

# 2015 WISCONSIN BIG GAME HARVEST SUMMARY



Wisconsin's deer, bear and turkey populations have served as the foundation for countless hunting traditions over the decades. Top left (photo by Dean Tvedt): A boy with his deer, harvested in Juneau County with a bow in 1953. Bottom left (photo by Martin Hanson): Martin Hanson and Donald Schram with a bear harvested in Ashland County, 1960. Right (photo by Dean Tvedt): Wilma Clemens displays her wild turkey, taken during a limited spring season in Jackson County, 1966.

**DEER | BEAR | TURKEY**

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**MAY 2016**



Dear Wisconsin Big Game Enthusiast:

Wisconsin continues to offer excellent big game hunting opportunities and is a hunting destination for many people. We are fortunate to have a diversity of big game species and quality habitat to support these populations. In 2015 Wisconsin hunters participated in a new chapter in deer and bear management. Harvested bear and deer were still required to be registered; however, hunters were offered the convenience of registering their animals electronically using the new Game Registration system. Overall, the new system was well received by hunters and most hunters appreciated the time savings provided by the new the registration process. I'd like to thank hunters for the comments and feedback we received on the new registration system.

In 2015, County Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC) completed their first full year of operation. The county councils were created to provide local input and participation in deer management decisions. Led by Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates, the councils gathered public input to provide 2015 antlerless deer harvest goals and permit level recommendations to the Department. I'd like to thank the many CDAC members that volunteered their time to participate in these important deer management decisions.

Gun deer hunters enjoyed an October youth hunt, the traditional November 9-day gun season, December muzzleloader and a return to a statewide December antlerless-only hunt. Also new in 2015, bow, crossbow and gun deer hunters in Farmland Zones were asked to identify the county and land type they in which they planned to use the antlerless harvest tag issued with their license purchase. The archery season ran from Sept. 12, 2015 – Jan. 3, 2016. The crossbow season ran concurrently with the archery season. The overall deer harvest was up slightly in 2015 compared to 2014, with 309,829 deer registered by archery (53,307), crossbow (34,282) and gun (222,240) hunters. Buck harvest was up for each individual equipment type, and the combined archery/crossbow buck kill (51,891) set another new record, topping the previous record from 2014. Positive outdoor experiences resulting from participation in the youth deer hunt continue to increase. The youth deer hunt provides a wonderful opportunity to expose a new generation of hunters to the outdoor world.

The 2015 Wisconsin bear harvest was comparable to 2014 levels, with 4,163 bears being harvested by 10,690 hunters who successfully drew a kill tag, but actual harvest was very close to the established harvest goal of 4,750 bears with the harvest being slightly lower than anticipated in Bear Management Zones C and D. A record 109,088 people applied for either a preference point or kill tag for the 2015 bear season. Although the state black bear population continues to spread southward with bear harvested as far south as Vernon and Dodge Counties, the highest bear kill occurred in the Northern Region (3,240). More bears were harvested over bait alone (2,692) than were shot over dogs (1,396). A total of 11,520 permits will be available for the 2016 season, with a harvest goal of 4,750 bears.

State turkey hunters registered a total of 40,975 turkeys during the 2015 spring hunting season, a slight decrease from the 2014 spring harvest. The statewide success rate was 19.7%, similar to 2014's 19.9% success rate. Hunters reported seeing good turkey numbers in the field, and weather across the state was excellent for hunting throughout much of the season. There were some lingering concerns about turkey populations in the north following the very severe winter of 2013-2014, but harvest levels and success rates in Zones 6 and 7 were the highest since 2012. Total statewide spring turkey harvest has been between 37,000 and 43,000 for the past five years, indicating a stable population after 30 years of continuous growth and expansion. Looking forward, weather during winter and the critical spring breeding period will cause some annual population fluctuations, but overall the future looks bright and stable for turkey hunters.

Thank you for your interest in Wisconsin's big game species. Enjoy your time in the field and have a safe and enjoyable hunting experience in 2016.

Bob Nack, Big Game Section Chief

<b>2016 DEER HUNTING SEASON DATES</b>		<b>2016 BEAR HUNTING SEASON DATES</b>	
Bow & Crossbow	Sept. 17 – Jan. 8, 2017	Zone C:	
Bow & Crossbow (metro)	Sept. 17 – Jan. 31, 2017	<i>With aid of bait and other legal methods not utilizing dogs</i>	Sept. 7 – Oct. 11
Youth Deer Hunt	Oct. 8 & 9	Zones A, B and D:	
Disabled Hunt	Oct. 1 – 9	<i>With aid of bait and other legal methods not utilizing dogs</i>	Sept. 7 – 13
9-day Gun Hunt:	Nov. 19 - 27	<i>With aid of dogs, bait or other legal methods</i>	Sept. 14 – Oct. 4
Gun Hunt (metro)	Nov. 21 – Dec. 9	<i>With aid of dogs only</i>	Oct. 5 - 11
Muzzleloader	Nov. 28 – Dec. 7		
December Antlerless-only:	Dec. 8 - 11		
December Holiday Hunt	Dec. 24 – Jan. 1, 2017		

<b>2016 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON DATES</b>		
Youth Turkey Hunt:	April 8 & 9	Fall Season: Zones 1 – 5 = Sept. 17 – Dec. 31
Spring Season:	A = April 13 – 19	Zones 6 & 7 = Sept. 17 – Nov. 18
	B = April 20 – 26	
	C = April 27 – May 3	
	D = May 4 – 10	
	E = May 11 – 17	
	F = May 18 - 24	

**The 2015 Big Game Harvest Summary**

**Volume 26 – Issue 1**

**Deer, Bear and Turkey**

Compiled by Brian Dhuey

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Wildlife Management

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# The 2015 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Summary

By Brian Dhuey and Kevin Wallenfang

## 2015 Season Highlights

### Bow Totals

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	17,394	14,367	0	31,761
Central Forest	1,610	520	0	2,130
Northern Forest	4,628	1,123	0	5,751
Southern Farmland	7,597	5,765	0	13,362
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,229</b>	<b>21,775</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53,004</b>

### Crossbow Totals

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	11,112	9,208	0	20,320
Central Forest	1,184	428	0	1,612
Northern Forest	4,723	1,227	0	5,950
Southern Farmland	3,575	2,637	0	6,212
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,594</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,094</b>

### Gun Totals

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total <sup>a</sup>
Central Farmland	52,136	78,840	0	130,976
Central Forest	5,497	3,563	0	9,060
Northern Forest	19,528	9,266	0	28,794
Southern Farmland	22,596	31,279	2	53,877
Unknown	0	24	0	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,757</b>	<b>122,972</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>222,731</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes damage deer

### Tribal Totals

Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
491	787	0	1,278

## **Abstract**

This report summarizes the results of the 2015 Wisconsin bow, crossbow, youth, 9-day gun, muzzleloader, and December antlerless-only deer seasons. All statistics are from kill registration data. Since 1953, the Department of Natural Resources has required that Wisconsin hunters register all deer harvested. Permit information was provided by the Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing and the Bureau of Information Management of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Daniel Storm of the Bureau of Science Services summarized data collected from deer aging stations and Brenda Von Rueden of the Bureau of Law Enforcement provided the hunting accident report. The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) provided all Chippewa deer harvest data. This report is possible due to Pittman-Robertson funds.

## **Registration**

A pilot to test the electronic registration of deer by hunters was offered to 14,000 deer hunters in 2014. Much was learned, and a system for all hunters to register deer electronically, known as GameReg, was initiated in September 2015. While hunters were still required to register all deer harvested, they were no longer required to bring them in person to a registration station. Methods included a phone-in, internet, or “smart phone” to collect registration data. Over 200 stations that had been in-person registration stations in the past still allowed hunters to register deer and provided them with one or more of the methods that were available to do so.

## **Season Structure**

Following recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report, major changes were made to the deer management system in Wisconsin in 2014. The state is divided into four deer management zones (DMZ) from north to south, Northern Forest, Central Forest, Central Farmland, and Southern Farmland (Figure 1). Deer management units in these new management zones are based on county boundaries inside the zone. Most counties are now their own management unit with a few exceptions for areas where DMZs cross county boundaries or tribal reservation boundaries were used to develop their own units. Metro areas within these new unit boundaries are now sub-units of the larger county management unit. These sub-units were subject to longer seasons and may have been eligible for additional antlerless permits that were not valid in the rest of the unit.

A continuous bow and crossbow season ran from September through early January. Gun seasons included a statewide youth gun deer season in October, a traditional 9-day gun deer season in November, a 10-day statewide muzzleloader season, and a statewide antlerless-only 4-day hunt in mid-December. There was no late December holiday hunt or October antlerless-only gun season as there had been in previous years.

## **Permits**

All hunters were allowed to harvest one buck statewide per weapon authority purchased. Bow and crossbow hunters that purchased an upgrade authority to use either weapon were only allowed to harvest one buck with either weapon per season.

A free antlerless permit was issued with each weapon authority purchased. These permits allowed the harvest of antlerless deer in any unit in the farmland DMZs. At the time of issuance the license purchaser had to declare a farmland DMZ, unit and landownership type (public or

private) for which they wanted the tag to be valid. Additional antlerless permits could be purchased for both the farmland and forested DMZs. These permits were sold over-the-counter on a first-come, first-served basis at a cost of \$12 each. The purchaser had to designate the zone, unit and landtype (private or public) for which they were purchasing the permit. Permits available were limited in many zone, unit, and land types, with many units in the Northern Forest DMZ and some in the Central Forest DMZ having no antlerless permits available (Tables 1&2). Deer hunters who were hunting under a youth license were issued an additional antlerless tag with each license purchased that allowed the harvest of an antlerless deer statewide, even if the unit had no antlerless tags available to the general public.

The Southern Farmland DMZ bonus buck rules were no longer in effect and hunters were only allowed to harvest one antlered buck per license type. All bonus buck authorizations that had been issued in prior deer seasons expired on 31 March 2015.

### **Bow/Crossbow Season**

The bow and crossbow seasons were held from 12 September - 3 January, 114 consecutive days of hunting. As had begun in 2014, crossbows were legal for all ages of hunters, but required a separate license. Prior to 2014 only hunters who could document a disability or were 65 years or older were eligible to use a crossbow. Hunters were allowed to use both vertical bows and crossbows during the season if they purchased an "upgrade" license for \$3. They were still limited to one buck per hunter regardless of weapon type used to harvest it. Bow and crossbow season remained open during all concurrent firearm hunts, and all hunters, regardless of weapon being used, are required to wear blaze orange clothing during any open firearm deer season.

In most management units, bow and crossbow hunters were allowed to harvest one antlered and one antlerless deer during the season. As in recent years, bow and crossbow hunters were restricted to "Bucks Only" in units that want to increase the number of deer in the unit and restricted gun hunters to "Bucks Only" as well. Bow and crossbow hunters were allowed to harvest additional antlerless deer using free Farmland Zone antlerless deer permit(s), or purchased additional antlerless deer permits in units that allowed the taking of extra antlerless deer.

Six metropolitan sub-units were designated in the state that allowed bow and crossbow hunters additional opportunity to kill deer by keeping the season open until 31 January. Hunters in most sub-units used the same Farmland Zone or bonus antlerless permits that were available in the larger deer management unit. One of these metro sub-units (Superior in Douglas County) had antlerless permits available, even though the unit overall was "Buck Only" unit. Bow and crossbow hunters could purchase additional antlerless permits throughout the season or until all were sold.

Wisconsin bowhunters killed 53,004 deer in 2015. Crossbow hunters killed 34,094 deer. The combined harvest was 87,098; this is up from the combined harvest of 81,701 killed in 2014. Normal amounts of precipitation and above normal temperatures greeted hunters during the first month of the season. October brought more normal temperatures and drier than average conditions. November and December were much above average for both precipitation and temperature. Weather events during the rut were fairly limited and short and alone should not have affected the hunters during most of the rut in Wisconsin. However, temperatures during late October and first week of November were above average, and may have affected rutting activity leading to reduced deer movement. Regardless, many successful hunts occurred during

this period. Overall conditions for hunting were quite good throughout most of the season for bow and crossbow hunters and should have not adversely affected success. A summary of the bow and crossbow deer harvest by deer management unit is contained in Figures 6-9 and Tables 13-16.

## **Firearm Season**

### **October**

A statewide youth deer hunt was held on the 10-11th of October. All persons from 10-15 years of age were eligible to hunt. Mentored hunting was introduced to the state in 2009; this allowed anyone age 10 or older to hunt without a Hunter's Education certification as long as they hunted with an 18-year-old or older mentor. All youth who were mentored or possessed a Hunter's Education certification card and a Gun Deer License were eligible to hunt. The bag limit was one buck and additional antlerless deer with the appropriate carcass tag(s). All youth deer license holders were issued a free antlerless permit, which was valid statewide, even in "Buck Only" units. A total of 7,211 deer were killed by youth during these two days (Table 7 and Figure 4). A special gun hunt for disabled hunters was held on sponsor landowners' properties, a deer of either sex was legal from 3-11 October.

### **November**

Wisconsin held the 2015 regular 9-day firearm deer season during 21-29 November. Rifles were no longer prohibited in most of the state, but local governments could still restrict their discharge in their jurisdictions. Firearm license holders were issued one antlered deer tag valid statewide and one antlerless deer tag that was restricted to use in the Farmland DMZ deer unit and land type of their choice (public and private). Many units in all DMZs offered additional antlerless tags that were specific to land type and were sold for \$12 on a first-come-first-served basis.

The southern 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the state received snow the evening before and most of the morning of opening day. Amounts varied west to east with higher amounts in the west of 10-12 inches. Snowfall ended mid-morning but visibility may still have been hampered by snow hanging on trees and brush. Most of the northern 2/3rds of the state had no snow cover on the ground. Temperatures were in the high 20's and low 30's in the morning and rose above freezing by afternoon, causing the hanging snow to melt and fall. Sunday morning's weather saw even warmer temperatures into the 40's, resulting in much of the areas that still had snow to see significant declines in snow cover with much of it melted by the end of the day. Temperatures stayed above average during the early part of the week with little or no precipitation. Friday saw precipitation return with rain throughout much of the state with some accumulating snow in the far north. Temperatures returned to normal the second weekend of the season with sun in the south and central portions of the state. Generally, temperatures were above average to average with most precipitation occurring during the first Saturday and Friday of the 9-day hunting season. Snow early in the season may have hung in the trees and reduced hunter visibility in the southern 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the state during opening weekend. This hanging snow may have made "finding and seeing" deer more difficult in some cases, or improved visibility in others. The statewide corn harvest was much above average in most of the state with all parts of the state having little standing corn. Most of the ground was unfrozen for opening day of the gun season, and remained so with above average temperatures, this may have inhibited hunters from accessing remote hunting areas and wetlands. Sales of gun deer licenses in 2015 were up from the previous year. Overall hunting conditions ranked a qualitative 7 on a scale of 1 to 10. This is in comparison to a 5 in 2014.

Starting in 2009, deer hunters were asked at the time of registration to rate the weather conditions, deer seen, and hours hunted on the day they killed their deer. Hunters rated the weather on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being the worst. Mean weather ranking for the opening day of the 9-day gun season was 6.7, similar to last years 6.5., only second to the 7.1 of 2012. Prior years have varied from 4 to 7 with 4.2 in 2013, 7.1 in 2012, 6.0 in 2011, 6.6 in 2010, and 6.1 in 2009; all years were different at the  $p < 0.05$  level. The weather ranking for the rest of the season was 7.2, which was above the 6.2 of 2014 and higher than the 5.4 in 2013, 6.9 in 2012, 6.3 in 2011, 6.0 in 2010 and 6.2 in 2009; all years except 2012 and 2014 were different at the  $p \leq 0.05$  level.

The number of deer seen per hour hunted for opening day was 1.18. This was significantly ( $p \leq .05$ ) higher than the 1.10 in 2014, 1.09 in 2013, 1.02 in 2012, 0.96 in 2011, 1.08 in 2010, and 0.79 in 2009. Deer seen per hour for the rest of the 9-day season was also 1.18 in 2015. This is in comparison to the 1.20 in 2014, 1.08 in 2013, 1.02 in 2012, 0.96 in 2011, 1.03 in 2010 and 0.80 in 2009; all years were different ( $p \leq .05$ ). Please note that these rankings are for successful hunters only, and are probably biased by that fact.

Metro deer sub-units' gun deer season opened on 21 November and was open for 21 days (running through 9 December). The bag limit was one deer of either sex for the length of the season. Additional antlerless deer permits were available for purchase that allowed hunters to bag additional antlerless deer.

### **December**

All DMZs in the state were open for muzzleloader-only hunting from 30 November - 9 December. Any unused carcass tag, both buck and antlerless, could be used during this time. Only hunters possessing or accompanying someone with an unused carcass tag could take part in the muzzleloader season. Muzzleloaders were allowed to have scopes with a magnification of greater than 1X, which became legal prior to the 2010 muzzleloader season.

Wisconsin held a statewide antlerless only gun season from 10-13 December. All hunters with an unfilled antlerless deer permit could take part in the season. This season allowed hunters who were unable to fill their antlerless permits during the 9-day and muzzleloader seasons another chance to kill an antlerless deer.

No holiday hunt was held in units in the Southern Farmland DMZ as had been done in the past. County Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC) will have the ability to recommend a holiday hunt starting in 2016.

Hunting conditions for the December season(s) were above average. Most of December had average to above temperatures with little snowfall. Large portions of the state were snowless for much of December with consistent snow not arriving till late in the month. While this may have made seeing deer more difficult, hunters' ability to access hunting areas was enhanced and should have helped them to find deer. Warmer temperatures may have also increased hunter activity and the length of time in the woods.

Hunters killed the 26<sup>th</sup> highest kill total in the last 82 years (309,829; 1<sup>st</sup> 2000 = 615,293, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007 = 518,573) during the bow, crossbow, youth, 9-day, muzzleloader, and December antlerless seasons combined. Only once in the past 25 years has the total deer harvest for Wisconsin fallen below 300,000 (1993). A summary of youth, 9-day, muzzleloader, December

antlerless, and holiday deer harvest by deer management unit is contained in Table 5-7, and Figures 2-4, respectively.

### **Agricultural Damage Shooting Program**

Wisconsin's agricultural damage deer shooting program was in effect for 2015. In 2015, the Department issued 542 agriculture damage deer shooting permits in 64 counties. The number of deer shooting permits issued in 2015 decreased from 2014 when 617 permits were issued in 67 counties. There are two types of deer shooting permits agriculture producers can choose from: permits that require the producer to allow public hunting access during the state deer hunting season, under this option producers are eligible for deer damage compensations; and permits that do not require the producer to allow public hunting access but producers are not eligible for deer damage compensation. Of the two permits types, 275 deer shooting permits were issued where public deer hunting access was required on property the producer owns or leases and 267 deer shooting permits were issued where public hunting access was not required on the property the producer owns or leases.

The number of shooting permits issued each year for the last 10 years are as follows:

2006 - 709 permits in 63 counties	2011 - 484 permits in 64 counties
2007 - 698 permits in 62 counties	2012 - 521 permits in 67 counties
2008 - 713 permits in 66 counties	2013 - 618 permits in 65 counties
2009 - 611 permits in 66 counties	2014 - 617 Permits in 67 counties
2010 - 501 permits in 62 counties	2015 - 542 Permits in 64 counties

Damage permits were primarily valid for harvesting antlerless deer using a gun (occasional exceptions are made to harvest antlered deer or to use archery equipment for harvest). A total of 4,377 deer were harvested under authority of this program; nearly all (4,104) were antlerless. Data from past years has shown that less than 5% of the damage deer are killed with archery tackle. Because of this, all damage deer are assumed to be killed by gun hunters. Tables 9 & 10 summarize deer harvest in the agricultural damage shooting program.

### **Chippewa Deer Harvest**

Deer hunting in the ceded territory by the tribes of the Lake Superior Chippewa took place from 1 September to 31 December. The Tribes harvested 1,278 deer in 2015. Tribal totals are not included in the statewide gun harvest totals in this report, but used in calculating population estimates for each of the units that have tribal harvest. The total Tribal deer harvest by year is in Table 11. A summary of the 2015 Tribal deer harvest by management unit is contained in Table 12. Other off-reservation treaty harvest information can be obtained by contacting the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

### **CWD Harvest**

With the Deer Trustee Report implementation, the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management zone has been eliminated and is now referred to as CWD-affected areas. These boundaries match the counties that prohibit baiting and feeding (38 counties in 2015). A county is included if a wild or captive animal has been tested and confirmed to be positive for CWD in the county or if a portion of the county that is within a 10-mile radius of where the animal that had been tested and confirmed to be positive for CWD.

Special seasons or extensions of seasons no longer exist as they had in the past. Season length and bagging rates were similar to the rest of the state. The "bonus buck" provision that

had allowed the taking of additional antlered deer if an antlerless deer was killed first was discontinued in 2015, with all prior issued bonus buck stickers expiring on 31 March 2015.

