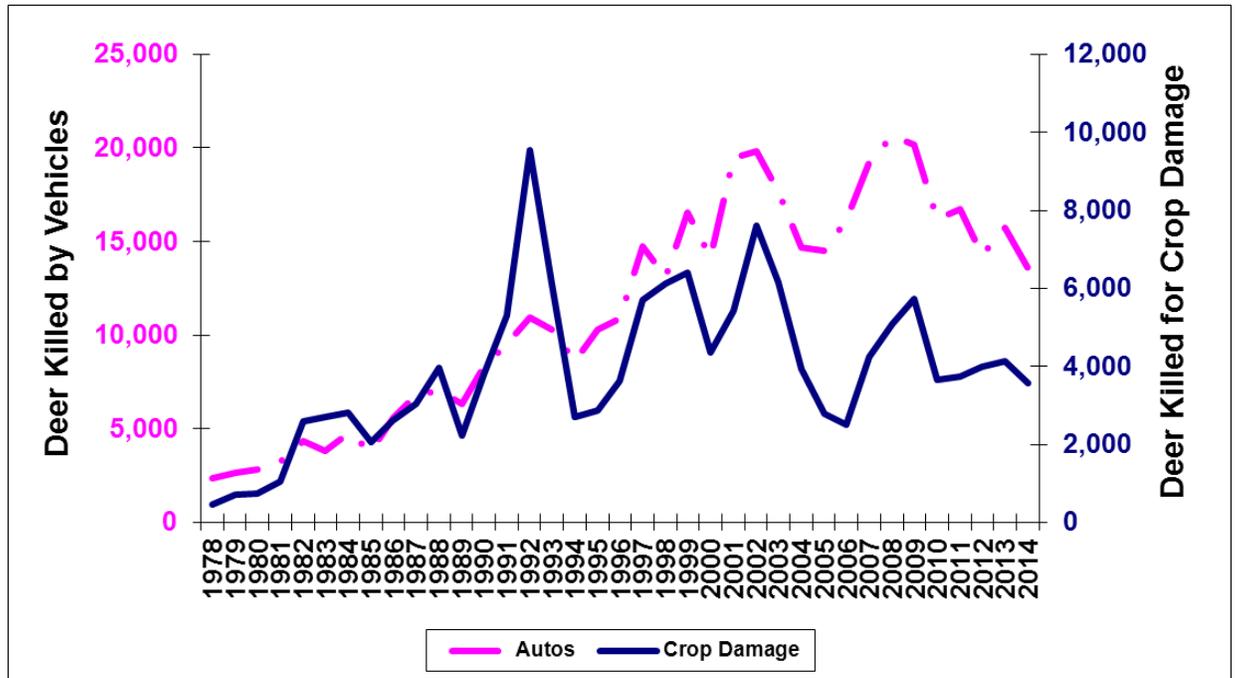


Figure 3. Vehicle and crop damage kills in West Virginia from 1978-2014.

Deer Hunting Outlook

Overall deer hunting opportunities for hunters across the state in 2015 are proposed to be similar to those in 2014 with the exception of reduced antlerless deer season bag limits and fewer hunting opportunities in counties where recorded deer harvest data indicates female deer harvest should be restricted to stabilize or increase current deer populations. The substantial changes made in 2012 and continued in 2013 and 2014, to the deer season framework as recommended in the revised White-tailed Deer Operational Plan completed in late December 2011 are proposed to remain in place for the 2015 deer season. In general, these changes aim to increase the diversity of deer hunting opportunities, simplify hunting regulations, better distribute antlerless deer harvest to meet deer population goals and limit conflict among wildlife resource user groups. The revised White-tailed Deer Operational Plan also includes expanded efforts to monitor the deer herd through the collection of biological information at official game checking stations across the state. In the 2014 deer seasons, DNR personnel examined 2,266 deer brought to official game checking stations in 19 counties during the first three days of the traditional firearms buck deer season to determine age composition of the harvest and collect other biological data. 1,578 antlered bucks examined: 26% were yearlings, 47% were 2.5 years of age, and 27% were 3.5 years of age and older.

Expanded tracking of the age composition of the buck harvest and other biological parameters of the deer herd will not continue in 2015 due to the electronic game checking system that starts in April 2015. DNR personnel may attempt to gather information at deer processing facilities. However, information collected at official game checking stations in 2014 indicate on average only one of every five deer harvested is taken to a deer processor and those deer taken to a processor are not totally representative of the harvest taken in individual counties. Hunters are asked to be patient while sampling strategies are developed and hunters in select areas of the state may in the future be asked to take harvested deer to special designated locations where DNR personnel can evaluate the physical condition of their deer. Hunters are reminded that recording their harvest is an integral part to the DNR's ability to manage deer in West Virginia. Hunters have helped manage deer in the state since mandatory game checking began in 1929 and the information provided by hunters is the foundation for tracking deer herd trends and monitoring doe harvest impacts.

The 2015 deer archery season opening date is proposed to open the last Saturday in September (September 26th) which is the earliest a statewide either-sex archery deer season has ever occurred in West Virginia. Uniform and more liberal deer bag limits and season lengths for the urban archery deer seasons available to incorporated cities and homeowner associations put in place for the fall of 2012 are proposed to remain available in 2015. The more liberal bag limit and earlier opening available for the season has provided incorporated cities and homeowner associations a reliable and efficient method to address locally over-abundant deer populations.

The 2015 muzzleloader deer season is proposed to open the Monday following the end of the two-week buck firearm season (December 7, 2015). Antlerless deer hunting opportunities for the 2015 muzzleloader season are proposed to follow guidelines adopted in 2012 muzzleloader deer season regulations. In counties with unlimited Class N/NN antlerless deer permits and an antlerless Class N/NN season bag limit of one 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 limited lottery Class N/NN antlerless season and a one antlerless deer Class N/NN season bag limit, hunters in the 2015 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.

In 2015, 47 counties or portions thereof, are proposed to have a Class N/NN antlerless deer season for 21 days on private land and selected public lands. A three-day October Class N/NN antlerless deer season is again proposed for the fall of 2015. The three-day October Class N/NN antlerless deer season in 2014 accounted for 13% of the total recorded Class N/NN antlerless deer season harvest similar but down from the 15% recorded in the three-day October Class N/NN antlerless season in 2013. Twenty-four counties and portions of two counties are proposed to have a three antlerless deer bag limit. Fifteen counties and portions of four counties are proposed to have a one antlerless deer bag limit with four counties and portions of three counties of the one antlerless deer bag limit counties or portions restricted to resident and non-resident hunters chosen by lottery. Again, as in the past two years, a split three-day Special Youth, Class Q/QQ and Senior Lifetime Class XS deer season is proposed to be held on October 17th and December 26th and

28th on private and public lands in the 51 counties open to firearms deer season. This season **would be closed** in Logan, Mingo, McDowell, or Wyoming counties.

In 29 counties and portions of two more counties during the 2014 deer seasons, hunters had to harvest an antlerless deer before taking a second antlered buck during archery and gun seasons, respectively. This regulation is proposed again for the 2015 season with the number of counties reduced to seven counties and portions of two more counties. This reduction reflects the White-tailed Deer Operational Plan guidelines to encourage deer hunters to harvest antlerless deer only where needed and not penalize those who wish to only harvest one antlered buck. Please refer to the 2015-2016 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 2015 will be published and available to hunters in July of 2015. 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.

Efforts to control the spread and monitor chronic wasting disease (CWD) in free-ranging deer in Hampshire and Hardy Counties by DNR, landowners, and hunters are ongoing. In the 2014 deer seasons, samples from 472 hunter-harvested deer brought to game checking stations in Hampshire County, two stations in northern Hardy County and one station in northern Morgan County were tested for CWD. Nineteen samples were found to have the abnormal protein associated with CWD. CWD has now been detected in a total of 179 deer in Hampshire County and four deer in Hardy County. 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 (March 2015) in West Virginia all of Hampshire County, the northern and eastern portion of Hardy County north of Corridor H (U.S. Rt. 48) and/or east of State Rt. 259 to the Virginia state line, and the portion of Morgan County west of U.S. Route 522 has regulations prohibiting the baiting and feeding of 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 Shenandoah County VA and Allegany County MD. In addition, PA Game Commission has detected CWD positive deer in Bedford and Blair counties adjacent and north of Allegany County MD. 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, Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson. Additionally, a well-documented method of spreading CWD across long distances is the movement of live species of deer for commercial purposes. Many organizations such as the Quality Deer Management Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and The Wildlife Society have recognized the threat the pen propagation and translocation of deer species represent to the wild deer and elk resources that are enjoyed by all citizens. This threat is not only from CWD but also from the introduction of other pathogens and genetic consequences, which have the potential to devastate our revered deer resource. 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, 2010-2014.

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Barbour	875	1,372	1,177	1,109	886
Brooke	337	413	407	389	251
Hancock	299	324	320	273	200
Harrison	1,053	1,494	1,385	1,301	930
Marion	764	1,249	1,089	1,130	702
Marshall	1,087	1,407	1,309	1,051	707
Monongalia	1,116	1,508	1,297	1,107	689
Ohio	412	467	466	399	232
Preston	2,034	2,224	2,158	1,741	1,526
Taylor	494	768	684	635	453
Tucker	743	738	649	527	494
Wetzel	958	1,615	1,471	1,537	891
Dist. I Subtotal	10,172	13,579	12,412	11,199	7,961
Berkeley	661	835	767	871	522
Grant	959	1,266	1,250	1,135	783
Hampshire	1,271	1,676	1,588	1,846	1,094
Hardy	1,315	1,589	1,429	1,447	920
Jefferson	482	447	526	445	385
Mineral	947	1,286	1,181	1,345	835
Morgan	457	601	602	743	412
Pendleton	893	1,391	1,373	1,163	861
Dist. II Subtotal	6,985	9,091	8,716	8,995	5,812
Braxton	986	1,468	1,401	1,626	921
Clay	353	519	528	475	329
Lewis	1,130	1,586	1,365	1,692	1,166
Nicholas	846	1,279	1,212	824	871
Pocahontas	1,100	1,106	1,152	961	831
Randolph	1,858	2,032	1,804	1,329	1,291
Upshur	1,088	1,612	1,283	1,396	1,009
Webster	807	1,063	817	717	632
Dist. III Subtotal	8,168	10,665	9,562	9,020	7,050
Fayette	742	1,005	996	835	725
Greenbrier	1,367	1,783	1,875	1,509	1,372
Mercer	362	647	682	536	402
Monroe	1,002	1,364	1,569	1,466	1,004
Raleigh	446	739	749	579	506
Summers	536	865	1,077	973	657
Dist. IV Subtotal	4,455	6,403	6,948	5,898	4,666
Boone	471	653	898	725	519
Cabell	464	705	750	763	421
Kanawha	896	1,275	1,164	1,380	730
Lincoln	747	1,146	1,319	1,124	720
Mason	1,298	1,944	1,676	1,495	1,002
Putnam	794	1,170	1,191	1,210	565
Wayne	570	894	1,041	870	528
Dist. V Subtotal	5,240	7,787	8,039	7,567	4,485
Calhoun	570	962	770	1,164	504
Doddridge	767	1,000	950	1,243	615
Gilmer	701	1,029	911	1,427	669
Jackson	1,225	1,962	1,630	1,917	1,107
Pleasants	332	512	371	438	273
Ritchie	1,195	1,701	1,512	2,091	1,123
Roane	1,049	1,694	1,391	1,893	927
Tyler	833	1,189	922	1,000	566
Wirt	659	944	846	1,091	681
Wood	1,110	1,639	1,403	1,580	1,011
Dist. VI Subtotal	8,441	12,632	10,706	13,844	7,476
State Total	43,461	60,157	56,383	56,523	37,450