**Table 1. Antlerless permit availability and issuance by deer management zone, unit and landtype for 2015.**

Deer Management Zone	County	Land Type	Bonus Permits Available	Bonus Permits Sold	Date Sold Out	Farmland Antlerless Issued	Total Antlerless Issued
Central Farmland	Adams	Private	1,800	505	N/A	7,421	7,926
Central Farmland	Adams	Public	50	50	09/03/2015	2,621	2,671
Central Farmland	Barron	Private	1,325	1,325	11/17/2015	12,195	13,520
Central Farmland	Barron	Public	0	0	N/A	3,728	3,728
Central Farmland	Brown	Private	800	525	N/A	7,585	8,110
Central Farmland	Brown	Public	200	200	11/03/2015	1,907	2,107
Central Farmland	Buffalo	Private	4,000	1,934	N/A	11,656	13,590
Central Farmland	Buffalo	Public	500	326	N/A	836	1,162
Central Farmland	Calumet	Private	425	277	N/A	3,455	3,732
Central Farmland	Calumet	Public	125	125	11/10/2015	1,067	1,192
Central Farmland	Chippewa	Private	575	575	09/11/2015	12,837	13,412
Central Farmland	Chippewa	Public	0	0	N/A	3,948	3,948
Central Farmland	Clark	Private	1,325	1,325	11/20/2015	12,136	13,461
Central Farmland	Clark	Public	50	50	08/18/2015	3,629	3,679
Central Farmland	Door	Private	1,800	689	N/A	7,525	8,214
Central Farmland	Door	Public	200	200	11/18/2015	1,204	1,404
Central Farmland	Dunn	Private	2,300	1,863	N/A	11,799	13,662
Central Farmland	Dunn	Public	200	200	09/04/2015	2,580	2,780
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	Private	1,075	841	N/A	7,159	8,000
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	Public	75	75	09/06/2015	2,357	2,432
Central Farmland	Fond du Lac	Private	850	850	11/23/2015	9,291	10,141
Central Farmland	Fond du Lac	Public	325	325	09/12/2015	4,131	4,456
Central Farmland	Green Lake	Private	8,000	762	N/A	6,447	7,209
Central Farmland	Green Lake	Public	1,000	340	N/A	1,224	1,564
Central Farmland	Jackson	Private	1,325	1,089	N/A	10,263	11,352
Central Farmland	Jackson	Public	0	0	N/A	3,057	3,057
Central Farmland	Juneau	Private	1,300	783	N/A	8,381	9,164
Central Farmland	Juneau	Public	25	25	08/23/2015	2,248	2,273
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	Private	1,100	432	N/A	6,003	6,435
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	Public	200	133	N/A	667	800
Central Farmland	La Crosse	Private	650	650	11/21/2015	7,935	8,585
Central Farmland	La Crosse	Public	100	100	10/02/2015	1,143	1,243
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	Private	2,000	722	N/A	9,709	10,431
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	Public	150	150	10/19/2015	2,105	2,255
Central Farmland	Marathon	Private	3,375	2,308	N/A	26,089	28,397
Central Farmland	Marathon	Public	450	450	09/10/2015	7,538	7,988
Central Farmland	Marinette	Private	3,400	767	N/A	12,972	13,739
Central Farmland	Marinette	Public	175	175	09/04/2015	5,440	5,615
Central Farmland	Marquette	Private	8,000	1,175	N/A	11,587	12,762
Central Farmland	Marquette	Public	2,000	524	N/A	1,965	2,489
Central Farmland	Monroe	Private	1,350	1,103	N/A	12,591	13,694
Central Farmland	Monroe	Public	400	400	11/20/2015	2,913	3,313
Central Farmland	Oconto	Private	2,075	923	N/A	14,117	15,040
Central Farmland	Oconto	Public	200	200	09/12/2015	5,990	6,190
Central Farmland	Outagamie	Private	1,075	787	N/A	10,428	11,215
Central Farmland	Outagamie	Public	350	350	12/11/2015	2,429	2,779
Central Farmland	Pepin	Private	800	680	N/A	3,581	4,261
Central Farmland	Pepin	Public	75	75	09/30/2015	445	520
Central Farmland	Pierce	Private	2,000	1,337	N/A	8,290	9,627

**Table 1. Antlerless permit availability and issuance by deer management zone, unit and landtype for 2015.**

Deer Management Zone	County	Land Type	Bonus Permits Available	Bonus Permits Sold	Date Sold Out	Farmland Antlerless Issued	Total Antlerless Issued
Central Farmland	Pierce	Public	300	300	11/25/2015	962	1,262
Central Farmland	Polk	Private	3,100	2,202	N/A	14,512	16,714
Central Farmland	Polk	Public	500	500	09/17/2015	4,511	5,011
Central Farmland	Portage	Private	2,375	1,431	N/A	13,099	14,530
Central Farmland	Portage	Public	275	275	09/19/2015	2,892	3,167
Central Farmland	Shawano	Private	3,500	1,519	N/A	20,078	21,597
Central Farmland	Shawano	Public	750	500	N/A	3,065	3,565
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	Private	1,025	863	N/A	6,781	7,644
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	Public	100	100	08/18/2015	3,945	4,045
Central Farmland	St. Croix	Private	1,400	1,193	N/A	8,160	9,353
Central Farmland	St. Croix	Public	150	150	09/14/2015	2,158	2,308
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	Private	500	500	09/22/2015	12,197	12,697
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	Public	0	0	N/A	1,261	1,261
Central Farmland	Waupaca	Private	7,200	1,825	N/A	22,543	24,368
Central Farmland	Waupaca	Public	300	300	11/06/2015	2,365	2,665
Central Farmland	Waushara	Private	1,200	1,148	N/A	13,857	15,005
Central Farmland	Waushara	Public	600	600	11/20/2015	3,004	3,604
Central Farmland	Winnebago	Private	375	375	11/20/2015	6,135	6,510
Central Farmland	Winnebago	Public	125	125	09/25/2015	1,735	1,860
Central Farmland	Wood	Private	775	775	11/19/2015	9,380	10,155
Central Farmland	Wood	Public	25	25	08/18/2015	2,852	2,877
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>			<b>84,150</b>	<b>43,406</b>		<b>472,116</b>	<b>515,522</b>
Central Forest	Adams	Private	5,150	5,150	11/17/2015	0	5,150
Central Forest	Adams	Public	850	850	08/17/2015	0	850
Central Forest	Clark	Private	800	800	08/17/2015	0	800
Central Forest	Clark	Public	650	650	08/17/2015	0	650
Central Forest	Eau Claire	Private	875	875	11/14/2015	0	875
Central Forest	Eau Claire	Public	150	150	08/17/2015	0	150
Central Forest	Jackson	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Central Forest	Jackson	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Central Forest	Juneau	Private	825	825	08/20/2015	0	825
Central Forest	Juneau	Public	100	100	08/17/2015	0	100
Central Forest	Monroe	Private	100	100	08/17/2015	0	100
Central Forest	Monroe	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Central Forest	Wood	Private	300	300	08/17/2015	0	300
Central Forest	Wood	Public	75	75	08/17/2015	0	75
<b>Central Forest Total</b>			<b>9,875</b>	<b>9,875</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>9,875</b>
Northern Forest	Ash.-Madeline Isl	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Ash.-Madeline Isl	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Ashland	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Ashland	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Bad River Res.	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Bad River Res.	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Bayfield	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Bayfield	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Burnett	Private	1,075	1,075	08/17/2015	0	1,075
Northern Forest	Burnett	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Douglas	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Douglas	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0

**Table 1. Antlerless permit availability and issuance by deer management zone, unit and landtype for 2015.**

Deer Management Zone	County	Land Type	Bonus Permits Available	Bonus Permits Sold	Date Sold Out	Farmland Antlerless Issued	Total Antlerless Issued
Northern Forest	Florence	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Florence	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Forest	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Forest	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Iron	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Iron	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	LCO Res	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	LCO Res	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Langlade	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Langlade	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	LdF Res	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	LdF Res	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Lincoln	Private	750	750	08/17/2015	0	750
Northern Forest	Lincoln	Public	250	250	08/17/2015	0	250
Northern Forest	Marinette	Private	725	725	08/17/2015	0	725
Northern Forest	Marinette	Public	225	225	08/17/2015	0	225
Northern Forest	Menominee	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Menominee	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Oconto	Private	500	500	09/12/2015	0	500
Northern Forest	Oconto	Public	200	200	08/17/2015	0	200
Northern Forest	Oneida	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Oneida	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Price	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Price	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Red Cliff Res	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Red Cliff Res	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Rusk	Private	1,225	1,225	08/17/2015	0	1,225
Northern Forest	Rusk	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Sawyer	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Sawyer	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Superior metro	Private	50	50	08/23/2015	0	50
Northern Forest	Superior metro	Public	150	150	08/21/2015	0	150
Northern Forest	Taylor	Private	3,525	3,525	08/21/2015	0	3,525
Northern Forest	Taylor	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Vilas	Private	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Vilas	Public	0	0	N/A	0	0
Northern Forest	Washburn	Private	3,375	3,375	11/12/2015	0	3,375
Northern Forest	Washburn	Public	825	825	08/20/2015	0	825
<b>Northern Forest Total</b>			<b>12,875</b>	<b>12,875</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>12,875</b>
Southern Farmland	Columbia	Private	1,675	1,083	N/A	11,591	12,674
Southern Farmland	Columbia	Public	800	660	N/A	2,644	3,304
Southern Farmland	Crawford	Private	2,000	991	N/A	8,270	9,261
Southern Farmland	Crawford	Public	200	200	11/12/2015	1,287	1,487
Southern Farmland	Dane	Private	2,700	990	N/A	10,387	11,377
Southern Farmland	Dane	Public	500	500	12/03/2015	2,657	3,157
Southern Farmland	Dodge	Private	1,325	1,154	N/A	10,085	11,239
Southern Farmland	Dodge	Public	125	125	09/09/2015	2,933	3,058
Southern Farmland	Grant	Private	2,550	1,289	N/A	11,356	12,645
Southern Farmland	Grant	Public	250	250	11/20/2015	1,275	1,525

**Table 1. Antlerless permit availability and issuance by deer management zone, unit and landtype for 2015.**

Deer Management Zone	County	Land Type	Bonus Permits Available	Bonus Permits Sold	Date Sold Out	Farmland Antlerless Issued	Total Antlerless Issued
Southern Farmland	Green	Private	1,450	624	N/A	5,062	5,686
Southern Farmland	Green	Public	125	125	11/15/2015	797	922
Southern Farmland	Iowa	Private	3,000	1,075	N/A	9,257	10,332
Southern Farmland	Iowa	Public	400	400	11/26/2015	1,295	1,695
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	Private	875	862	N/A	6,801	7,663
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	Public	50	50	08/21/2015	2,445	2,495
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	Private	50	50	08/27/2015	1,827	1,877
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	Public	25	25	08/20/2015	1,007	1,032
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	Private	1,050	750	N/A	4,308	5,058
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	Public	25	25	08/24/2015	634	659
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	Private	600	121	N/A	400	521
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	Public	75	21	N/A	85	106
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	Private	850	486	N/A	3,245	3,731
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	Public	150	150	11/20/2015	666	816
Southern Farmland	Racine	Private	0	0	N/A	2,512	2,512
Southern Farmland	Racine	Public	0	0	N/A	1,014	1,014
Southern Farmland	Richland	Private	2,650	1,254	N/A	10,001	11,255
Southern Farmland	Richland	Public	350	283	N/A	689	972
Southern Farmland	Rock	Private	1,550	697	N/A	5,662	6,359
Southern Farmland	Rock	Public	250	250	11/18/2015	1,683	1,933
Southern Farmland	Sauk	Private	3,200	1,423	N/A	12,765	14,188
Southern Farmland	Sauk	Public	500	500	11/20/2015	2,288	2,788
Southern Farmland	Vernon	Private	3,700	1,649	N/A	12,257	13,906
Southern Farmland	Vernon	Public	300	300	11/13/2015	1,593	1,893
Southern Farmland	Walworth	Private	375	375	11/18/2015	3,749	4,124
Southern Farmland	Walworth	Public	150	150	09/14/2015	2,058	2,208
Southern Farmland	Washington	Private	1,350	935	N/A	8,111	9,046
Southern Farmland	Washington	Public	350	350	10/17/2015	3,020	3,370
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	Private	925	826	N/A	6,076	6,902
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	Public	375	375	11/14/2015	3,322	3,697
<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>		<b>Private</b>	<b>36,875</b>	<b>21,373</b>		<b>177,114</b>	<b>198,487</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>143,775</b>	<b>87,529</b>		<b>649,230</b>	<b>736,759</b>

**Table 2.** Antlerless deer quota, permits available, permits issued, harvest, and percent of quota killed by Deer Management Zone and Unit for the 2015 season.

Deer Management Zone	County	Antlerless Quota	Permits Available	(Bonus+Farmland) Permits Issued	Antlerless Harvest	% of Quota
Central Farmland	Adams	1,525	1,850	10,597	967	63.41%
Central Farmland	Barron	2,780	1,325	17,248	3,716	133.67%
Central Farmland	Brown	2,700	1,000	10,217	1,608	59.56%
Central Farmland	Buffalo	9,000	4,500	14,752	4,626	51.40%
Central Farmland	Calumet	1,520	550	4,924	768	50.53%
Central Farmland	Chippewa	1,087	575	17,360	3,316	305.06%
Central Farmland	Clark	2,500	1,375	17,140	2,904	116.16%
Central Farmland	Door	5,000	2,000	9,618	2,001	40.02%
Central Farmland	Dunn	550	2,500	16,442	4,358	792.36%
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	220	1,150	10,432	1,579	717.73%
Central Farmland	Fond Du Lac	2,500	1,175	14,597	2,476	99.04%
Central Farmland	Green Lake	4,220	9,000	8,773	2,468	58.48%
Central Farmland	Jackson	3,525	1,375	14,409	2,528	71.72%
Central Farmland	Juneau	2,400	1,325	11,437	1,528	63.67%
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	3,400	1,300	7,235	1,552	45.65%
Central Farmland	La Crosse	2,100	750	9,828	2,317	110.33%
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	5,000	2,150	12,686	2,272	45.44%
Central Farmland	Marathon	6,500	3,825	36,385	6,933	106.66%
Central Farmland	Marinette	5,000	3,575	19,354	2,000	40.00%
Central Farmland	Marquette	6,360	10,000	15,251	3,498	55.00%
Central Farmland	Monroe	5,000	1,750	17,007	3,407	68.14%
Central Farmland	Oconto	5,860	2,425	21,230	2,932	50.03%
Central Farmland	Outagamie	4,620	1,425	13,994	2,524	54.63%
Central Farmland	Pepin	2,000	875	4,781	1,567	78.35%
Central Farmland	Pierce	4,117	2,300	10,889	2,890	70.20%
Central Farmland	Polk	7,670	3,600	21,725	5,198	67.77%
Central Farmland	Portage	5,540	2,650	17,697	3,632	65.56%
Central Farmland	Shawano	15,000	4,250	25,162	5,539	36.93%
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	1,830	1,125	11,689	1,879	102.68%
Central Farmland	St Croix	3,000	1,550	11,661	2,311	77.03%
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	4,000	500	13,958	4,075	101.88%
Central Farmland	Waupaca	12,300	7,500	27,033	6,133	49.86%
Central Farmland	Waushara	4,290	1,800	18,609	3,040	70.86%
Central Farmland	Winnebago	1,600	500	8,370	1,254	78.38%
Central Farmland	Wood	1,800	775	13,032	2,207	122.61%
Central Forest	Adams	3,000	6,000	6,000	2,003	66.77%
Central Forest	Clark	700	1,450	1,450	953	136.14%
Central Forest	Eau Claire	625	1,025	1,025	362	57.92%
Central Forest	Jackson	0	0	0	193	N/A
Central Forest	Juneau	470	925	925	510	108.51%
Central Forest	Monroe	50	100	100	150	300.00%
Central Forest	Wood	200	375	375	340	170.00%
Northern Forest	Ashland	0	0	0	130	N/A
Northern Forest	Bayfield	0	0	0	333	N/A

**Table 2. Antlerless deer quota, permits available, permits issued, harvest, and percent of quota killed by Deer Management Zone and Unit for the 2015 season.**

Deer Management Zone	County	Antlerless Quota	Permits Available	(Bonus+Farmland) Permits Issued	Antlerless Harvest	% of Quota
Northern Forest	Burnett	500	1,075	1,075	939	187.80%
Northern Forest	Douglas (Superior Subzone)	0	200	200	74	N/A
Northern Forest	Florence	0	0	0	277	N/A
Northern Forest	Forest	0	0	0	233	N/A
Northern Forest	Iron	0	0	0	52	N/A
Northern Forest	Langlade	0	0	0	397	N/A
Northern Forest	Lincoln	380	1,000	1,000	790	207.89%
Northern Forest	Marinette	350	950	950	933	266.57%
Northern Forest	Menominee	0	0	0	1	N/A
Northern Forest	Oconto	100	300	700	420	420.00%
Northern Forest	Oneida	0	0	0	494	N/A
Northern Forest	Price	0	0	0	384	N/A
Northern Forest	Rusk	500	1,225	1,225	1,071	214.20%
Northern Forest	Sawyer	0	0	0	280	N/A
Northern Forest	Taylor	1,550	3,525	3,525	2,137	137.87%
Northern Forest	Vilas	0	0	0	345	N/A
Northern Forest	Washburn	1,600	4,200	4,200	1,826	114.13%
Southern Farmland	Columbia	5,200	2,475	15,978	3,317	63.79%
Southern Farmland	Crawford	4,840	2,200	10,748	2,818	58.22%
Southern Farmland	Dane	5,030	3,200	14,534	2,270	45.13%
Southern Farmland	Dodge	2,725	1,500	14,297	2,740	100.55%
Southern Farmland	Grant	6,170	2,800	14,170	3,894	63.11%
Southern Farmland	Green	2,000	1,575	6,608	1,334	66.70%
Southern Farmland	Iowa	3,800	3,400	12,027	2,706	71.21%
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	1,500	925	10,158	1,460	97.33%
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	50	75	2,909	199	398.00%
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	1,820	1,075	5,717	1,469	80.71%
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	280	675	627	121	43.21%
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	1,290	1,000	4,547	760	58.91%
Southern Farmland	Racine	0	0	3,526	254	N/A
Southern Farmland	Richland	5,000	3,000	12,227	3,133	62.66%
Southern Farmland	Rock	1,460	1,800	8,292	1,147	78.56%
Southern Farmland	Sauk	7,160	3,700	16,976	4,049	56.55%
Southern Farmland	Vernon	8,000	4,000	15,799	4,417	55.21%
Southern Farmland	Walworth	580	525	6,332	670	115.52%
Southern Farmland	Washington	2,730	1,700	12,416	1,713	62.75%
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	1,300	1,300	10,599	1,210	93.08%

**Table 3.** *Nine-day gun season opening day deer hunting pressure expressed as hunters per square mile of deer range, with current deer range densities 2014-15.*

Deer Management Zone	County	Deer Range	2014 <sup>a</sup>	2015 <sup>a</sup>
Central Farmland	Adams	72.07	31.4	25.1
Central Farmland	Barron	530.99	14.2	18
Central Farmland	Brown	113.47	37.3	34.1
Central Farmland	Buffalo	559.95	15.4	18.2
Central Farmland	Calumet	68.6	33.0	58.3
Central Farmland	Chippewa	665.88	10.0	15.1
Central Farmland	Clark	273.17	13.3	18.4
Central Farmland	Door	272.16	20.0	20.9
Central Farmland	Dunn	585.77	12.9	13.4
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	287.72	13.1	12.1
Central Farmland	Fond Du Lac	214.43	32.4	34.3
Central Farmland	Green Lake	179.13	26.1	26.7
Central Farmland	Jackson	374.28	21.0	15.9
Central Farmland	Juneau	231.29	18.9	15.6
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	97.56	52.6	43.6
Central Farmland	La Crosse	320.14	20.3	17.7
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	174.95	30.2	53.1
Central Farmland	Marathon	1000.16	18.0	23.2
Central Farmland	Marinette	345.96	13.5	16
Central Farmland	Marquette	342.73	20.3	31.2
Central Farmland	Monroe	539.21	17.9	15.6
Central Farmland	Oconto	413.03	25.2	30.9
Central Farmland	Outagamie	192.9	27.4	32.8
Central Farmland	Pepin	165.04	20.1	17.2
Central Farmland	Pierce	266.77	20.4	24.2
Central Farmland	Polk	623.37	17.9	21.3
Central Farmland	Portage	502.89	23.4	18.2
Central Farmland	St. Croix	239.24	23.3	18.9
Central Farmland	Shawano	579.7	24.0	27.4
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	190.74	27.7	30.4
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	541.65	17.8	17.6
Central Farmland	Waupaca	480.64	33.3	41.3
Central Farmland	Waushara	383.45	28.3	27.3
Central Farmland	Winnebago	112.94	26.7	35.4
Central Farmland	Wood	263.13	18.4	25
Central Forest	Adams	430.39	23.2	24.9
Central Forest	Clark	474.71	22.6	18.2
Central Forest	Eau Claire	173.23	14.8	10.4
Central Forest	Jackson	452.88	9.0	7.7
Central Forest	Juneau	380.52	13.9	12.9
Central Forest	Monroe	108.57	12.5	7.1
Central Forest	Wood	294.58	13.8	9.6
Northern Forest	Ashland	821.69	5.3	5.3
Northern Forest	Bayfield	1409.69	7.8	8.9
Northern Forest	Burnett	762.68	12.5	13.2
Northern Forest	Douglas	1238.2	6.1	7.9
Northern Forest	Florence	477.22	18.0	17.6
Northern Forest	Forest	996.54	9.2	9.7
Northern Forest	Iron	711.55	4.7	5.6
Northern Forest	Langlade	748.59	11.7	13.8

**Table 3.** *Nine-day gun season opening day deer hunting pressure expressed as hunters per square mile of deer range, with current deer range densities 2014-15.*

<b>Deer Management Zone</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Deer Range</b>	<b>2014<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>2015<sup>a</sup></b>
Northern Forest	Lincoln	797.12	14.2	13.3
Northern Forest	Marinette	920.62	16.7	20.3
Northern Forest	Menominee	.	.	.
Northern Forest	Oconto	336.93	21.1	14.2
Northern Forest	Oneida	1072.2	10.0	11.9
Northern Forest	Price	1199.87	10.3	11.5
Northern Forest	Rusk	818.11	11.1	11.2
Northern Forest	Sawyer	1113.47	9.2	7.5
Northern Forest	Taylor	814.2	16.5	14.7
Northern Forest	Vilas	769.09	12.4	12.1
Northern Forest	Washburn	745.84	11.9	14.4
Southern Farmland	Columbia	370.92	33.0	29.9
Southern Farmland	Crawford	455.33	12.9	15
Southern Farmland	Dane	428.74	14.4	13.8
Southern Farmland	Dodge	272.75	22.7	26
Southern Farmland	Grant	547.09	16.0	16.7
Southern Farmland	Green	179.79	12.6	20.1
Southern Farmland	Iowa	417.64	21.3	17.3
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	196.83	29.9	17.7
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	92.74	6.5	7
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	146.29	26.8	23.8
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	46.42	.	.
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	78.21	13.5	21.4
Southern Farmland	Racine	100.29	12.0	5.1
Southern Farmland	Richland	415.11	20.0	19.9
Southern Farmland	Rock	138.42	15.3	19.6
Southern Farmland	Sauk	525.39	15.8	20.6
Southern Farmland	Vernon	525.85	16.1	22.3
Southern Farmland	Walworth	177.47	10.2	13.8
Southern Farmland	Washington	187.83	17.7	17.9
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	245.97	9.2	7.9

<sup>a</sup> Opening day pressure is obtained from a survey sent to 10,000 Gun Deer and Sports license holders every year. The survey asks hunters to list the unit they hunted in each day of the season. Results from this survey are expanded to estimate the total hunters in each unit. Sampling problems can affect the estimates. Quota permit allocation and season structure may also shift hunting pressure. Questions or comments should be directed to Brian Dhuey.

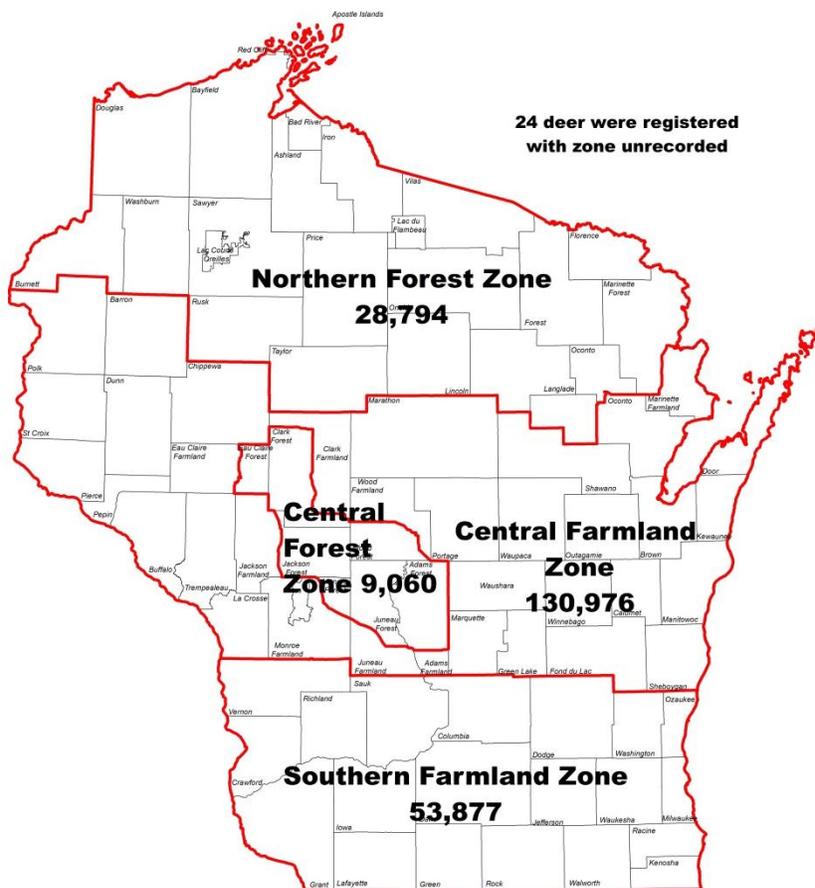
# GUN HARVEST

Wisconsin hunters killed 222,731 deer with a firearm during the 2015 Youth, 9-day gun, muzzleloader, December antlerless only, and holiday deer seasons. Summaries of the harvest by deer management zone and unit are found in Tables 4-8 and Figures 1-4, respectively.