Table 2. Antlered buck gun harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2010-2014.

Area	Locality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Monongahela NF	Beaver Dam	74	53	70	31	31
	Blackwater	164	119	152	106	122
	Cheat	109	100	89	61	80
	Cranberry	184	119	137	90	101
	Little River	252	181	240	153	107
	Neola	110	110	107	72	90
	Otter Creek	112	95	122	61	60
	Potomac	244	256	293	198	179
	Rimel	120	84	91	87	81
Tea Creek	70	47	80	47	28	
Monongahela NF Total		1,439	1,164	1,381	906	879
George Washington NF	Cove Creek	0	0	1	0	0
	Shenandoah	47	68	72	49	46
	Wardensville	150	139	161	114	70
	Wilson Cove	2	0	0	0	0
George Washington NF Total		199	207	234	163	116
Jefferson NF	Potts Creek	50	22	42	42	21
Jefferson NF Total		50	22	42	42	21
State Land	Allegheny	4	9	12	7	7
	Amherst/Plymouth	17	31	26	27	2
	Bear Rocks	3	0	5	6	4
	Becky Creek	16	4	2	2	0
	Beech Fork	3	10	18	15	16
	Beury Mtn	13	7	19	14	9
	Big Ditch	0	0	4	0	1
	Big Ugly	17	21	22	9	10
	Bluestone	16	23	22	28	15
	Briery Mnt	6	0	0	0	0
	Burnsville	7	16	23	28	6
	Cabwaylingo Sf	3	2	7	8	5
	Calvin Price Sf	5	5	5	2	5
	Camp Creek Sf	5	7	14	9	12
	Castleman Run	8	5	5	11	6
	Center Branch	3	3	4	3	3
	Conaway Run	2	6	3	8	4
	Coopers Rock Sf	19	14	26	20	10
	Cornstalk	61	68	91	66	42
	Cotton Hill	0	0	1	0	0
	Cross Creek	20	21	20	36	13
	Dents Run WMA	2	0	3	14	2
	Dunkards Fork	0	1	1	1	1
	East Lynn	14	12	20	10	24
	Edwards Run	5	4	3	7	0
	Elk Fork	0	0	4	2	1
	Elk River	42	67	74	67	68
	Fork Creek	0	0	0	0	1
	Fort Mill Ridge	1	1	0	0	0
	Fox Forest	2	0	0	0	0
	Frozen Camp	12	9	22	32	16
	Green Bottom	2	3	1	2	0
	Greenbrier Sf	11	14	14	9	8
Handley	4	2	3	2	2	
Hilbert	0	2	3	1	1	
Hillcrest	0	1	0	0	0	
Hughes River	31	43	37	39	30	

Table 2. Continued.

Area	Locality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
State Land	Huttonsville	6	8	3	1	5
	Kanawha Sf	26	20	29	18	19
	Kumbrabow Sf	11	13	15	8	10
	Lantz Farm	0	0	0	3	0
	Lewis Wetzel	46	63	127	85	58
	Little Cannan WM	0	0	13	1	1
	Little Indian Cr	0	5	6	8	2
	McClintic	5	6	12	8	8
	Meadow River	4	3	3	3	2
	Mill Creek	1	1	2	0	2
	Moncove	6	9	11	17	14
	Morris Creek	6	8	18	6	3
	Nathaniel Mnt	30	31	50	26	24
	Pedlar	7	5	3	3	1
	Pleasants Creek	3	2	18	8	10
	Plum Orchard	1	1	4	1	0
	Pruntytown	3	7	11	11	8
	Ritchie Mines	7	7	3	11	6
	Sand Hill	0	0	9	8	9
	Seneca Sf	25	23	35	21	21
	Shannondale	16	15	24	20	18
	Short Mnt	49	39	36	29	45
	Sideling Hill WM	0	0	3	7	4
	Sleepy Creek	77	126	116	91	76
	Smoke Camp	0	0	1	5	0
	Snake Hill	5	12	10	11	4
	South Branch	3	0	1	2	2
	Stonecoal	11	8	16	22	12
	Stonewall Jck	95	88	111	131	127
	Stumptown	0	0	1	10	4
	Summersville	8	5	7	12	15
	Sutton Res	1	5	0	0	0
	Tate Lohr	0	1	0	0	0
	Teter Creek	1	1	0	0	0
	The Jug	12	7	19	12	10
	Underwood	17	18	4	8	1
	Upper Mud River	3	3	8	1	2
	Wallback	6	13	16	17	20
	Widmyer	0	0	1	0	0
	Woodrum	0	0	1	0	1
State Land Total		845	964	1,261	1,110	868
Private Land		40,926	57,800	53,463	54,301	35,566
*Unknown		2	0	2	1	0
State Total		43,461	60,157	56,383	56,523	37,450

Table 3. West Virginia white-tailed deer archery harvest, 2010-2014.

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Barbour	429	509	383	544	416
Brooke	215	259	312	271	303
Hancock	343	377	439	432	373
Harrison	466	544	653	658	502
Marion	366	516	484	541	413
Marshall	392	393	406	382	307
Monongalia	691	776	779	785	584
Ohio	213	255	318	304	250
Preston	1,140	1,322	1,140	1,069	999
Taylor	273	287	285	266	265
Tucker	407	405	295	332	312
Wetzel	222	326	292	418	248
Dist. I Subtotal	5,157	5,969	5,786	6,002	4,972
Berkeley	374	436	419	639	397
Grant	301	404	355	402	300
Hampshire	179	245	256	393	275
Hardy	269	358	287	396	231
Jefferson	354	382	392	425	363
Mineral	238	351	303	398	275
Morgan	164	159	146	274	163
Pendleton	233	367	293	326	279
Dist. II Subtotal	2,112	2,702	2,451	3,253	2,283
Braxton	400	520	412	589	380
Clay	209	240	253	299	194
Lewis	352	433	376	517	372
Nicholas	652	883	701	753	630
Pocahontas	348	402	325	345	288
Randolph	1,011	1,163	781	786	779
Upshur	472	748	488	627	472
Webster	528	728	520	436	420
Dist. III Subtotal	3,972	5,117	3,856	4,352	3,535
Fayette	516	791	722	806	666
Greenbrier	556	738	758	661	556
McDowell	412	464	571	699	447
Mercer	331	589	574	667	419
Monroe	370	551	534	661	460
Raleigh	595	812	899	876	640
Summers	335	484	538	543	341
Wyoming	560	772	765	1,062	686
Dist. IV Subtotal	3,675	5,201	5,361	5,975	4,215
Boone	349	317	442	485	433
Cabell	303	357	389	436	288
Kanawha	723	884	872	1,041	771
Lincoln	418	467	558	535	418
Logan	469	591	753	841	608
Mason	691	788	666	789	628
Mingo	259	284	368	490	284
Putnam	446	561	539	663	437
Wayne	311	307	388	406	304
Dist. V Subtotal	3,969	4,556	4,975	5,686	4,171
Calhoun	202	241	212	353	213
Doddridge	167	217	204	284	210
Gilmer	200	280	212	403	174
Jackson	505	669	600	783	495
Pleasants	84	116	95	114	92
Ritchie	390	473	377	489	404
Roane	400	484	418	643	356
Tyler	258	298	256	326	256
Wirt	274	332	299	405	267
Wood	597	749	676	911	638
Dist. VI Subtotal	3,077	3,859	3,349	4,711	3,105
State Total	21,962	27,404	25,778	29,979	22,281

Table 4. Deer archery harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2010-2014.

Area	Locality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Monongahela NF	Beaver Dam	24	34	17	11	25
	Blackwater	80	45	41	53	49
	Cheat	40	34	23	14	18
	Cranberry	72	93	57	40	19
	Little River	89	71	59	57	51
	Neola	13	9	14	14	9
	Otter Creek	45	43	25	27	28
	Potomac	82	85	69	78	48
	Rimel	22	10	11	11	11
Tea Creek	13	13	10	14	14	
Monongahela NF Total		480	437	326	319	272
George Washington NF	Shenandoah	10	14	12	6	12
	Wardensville	24	23	21	27	25
George Washington NF Total		34	37	33	33	37
	Potts Creek	9	8	8	4	6
Jefferson NF Total		9	8	8	4	6
State Land	Allegheny	4	8	3	0	2
	Amherst/Plymouth	2	6	7	4	5
	Anawalt	3	1	1	4	1
	Bear Rocks	1	1	3	3	2
	Becky Creek	7	1	0	1	0
	Beech Fork	5	4	15	10	16
	Berwind	1	0	2	5	2
	Beury Mtn	6	14	13	11	9
	Big Ditch	1	1	2	3	1
	Big Ugly	2	5	5	0	3
	Bluestone	20	39	28	26	15
	Briery Mnt	0	1	0	0	0
	Burches Run	0	0	0	0	1
	Burnsville	19	24	18	23	7
	Cabwaylingo Sf	2	1	4	1	2
	Calvin Price Sf	0	4	0	0	0
	Camp Creek Sf	0	7	5	10	5
	Castleman Run	2	4	9	3	2
	Center Branch	3	4	2	0	0
	Chief Logan WMA	0	2	0	2	0
	Conaway Run	2	0	3	2	1
	Coopers Rock Sf	13	10	8	16	4
	Cornstalk	39	30	37	51	31
	Cross Creek	4	4	5	1	11
	Dents Run WMA	1	0	3	0	0
	East Lynn	5	0	2	2	2
	Edwards Run	0	2	2	0	0
	Elk Creek	6	2	12	4	0
	Elk River	35	24	19	32	18
	Fork Creek	0	1	0	0	0
	Fort Mill Ridge	0	0	1	0	2
	Fox Forest	0	0	0	0	2
	Frozen Camp	4	0	5	5	3
	Green Bottom	5	3	3	6	2
	Greenbrier Sf	2	5	0	2	2
	Handley	1	1	0	0	0
	Hilbert	0	1	0	0	0
	Hillcrest	17	15	9	14	9
	Hughes River	10	12	8	12	7
Huttonsville	4	1	1	2	1	
Kanawha Sf	10	7	12	8	18	
Kumbrabow Sf	5	2	3	2	1	

Table 4. Continued.