**Table 4.** The total 2015 gun deer harvest by deer management zone.

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total	Damage <sup>a</sup>
Central Farmland Zone	52,136	78,840	0	130,976	2,477
Central Forest Zone	5,497	3,563	0	9,060	152
Northern Forest Zone	19,528	9,266	0	28,794	470
Southern Farmland Zone	22,596	31,279	2	53,877	1,254
Unknown Zone	0	24	0	24	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,757</b>	<b>122,972</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>222,731</b>	<b>4,377</b>

<sup>a</sup> Included in antlered and antlerless totals

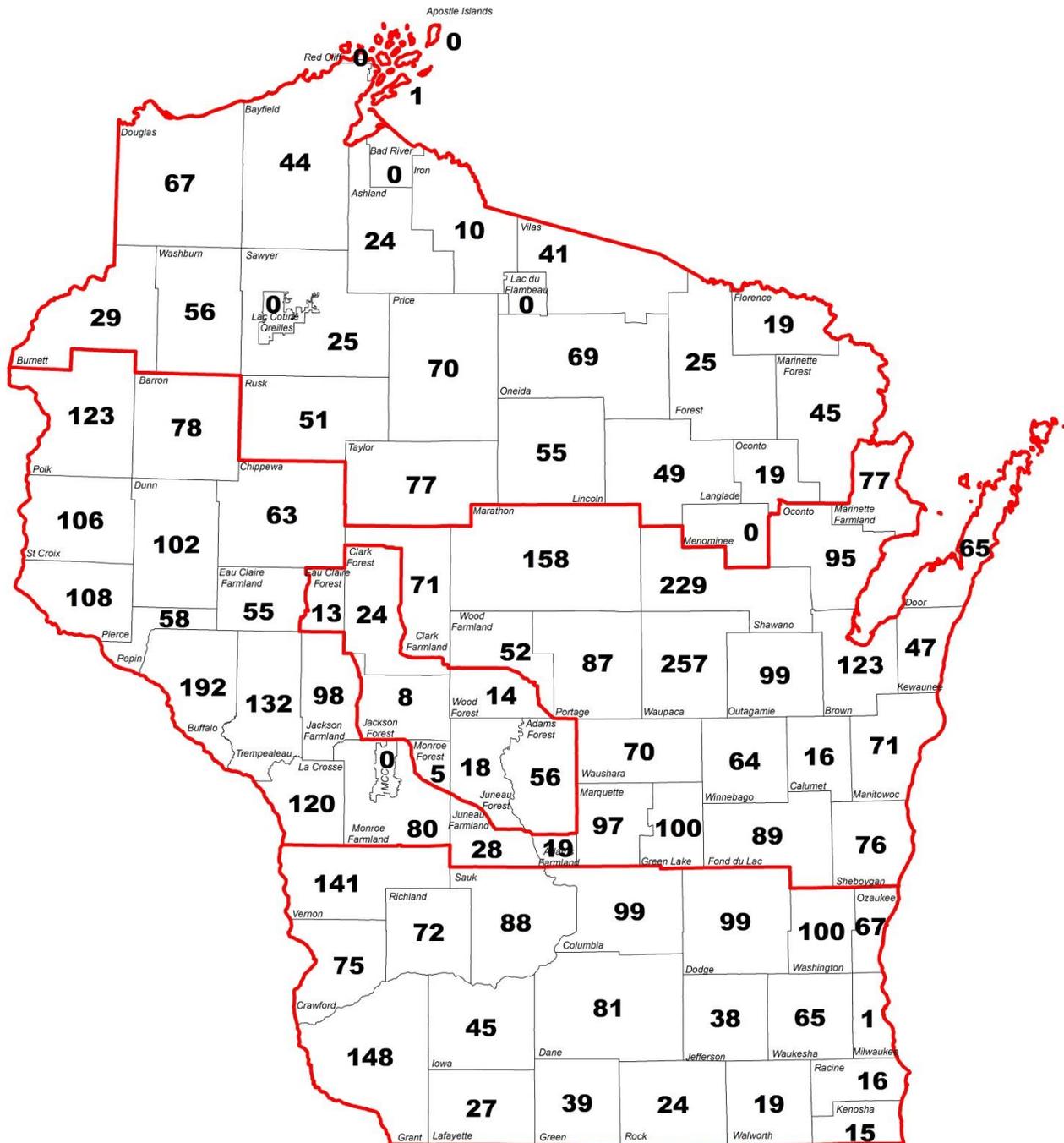


**Figure 1.** The 2015 gun deer harvest by deer management zone.



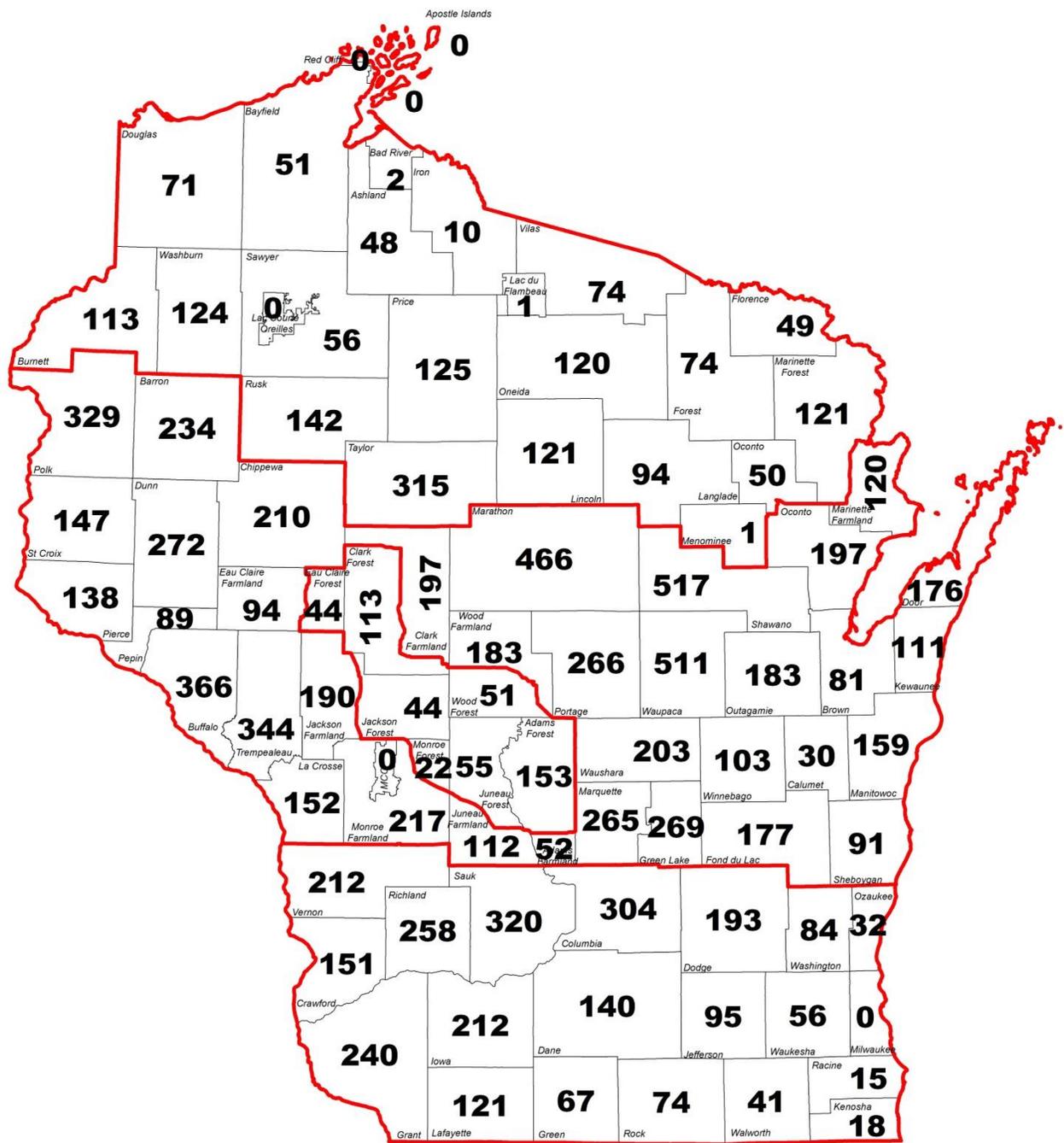
**Total Gun Deer Harvest = 222,731**

**Figure 2.** The 2015 gun harvest by deer management unit, youth, 9-day, muzzleloader, and December antlerless seasons.



**Total Muzzleloader Harvest = 5,478**

**Figure 3.** The 2015 muzzleloader harvest by deer management unit.



**Total Youth, and December Antlerless Harvest = 12,128**

**Figure 4.** The 2015 youth, and December antlerless only deer harvest by management unit. All deer units were open for the Youth and December antlerless if hunter had unused antlerless permits.

**Table 5. Summary of the 2015 9-day gun deer harvest by zone and unit.**

County	Deer					County	Deer				
	Management Zone	9-Day Antlered	9-Day Antlerless	9-Day Unks	9-Day Total		Management Zone	9-Day Antlered	9-Day Antlerless	9-Day Unks	9-Day Total
Adams	Central Farmland	348	676	0	1,024	Ashland	Northern Forest	412	84	0	496
Barron	Central Farmland	1,718	2,828	0	4,546	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest	0	2	0	2
Brown	Central Farmland	700	838	0	1,538	Bad River	Northern Forest	35	11	0	46
Buffalo	Central Farmland	1,736	3,146	0	4,882	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	47	7	0	54
Calumet	Central Farmland	391	539	0	930	Bayfield	Northern Forest	1,360	256	0	1,616
Chippewa	Central Farmland	1,416	2,373	0	3,789	Burnett	Northern Forest	1,471	687	0	2,158
Clark	Central Farmland	1,231	2,090	0	3,321	Douglas	Northern Forest	1,276	352	0	1,628
Door	Central Farmland	1,372	1,361	0	2,733	Florence	Northern Forest	624	228	0	852
Dunn	Central Farmland	2,004	3,325	0	5,329	Forest	Northern Forest	618	158	0	776
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	702	1,018	0	1,720	Iron	Northern Forest	190	35	0	225
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	1,174	1,615	0	2,789	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	6	1	0	7
Green Lake	Central Farmland	1,283	1,617	0	2,900	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	3	2	0	5
Jackson	Central Farmland	1,231	1,791	0	3,022	Langlade	Northern Forest	1,036	288	0	1,324
Juneau	Central Farmland	775	1,137	0	1,912	Lincoln	Northern Forest	972	521	0	1,493
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	990	1,121	0	2,111	Marinette	Northern Forest	1,840	639	0	2,479
La Crosse	Central Farmland	1,152	1,643	0	2,795	Menominee	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	1,236	1,552	0	2,788	Oconto	Northern Forest	712	259	0	971
Marathon	Central Farmland	3,201	4,965	0	8,166	Oneida	Northern Forest	995	322	0	1,317
Marinette	Central Farmland	1,030	1,247	0	2,277	Price	Northern Forest	973	250	0	1,223
Marquette	Central Farmland	1,745	2,404	0	4,149	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	2	0	0	2
MCCoy	Central Farmland	214	303	0	517	Rusk	Northern Forest	1,309	729	0	2,038
Monroe	Central Farmland	1,855	2,524	0	4,379	Sawyer	Northern Forest	949	221	0	1,170
Oconto	Central Farmland	1,455	1,879	0	3,334	Taylor	Northern Forest	1,547	1,292	0	2,839
Outagamie	Central Farmland	1,201	1,572	0	2,773	Vilas	Northern Forest	687	236	0	923
Pepin	Central Farmland	691	1,142	0	1,833	Washburn	Northern Forest	1,287	1,324	0	2,611
Pierce	Central Farmland	1,205	2,142	0	3,347	<b>Northern Forest Total</b>	<b>18,352</b>	<b>7,904</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,256</b>	
Polk	Central Farmland	2,212	3,990	0	6,202	Columbia	Southern Farmland	1,883	2,279	1	4,163
Portage	Central Farmland	1,833	2,644	0	4,477	Crawford	Southern Farmland	1,587	2,336	0	3,923
St Croix	Central Farmland	967	1,549	0	2,516	Dane	Southern Farmland	1,192	1,494	1	2,687
Shawano	Central Farmland	3,043	3,698	0	6,741	Dodge	Southern Farmland	1,282	1,911	0	3,193
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	781	1,295	0	2,076	Grant	Southern Farmland	2,364	3,116	0	5,480
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	1,974	3,005	0	4,979	Green	Southern Farmland	694	979	0	1,673
Waupaca	Central Farmland	3,095	4,068	0	7,163	Iowa	Southern Farmland	1,736	1,958	0	3,694
Waushara	Central Farmland	1,556	2,088	0	3,644	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	662	1,004	0	1,666
Winnebago	Central Farmland	589	706	0	1,295	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	96	80	0	176
Wood	Central Farmland	944	1,479	0	2,423	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	782	1,114	0	1,896
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>		<b>49,050</b>	<b>71,370</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>120,420</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	49	46	0	95
Adams	Central Forest	1,224	1,384	0	2,608	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	225	351	0	576
Clark	Central Forest	1,341	709	0	2,050	Racine	Southern Farmland	167	154	0	321
Eau Claire	Central Forest	406	239	0	645	Richland	Southern Farmland	2,091	2,385	0	4,476
Jackson	Central Forest	599	143	0	742	Rock	Southern Farmland	552	739	0	1,291
Juneau	Central Forest	687	366	0	1,053	Sauk	Southern Farmland	2,496	2,976	0	5,472
Monroe	Central Forest	354	101	0	455	Vernon	Southern Farmland	2,442	3,554	0	5,996
Wood	Central Forest	641	246	0	887	Walworth	Southern Farmland	322	403	0	725
<b>Central Forest Total</b>		<b>5,252</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,440</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	612	975	0	1,587
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	380	515	0	895
						<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>	<b>21,614</b>	<b>28,369</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49,985</b>	
						Unknown	Unknown	0	24	0	24
						Unknown Total	Unknown Total	0	24	0	24
						<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>94,268</b>	<b>110,855</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>205,125</b>	

**Table 6. Summary of the 2015 muzzleloader deer harvest by zone and unit.**

County	Deer Management Zone	Muzzle loader Antlered	Muzzle loader Antlerless	Muzzle loader Unks	Muzzle loader Total	County	Deer Management Zone	Muzzle loader Antlered	Muzzle loader Antlerless	Muzzle loader Unks	Muzzle loader Total
Adams	Central Farmland	6	13	0	19	Ashland	Northern Forest	21	3	0	24
Barron	Central Farmland	23	55	0	78	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest				0
Brown	Central Farmland	48	75	0	123	Bad River	Northern Forest				0
Buffalo	Central Farmland	62	130	0	192	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Calumet	Central Farmland	6	10	0	16	Bayfield	Northern Forest	38	6	0	44
Chippewa	Central Farmland	26	37	0	63	Burnett	Northern Forest	20	9	0	29
Clark	Central Farmland	28	43	0	71	Douglas	Northern Forest	54	13	0	67
Door	Central Farmland	25	40	0	65	Florence	Northern Forest	16	3	0	19
Dunn	Central Farmland	27	75	0	102	Forest	Northern Forest	21	4	0	25
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	13	42	0	55	Iron	Northern Forest	5	5	0	10
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	35	54	0	89	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest				0
Green Lake	Central Farmland	36	64	0	100	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest				0
Jackson	Central Farmland	23	75	0	98	Langlade	Northern Forest	40	9	0	49
Juneau	Central Farmland	10	18	0	28	Lincoln	Northern Forest	25	30	0	55
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	16	31	0	47	Marinette	Northern Forest	28	17	0	45
La Crosse	Central Farmland	43	77	0	120	Menominee	Northern Forest				0
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	26	45	0	71	Oconto	Northern Forest	14	5	0	19
Marathon	Central Farmland	52	106	0	158	Oneida	Northern Forest	54	15	0	69
Marinette	Central Farmland	20	57	0	77	Price	Northern Forest	64	6	0	70
Marquette	Central Farmland	37	60	0	97	Red Cliff	Northern Forest				0
MCCoy	Central Farmland				0	Rusk	Northern Forest	26	25	0	51
Monroe	Central Farmland	33	47	0	80	Sawyer	Northern Forest	24	1	0	25
Oconto	Central Farmland	20	75	0	95	Taylor	Northern Forest	33	44	0	77
Outagamie	Central Farmland	34	65	0	99	Vilas	Northern Forest	35	6	0	41
Pepin	Central Farmland	25	33	0	58	Washburn	Northern Forest	15	41	0	56
Pierce	Central Farmland	34	74	0	108		<b>Northern Forest Total</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>776</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	33	90	0	123	Columbia	Southern Farmland	30	69	0	99
Portage	Central Farmland	29	58	0	87	Crawford	Southern Farmland	24	51	0	75
St Croix	Central Farmland	31	75	0	106	Dane	Southern Farmland	20	61	0	81
Shawano	Central Farmland	71	158	0	229	Dodge	Southern Farmland	38	61	0	99
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	33	43	0	76	Grant	Southern Farmland	42	106	0	148
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	43	89	0	132	Green	Southern Farmland	18	21	0	39
Waupaca	Central Farmland	74	183	0	257	Iowa	Southern Farmland	12	33	0	45
Waushara	Central Farmland	28	42	0	70	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	16	22	0	38
Winnebago	Central Farmland	28	36	0	64	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	9	6	0	15
Wood	Central Farmland	22	30	0	52	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	10	17	0	27
	<b>Central Farmland Total</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>2,205</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,305</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	0	1	0	1
Adams	Central Forest	26	30	0	56	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	29	38	0	67
Clark	Central Forest	13	11	0	24	Racine	Southern Farmland	10	6	0	16
Eau Claire	Central Forest	4	9	0	13	Richland	Southern Farmland	30	42	0	72
Jackson	Central Forest	6	2	0	8	Rock	Southern Farmland	10	14	0	24
Juneau	Central Forest	6	12	0	18	Sauk	Southern Farmland	29	59	0	88
Monroe	Central Forest	2	3	0	5	Vernon	Southern Farmland	48	93	0	141
Wood	Central Forest	11	3	0	14	Walworth	Southern Farmland	9	10	0	19
	<b>Central Forest Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>138</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	42	58	0	100
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	30	35	0	65
							<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,259</b>
						Unknown	Unknown				0
							Unknown Total	0	0	0	0
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>2,158</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,478</b>

**Table 7. Summary of the 2015 Youth and December antlerless season deer harvest by zone and unit.**

County	Deer Management Zone					County	Deer Management Zone				
		Antlered	Antlerless	Unks	Total Kill			Antlered	Antlerless	Unks	Total
Adams	Central Farmland	6	46	0	52	Ashland	Northern Forest	28	20	0	48
Barron	Central Farmland	85	149	0	234	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Brown	Central Farmland	18	63	0	81	Bad River	Northern Forest	1	1	0	2
Buffalo	Central Farmland	71	295	0	366	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Calumet	Central Farmland	5	25	0	30	Bayfield	Northern Forest	26	25	0	51
Chippewa	Central Farmland	74	136	0	210	Burnett	Northern Forest	42	71	0	113
Clark	Central Farmland	64	133	0	197	Douglas	Northern Forest	24	47	0	71
Door	Central Farmland	49	127	0	176	Florence	Northern Forest	25	24	0	49
Dunn	Central Farmland	83	189	0	272	Forest	Northern Forest	28	46	0	74
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	19	75	0	94	Iron	Northern Forest	2	8	0	10
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	33	144	0	177	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Green Lake	Central Farmland	52	217	0	269	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Jackson	Central Farmland	50	140	0	190	Langlade	Northern Forest	37	57	0	94
Juneau	Central Farmland	29	83	0	112	Lincoln	Northern Forest	32	89	0	121
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	36	75	0	111	Marinette	Northern Forest	47	74	0	121
La Crosse	Central Farmland	28	124	0	152	Menominee	Northern Forest	0	1	0	1
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	51	108	0	159	Oconto	Northern Forest	21	29	0	50
Marathon	Central Farmland	149	317	0	466	Oneida	Northern Forest	43	77	0	120
Marinette	Central Farmland	24	96	0	120	Price	Northern Forest	48	77	0	125
Marquette	Central Farmland	62	203	0	265	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
MCCoy	Central Farmland	0	0	0	0	Rusk	Northern Forest	51	91	0	142
Monroe	Central Farmland	54	163	0	217	Sawyer	Northern Forest	24	32	0	56
Oconto	Central Farmland	49	148	0	197	Taylor	Northern Forest	100	215	0	315
Outagamie	Central Farmland	49	134	0	183	Vilas	Northern Forest	25	49	0	74
Pepin	Central Farmland	24	65	0	89	Washburn	Northern Forest	37	87	0	124
Pierce	Central Farmland	25	113	0	138	<b>Northern Forest Total</b>		<b>642</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,762</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	87	242	0	329	Columbia	Southern Farmland	62	242	0	304
Portage	Central Farmland	88	178	0	266	Crawford	Southern Farmland	39	112	0	151
St Croix	Central Farmland	41	106	0	147	Dane	Southern Farmland	21	119	0	140
Shawano	Central Farmland	155	362	0	517	Dodge	Southern Farmland	34	159	0	193
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	16	75	0	91	Grant	Southern Farmland	48	192	0	240
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	112	232	0	344	Green	Southern Farmland	7	60	0	67
Waupaca	Central Farmland	147	364	0	511	Iowa	Southern Farmland	37	175	0	212
Waushara	Central Farmland	63	140	0	203	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	15	80	0	95
Winnebago	Central Farmland	22	81	0	103	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	4	14	0	18
Wood	Central Farmland	66	117	0	183	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	22	99	0	121
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>		<b>1,986</b>	<b>5,265</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,251</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	0	0	0	0
Adams	Central Forest	37	116	0	153	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	4	28	0	32
Clark	Central Forest	46	67	0	113	Racine	Southern Farmland	1	14	0	15
Eau Claire	Central Forest	12	32	0	44	Richland	Southern Farmland	62	196	0	258
Jackson	Central Forest	17	27	0	44	Rock	Southern Farmland	15	59	0	74
Juneau	Central Forest	30	25	0	55	Sauk	Southern Farmland	72	248	0	320
Monroe	Central Forest	8	14	0	22	Vernon	Southern Farmland	54	158	0	212
Wood	Central Forest	27	24	0	51	Walworth	Southern Farmland	6	35	0	41
<b>Central Forest Total</b>		<b>177</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>482</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	15	69	0	84
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	8	48	0	56
						<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>		<b>526</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,633</b>
						Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0
						Unknown Total	Unknown Total	0	0	0	0
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>3,331</b>	<b>8,797</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,128</b>

**Table 8. Summary of the 2015 gun deer harvest by zone and unit (includes Youth, 9-day, damage, muzzleloader, and December antlerless seasons).**

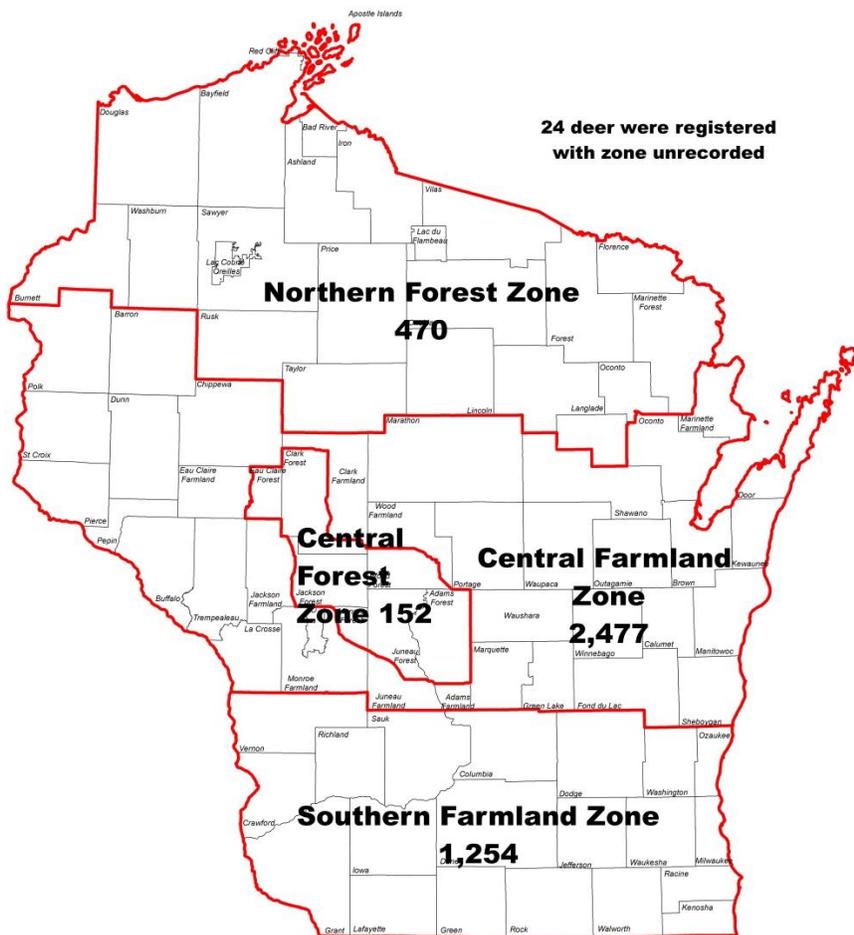
County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total Kill	County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total Kill
Adams	Central Farmland	360	735	0	1,095	Ashland	Northern Forest	461	107	0	568
Barron	Central Farmland	1,826	3,032	0	4,858	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest	0	2	0	2
Brown	Central Farmland	766	976	0	1,742	Bad River	Northern Forest	36	12	0	48
Buffalo	Central Farmland	1,869	3,571	0	5,440	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	48	7	0	55
Calumet	Central Farmland	402	574	0	976	Bayfield	Northern Forest	1,424	287	0	1,711
Chippewa	Central Farmland	1,516	2,546	0	4,062	Burnett	Northern Forest	1,533	767	0	2,300
Clark	Central Farmland	1,323	2,266	0	3,589	Douglas	Northern Forest	1,354	412	0	1,766
Door	Central Farmland	1,446	1,528	0	2,974	Florence	Northern Forest	665	255	0	920
Dunn	Central Farmland	2,114	3,589	0	5,703	Forest	Northern Forest	667	208	0	875
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	734	1,135	0	1,869	Iron	Northern Forest	197	48	0	245
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	1,242	1,813	0	3,055	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	6	1	0	7
Green Lake	Central Farmland	1,371	1,898	0	3,269	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	4	2	0	6
Jackson	Central Farmland	1,304	2,006	0	3,310	Langlade	Northern Forest	1,113	354	0	1,467
Juneau	Central Farmland	814	1,238	0	2,052	Lincoln	Northern Forest	1,029	640	0	1,669
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	1,042	1,227	0	2,269	Marinette	Northern Forest	1,915	730	0	2,645
La Crosse	Central Farmland	1,223	1,844	0	3,067	Menominee	Northern Forest	1	1	0	2
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	1,313	1,705	0	3,018	Oconto	Northern Forest	747	293	0	1,040
Marathon	Central Farmland	3,402	5,388	0	8,790	Oneida	Northern Forest	1,092	414	0	1,506
Marinette	Central Farmland	1,074	1,400	0	2,474	Price	Northern Forest	1,085	333	0	1,418
Marquette	Central Farmland	1,844	2,667	0	4,511	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	2	0	0	2
MCCoy	Central Farmland	214	303	0	517	Rusk	Northern Forest	1,386	845	0	2,231
Monroe	Central Farmland	1,942	2,734	0	4,676	Sawyer	Northern Forest	997	254	0	1,251
Oconto	Central Farmland	1,524	2,102	0	3,626	Taylor	Northern Forest	1,680	1,551	0	3,231
Outagamie	Central Farmland	1,284	1,771	0	3,055	Vilas	Northern Forest	747	291	0	1,038
Pepin	Central Farmland	740	1,240	0	1,980	Washburn	Northern Forest	1,339	1,452	0	2,791
Pierce	Central Farmland	1,264	2,329	0	3,593		<b>Northern Forest Total</b>	<b>19,528</b>	<b>9,266</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,794</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	2,332	4,322	0	6,654	Columbia	Southern Farmland	1,975	2,590	1	4,566
Portage	Central Farmland	1,950	2,880	0	4,830	Crawford	Southern Farmland	1,650	2,499	0	4,149
St Croix	Central Farmland	1,039	1,730	0	2,769	Dane	Southern Farmland	1,233	1,674	1	2,908
Shawano	Central Farmland	3,269	4,218	0	7,487	Dodge	Southern Farmland	1,354	2,131	0	3,485
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	830	1,413	0	2,243	Grant	Southern Farmland	2,454	3,414	0	5,868
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	2,129	3,326	0	5,455	Green	Southern Farmland	719	1,060	0	1,779
Waupaca	Central Farmland	3,316	4,615	0	7,931	Iowa	Southern Farmland	1,785	2,166	0	3,951
Waushara	Central Farmland	1,647	2,270	0	3,917	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	693	1,106	0	1,799
Winnebago	Central Farmland	639	823	0	1,462	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	109	100	0	209
Wood	Central Farmland	1,032	1,626	0	2,658	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	814	1,230	0	2,044
	<b>Central Farmland Total</b>	<b>52,136</b>	<b>78,840</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>130,976</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	49	47	0	96
Adams	Central Forest	1,287	1,530	0	2,817	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	258	417	0	675
Clark	Central Forest	1,400	787	0	2,187	Racine	Southern Farmland	178	174	0	352
Eau Claire	Central Forest	422	280	0	702	Richland	Southern Farmland	2,183	2,623	0	4,806
Jackson	Central Forest	622	172	0	794	Rock	Southern Farmland	577	812	0	1,389
Juneau	Central Forest	723	403	0	1,126	Sauk	Southern Farmland	2,597	3,283	0	5,880
Monroe	Central Forest	364	118	0	482	Vernon	Southern Farmland	2,544	3,805	0	6,349
Wood	Central Forest	679	273	0	952	Walworth	Southern Farmland	337	448	0	785
	<b>Central Forest Total</b>	<b>5,497</b>	<b>3,563</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,060</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	669	1,102	0	1,771
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	418	598	0	1,016
							<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>	<b>22,596</b>	<b>31,279</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53,877</b>
						Unknown	Unknown	0	24	0	24
							Unknown Total	0	24	0	24
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>99,757</b>	<b>122,972</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>222,731</b>

# Hot-Spot Damage

Summaries of Wisconsin’s hot-spot damage deer harvest by deer management zone, and deer management unit in Tables 9 & 10.

**Table 9.** *The 2015 damage deer harvest summary by deer management zone.*

Deer management zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	132	2,345	0	2,477
Central Forest	4	148	0	152
Northern Forest	22	448	0	470
Southern Farmland	113	1,139	2	1,254
Unknown	0	24	0	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>4,104</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,377</b>



**Figure 5.** *The 2015 damage deer harvest by deer management zone.*

**Table 10.** Summary of the 2015 damage/nuisance deer harvest by unit and deer management zone.

County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unks	Total	County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unks	Total
Adams	Central Farmland	0	5	0	5	Bayfield	Northern Forest	1	8	0	9
Barron	Central Farmland	5	27	0	32	Burnett	Northern Forest	0	21	0	21
Brown	Central Farmland	32	110	0	142	Florence	Northern Forest	1	93	0	94
Buffalo	Central Farmland	5	63	0	68	Forest	Northern Forest	1	4	0	5
Calumet	Central Farmland	0	6	0	6	Langlade	Northern Forest	0	34	0	34
Chippewa	Central Farmland	2	15	0	17	Lincoln	Northern Forest	2	42	0	44
Clark	Central Farmland	1	6	0	7	Marinette	Northern Forest	2	44	0	46
Door	Central Farmland	1	24	0	25	Oconto	Northern Forest	1	2	0	3
Dunn	Central Farmland	5	35	0	40	Oneida	Northern Forest	0	40	0	40
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	2	2	0	4	Price	Northern Forest	2	13	0	15
Fond Du Lac	Central Farmland	1	20	0	21	Rusk	Northern Forest	4	26	0	30
Green Lake	Central Farmland	2	200	0	202	Sawyer	Northern Forest	1	30	0	31
Jackson	Central Farmland	2	57	0	59	Taylor	Northern Forest	5	36	0	41
Juneau	Central Farmland	0	7	0	7	Vilas	Northern Forest	2	25	0	27
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	0	17	0	17	Washburn	Northern Forest	0	30	0	30
La Crosse	Central Farmland	11	63	0	74		<b>Northern Forest Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>470</b>
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	5	34	0	39	Columbia	Southern Farmland	2	176	1	179
Marathon	Central Farmland	7	217	0	224	Crawford	Southern Farmland	3	36	0	39
Marinette	Central Farmland	3	148	0	151	Dane	Southern Farmland	20	53	1	74
Marquette	Central Farmland	2	134	0	136	Dodge	Southern Farmland	2	22	0	24
Monroe	Central Farmland	3	35	0	38	Grant	Southern Farmland	0	148	0	148
Oconto	Central Farmland	4	40	0	44	Green	Southern Farmland	5	5	0	10
Outagamie	Central Farmland	5	157	0	162	Iowa	Southern Farmland	5	108	0	113
Pepin	Central Farmland	0	5	0	5	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	1	6	0	7
Pierce	Central Farmland	4	8	0	12	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	0	29	0	29
Polk	Central Farmland	5	118	0	123	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	49	46	0	95
Portage	Central Farmland	2	82	0	84	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	2	36	0	38
St. Croix	Central Farmland	2	33	0	35	Racine	Southern Farmland	1	11	0	12
Shawano	Central Farmland	10	190	0	200	Richland	Southern Farmland	2	132	0	134
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	0	4	0	4	Rock	Southern Farmland	0	2	0	2
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	3	93	0	96	Sauk	Southern Farmland	5	62	0	67
Waupaca	Central Farmland	5	208	0	213	Vernon	Southern Farmland	2	138	0	140
Waushara	Central Farmland	2	80	0	82	Walworth	Southern Farmland	0	14	0	14
Winnebago	Central Farmland	1	17	0	18	Washington	Southern Farmland	5	56	0	61
Wood	Central Farmland	0	85	0	85	Waukesha	Southern Farmland	9	59	0	68
	<b>Central Farmland Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,477</b>		<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,254</b>
Adams	Central Forest	1	91	0	92	Adams	Unknown	0	17	0	17
Clark	Central Forest	0	27	0	27	Jackson	Unknown	0	1	0	1
Eau Claire	Central Forest	0	2	0	2	Marinette	Unknown	0	6	0	6
Jackson	Central Forest	2	10	0	12		<b>Unknown Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>
Juneau	Central Forest	0	8	0	8		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>4,104</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,377</b>
Monroe	Central Forest	0	6	0	6						
Wood	Central Forest	1	4	0	5						
	<b>Central Forest Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>152</b>						

# Chippewa Deer Harvest Summary

The Lake Superior Chippewa Bands began a negotiated deer season with the State of Wisconsin in 1983. The total harvest for 2015 and past years is given in Table 11. The 2015 Chippewa deer harvest by deer management zone and unit are listed in Table 12.

**Table 11.** *Chippewa deer harvest summary, 1983-2015.*

Year	Antlered Kill	Antlerless Kill	Unknown Kill	Total Kill
1983	235	403	5	643
1984	213	447	28	688
1985	435	945	0	1,380
1986	615	1,530	0	2,145
1987	730	2,099	0	2,829
1988	902	2,468	0	3,370
1989	1,016	2,727	1	3,744
1990	1,101	2,739	2	3,842
1991	1,095	3,844	0	4,939
1992	690	1,850	0	2,540
1993	677	1,787	0	2,464
1994	1,163	2,469	5	3,637
1995	1,584	3,340	1	4,925
1996	1,100	2,224	23	3,347
1997	1,120	2,227	0	3,347
1998	1,529	2,435	0	3,964
1999	1,349	1,896	18	3,263
2000	1,351	1,630	0	2,981
2001	1,047	1,526	0	2,573
2002	861	1,044	0	1,905
2003	1,162	1,524	0	2,686
2004	954	1,068	0	2,022
2005	852	1,305	6	2,163
2006	956	1,354	2	2,312
2007	828	1,015	0	1,843
2008	695	900	0	1,595
2009	540	842	0	1,382
2010	646	847	0	1,493
2011	508	831	1	1,340
2012	666	943	0	1,609
2013	542	817	0	1,359
2014	423	702	0	1,125
2015	491	787	0	1,278

**Table 12.** *Summary of the 2015 Chippewa harvest by deer management zone and unit.*

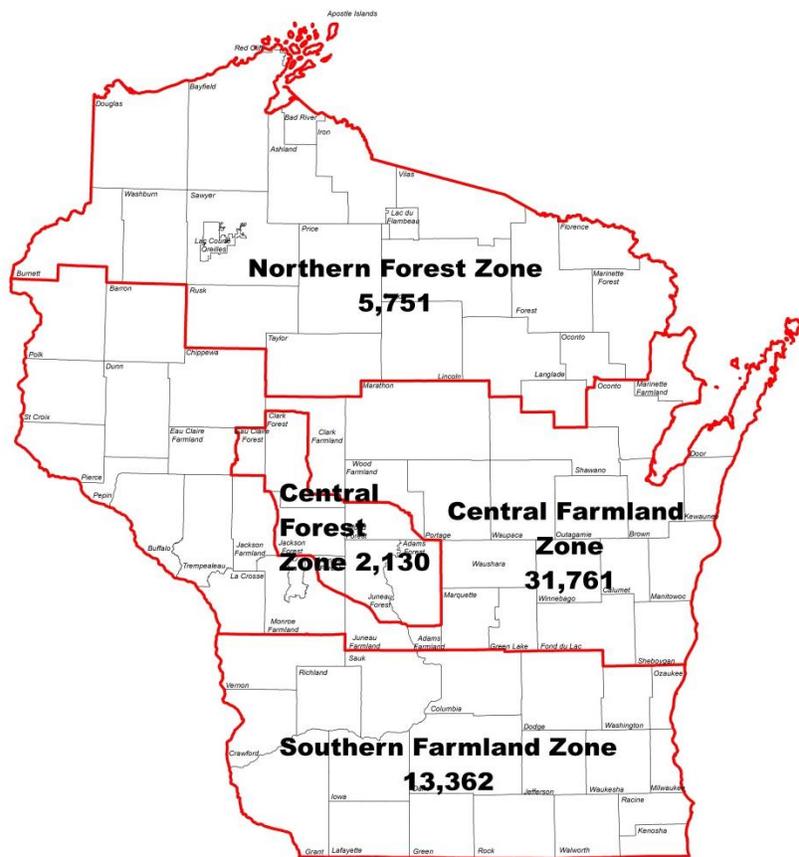
<b>Deer Management Zone</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Antlered</b>	<b>Antlerless</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Northern Forest	Ashland	4	6	10
Northern Forest	Barron	1	2	3
Northern Forest	Bayfield	68	91	159
Northern Forest	Burnett	168	161	329
Central Farmland	Chippewa	3	3	6
Northern Forest	Douglas	40	91	131
Central Forest	Eau Claire	1		1
Northern Forest	Florence	1	16	17
Northern Forest	Forest	28	60	88
Northern Forest	Iron	11	33	44
Northern Forest	Langlade	5	13	18
Northern Forest	Lincoln	1	1	2
Central Farmland	Marathon	1		1
Northern Forest	Marinette	2	5	7
Northern Forest	Oconto	1	1	2
Northern Forest	Oneida	21	50	71
Central Farmland	Polk	11	3	14
Northern Forest	Price	9	20	29
Northern Forest	Rusk	15	10	25
Northern Forest	Sawyer	35	86	121
Central Farmland	St. Croix		2	2
Northern Forest	Taylor	1	1	2
Northern Forest	Vilas	38	99	137
Northern Forest	Washburn	23	31	54
	Unknown	3	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>1,278</b>

# Bow Harvest

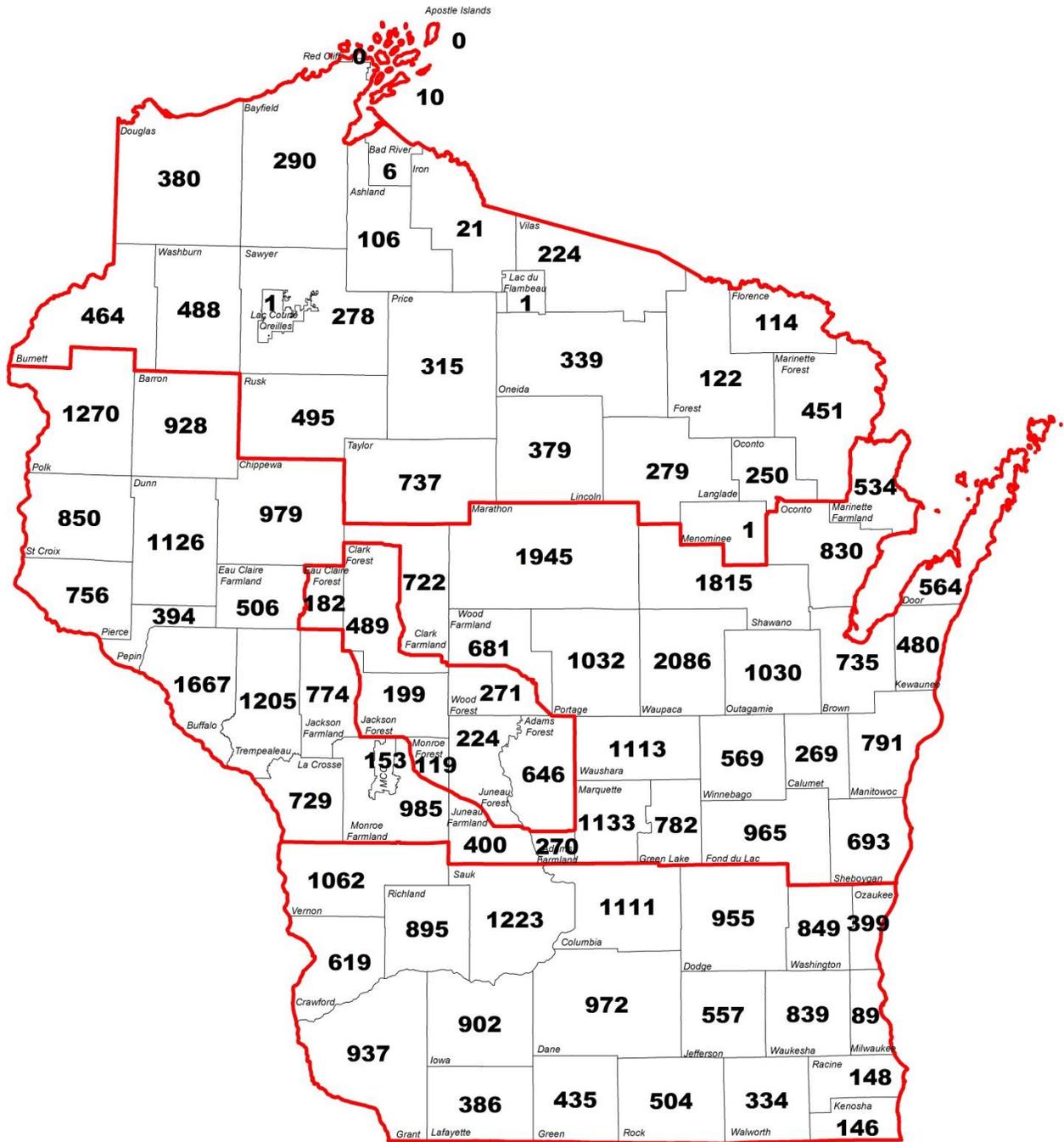
Wisconsin bow hunters killed 53,004 deer during the bow deer seasons (Table 14).

**Table 13.** *The 2015 bow deer harvest by deer management zone.*

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	17,394	14,367	0	31,761
Central Forest	1,610	520	0	2,130
Northern Forest	4,628	1,123	0	5,751
Southern Farmland	7,597	5,765	0	13,362
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,229</b>	<b>21,775</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53,004</b>



**Figure 6.** *The 2015 bow deer harvest by deer management zone.*



**Total Bow Harvest = 53,004**

Figure 7. The 2015 bow deer harvest by deer management zone and unit.