Area	Locality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
State Land	Laurel Lake	8	8	3	13	8
	Lewis Wetzel	9	8	16	14	11
	Little Cannan WM	0	0	2	1	0
	Little Indian Cr	4	2	3	2	4
	McClintic	19	3	13	12	12
	Meadow River	1	2	0	2	0
	Mill Creek	0	1	0	0	1
	Moncove	0	0	1	0	1
	Morris Creek	2	2	9	3	4
	Nathaniel Mnt	1	2	1	0	3
	Panther Sf	6	10	19	24	4
	Pedlar	4	2	3	3	5
	Pleasants Creek	10	9	17	8	3
	Plum Orchard	2	4	5	3	5
	Pruntytown	2	4	1	2	2
	R D Bailey	18	20	36	34	26
	Ritchie Mines	1	1	0	1	6
	Sand Hill	0	0	2	3	0
	Seneca Sf	5	2	6	10	5
	Shannondale	22	14	12	16	12
	Short Mnt	4	9	1	0	5
	Sideling Hill WM	0	0	0	1	0
	Sleepy Creek	13	19	23	24	16
	Smoke Camp	0	0	0	1	0
	Snake Hill	5	0	5	5	6
	South Branch	0	1	2	1	5
	Stonecoal	3	5	4	8	2
	Stonewall Jck	28	33	39	53	40
	Stumptown	1	0	1	1	0
	Summersville	9	9	7	4	6
	The Jug	4	0	4	0	5
	Tug Fork	1	0	0	0	0
	Underwood	1	1	3	1	0
Upper Mud River	7	1	1	2	0	
Wallback	5	6	2	3	2	
Widmyer	0	0	2	0	0	
Woodrum	0	0	1	0	0	
State Land Total		436	425	494	520	386
Private Land		20,997	26,444	24,912	29,102	21,580
*Unknown		6	53	5	1	0
State Total		21,962	27,404	25,778	29,979	22,281

Table 5. West Virginia antlerless harvest, 2010-2014.

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Barbour	1,184	1,025	897	1,222	1,074
Brooke	501	385	596	604	411
Hancock	373	389	484	465	354
Harrison	1,208	1,323	1,491	1,580	1,255
Marion	895	965	1,132	1,391	943
Marshall	926	1,075	1,307	1,104	940
Monongalia	1,235	1,273	1,326	1,255	866
Ohio	348	351	495	470	366
Preston	1,920	1,974	2,341	2,317	1,818
Taylor	662	709	747	680	620
Tucker	266	440	459	428	397
Wetzel	942	974	1,172	1,646	934
Dist. I Subtotal	10,460	10,883	12,447	13,162	9,978
Berkeley	557	674	647	941	752
Grant	559	622	661	915	559
Hampshire	905	1,089	1,103	1,571	1,054
Hardy	800	874	987	1,370	825
Jefferson	410	461	517	566	488
Mineral	861	861	993	1,194	880
Morgan	477	380	470	754	531
Pendleton	358	576	705	717	597
Dist. II Subtotal	4,927	5,537	6,083	8,028	5,686
Braxton	1,032	1,368	1,239	1,524	1,266
Clay	114	38	151	249	127
Lewis	1,350	1,511	1,575	2,073	1,414
Nicholas	197	348	589	539	454
Pocahontas	267	556	384	405	355
Randolph	539	1,434	1,331	1,138	1,094
Upshur	1,021	1,361	1,587	1,769	1,359
Webster	131	246	501	405	138
Dist. III Subtotal	4,651	6,862	7,357	8,102	6,207
Fayette	73	186	401	436	294
Greenbrier	574	777	818	1,108	856
Mercer	110	54	76	415	253
Monroe	952	823	916	1,710	1,194
Raleigh	57	193	131	356	219
Summers	329	128	1,165	1,119	917
Dist. IV Subtotal	2,095	2,161	3,507	5,144	3,733
Boone	51	61	89	251	203
Cabell	452	377	420	734	491
Kanawha	547	674	631	829	484
Lincoln	225	120	659	949	739
Mason	1,617	2,142	2,007	2,487	1,425
Putnam	840	838	1,113	1,430	800
Wayne	242	290	369	496	288
Dist. V Subtotal	3,974	4,502	5,288	7,176	4,430
Calhoun	527	644	765	1,044	594
Doddridge	550	741	730	946	731
Gilmer	664	708	639	1,230	779
Jackson	1,270	1,800	1,807	2,467	1,304
Pleasants	347	329	363	452	254
Ritchie	1,188	1,184	1,339	1,902	1,303
Roane	1,050	1,204	1,154	2,119	1,244
Tyler	899	1,023	920	1,237	742
Wirt	753	986	952	1,404	919
Wood	1,245	1,698	1,659	2,223	1,529
Dist. VI Subtotal	8,493	10,317	10,328	15,024	9,399
State Total	34,600	40,262	45,010	56,636	39,433

Table 6. Antlerless harvest by locality in West Virginia, 2010-2014.

Area	Locality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Monongahela NF	Beaver Dam	0	1	0	7	26
	Blackwater	44	35	47	53	65
	Cheat	0	0	0	4	2
	Cranberry	2	0	11	15	7
	Little River	1	0	6	37	52
	Neola	0	1	1	6	2
	Otter Creek	7	10	6	10	9
	Potomac	17	18	86	101	74
	Rimel	0	0	0	2	3
	Tea Creek	0	0	5	5	5
Monongahela NF Total		71	65	162	240	245
George Washington NF	Shenandoah	2	0	14	13	8
	Wardensville	39	24	58	46	11
George Washington NF Total		41	24	72	59	19
	Potts Creek	3	1	6	0	1
Jefferson NF Total		3	1	6	0	1
State Land	Allegheny	5	0	4	6	8
	Amherst/Plymouth	13	16	13	16	7
	Bear Rocks	3	3	7	7	3
	Becky Creek	2	1	0	0	0
	Beech Fork	13	10	10	31	8
	Beury Mtn	12	26	8	16	9
	Big Ditch	0	1	1	1	0
	Big Ugly	0	1	3	6	1
	Bluestone	83	41	169	167	116
	Burches Run	0	2	1	0	1
	Burnsville	51	64	76	92	35
	Cabwaylingo Sf	0	1	0	1	1
	Calvin Price Sf	0	0	1	1	5
	Camp Creek Sf	0	2	0	5	13
	Castleman Run	9	3	11	12	12
	Center Branch	10	3	3	2	2
	Conaway Run	3	2	2	11	7
	Coopers Rock Sf	65	42	52	52	27
	Cornstalk	79	102	95	124	62
	Cross Creek	16	7	18	43	25
	Dents Run WMA	0	1	3	11	5
	Dunkards Fork	0	0	1	1	0
	East Lynn	5	2	4	9	0
	Edwards Run	1	7	2	2	0
	Elk Fork	0	0	5	2	2
	Elk River	27	15	35	54	43
	Fairfax Pond-Reh	0	0	0	0	2
	Fort Mill Ridge	2	2	1	2	0
	Frozen Camp	23	17	17	36	24
	Green Bottom	1	1	2	2	0
	Greenbrier Sf	0	0	0	3	2
	Hilbert	0	0	2	0	1
	Hillcrest	4	13	14	11	4
Hughes River	30	27	53	58	33	
Huttonsville	0	3	0	4	3	

Table 6. Continued.

Area	Locality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
State Land	Kanawha Sf	0	0	0	0	1
	Kumbrabow Sf	2	0	0	6	4
	Lewis Wetzel	19	32	38	67	54
	Little Cannan WM	0	0	5	0	4
	Little Indian Cr	2	13	12	8	14
	McClintic	26	56	29	50	43
	Meadow River	0	5	4	4	4
	Mill Creek	0	1	0	4	2
	Moncove	1	2	4	1	9
	Morris Creek	1	2	0	0	3
	Nathaniel Mnt	1	7	9	9	10
	O'Brien	0	0	0	1	1
	Pedlar	6	4	1	8	0
	Pleasants Creek	13	5	13	14	9
	Plum Orchard	2	4	3	1	1
	Pruntytown	2	7	8	15	11
	Ritchie Mines	4	5	4	7	13
	Sand Hill	0	0	0	7	6
	Seneca Sf	0	0	1	5	4
	Shannondale	18	22	33	20	9
	Short Mnt	21	16	23	11	19
	Sideling Hill WM	0	0	2	4	1
	Sleepy Creek	42	57	100	75	94
	Smoke Camp	0	0	2	0	0
	Snake Hill	2	8	4	10	6
	South Branch	1	1	3	3	0
	Stonecoal	7	5	14	12	11
	Stonewall Jck	90	115	119	152	122
	Stumptown	7	0	2	2	0
	Summersville	0	0	0	1	0
	Sutton Res	1	2	0	0	0
	Teter Creek	0	1	0	0	0
	The Jug	16	11	18	31	36
	Underwood	11	3	4	11	5
	Upper Mud River	0	2	11	1	1
	Valley Bend Wetl	0	2	0	0	0
	Wallback	1	0	1	4	6
	Widmyer	0	0	1	0	0
	Woodrum	2	0	2	1	3
	State Land Total		755	803	1083	1333
Private Land		33,724	39,369	43,686	55,004	38,201
*Unknown		6	0	1	0	0
State Total		34,600	40,262	45,010	56,636	39,433

Table 7. Muzzleloader harvests in West Virginia, 2010-2014.