**Table 14. Summary of the 2015 bow deer harvest by zone and unit (vertical bows).**

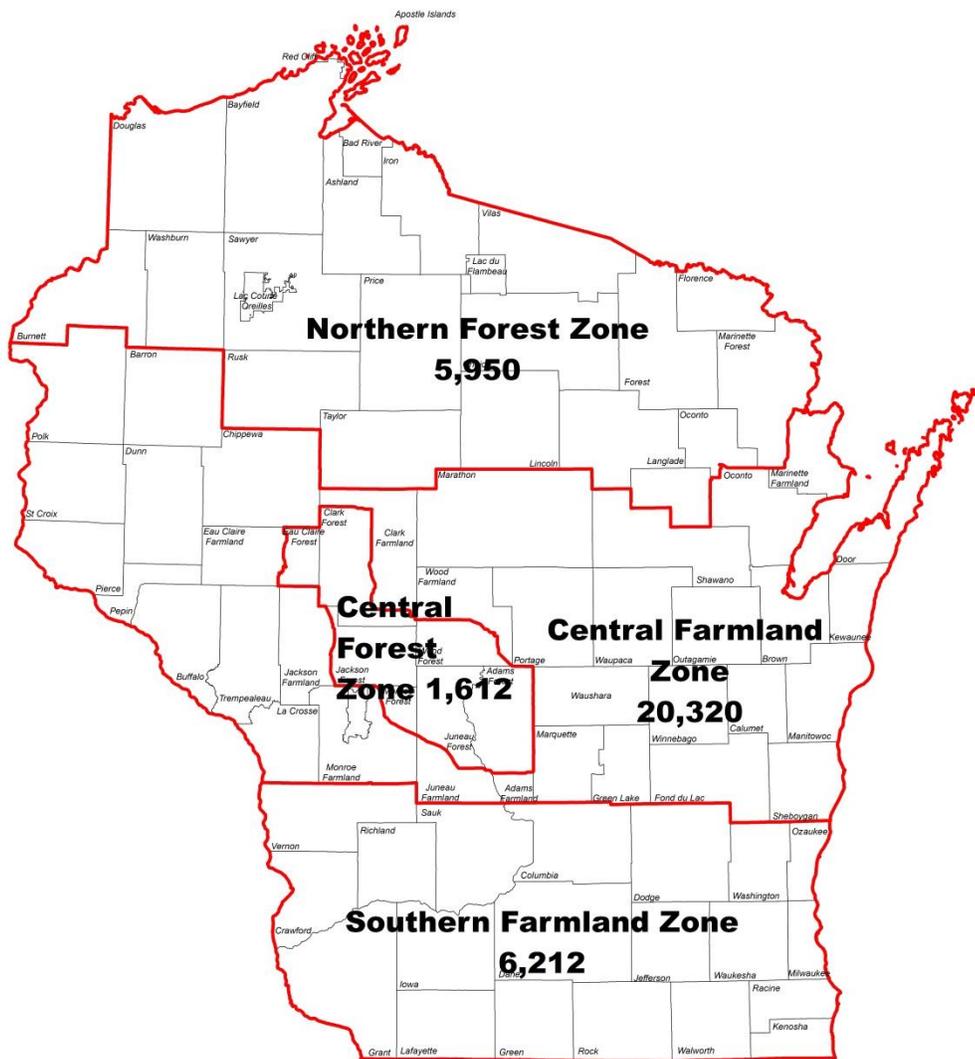
County	Deer Management Zone	Bow Antlered	Bow Antlerless	Bow Unknown	Bow Total Kill	County	Deer Management Zone	Bow Antlered	Bow Antlerless	Bow Unknown	Bow Total Kill
Adams	Central Farmland	126	144	0	270	Ashland	Northern Forest	95	11	0	106
Barron	Central Farmland	522	406	0	928	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Brown	Central Farmland	369	366	0	735	Bad River	Northern Forest	6	0	0	6
Buffalo	Central Farmland	945	722	0	1,667	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	9	1	0	10
Calumet	Central Farmland	157	112	0	269	Bayfield	Northern Forest	277	13	0	290
Chippewa	Central Farmland	527	452	0	979	Burnett	Northern Forest	352	112	0	464
Clark	Central Farmland	349	373	0	722	Douglas	Northern Forest	301	79	0	380
Door	Central Farmland	324	240	0	564	Florence	Northern Forest	103	11	0	114
Dunn	Central Farmland	646	480	0	1,126	Forest	Northern Forest	113	9	0	122
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	235	271	0	506	Iron	Northern Forest	20	1	0	21
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	534	431	0	965	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Green Lake	Central Farmland	430	352	0	782	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Jackson	Central Farmland	434	340	0	774	Langlade	Northern Forest	263	16	0	279
Juneau	Central Farmland	204	196	0	400	Lincoln	Northern Forest	304	75	0	379
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	299	181	0	480	Marinette	Northern Forest	353	98	0	451
La Crosse	Central Farmland	413	316	0	729	Menominee	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	464	327	0	791	Oconto	Northern Forest	201	49	0	250
Marathon	Central Farmland	1,101	844	0	1,945	Oneida	Northern Forest	313	26	0	339
Marinette	Central Farmland	214	320	0	534	Price	Northern Forest	288	27	0	315
Marquette	Central Farmland	603	530	0	1,133	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
MCCoy	Central Farmland	68	85	0	153	Rusk	Northern Forest	390	105	0	495
Monroe	Central Farmland	517	468	0	985	Sawyer	Northern Forest	266	12	0	278
Oconto	Central Farmland	402	428	0	830	Taylor	Northern Forest	468	269	0	737
Outagamie	Central Farmland	579	451	0	1,030	Vilas	Northern Forest	198	26	0	224
Pepin	Central Farmland	199	195	0	394	Washburn	Northern Forest	305	183	0	488
Pierce	Central Farmland	395	361	0	756		<b>Northern Forest Total</b>	<b>4,628</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,751</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	700	570	0	1,270	Columbia	Southern Farmland	649	462	0	1,111
Portage	Central Farmland	576	456	0	1,032	Crawford	Southern Farmland	402	217	0	619
St Croix	Central Farmland	440	410	0	850	Dane	Southern Farmland	531	441	0	972
Shawano	Central Farmland	1,006	809	0	1,815	Dodge	Southern Farmland	545	410	0	955
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	390	303	0	693	Grant	Southern Farmland	577	360	0	937
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	706	499	0	1,205	Green	Southern Farmland	248	187	0	435
Waupaca	Central Farmland	1,184	902	0	2,086	Iowa	Southern Farmland	498	404	0	902
Waushara	Central Farmland	666	447	0	1,113	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	314	243	0	557
Winnebago	Central Farmland	300	269	0	569	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	84	62	0	146
Wood	Central Farmland	370	311	0	681	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	224	162	0	386
	<b>Central Farmland Total</b>	<b>17,394</b>	<b>14,367</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,761</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	43	46	0	89
Adams	Central Forest	386	260	0	646	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	196	203	0	399
Clark	Central Forest	397	92	0	489	Racine	Southern Farmland	103	45	0	148
Eau Claire	Central Forest	135	47	0	182	Richland	Southern Farmland	541	354	0	895
Jackson	Central Forest	190	9	0	199	Rock	Southern Farmland	270	234	0	504
Juneau	Central Forest	171	53	0	224	Sauk	Southern Farmland	669	554	0	1,223
Monroe	Central Forest	100	19	0	119	Vernon	Southern Farmland	621	441	0	1,062
Wood	Central Forest	231	40	0	271	Walworth	Southern Farmland	188	146	0	334
	<b>Central Forest Total</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,130</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	450	399	0	849
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	444	395	0	839
							<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>	<b>7,597</b>	<b>5,765</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,362</b>
						Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0
							Unknown Total	0	0	0	0
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>31,229</b>	<b>21,775</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53,004</b>

# Crossbow Harvest

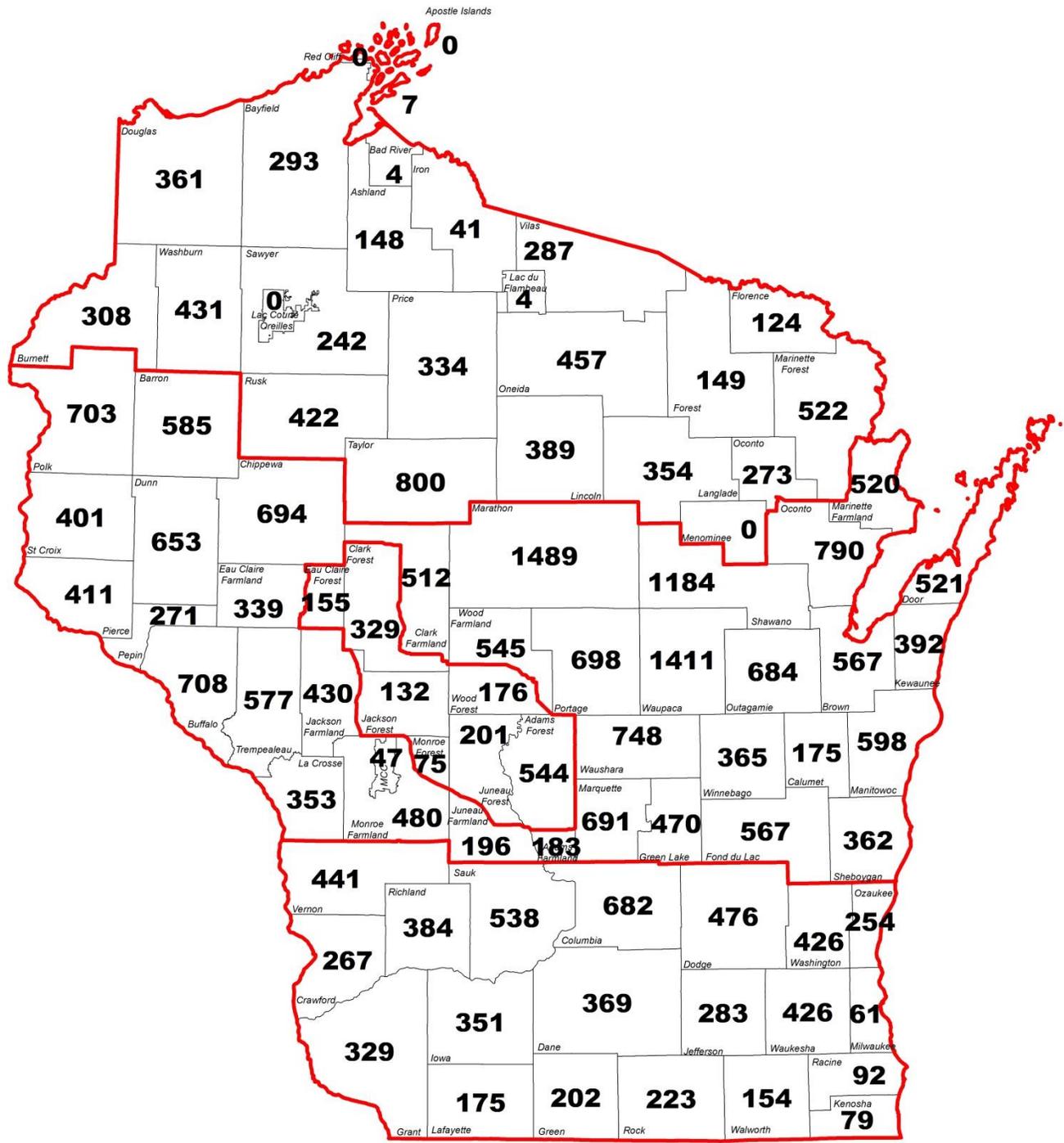
Wisconsin crossbow hunters killed 34,094 deer during the crossbow deer seasons (Table 16).

**Table 15.** *The 2015 crossbow deer harvest by deer management zone.*

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	11,112	9,208	0	20,320
Central Forest	1,184	428	0	1,612
Northern Forest	4,723	1,227	0	5,950
Southern Farmland	3,575	2,637	0	6,212
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,594</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,094</b>



**Figure 8.** *The 2015 crossbow deer harvest by deer management zone.*



**Total Crossbow Harvest = 34,094**

**Figure 9.** The 2015 crossbow harvest by deer management zone and unit

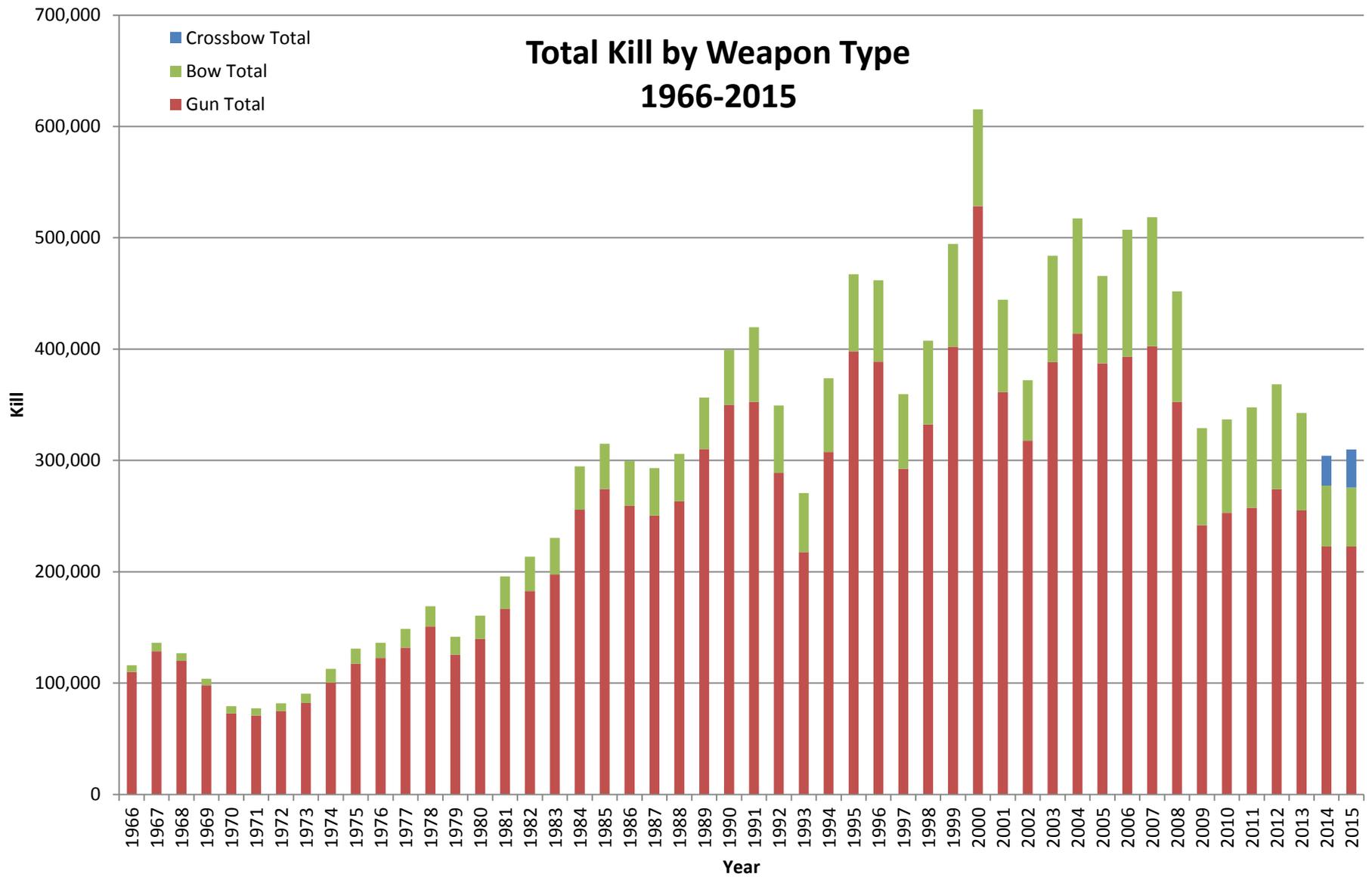
**Table 16. Summary of the 2015 Crossbow deer harvest by zone and unit.**

County	Deer				County	Deer					
	Management Zone	XBow Antlered	XBow Antlerless	XBow Unknown		XBow Total Kill	Management Zone	XBow Antlered	XBow Antlerless	XBow Unknown	XBow Total Kill
Adams	Central Farmland	95	88	0	183	Ashland	Northern Forest	136	12	0	148
Barron	Central Farmland	307	278	0	585	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Brown	Central Farmland	301	266	0	567	Bad River	Northern Forest	4	0	0	4
Buffalo	Central Farmland	375	333	0	708	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	7	0	0	7
Calumet	Central Farmland	93	82	0	175	Bayfield	Northern Forest	260	33	0	293
Chippewa	Central Farmland	376	318	0	694	Burnett	Northern Forest	248	60	0	308
Clark	Central Farmland	247	265	0	512	Douglas	Northern Forest	304	57	0	361
Door	Central Farmland	288	233	0	521	Florence	Northern Forest	113	11	0	124
Dunn	Central Farmland	364	289	0	653	Forest	Northern Forest	133	16	0	149
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	166	173	0	339	Iron	Northern Forest	38	3	0	41
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	335	232	0	567	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Green Lake	Central Farmland	252	218	0	470	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	3	1	0	4
Jackson	Central Farmland	248	182	0	430	Langlade	Northern Forest	327	27	0	354
Juneau	Central Farmland	102	94	0	196	Lincoln	Northern Forest	314	75	0	389
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	248	144	0	392	Marinette	Northern Forest	417	105	0	522
La Crosse	Central Farmland	196	157	0	353	Menominee	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	358	240	0	598	Oconto	Northern Forest	195	78	0	273
Marathon	Central Farmland	788	701	0	1,489	Oneida	Northern Forest	403	54	0	457
Marinette	Central Farmland	240	280	0	520	Price	Northern Forest	310	24	0	334
Marquette	Central Farmland	390	301	0	691	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
MCCoy	Central Farmland	23	24	0	47	Rusk	Northern Forest	301	121	0	422
Monroe	Central Farmland	275	205	0	480	Sawyer	Northern Forest	228	14	0	242
Oconto	Central Farmland	388	402	0	790	Taylor	Northern Forest	483	317	0	800
Outagamie	Central Farmland	382	302	0	684	Vilas	Northern Forest	259	28	0	287
Pepin	Central Farmland	139	132	0	271	Washburn	Northern Forest	240	191	0	431
Pierce	Central Farmland	211	200	0	411	<b>Northern Forest Total</b>		<b>4,723</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,950</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	397	306	0	703	Columbia	Southern Farmland	417	265	0	682
Portage	Central Farmland	402	296	0	698	Crawford	Southern Farmland	165	102	0	267
St Croix	Central Farmland	230	171	0	401	Dane	Southern Farmland	214	155	0	369
Shawano	Central Farmland	672	512	0	1,184	Dodge	Southern Farmland	277	199	0	476
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	199	163	0	362	Grant	Southern Farmland	209	120	0	329
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	327	250	0	577	Green	Southern Farmland	115	87	0	202
Waupaca	Central Farmland	795	616	0	1,411	Iowa	Southern Farmland	215	136	0	351
Waushara	Central Farmland	425	323	0	748	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	172	111	0	283
Winnebago	Central Farmland	203	162	0	365	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	42	37	0	79
Wood	Central Farmland	275	270	0	545	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	98	77	0	175
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>		<b>11,112</b>	<b>9,208</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20,320</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	33	28	0	61
Adams	Central Forest	331	213	0	544	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	114	140	0	254
Clark	Central Forest	255	74	0	329	Racine	Southern Farmland	57	35	0	92
Eau Claire	Central Forest	120	35	0	155	Richland	Southern Farmland	228	156	0	384
Jackson	Central Forest	120	12	0	132	Rock	Southern Farmland	122	101	0	223
Juneau	Central Forest	147	54	0	201	Sauk	Southern Farmland	326	212	0	538
Monroe	Central Forest	62	13	0	75	Vernon	Southern Farmland	270	171	0	441
Wood	Central Forest	149	27	0	176	Walworth	Southern Farmland	78	76	0	154
<b>Central Forest Total</b>		<b>1,184</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,612</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	214	212	0	426
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	209	217	0	426
						<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>		<b>3,575</b>	<b>2,637</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,212</b>
						Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0
						Unknown Total	Unknown Total	0	0	0	0
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>20,594</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,094</b>

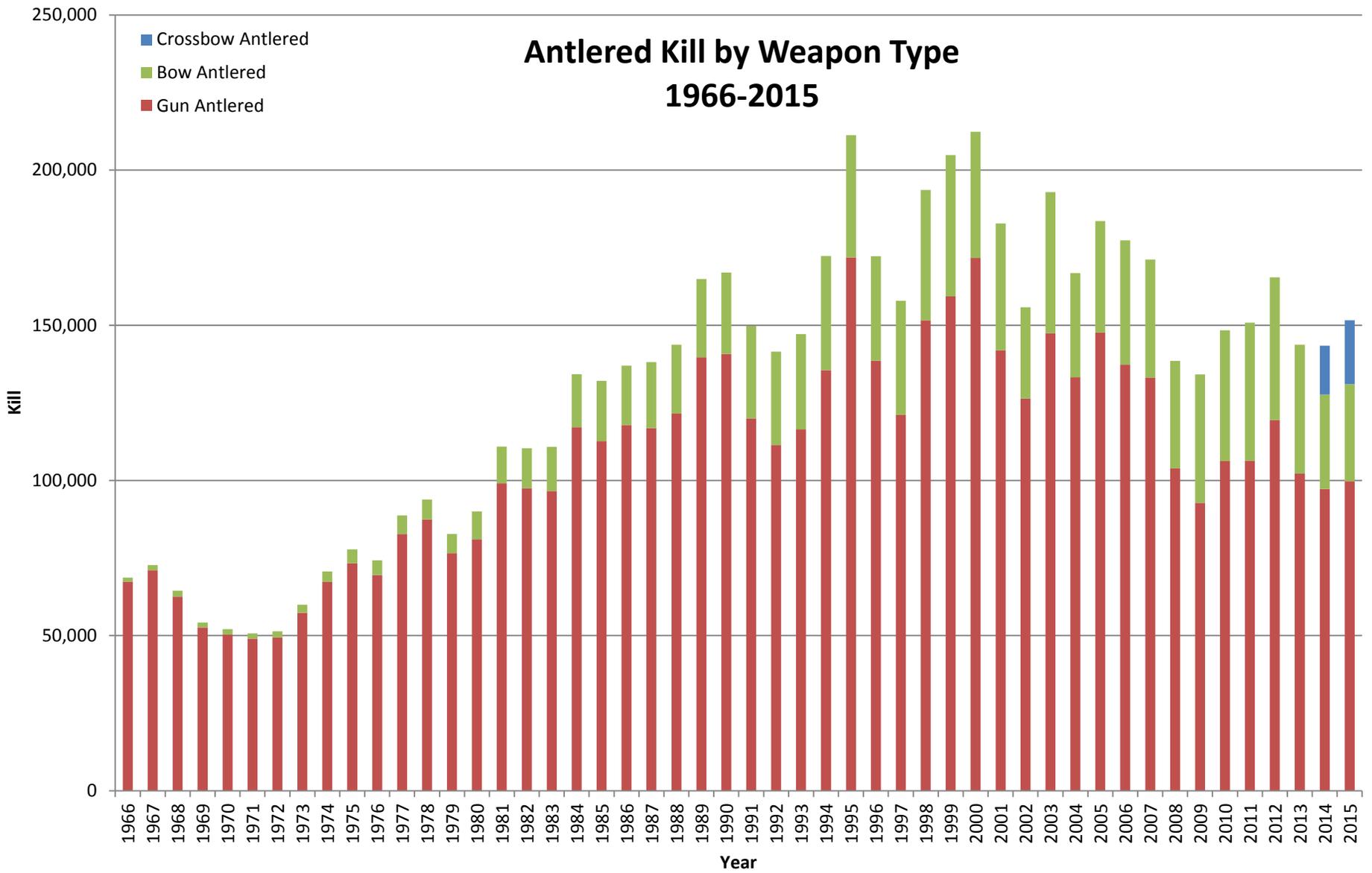
**Table 17. Wisconsin deer harvest and hunters 1966-2015**

Year	<u>Gun Season</u>				<u>Bow Season</u>				<u>Crossbow Season</u>			
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Licensed Hunters	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Licensed Hunters <sup>1</sup>	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Licensed Hunters <sup>2</sup>
1966	67,362	42,700	110,062	432,111	1,357	4,629	5,986	85,114				
1967	71,032	57,295	128,527	470,782	1,714	5,878	7,592	101,573				
1968	62,521	57,465	119,986	503,190	1,924	5,010	6,934	114,975				
1969	52,655	45,353	98,008	506,526	1,576	4,411	5,987	106,669				
1970	50,308	22,536	72,844	501,799	1,775	4,745	6,520	101,573				
1971	48,994	21,841	70,835	509,447	1,696	4,826	6,522	100,206				
1972	49,416	25,411	74,827	517,724	1,956	5,131	7,087	98,720				
1973	57,364	24,741	82,105	514,626	2,594	5,862	8,456	105,875				
1974	67,313	33,092	100,405	556,815	3,390	9,124	12,514	119,960				
1975	73,373	44,005	117,378	582,113	4,439	9,149	13,588	133,775				
1976	69,510	52,999	122,509	589,590	4,775	8,861	13,636	133,318				
1977	82,762	49,148	131,910	617,823	5,993	10,797	16,790	146,760				
1978	87,397	63,448	150,845	644,594	6,472	11,641	18,113	157,838				
1979	76,550	49,020	125,570	617,109	6,203	9,815	16,018	144,511				
1980	81,041	58,583	139,624	618,333	8,950	12,004	20,954	155,386				
1981	99,034	67,639	166,673	629,034	11,867	17,216	29,083	173,874				
1982	97,534	85,181	182,715	637,320	12,854	17,996	30,850	189,524				
1983	96,628	100,672	197,600	649,972	14,208	18,668	32,876	194,367				
1984	117,197	138,726	255,726	657,969	17,049	21,842	38,891	205,132				
1985	112,701	161,601	274,302	670,329	19,396	21,348	40,744	215,900				
1986	117,886	140,882	259,240	662,771	19,126	21,256	40,490	216,472				
1987	116,881	133,393	250,530	660,400	21,278	21,253	42,651	208,675				
1988	121,536	141,888	263,424	653,790	22,213	20,180	42,393	210,518				
1989	139,651	170,282	310,192	661,713	25,249	20,994	46,394	210,912				
1990	140,726	209,005	350,040	699,275	26,263	22,860	49,291	216,981				
1991	120,009	232,330	352,520	674,422	29,739	37,110	67,097	216,559				
1992	111,476	177,245	288,820	666,570	29,992	30,324	60,478	220,872				
1993	116,507	100,977	217,584	652,491	30,661	22,274	53,008	224,008				
1994	135,574	171,945	307,629	670,776	36,772	29,419	66,254	234,077				
1995	171,891	225,846	398,002	684,944	39,379	29,790	69,269	244,262				
1996	138,622	250,011	388,791	677,072	33,625	39,224	72,941	235,780				
1997	121,050	171,296	292,513	671,706	36,812	30,264	67,115	237,991				
1998	151,575	180,601	332,254	668,958	42,010	33,251	75,301	241,391				
1999	159,296	242,908	402,204	690,194	45,562	46,641	92,203	252,322				
2000	171,753	356,741	528,494	694,712	40,579	46,220	86,799	258,002				
2001	141,942	219,322	361,264	688,540	40,867	42,217	83,120	260,239				
2002	126,470	191,418	317,888	618,945	29,322	24,831	54,133	227,124				
2003	147,436	240,908	388,344	644,818	45,498	50,109	95,607	247,211				
2004	133,223	280,571	413,794	649,955	33,635	69,937	103,572	252,602				
2005	147,622	239,688	387,310	641,771	35,935	42,515	78,450	247,309				
2006	137,278	256,028	393,306	644,906	40,081	73,837	113,918	258,394				
2007	133,131	269,432	402,563	641,432	38,011	77,999	116,010	258,854				
2008	103,845	248,756	352,601	643,266	34,662	64,622	99,284	266,435				
2009	92,754	149,108	241,862	638,842	41,402	45,839	87,241	261,964				
2010	106,263	146,775	253,038	622,542	42,115	41,718	83,833	254,014				
2011	106,396	151,115	257,511	622,860	44,443	45,757	90,200	255,426				
2012	119,469	154,578	274,047	634,821	45,988	48,279	94,267	263,860				
2013	102,221	152,782	255,003	634,655	41,517	46,111	87,628	266,380				
2014	97,196	125,392	222,588	609,816	30,433	24,377	54,810	232,629	15,768	11,123	26,891	113,293
2015 <sup>a</sup>	99,757	122,974	222,731	613,165	31,229	21,775	53,004	227,700	20,594	13,500	34,094	131,623

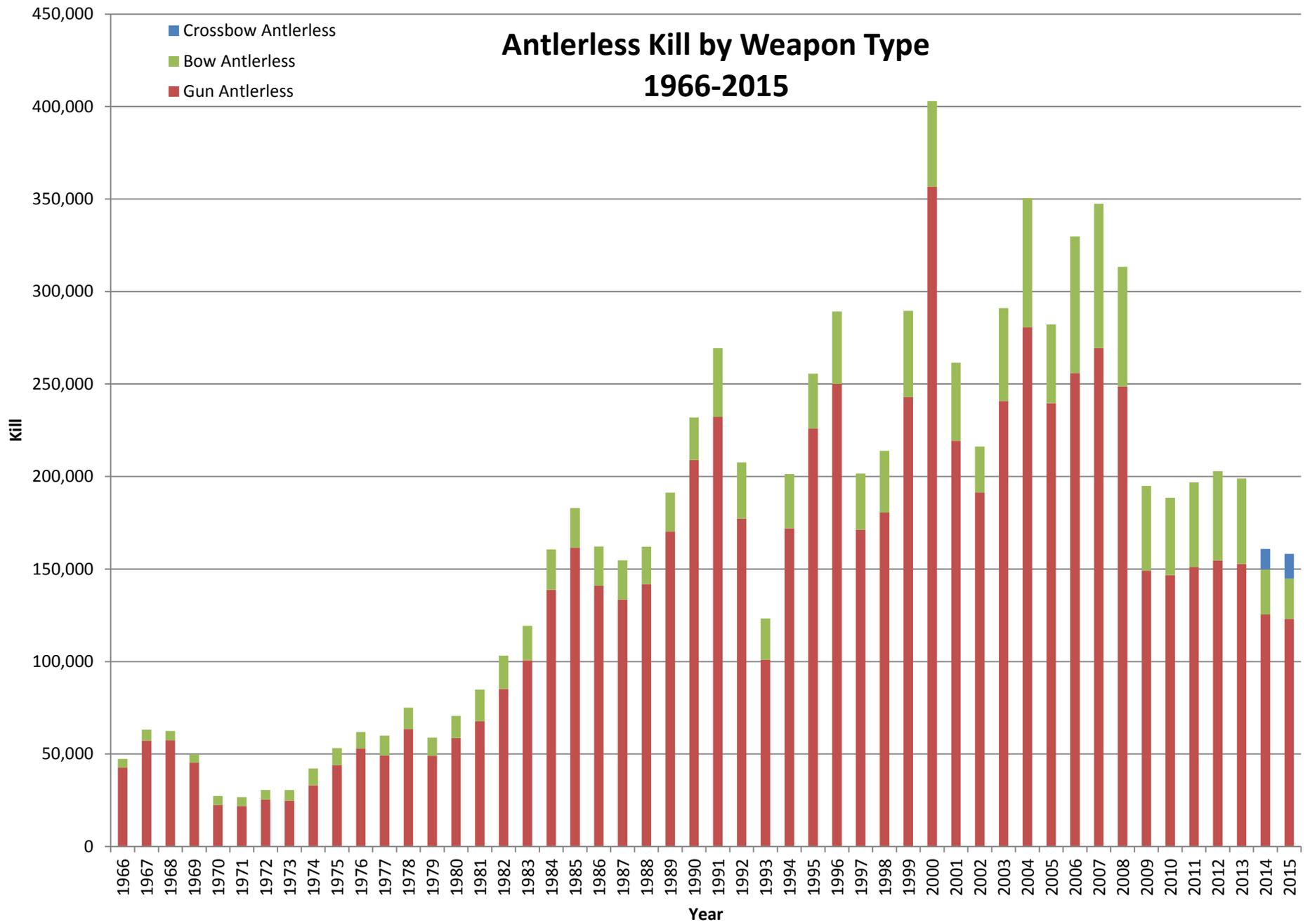
<sup>a</sup> Numbers are preliminary<sup>1</sup> Includes bow, conservation patron, and crossbow authorities that purchased bow upgrade<sup>2</sup> Includes crossbow, conservation patron, and bow authorities that purchased crossbow upgrade



**Figure 10.** Total deer harvest by weapon type, 1966-2015.



**Figure 11.** Antlered deer harvest by weapon type, 1966-2015.



**Figure 12.** Antlerless deer harvest by weapon type, 1966-2015.

# Hunting Accident Report

By Brenda Von Rueden  
Bureau of Law Enforcement

2015 Bow Season, 12 September - 3 January  
 2015 Crossbow Season, 12 September - 3 January  
 2015 Youth Deer Season, 10 - 11 October  
 2015 9-Day Gun Deer Season, 21 - 29 November  
 2015 Muzzleloader Deer Season, 30 November - 9 December  
 2015 December Antlerless Only Gun Deer Season, 10 - 13 December

**Table 18.** *The 9-day gun deer season accident summary by DNR region.*

<b>DNR Region</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Non-Fatal</b>	<b>Total</b>
Central Farmland	2	3	5
Central Forest	0	1	1
Northern Forest	0	0	0
Southern Farmland	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

**Table 19.** *The bow, crossbow, December antlerless only, and muzzleloader hunt deer seasons accident summary by DNR region.*

<b>DNR Region</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Non-Fatal</b>	<b>Total</b>
Central Farmland	0	0	0
Central Forest	0	0	0
Northern Forest	0	0	0
Southern Farmland	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

- 4 accidents (44%) were a result of hunters shooting themselves.
- 4 accidents (44%) involved victim and shooter being members of the same hunting party.
- 1 accident occurred outside the 9-day gun deer season.
- 3 accidents were fatal.

## 2015 Hunting Accident Synopsis

Type of Accident

SI = Self Inflicted Injury

SP = Shooter and Victim in Same Party

M = Male

F = Female

**Table 20.** Summary of the 2015 deer hunter accidents by incident.

#	Date/Time	Location	Injury Description	Fatal	Self Inflicted (SI) or Same Party (SP)	Shooter Age / Sex / Hunter Safety Certified	Victim Age / Sex / Hunter Safety Certified	Type of Firearm
1	10/17/2015	Waukesha Public	Cross bow bolt penetrated through right foot, entered top of foot between the bones on first and second toe	No	SI – Self Inflicted	42yr M Yes	Same as Shooter	Crossbow
Synopsis: Shooter was stalking antlerless deer. Shooter was carrying crossbow in a high ready position and lost sight of deer. During the transition from the high ready carry back to a one handed side carry the crossbow discharged.								
2	11/21/2015 12:00pm	Rock Private	Gunshot wound to left leg just above knee	No	SI - Self Inflicted	16yr M Yes	Same as Shooter	20 Gauge Unknown Action Shotgun
Synopsis: Shooter was hunting deer. Shooter was seated along field and began to fall asleep. Gun discharged striking shooter/victim in left leg.								
3	11/22/2015 08:00am	Marathon Private	Gunshot wound through left arm, grazed chest, and entered right arm where it lodged	No	SP - Same Party	14yr M Yes	26yr M Yes	.30-30 Lever Action Rifle
Synopsis: Shooter was hunting deer. Shooter was reloading firearm when attempting to de-cock the hammer, it slipped, and the rifle discharged striking victim approximately 3 feet away.								
4	11/22/2015 08:59am	Columbia Private	Gunshot wound entering near armpit	Yes	SP - Same Party	35yr F Yes	39yr M Yes	.308 Lever Action Rifle
Synopsis: Shooter was hunting deer. Shooter was already in treestand while victim was on ladder handing up a loaded rifle to the shooter. Gun went off striking the victim.								

5	11/23/2015 04:20pm	Manitowoc Private	Gunshot wound to the left leg, femur area	No	SP - Same Party	17yr M Yes	18yr M Yes	.308 Bolt Action Rifle
Synopsis: Shooter was hunting deer. Victim walking towards shooters location attempting to push deer to shooter. Shooter saw two deer at approximately 140 yards and shot at deer hitting victim in leg.								
6	11/23/2015 04:20pm	Waushara Private	Gunshot wound to sternum area, exiting the side	Yes	Neither	Unknown	56yr M Yes	Unknown
Synopsis: Victim was walking through pines, hunting deer. Victim heard two shots and was hit in the lower chest area.								
7	11/27/2015 09:49am	Jackson Public	Gunshot wound to right foot near toes	No	SI - Self Inflicted	35yr M Yes	Same as Shooter	.308 Semi-Automatic Rifle
Synopsis: Shooter was on a deer drive while walking through some brush. Shooter/victim lowered his rifle to get through brush when the firearm discharged twice hitting foot.								
8	11/29/2015 unknown	Marathon Private	Gunshot wound entering chest and exiting through back	Yes	SI - Self Inflicted	50yr M No	Same as Shooter	25-06 Bolt Action Rifle
Synopsis: Gunshot wound entering chest and exiting through back, unknown at this time.								
9	11/29/2015 unknown	Polk Public	Gunshot wound striking victim in forearm	No	SP - Same Party	16yr M Yes	16yr M Yes	.270 Bolt Action Rifle
Synopsis: After just shooting a deer, the victim and shooter were travelling down a county road with multiple loaded firearms in vehicle, the loaded .270 rifle was between driver and passenger when it discharged hitting victim.								

# 2015 Deer Ages and Condition

By: Daniel J. Storm

## **Abstract**

Harvest age-structure provides information on the dynamics of the deer herd. Yearling doe percentages are an indicator of herd recruitment, which generally were similar to 5-year and long-term means in Farmland regions. Due to 0-quota hunting seasons in Forest regions, sample sizes in those regions are too small to provide useful yearling doe percentage data. Yearling buck percentages in 2015 were near or slightly above 5-year means in all county groups, and were closer to long-term means than has been observed in recent years. The long-term decrease in yearling buck percentages reflects reduced buck exploitation over time, and reduced over-winter survival of young-of-the-year. The percentages of yearling bucks with forked antlers were similar to 5-year and long-term averages in Farmland county groupings, but somewhat above 5-year and long-term averages in Forest county groupings.

## **Introduction**

Sampling age-composition of Wisconsin's deer herd using hunter-killed deer is an essential component of Wisconsin's deer population monitoring program. Age composition data by deer management unit (DMU) supports population modeling used to estimate DMU deer herd sizes and to set annual harvest quotas. Age samples also help when interpreting harvest changes.

## **Methods**

Deer were aged using the molariform tooth wear and replacement method. Yearling antler development was recorded as "sub-legal" or short spikes (< 3" antler), legal spikes ( $\geq 3$ " spikes), and forked bucks (forked antlers and larger). Trends in yearling buck percent, yearling doe percent and antler development were estimated by pooling DMUs (now counties) across groupings of adjacent counties. The 2015 data were compared to 5-year and long-term (1997 -2015) averages. County age samples for 1997-2013 were approximated from groupings of deer management units that included the county.

## **Results and Discussion**

In 2015, field staff aged 13,537 deer (including animals sampled for CWD). The number of deer aged in 2015 was 16% fewer than the number of deer aged in 2014 ( $n = 16,193$ ). The number of bucks aged decreased by 24% (Figure 1), while the number of does aged decreased by 1% (Figure 2).

### ***Buck ages***

Yearling bucks comprised between 53-63% of the total buck harvest in the forest zone county groups during 2015, slightly above both 5-year and long-term means (Table 1). The higher-than-average yearling percentages may reflect increased deer recruitment, following a relatively mild winter. Yearling buck percents in the Northern Forest show significant annual variation, most likely due to the variable recruitment that occurs there. Nevertheless, variation in hunter pressure and weather conditions in this region during the 9-day firearm season could cause similar variation in buck harvest rates.

In farmland zone county groups, yearling buck percentages were above average in 3 of the 5 farmland zone county groups and near average in 2 county groups (Table 1). In general, there has been a long-term decline in yearling buck percentages. In the Farmlands, reduced yearling buck percents could be due to increased deer populations relative to hunter numbers, which would reduce buck harvest rates. Reduced recruitment could also contribute to lower yearling buck percentages. Yearling doe percentages have generally declined in the Farmlands as well (discussed below),

supporting the notion that recruitment could be declining. However, yearling buck percentages have declined at a faster rate than yearling doe percentages, suggesting that reduced exploitation is at least partially driving this trend.

**Table 1.** *Regional trends in percent yearling bucks in the buck harvest, 2011-2015.*

Region	5 Year Mean (%)	Long-term Mean (%)	Yearling Buck Percentages					Percent 2015 is off 5-yr. Mean
			2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Northwest Forest	51	53	53	50	55	45	53	5
Northcentral Forest	54	52	59	56	53	49	55	2
Northeast Forest	57	61	65	64	51	48	63	11
Central Forest	56	55	55	60	58	49	59	6
Central Farmland	54	59	56	56	56	47	58	8
Lake Michigan Farmland	57	63	58	56	60	54	56	-2
Western Farmland	52	57	52	56	53	48	59	13
Southeastern Farmland	52	54	47	50	55	56	53	2
Southwestern Farmland	40	48	38	42	42	38	43	8

\*1997-2015

### **Doe ages**

Yearling doe percentage data was inadequate to make inferences in the forest zone counties, due to antlerless quotas of 0 there. While yearling doe percentages in farmland zone county groups have declined over time, 2015 values were near the 5-year average (Table 2). Long-term decreases in yearling doe percentages across the farmland regions may be attributed to decreased reproduction and survival to 1 year of age resulting from a legacy of past high deer populations and over-browsed woodlands and reduced nutrition. Predator populations may play a role in these changes; however, our research using collared deer shows that predation increases when deer are in poor nutritional condition.

**Table 2.** *Regional trends in percent yearling does in the doe harvest, 2011-2015.*

Region	5 Year Mean (%)	Long-term Mean (%)	Yearling Doe Percentages					Percent 2015 is off 5-yr. Mean
			2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Northwest Forest †	31	28	33	27	24	40	28	-9
Northcentral Forest †	24	27	29	27	25	13	23	-2
Northeast Forest †	27	27	37	32	19	21	27	-1
Central Forest †	27	28	26	29	29	25	36	32
Central Farmland	31	35	30	33	32	30	30	-4
Lake Michigan Farmland †	37	39	36	37	38	35	30	-18
Western Farmland	33	35	38	32	30	33	36	8
Southeastern Farmland	36	36	36	34	39	34	35	-2
Southwestern Farmland	28	33	27	30	27	28	29	4

\*1997-2015

†Sample size inadequate to interpret

## ***Antler development***

Estimates of the percentage of bucks with forked antlers in 2015 were slightly-to-substantially higher than 5-year means in Forest Zone county groups). The largest increase occurred in the Northwest Forest County Group, which was 24% above the 5-year mean, and higher than the long-term mean. Percentage of fork bucks in Farmland Zone county groups were similar to 5-year averages. The relatively mild 2014-2015 winter is reflected than better-than-average antler development in yearling bucks.

Notable differences in antler development continue to occur between heavily forested and farmland regions, and is likely explained by habitat productivity, winter weather, and deer herd densities relative to biological carrying capacity. Less severe winter conditions and distribution of high quality food resources (e.g., agricultural crops) throughout the farmland regions allow for increased carrying capacity and buffer deer herds against winter impacts on spring/summer body conditions and yearling antler development.

**Table 3.** *Trends in antler development of yearling bucks, 2011-2015.*

Region	5 Year Mean (%)	Long-term Mean (%)*	% of Yearling Forked Buck in Harvest					Percent 2015 is off 5-yr. Mean
			2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Northwest Forest	53	59	56	63	41	40	66	24
Northcentral Forest	55	57	53	61	49	53	61	10
Northeast Forest	60	62	55	61	63	58	64	6
Central Forest	68	61	68	71	64	63	73	8
Central Farmland	84	87	83	90	82	80	86	2
Lake Michigan Farmland	90	91	90	93	88	89	89	-1
Western Farmland	87	88	88	92	84	87	84	-4
Southeastern Farmland	92	94	92	96	89	90	91	-1
Southwestern Farmland	93	94	90	96	90	96	91	-2

\*1997-2015

## **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Robert Rolley and Keith McCaffery for reviewing this report and to DNR personnel and volunteers for collecting deer age and antler data.

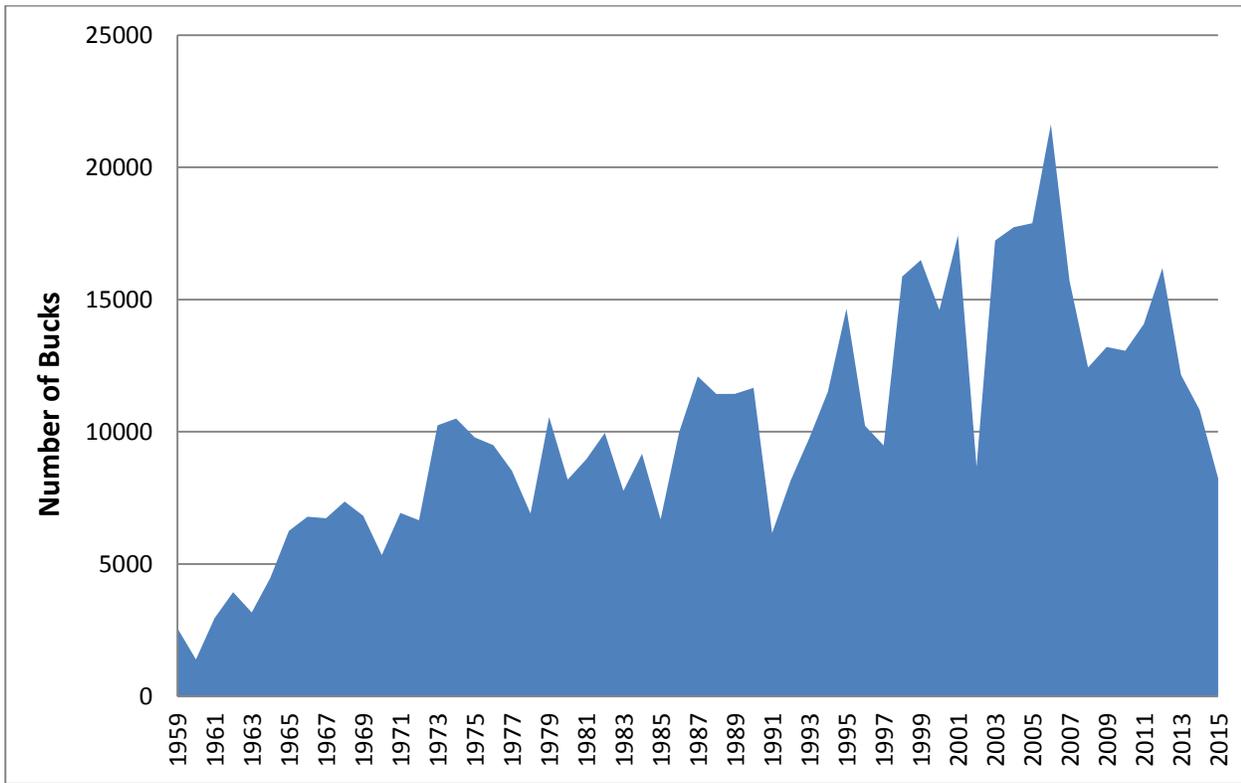


Figure 1. The number of adult bucks aged, 1959–2015.

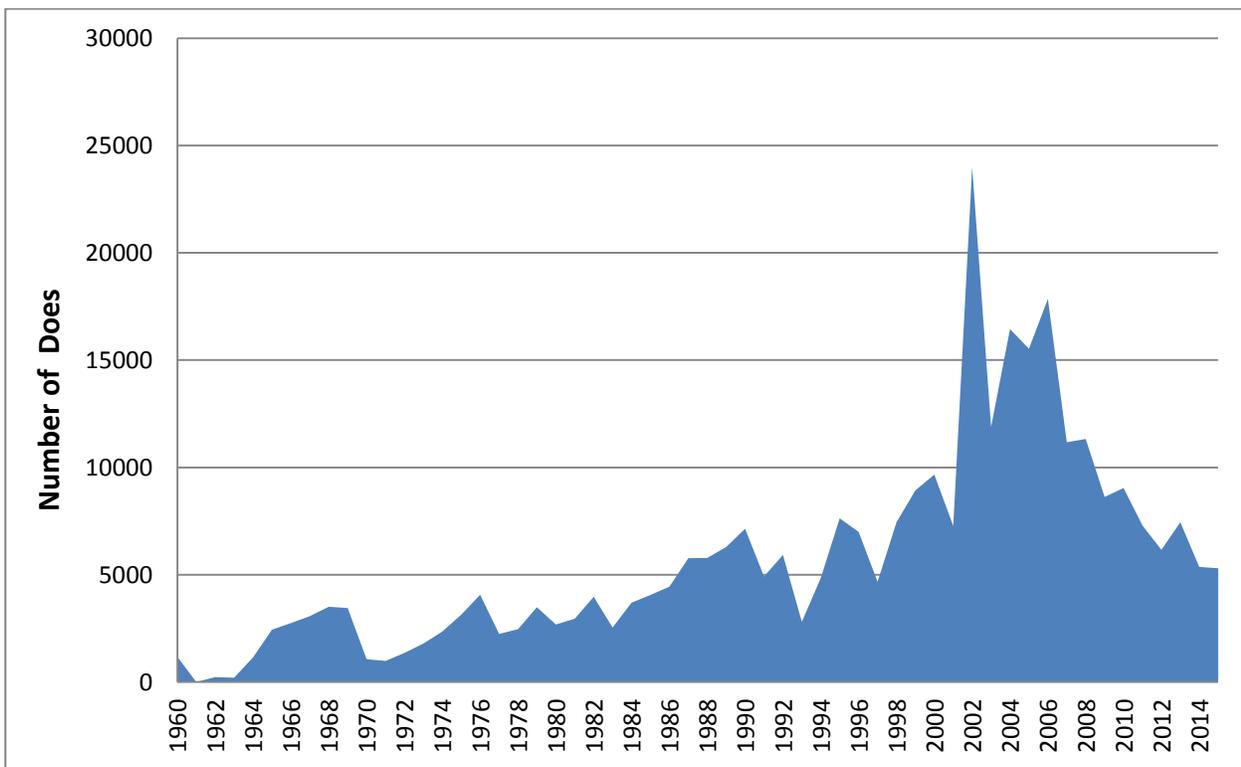


Figure 2. The number of adult does aged, 1960–2015.