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Barbour	226	186	131	152	159
Brooke	88	72	49	64	30
Hancock	103	97	75	72	42
Harrison	197	240	135	168	183
Marion	128	152	85	119	106
Marshall	177	201	119	134	108
Monongalia	185	230	111	142	92
Ohio	65	63	45	40	37
Preston	314	294	243	255	267
Taylor	130	119	66	100	84
Tucker	140	163	85	101	88
Wetzel	118	185	136	165	91
Dist. I Subtotal	1,871	2,002	1,280	1,512	1,287
Berkeley	109	142	64	111	83
Grant	124	139	120	98	115
Hampshire	119	180	81	165	122
Hardy	128	172	83	131	109
Jefferson	55	73	46	61	56
Mineral	137	168	99	116	91
Morgan	81	74	46	88	52
Pendleton	50	139	81	93	98
Dist. II Subtotal	803	1,087	620	863	726
Braxton	271	362	238	327	197
Clay	28	17	36	52	26
Lewis	225	301	157	233	198
Nicholas	36	46	244	256	259
Pocahontas	106	120	64	130	120
Randolph	398	450	253	332	304
Upshur	176	234	154	216	145
Webster	24	26	200	199	33
Dist. III Subtotal	1,264	1,556	1,346	1,745	1,282
Fayette	18	38	200	241	166
Greenbrier	115	175	114	212	128
Mercer	28	34	27	142	36
Monroe	146	150	134	139	131
Raleigh	22	19	12	134	85
Summers	82	42	122	136	112
Dist. IV Subtotal	411	458	609	1,004	658
Boone	15	23	24	172	132
Cabell	86	80	66	100	60
Kanawha	123	173	72	119	57
Lincoln	167	57	81	167	86
Mason	245	311	173	215	157
Putnam	131	152	100	158	89
Wayne	45	60	74	69	55
Dist. V Subtotal	812	856	590	1,000	636
Calhoun	102	120	62	155	79
Doddridge	78	136	55	127	77
Gilmer	101	189	91	160	111
Jackson	200	358	178	222	155
Pleasants	53	64	30	46	30
Ritchie	181	192	101	213	96
Roane	141	223	101	213	100
Tyler	124	166	93	110	94
Wirt	154	216	94	161	87
Wood	181	250	135	208	125
Dist. VI Subtotal	1,315	1,914	940	1,615	954
State Total	6,476	7,873	5,385	7,739	5,543

Table 8. Deer mortality by type of season in West Virginia, 2014.

County	Buck Gun	Antlerless	Archery	Muzzleloader	Total
Barbour	886	1,074	416	159	2,535
Brooke	251	411	303	30	995
Hancock	200	354	373	42	969
Harrison	930	1,255	502	183	2,870
Marion	702	943	413	106	2,164
Marshall	707	940	307	108	2,062
Monongalia	689	866	584	92	2,231
Ohio	232	366	250	37	885
Preston	1,526	1,818	999	267	4,610
Taylor	453	620	265	84	1,422
Tucker	494	397	312	88	1,291
Wetzel	891	934	248	91	2,164
Dist. I Subtotal	7,961	9,978	4,972	1,287	24,198
Berkeley	522	752	397	83	1,754
Grant	783	559	300	115	1,757
Hampshire	1,094	1,054	275	122	2,545
Hardy	920	825	231	109	2,085
Jefferson	385	488	363	56	1,292
Mineral	835	880	275	91	2,081
Morgan	412	531	163	52	1,158
Pendleton	861	597	279	98	1,835
Dist. II Subtotal	5,812	5,686	2,283	726	14,507
Braxton	921	1,266	380	197	2,764
Clay	329	127	194	26	676
Lewis	1,166	1,414	372	198	3,150
Nicholas	871	454	630	259	2,214
Pocahontas	831	355	288	120	1,594
Randolph	1,291	1,094	779	304	3,468
Upshur	1,009	1,359	472	145	2,985
Webster	632	138	420	33	1,223
Dist. III Subtotal	7,050	6,207	3,535	1,282	18,074
Fayette	725	294	666	166	1,851
Greenbrier	1,372	856	556	128	2,912
McDowell	0	0	447	0	447
Mercer	402	253	419	36	1,110
Monroe	1,004	1,194	460	131	2,789
Raleigh	506	219	640	85	1,450
Summers	657	917	341	112	2,027
Wyoming	0	0	686	0	686
Dist. IV Subtotal	4,666	3,733	4,215	658	13,272
Boone	519	203	433	132	1,287
Cabell	421	491	288	60	1,260
Kanawha	730	484	771	57	2,042
Lincoln	720	739	418	86	1,963
Logan	0	0	608	0	608
Mason	1,002	1,425	628	157	3,212
Mingo	0	0	284	0	284
Putnam	565	800	437	89	1,891
Wayne	528	288	304	55	1,175
Dist. V Subtotal	4,485	4,430	4,171	636	13,722
Calhoun	504	594	213	79	1,390
Doddridge	615	731	210	77	1,633
Gilmer	669	779	174	111	1,733
Jackson	1,107	1,304	495	155	3,061
Pleasants	273	254	92	30	649
Ritchie	1,123	1,303	404	96	2,926
Roane	927	1,244	356	100	2,627
Tyler	566	742	256	94	1,658
Wirt	681	919	267	87	1,954
Wood	1,011	1,529	638	125	3,303
Dist. VI Subtotal	7,476	9,399	3,105	954	20,934
State Total	37,450	39,433	22,281	5,543	104,707

Table 9. West Virginia 2014 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 habitat for county).