# Wisconsin Black Bear Harvest Report 2015

By Brian Dhuey, Dave MacFarland and Brad Koele

## **Abstract**

Wisconsin bear hunters killed 4,198 black bears during the 2015 season. This was 7% lower than the 2014 kill of 4,526 bears. The 2015 kill was comprised of 52% males and 48% females. The three leading counties of kill were Bayfield, Price, and Douglas.

## **Background**

Wisconsin requires non-Chippewa hunters to obtain a bear harvest permit to kill a bear. The state is divided into four Bear Management Zones (BMZ, Figure 1), and hunters are required to apply for a permit within one of those zones. Kill permits are distributed through a preference point system giving unsuccessful applicants who applied, but did not receive a permit in previous years the first chance to receive a kill permit the following year. Each kill permit allows the taking of one adult bear not accompanied by a cub or cubs in the specified zone.

Wisconsin's bear season has opened on the first Wednesday after Labor Day since the 2000 season. The 2015 bear season ran from 9 September through 13 October (35 days). In the northern 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the state (BMZ A, B and D), hunting with the use of dogs was allowed 9 September- 6 October while the use of bait was allowed during 16 September – 13 October. Hunters in the southern 2/3<sup>ds</sup> of the state (BMZ C) could hunt the entire 35-day season with the use of bait and all methods not utilizing dogs.

## **Methods**

Wisconsin requires non-Chippewa bear hunters to register all bear. Historically, bear were registered at designated WDNR registration stations. This fall marked the first year of electronic registration of bear, all bear were registered through an automated telephone system or through the WDNR registrations website. To complete legal registration, all hunters were required to submit via mail an upper first premolar for age analysis. Data on bear harvested by Chippewa tribal members on ceded lands were obtained from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). All kill data is summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

## **Results**

A total of 109,088 people applied for a record 10,690 black bear harvest permits in 2015. The number of applicants increased by 0.8% and the number of permits increased 3.4% between 2014 and 2015 (Tables 1 and 10). A total of 10,690 permits were offered to hunters prior to the season. A statewide tetracycline mark-recapture study in 2006 and 2011 resulted in an increased population estimate from previous population estimates for the state. While bear numbers have dropped in parts of the state, the bear population has not declined in response to management actions taken in the Northwest area of the state (Zone D). Quota and permits have remained high in these areas.

During the 2015 season, 10,690 hunters killed 4,198 black bears (39.3% success rate), compared to 4,526 taken in 2014. Males comprised 52.4% (2,198), females 47.6% (2,000) of the harvest (Table 2, Figure 2).

The Northern Region had the highest bear kill (3,240) followed by Northeast (502), West Central (454), South Central (1), and Southeast (1) Regions (Table 2). The most bears were shot in Zone D (1,341) followed by Zones A (1,119), C (972), and B (764) (Table 3 and Figure 1). The five leading counties of kill were Bayfield (410), Price (283), Douglas (269), Rusk (262), and Washburn (250) (Table 4, Fig. 3). Black bear kill by game management unit can be found in Table 5 and Figure 4. This was the first year that bear hunters could register their kills without having to visit an in-person registration station. Many hunters left the game management unit of harvest blank. This year's harvest was the fifth highest in the history of the state.

The number of bear taken over bait alone (2,692; Table 6) was greater than the number shot over dogs (1,396; includes bear shot over dogs and bait). Seventy bear were taken without the use of dogs or bait. Gun hunters took a total of 3,610 bear, while archers killed 403; 145 bear were killed with unreported weapon type (Table 6). Table 7 and Figure 5 summarize the historical Wisconsin black bear kill from 1957 through 2015.

Chippewa hunters killed 40 bear in 2015 (Tables 8 and 9); this was one more than the 39 killed in 2014. More information on the Chippewa bear kill can be obtained by contacting the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

A total of 825 black bear complaints were filed from January-December 2015. This was slightly less than the number of complaints (832) filed in 2014. As a result, 519 bear were captured and relocated from problem areas. This was more than the 434 that were moved in 2014.

One nuisance bear shooting permit and thirty agricultural damage bear shooting permits were issued in fourteen different counties during the spring, summer, and fall of 2015. One hundred sixty-eight kill tags were issued to these permit holders, tag numbers ranged from 1 to 13 for each permit holder. Sixty-five bear were killed under the agriculture damage shooting permits. No bear were killed on the nuisance permit in 2015. In 2014, twenty-five agriculture damage bear shooting permits were issued with at least forty-seven bear being killed. Four nuisance bear shooting permits were issued in 2014 with one bear being killed under those permits

The Wisconsin corn crop was at or ahead of normal crop development in 2015. This meant that it was past the milk stage prior to the bear season opening. As is usual, a predominance of natural foods during the first part of the bear hunting season may have caused bears to visit bait sites with less regularity and/or reduced bear movements. Despite the abundance of natural foods, bait stations continued to be visited by bears with at least some degree of activity throughout much of the hunting season. Much of September saw above average temperatures with normal precipitation. While the warm conditions may have limited hunter efforts and bear movement, precipitation should not have. Later in the season temperatures were more conducive to hunters pursuing bears. The 2015 bear kill of 4,198 was the fifth highest on record but below the WDNR harvest goal of 4,750 bears. Hunter success in 2015 was 39%, below the long-term average of 54%.

The WDNR Black Bear Advisory Committee, with support from GLIFWC, USFS, Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress established a harvest goal of 4,750 bears for the 2016 season. A total of 11,520 Black Bear harvest permits will be available to hunters to achieve this goal.

**Table 1.** *Harvest goal, number of permits issued, bear kill and percent success, by zone for the 2015 black bear season.*

Zone	Harvest Goal	Permits Issued	Black Bear Kill	Permit Success
A	1,100	1,875	1,119	60%
B	750	1,090	764	70%
C	1,300	5,490	972	18%
D	1,600	2,235	1,341	60%
Unknown			2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>10,690</b>	<b>4,198</b>	<b>39%</b>

**Table 2.** *Black bear kill by WDNR region, 2015.*

Region	Males	Females	Unreported	Total
Northeastern	299	203	0	502
Northern	1,624	1,616	0	3,240
South Central	0	1	0	1
Southeast	0	1	0	1
West Central	275	179	0	454
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,198</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,198</b>

**Table 3.** *Black bear kill by zone, 2015.*

Zone	Males	Females	Unreported	Total
A	588	531	0	1,119
B	368	396	0	764
C	603	369	0	972
D	637	704	0	1,341
Unknown	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,198</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,198</b>

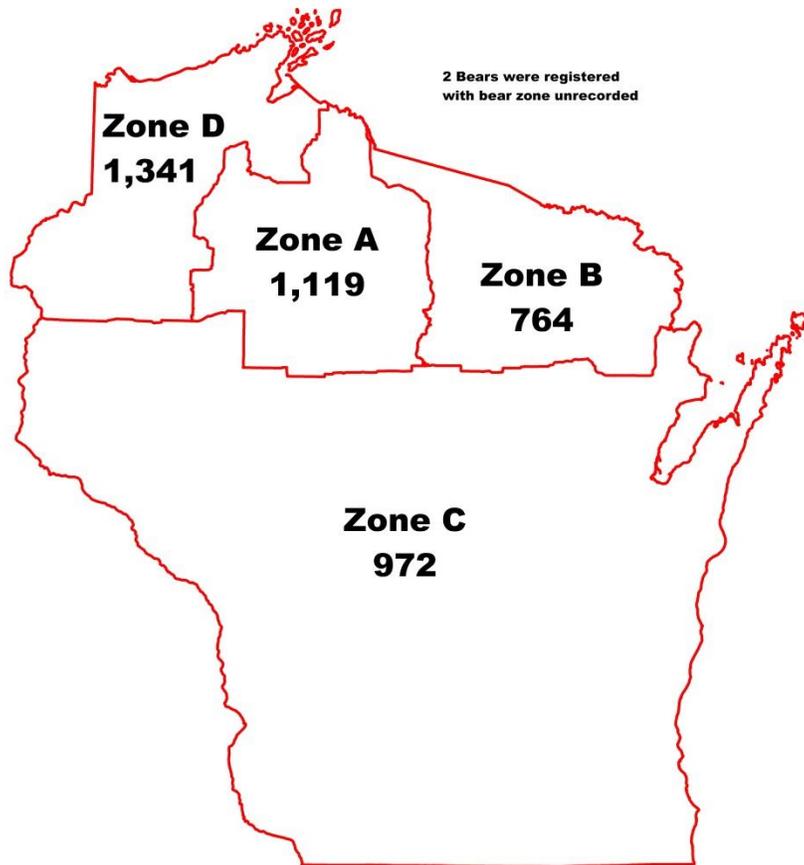


Figure 1. The 2015 black bear kill by zone.

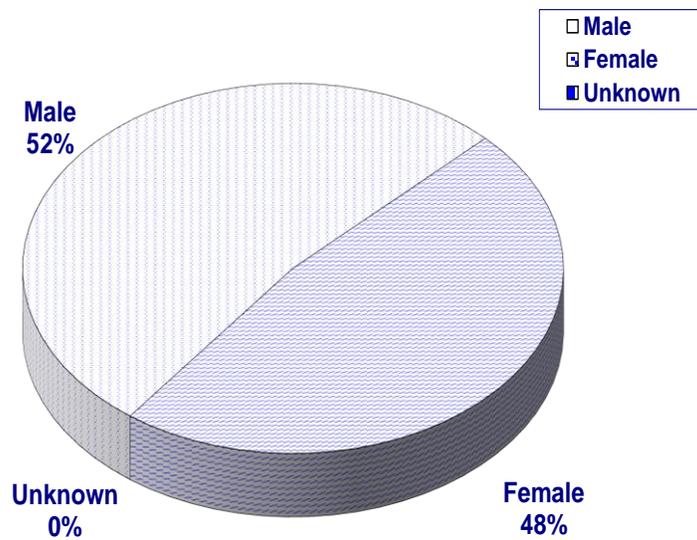
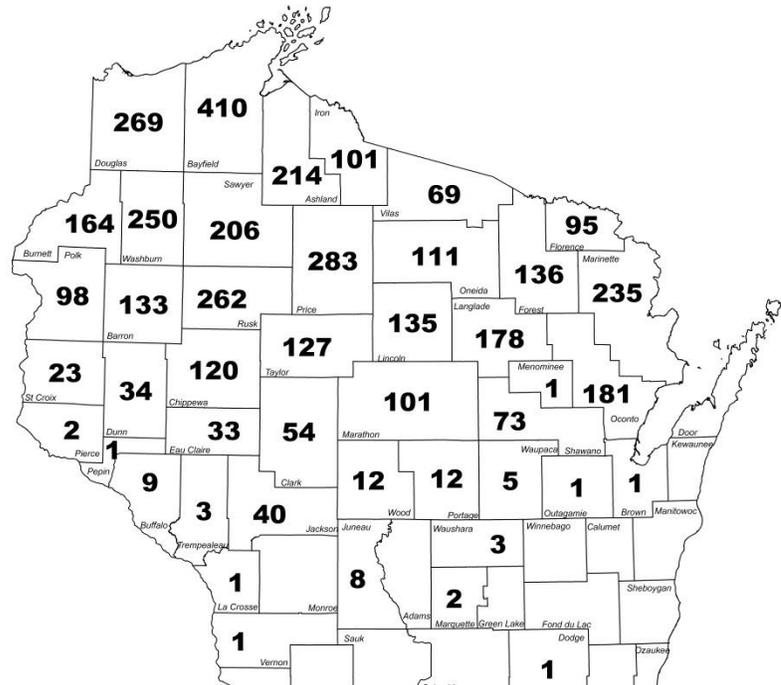


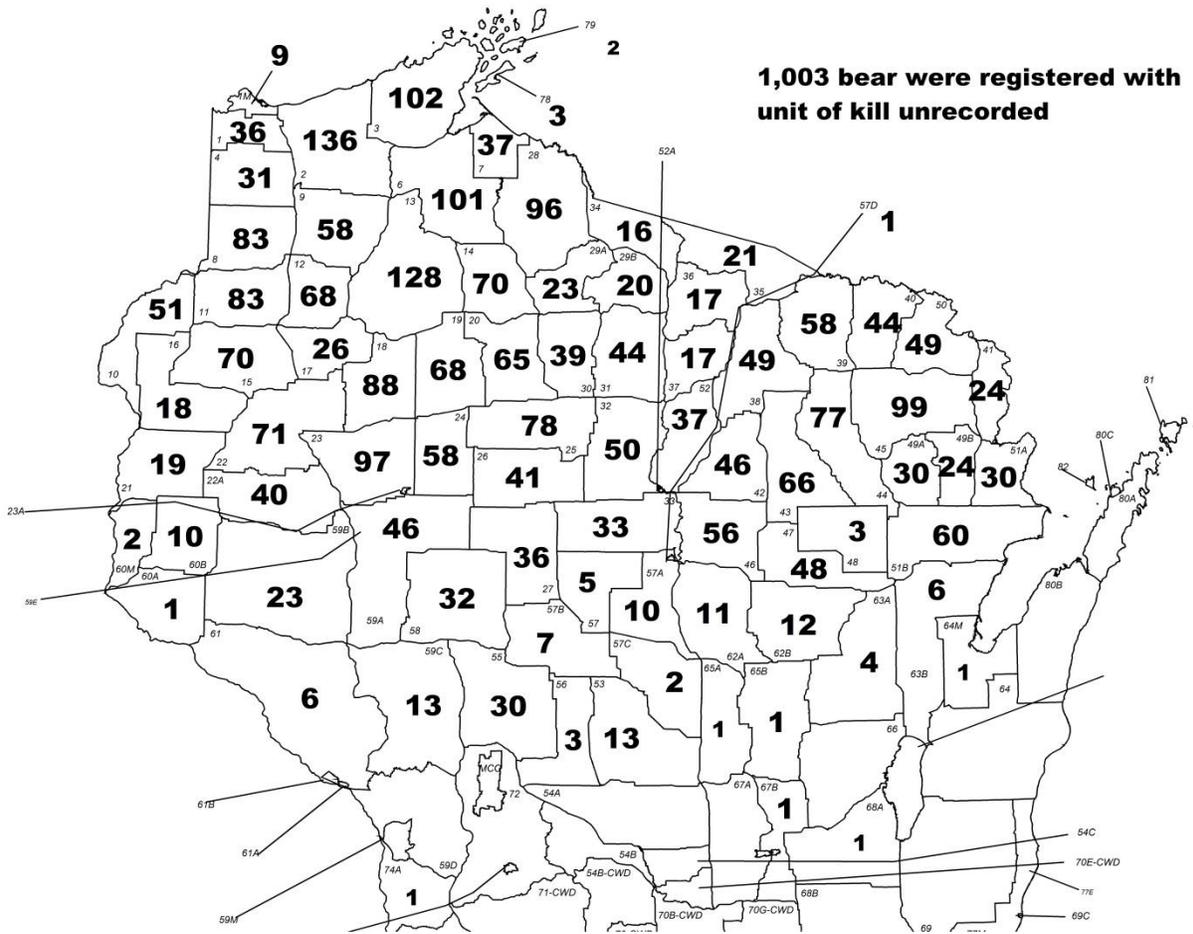
Figure 2. The 2015 black bear harvest by sex.



**Figure 3.** The 2015 black bear kill by county.

**Table 4.** The 2015 black bear kill by county and sex.

County	Males	Females	Un-reported	Total	County	Males	Females	Un-reported	Total
Ashland	109	105	0	214	Oneida	51	60	0	111
Barron	90	43	0	133	Outagamie	1	0	0	1
Bayfield	196	214	0	410	Pepin	1	0	0	1
Brown	1	0	0	1	Pierce	2	0	0	2
Buffalo	7	2	0	9	Polk	42	56	0	98
Burnett	78	86	0	164	Portage	10	2	0	12
Chippewa	71	49	0	120	Price	141	142	0	283
Clark	36	18	0	54	Rusk	150	112	0	262
Dodge	0	1	0	1	St. Croix	20	3	0	23
Douglas	123	146	0	269	Sawyer	98	108	0	206
Dunn	18	16	0	34	Shawano	48	25	0	73
Eau Claire	10	23	0	33	Taylor	70	57	0	127
Florence	44	51	0	95	Trempealeau	3	0	0	3
Forest	62	74	0	136	Vernon	0	1	0	1
Iron	65	36	0	101	Vilas	33	36	0	69
Jackson	20	20	0	40	Washburn	115	135	0	250
Juneau	7	1	0	8	Waupaca	3	2	0	5
La Crosse	1	0	0	1	Waushara	1	2	0	3
Langlade	91	87	0	178	Wood	7	5	0	12
Lincoln	66	69	0	135	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,198</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,198</b>
Marathon	62	39	0	101					
Marinette	132	103	0	235					
Marquette	1	1	0	2					
Menominee	1	0	0	1					
Oconto	111	70	0	181					

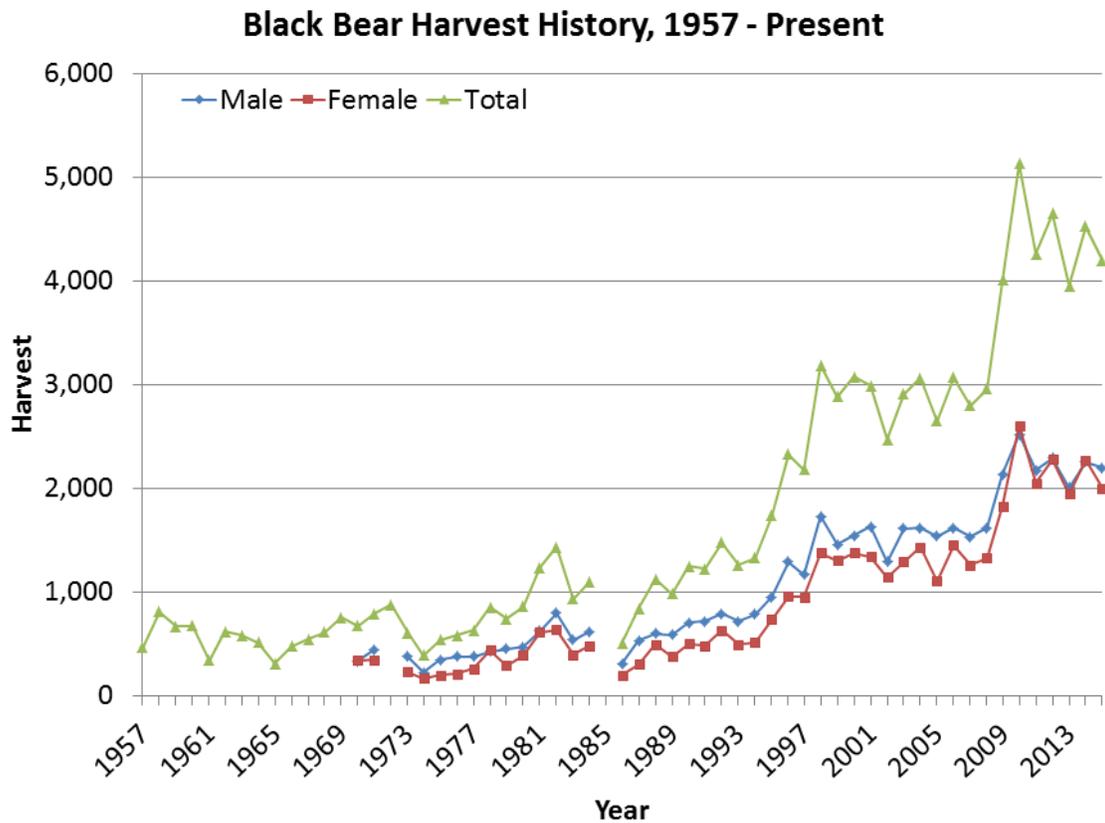


**Table 5.** *The 2015 black bear harvest by game management unit and sex.*

Unit	Males	Females	Unks	Total	Unit	Males	Females	Unks	Total
1	22	14	0	36	44	41	36	0	77
2	59	77	0	136	45	54	45	0	99
3	55	47	0	102	46	34	22	0	56
4	13	18	0	31	47	35	13	0	48
6	50	51	0	101	48	2	1	0	3
7	18	19	0	37	49A	12	18	0	30
8	32	51	0	83	49B	10	14	0	24
9	32	26	0	58	50	22	27	0	49
10	20	31	0	51	51A	20	10	0	30
11	45	38	0	83	51B	38	22	0	60
12	23	45	0	68	52	14	23	0	37
13	64	64	0	128	53	10	3	0	13
14	38	32	0	70	55	17	13	0	30
15	35	35	0	70	56	0	3	0	3
16	7	11	0	18	57	4	1	0	5
17	12	14	0	26	57A	4	6	0	10
18	47	41	0	88	57B	4	3	0	7
19	40	28	0	68	57C	1	1	0	2
1M	5	4	0	9	57D	0	1	0	1
20	28	37	0	65	58	14	18	0	32
21	8	11	0	19	59A	29	17	0	46
22	50	21	0	71	59B	15	8	0	23
22A	23	17	0	40	59C	7	6	0	13
23	54	43	0	97	59D	1	0	0	1
23A	2	0	0	2	60A	1	0	0	1
24	26	32	0	58	60B	8	2	0	10
25	42	36	0	78	60M	2	0	0	2
26	19	22	0	41	61	4	2	0	6
27	23	13	0	36	62A	7	4	0	11
28	57	39	0	96	62B	7	5	0	12
29A	18	5	0	23	63A	3	1	0	4
30	17	22	0	39	63B	4	2	0	6
31	21	23	0	44	64M	1	0	0	1
32	21	29	0	50	65A	1	0	0	1
33	23	10	0	33	65B	0	1	0	1
34	10	6	0	16	67B	0	1	0	1
35	6	15	0	21	65A	1	0	0	1
36	7	10	0	17	65B	0	1	0	1
37	5	12	0	17	67B	0	1	0	1
38	26	23	0	49	68A	0	1	0	1
39	29	29	0	58	74A	0	1	0	1
40	19	25	0	44	78	1	2	0	3
41	13	11	0	24	79	1	1	0	2
42	23	23	0	46	Unknown	531	472	0	1,003
43	37	29	0	66	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,198</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,198</b>

**Table 6.** The 2015 black bear kill by hunting method and weapon type (does not include Chippewa harvest of 40 bear).

Method	Weapon			Total
	Bow	Gun	Unreported	
Dogs	12	589	9	610
Bait	368	2,204	120	2,692
Dogs and Bait	15	763	8	786
None	2	26	0	28
Unknown	6	28	8	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>3,610</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>4,158</b>



**Figure 5.** Black bear kill, 1957-2015.

**Table 7. Black bear kill by sex, 1957-2015.**

Year	Male	Female	Unk	Total	Year	Male	Female	Unk	Total
1957	---	---		460	1987	533	304		837
1958	---	---		811	1988	601	494	30	1,125
1959	---	---		665	1989	584	375	19	978
1960	---	---		675	1990	705	501	41	1,247
1961	---	---		337	1991	715	480	24	1,219
1962	----	---		617	1992	789	631	54	1,474
1963	---	---		579	1993	715	494	49	1,258
1964	---	---		511	1994	781	513	34	1,328
1965	---	---		308	1995	953	735	49	1,737
1966	---	---		475	1996	1,288	955	82	2,325
1967	---	---		541	1997	1,165	950	63	2,178
1968	---	---		613	1998	1,727	1,378	79	3,184
1969	---	---		752	1999	1,456	1,301	124	2,881
1970	331	341		672	2000	1,543	1,376	156	3,075
1971	444	347		791	2001	1,632	1,336	18	2,986
1972	---	---		878	2002	1,290	1,143	38	2,471
1973	376	230		606	2003	1,613	1,288	4	2,905
1974	224	166		390	2004	1,618	1,433	12	3,063
1975	344	195		539	2005	1,537	1,107	1	2,645
1976	373	206		579	2006	1,615	1,448	5	3,068
1977	375	256		631	2007	1,528	1,261	8	2,797
1978	426	436	10	872	2008	1,616	1,324	15	2,955
1979	449	288		737	2009	2,135	1,828	46	4,009
1980	469	386		855	2010	2,519	2,602	12	5,133
1981	624	610		1,234	2011	2,171	2,047	39	4,257
1982	797	636		1,433	2012	2,287	2,275	84	4,646
1983	539	395		934	2013	2,005	1,888	59	3,952
1984	617	480		1,097	2014	2,255	2,210	61	4,526
1985	No	Season			2015	2,198	2,000	0	4,198
1986	308	195		503					

**Table 8.** *The 2015 Tribal black bear kill by game management unit and sex<sup>1</sup>.*

Unit	Male	Female	Total
02	1	3	4
03	3	3	6
04		1	1
06	2	2	4
08		1	1
10	1		1
11	2		2
13		1	1
17		1	1
26	1	1	2
29A	1		1
29B	1		1
36	1		1
37		1	1
38	2		2
39	1		1
44	1	3	4
45	2	3	5
49A		1	1
Total	19	21	40

<sup>1</sup> These data are included in the statewide totals.