County	Area	Bucks	Antlerless	Muzzleloader	Archery	All Seasons Combined
Barbour	328	2.70	3.27	0.48	1.27	7.72
Brooke	72	3.48	5.70	0.42	4.20	13.79
Hancock	64	3.15	5.57	0.66	5.87	15.25
Harrison	379	2.45	3.31	0.48	1.32	7.57
Marion	286	2.46	3.30	0.37	1.45	7.57
Marshall	294	2.41	3.20	0.37	1.05	7.03
Monongalia	310	2.22	2.79	0.30	1.88	7.20
Ohio	82	2.82	4.45	0.45	3.04	10.75
Preston	632	2.41	2.88	0.42	1.58	7.29
Taylor	160	2.83	3.88	0.53	1.66	8.89
Tucker	402	1.23	0.99	0.22	0.78	3.21
Wetzel	350	2.55	2.67	0.26	0.71	6.18
Dist. I Subtotal	3,359	2.37	2.97	0.38	1.48	7.20
Berkeley	297	1.76	2.53	0.28	1.34	5.91
Grant	471	1.66	1.19	0.24	0.64	3.73
Hampshire	631	1.73	1.67	0.19	0.44	4.03
Hardy	569	1.62	1.45	0.19	0.41	3.66
Jefferson	198	1.94	2.46	0.28	1.83	6.52
Mineral	319	2.62	2.76	0.29	0.86	6.53
Morgan	213	1.94	2.49	0.24	0.77	5.44
Pendleton	690	1.25	0.87	0.14	0.40	2.66
Dist. II Subtotal	3,388	1.72	1.68	0.21	0.67	4.28
Braxton	501	1.84	2.53	0.39	0.76	5.52
Clay	338	0.97	1.17	0.08	0.57	2.00
Lewis	373	3.12	3.79	0.53	1.00	8.44
Nicholas	632	1.38	1.18	0.41	1.00	3.50
Pocahontas	911	0.91	0.39	0.13	0.32	1.75
Randolph	1,019	1.27	1.07	0.30	0.76	3.40
Upshur	343	2.94	3.96	0.42	1.38	8.71
Webster	535	1.18	0.26	0.06	0.79	2.29
Dist. III Subtotal	4,652	1.52	2.18	0.28	0.76	3.89
Fayette	629	1.15	0.74	0.26	1.06	2.94
Greenbrier	991	1.38	2.44	0.13	0.56	2.94
McDowell	515	0.00		0.00	0.87	0.87
Mercer	380	1.06	0.67	0.09	1.10	2.92
Monroe	463	2.17	2.58	0.28	0.99	6.02
Raleigh	562	0.90	0.62	0.15	1.14	2.58
Summers	341	1.93	2.69	0.33	1.00	5.94
Wyoming	481	0.00		0.00	1.43	1.43
Dist. IV Subtotal	4,361	1.39	1.63	0.20	0.97	3.04
Boone	485	1.07	0.42	0.27	0.89	2.66
Cabell	240	1.76	2.05	0.25	1.20	5.26
Kanawha	798	0.92	1.69	0.07	0.97	2.56
Lincoln	426	1.69	1.73	0.20	0.98	4.61
Logan	422	0.00		0.00	1.44	1.44
Mason	413	2.42	3.45	0.38	1.52	7.77
Mingo	404	0.00		0.00	0.70	0.70
Putnam	320	1.76	2.50	0.28	1.36	5.90
Wayne	485	1.09	1.10	0.11	0.63	2.42
Dist. V Subtotal	3,993	1.42	1.82	0.20	1.04	3.44
Calhoun	276	1.83	2.15	0.29	0.77	5.04
Doddridge	316	1.95	2.32	0.24	0.67	5.18
Gilmer	330	2.02	2.36	0.34	0.53	5.24
Jackson	447	2.48	2.92	0.35	1.11	6.85
Pleasants	125	2.18	2.03	0.24	0.73	5.18
Ritchie	443	2.53	2.94	0.22	0.91	6.60
Roane	476	1.95	2.62	0.21	0.75	5.52
Tyler	252	2.25	2.95	0.37	1.02	6.58
Wirt	230	2.96	4.00	0.38	1.16	8.51
Wood	325	3.11	4.71	0.38	1.96	10.17
Dist. VI Subtotal	3,220	2.32	2.92	0.30	0.96	6.50
State Total	22,972	1.77	1.86	0.26	0.97	4.56

*Note counties or portions thereof not open to Class N antlerless deer season include special youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS season harvest however antlerless 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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BULLETIN 15-1

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, services, programs, and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability, or other protected group status. 8.5M 2/15



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WVGAMECHECK

LOG IN. STOP IN. CALL IN.

You must have your DNR ID number (valid for your lifetime) before you check your game in by phone.

Non-licensed hunters: If you are not required to buy a license (e.g., landowner, underage, senior citizens who turned 65 before 1/1/12, etc.), visit www.wvhunt.com or a license agent to obtain your DNR ID Number.

Lifetime license holders: If you have a lifetime license, you have already been entered into the system. To obtain your DNR ID Number, visit www.wvhunt.com or a license agent. This number is different than your lifetime license number.

License buyers: When you buy a base license, a DNR ID Number will be assigned to you and printed on the upper left of your license.

Beginning **April 1, 2015**

LOG IN. STOP IN. CALL IN.

All game must be checked using one of these three methods:

1. Internet – wvhunt.com
2. Telephone – Call 1 844 WVCheck
3. Visit a license agent
You will not have to bring the animal in with you.

When you check your game, you will be given a 13-digit game tag number which must be recorded on a DNR field tag or on a sheet of paper that displays the hunter's or trapper's name and address.