**Table 9.** *The number of black bear harvest permits issued and the number of applicants, 1974-2016.*

Year	Residents	Non-residents	No. Permits Issued	No. of Applicants
1974	3,459		3,459	3,459
1975	4,116		4,116	4,116
1976	4,899		4,899	4,899
1977	5,025		5,025	5,025
1978	6,283		6,283	6,283
1979	5,612	179	5,791	5,791
1980	6,352	171	6,523	6,523
1981	7,247	241	7,488	7,488
1982	8,142	224	8,366	8,366
1983	7,077	218	7,295	7,295
1984	6,439	320	6,759	6,759
1985		Season	Closed	
1986			840	8,289
1987			1,730	10,203
1988			1,663	10,208
1989			2,020	13,734
1990			2,825	15,988
1991			2,560	17,668
1992			2,620	19,415
1993			2,110	22,555
1994			2,175	25,799
1995			2,710	30,086
1996			4,570	35,356
1997			4,700	41,969
1998			5,860	44,928
1999			6,014	50,938
2000			6,598	50,601
2001			5,681	53,508
2002			4,985	54,879
2003			4,710	56,944
2004			4,741	61,726
2005			4,549	66,777
2006			4,277	68,821
2007			4,405	80,213
2008			4,660	86,138
2009			7,310	95,384
2010			8,910	97,467
2011			9,005	103,854
2012			9,015	104,391
2013			8,560	106,573
2014			10,340	108,271
2015			10,690	109,088
2016			11,520	109,221

# Spring Turkey Harvest Report 2015

By Brian Dhuey, Krista Pham and Mark Witecha

## **Abstract**

A total of 40,975 turkeys were harvested during the 2015 spring turkey hunt. The spring season was comprised of 6 hunting periods in 7 turkey management zones, and Fort McCoy. The uncorrected success rate for permit holders was 20%, based on a total of 208,250 permits issued. Hunter success rates of 20% or above occurred in 2 of the 7 major hunting zones. Highest success rates per hunting period occurred in the first period of the season. Eighty percent of the harvested males were adults, down from 90% in the 2014 harvest. One hunting incident occurred during the spring season; the accident involved the hunter mistaking another individual for game.

## **Methods**

Harvest information was obtained through mandatory registration of harvested turkeys. All turkey hunters are required to report their harvest with 24 hours of the kill via phone-in registration or via the WDNR website. All registered birds are given a confirmation number which the hunter must retain until the bird is consumed. Registration records were then compiled and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

## **Results**

### **Hunting Zones**

Wisconsin is divided into 7 Turkey Management Zones (TMZ) with similar timber, agriculture, ownership, and hunter and turkey densities (Figure 1). State parks were no longer separate management zones within the larger turkey management zone. Starting in 2015 all state parks in a turkey zone were open to all hunters who possessed a valid turkey tag for that zone and time period. Fort McCoy still allowed limited access for turkey hunting on the military base.

### **Permit Levels**

Permit levels in each zone are decided upon by the WDNR Turkey Committee. Consideration is given to the following when permits levels are set: previous hunter success rates, turkey population and distribution within a zone, square miles of turkey range (i.e., square miles of timber), recruitment, winter severity, and hunter interference rates (Table 1).

A total of 208,250 permits were issued in 2015 compared to 210,496 in 2014 and 210,798 in 2013. A total of 138,626 applications were received for the spring hunt. There were 134,568 permits issued via a drawing/preference process to these applicants by mail. A total of 4,058 applicants did not get a permit through the drawing process. These applicants either applied for oversubscribed zones or restricted their choices to the first 3 hunt periods where there were more applicants than permits. One zone was oversubscribed in 2015.

This was the ninth year that leftover permits were sold (\$10 for resident, \$15 for non-residents) over the counter (OTC) at WDNR license sales locations on a first-come, first-served basis at a rate of one permit per day. This continued until all permits available for a zone were issued or the season closed. A total of 73,682 permits were issued this way.

### Permit Selection

All applicants were required to pay a \$3 application fee for a spring turkey permit application to enter the preference drawing. Preference for permits was given first to landowners (up to 30% of permits available per zone/time period combination), followed by residents who applied for but did not receive a permit in the spring of 2014, other residents, and finally non-residents. Applications were randomly selected, but first choice zone and time period of all applicants within each preference category were issued available permits before second, third, fourth, etc. choices were filled.

### Age Ratio

Adult gobblers comprised 80% of the 2015 spring turkey harvest (Table 2). This proportion is lower than the 2014 level of 91% and is more typical of year of “normal” recruitment during which harvests comprised of 70% adults. The change in the percent adults in the 2015 harvest did match with an increase in recruitment in 2014 and poor recruitment in 2013, meaning there may have been more 2 year old gobblers available for harvest. Hunters being more selective in harvesting turkeys in the spring and selecting adult Toms may have affected this ratio as well.

### Harvest and Success Rates

The 2015 spring turkey harvest was 40,975 birds taken (Figure 1, Table 3). This was 2% less than the 41,815 killed in 2014 and well short of the record harvest total for the state of 52,880 take in 2008. The hunter success rate of 20% was the same as last year’s 20% and close to the long-term average.

Good hunter success rates (defined as above 20%) occurred in 2 of the 7 main turkey zones open to spring hunting (Table 4). TMZ 2 and 3 were the only ones above 20% and had the hunter success rates of 23% and 20%, while all other TMZ’s were between 14-19%. The highest success rates per period occurred in the first period of the season, at 25% and 20%. While the winter of 2015 was much milder than the long and hard winters the 2 previous years, spring’s arrival was normal with slightly below average temps and above average rainfall. A normal weather pattern occurred for much of the spring season hunting periods. Spring phenology may have been slightly advanced, and there may have been increased breeding behavior during the early periods. Recruitment was normal in 2014 in much of the state and may have led to increased turkey numbers.

A statewide youth turkey hunt was held for the ninth time in the spring of 2015. A youth mentored hunting law was instituted in 2009 and in place, this law allows youth ages 10 and older to hunt without a Hunter’s Education card as long as they were accompanied by an 18 year or older adult. All youth ages 10-15 that had obtained a Hunter’s Ed card or were a mentored hunter, and held a valid turkey permit and license were eligible to hunt. Youth were restricted to the zone of their valid turkey permit but the permit could be from any time period. The hunt occurred on the 11-12<sup>th</sup> of April, with 2,748 turkeys being harvested (Table 3). All unused permits were still valid for the zone and time period of issuance.

### Accidents

There was one hunting accident during the 2015 spring turkey hunt; 1 in 2014, 2 in 2013 and 3 in 2012. The accident involved one hunter mistakenly shooting someone when they thought they were shooting at a turkey. Turkey hunting continues to be a very safe sport with less than 3 accidents per 100,000 permits.

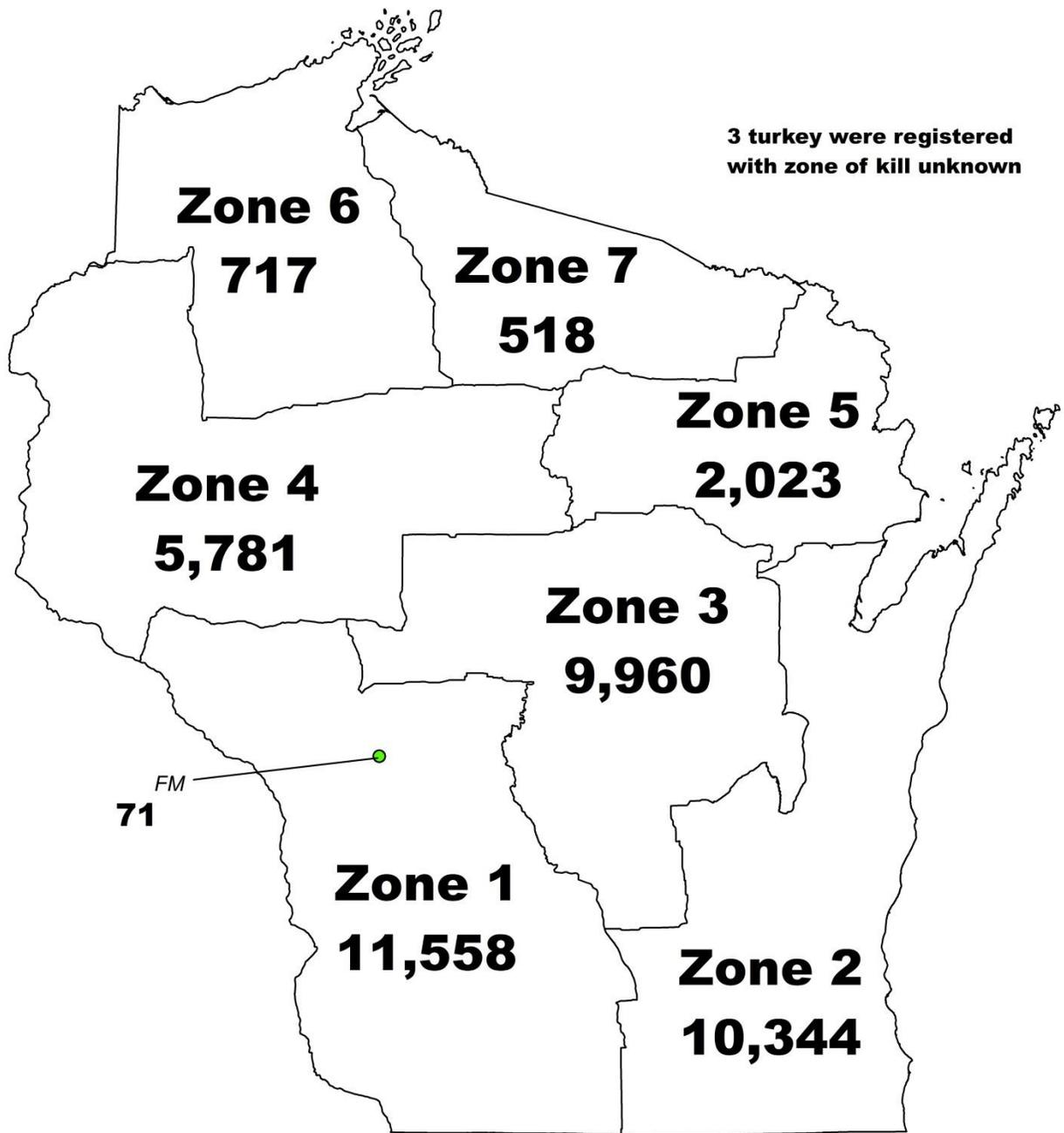


Figure 1. Spring Turkey harvest by zone, 2015.

**Table 1. Total number of spring turkey permits issued, 1994-2015.**

Zone	1994 <sup>a</sup>	1995 <sup>a</sup>	1996 <sup>a</sup>	1997 <sup>a</sup>	1998 <sup>a</sup>	1999 <sup>a</sup>	2000 <sup>a</sup>	2001 <sup>a</sup>	2002 <sup>a</sup>	2003 <sup>a</sup>	2004 <sup>a</sup>	2005 <sup>a</sup>	2006 <sup>a</sup>	2007 <sup>a</sup>	2008 <sup>a</sup>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1	50,299	44,661	48,117	54,265	56,983	59,534	67,476	68,990	68,434	68,820	71,764	72,303	71,806	70,893	70,167	70,068	68,806	67,152	59,875	66,061	62,903	61,030
2	5,252	5,497	7,005	8,562	10,057	11,017	13,496	15,496	16,656	18,600	22,616	23,850	27,022	28,857	29,729	34,196	34,344	34,198	40,797	41,999	45,000	45,055
3	9,852	10,630	12,558	19,460	22,193	27,007	32,859	44,858	50,102	52,800	56,896	59,100	59,215	59,876	60,390	59,694	56,273	54,611	48,898	54,430	51,826	50,063
4	2,978	4,603	5,309	7,106	8,384	10,901	14,031	16,558	18,701	21,890	26,143	28,524	30,076	31,632	33,032	34,909	35,295	34,908	31,974	34,914	31,287	31,727
5	2,652	2,803	2,504	2,806	2,845	3,094	3,564	4,688	5,408	6,300	8,510	9,303	9,463	10,055	10,722	11,989	12,087	11,994	11,654	11,998	11,132	12,001
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,350	2,011	2,763	4,200	4,510	4,495	4,499	4,500	4,327	4,501
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,203	1,200	1,500	2,400	2,400	2,400	3,602	3,600	3,348	3,583
FM	222	235	0	449	463	463	610	555	555	0	482	510	510	510	384	398	351	325	392	296	324	290
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,255</b>	<b>68,429</b>	<b>75,493</b>	<b>92,648</b>	<b>100,925</b>	<b>112,016</b>	<b>132,036</b>	<b>151,145</b>	<b>159,856</b>	<b>168,410</b>	<b>186,411</b>	<b>193,590</b>	<b>200,645</b>	<b>205,034</b>	<b>208,687</b>	<b>217,854</b>	<b>214,066</b>	<b>210,083</b>	<b>201,691</b>	<b>217,798</b>	<b>210,496</b>	<b>208,250</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data was compiled from "old" turkey zone information

**Table 2. Percent of the harvest composed of adult gobblers, 1994-2015.**

Zone	1994 <sup>a</sup>	1995 <sup>a</sup>	1996 <sup>a</sup>	1997 <sup>a</sup>	1998 <sup>a</sup>	1999 <sup>a</sup>	2000 <sup>a</sup>	2001 <sup>a</sup>	2002 <sup>a</sup>	2003 <sup>a</sup>	2004 <sup>a</sup>	2005 <sup>a</sup>	2006 <sup>a</sup>	2007 <sup>a</sup>	2008 <sup>a</sup>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1	73	59	72	72	67	63	75	79	72	75	78	86	71	73	78	84	80	77	82	73	90	76
2	75	62	64	72	66	63	68	77	69	73	79	86	75	78	80	87	81	78	84	76	89	80
3	70	55	70	71	70	68	76	80	73	76	76	87	68	75	81	84	77	76	81	72	91	80
4	71	61	67	63	61	55	71	75	72	77	76	86	71	73	81	88	83	79	81	69	93	80
5	63	48	45	61	53	56	66	70	68	83	75	82	71	76	83	86	81	75	82	76	91	86
6													75	69	79	87	80	75	78	76	90	82
7													76	75	77	83	83	77	81	75	86	83
FM																89	90	85	88	79	87	90
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>80</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data was compiled from "old" turkey zone information

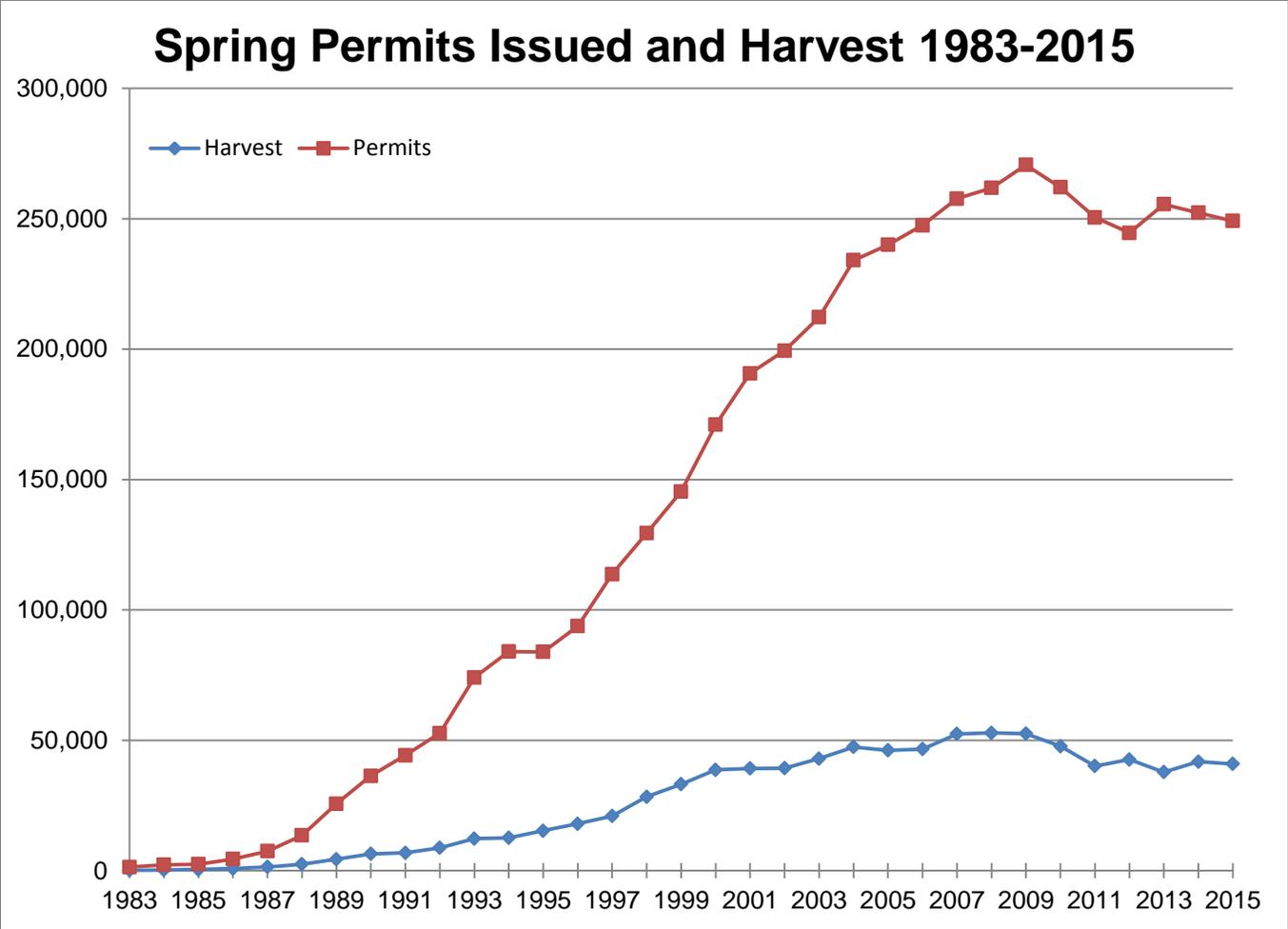
**Table 3.** *The 2015 spring turkey harvest by zone and time period.*

Success rates are uncorrected for nonparticipation.																
Zone	A		B		C		D		E		F		Special Hunts		Total	
	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Learn to Hunt	Youth Hunt	Kill	% Success
01	3,064	25%	2,233	18%	2,064	17%	1,729	14%	1,169	14%	553	19%	43	703	11,558	19%
02	2,083	28%	1,861	25%	1,586	21%	1,406	19%	1,445	19%	1,103	15%	108	752	10,344	23%
03	2,695	26%	2,097	20%	1,806	17%	1,370	13%	846	14%	415	19%	53	678	9,960	20%
04	1,389	24%	1,074	18%	867	15%	945	16%	701	12%	376	15%	20	409	5,781	18%
05	488	24%	402	20%	309	15%	246	12%	277	14%	164	8%	19	118	2,023	17%
06	178	24%	163	22%	106	14%	71	9%	64	9%	73	10%	3	59	717	16%
07	127	21%	117	20%	97	16%	67	11%	37	6%	42	7%	2	29	518	14%
FM	23	31%	20	21%	11	17%	9	27%	1	20%	7	47%	0	0	71	24%
Unks	0	0%		0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	0	3	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,047</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>7,967</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>6,846</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>5,843</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>4,540</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>2,748</b>	<b>40,975</b>	<b>20%</b>

**Table 4.** *Hunter success rates (percent successful) for 1994-2015.*

Zone	1994 <sup>a</sup>	1995 <sup>a</sup>	1996 <sup>a</sup>	1997 <sup>a</sup>	1998 <sup>a</sup>	1999 <sup>a</sup>	2000 <sup>a</sup>	2001 <sup>a</sup>	2002 <sup>a</sup>	2003 <sup>a</sup>	2004 <sup>a</sup>	2005 <sup>a</sup>	2006 <sup>a</sup>	2007 <sup>a</sup>	2008 <sup>a</sup>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1	18%	23%	24%	22%	27%	29%	28%	25%	24%	24%	24%	22%	21%	22%	23%	22%	22%	18%	20%	17%	19%	19%
2	18%	21%	22%	22%	25%	29%	29%	28%	27%	32%	32%	31%	29%	28%	30%	30%	28%	25%	26%	21%	23%	23%
3	17%	23%	27%	26%	31%	32%	31%	26%	24%	24%	24%	22%	22%	25%	24%	22%	19%	18%	21%	17%	20%	20%
4	17%	20%	21%	22%	31%	31%	29%	28%	27%	26%	27%	26%	27%	30%	28%	28%	23%	18%	19%	15%	18%	18%
5	10%	14%	14%	16%	18%	23%	26%	24%	24%	20%	22%	21%	21%	24%	25%	22%	20%	18%	19%	17%	18%	17%
6													28%	25%	26%	21%	19%	18%	17%	14%	13%	16%
7													19%	20%	22%	15%	17%	16%	16%	12%	11%	14%
FM Total	30%	41%		25%	32%	32%	29%	28%	25%	0%	25%	28%	22%	24%	33%	27%	26%	20%	28%	33%	22%	24%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data was compiled from “old” turkey zone information



**Figure 2.** Spring turkey permits issued and harvest, 1983-2015.

**Table 5.** *Historical number of permits issued, harvest, and permit success for spring turkey hunting, 1983-2015.*

Year	Permits	Harvest	Permit Success
1983	1,200	182	15.2%
1984	1,950	303	15.5%
1985	2,025	496	24.5%
1986	3,675	793	21.6%
1987	6,040	1,478	24.5%
1988	11,070	2,486	22.5%
1989	21,280	4,400	20.7%
1990	29,877	6,465	21.6%
1991	37,414	6,846	18.3%
1992	43,925	8,798	20.0%
1993	61,767	12,316	19.9%
1994	71,420	12,637	17.7%
1995	68,588	15,323	22.3%
1996	75,812	18,000	23.7%
1997	92,734	20,992	22.6%
1998	101,141	28,338	28.0%
1999	112,256	33,168	29.5%
2000	132,318	38,686	29.2%
2001	151,522	39,211	25.9%
2002	160,101	39,336	24.6%
2003	169,277	42,970	25.4%
2004	186,608	47,477	25.4%
2005	193,826	46,183	23.8%
2006	200,869	46,662	23.2%
2007	205,306	52,428	25.5%
2008	208,972	52,880	25.3%
2009	218,133	52,581	24.1%
2010	214,356	47,722	22.3%
2011	210,384	40,133	19.1%
2012	201,984	42,612	21.1%
2013	217,798	37,804	17.4%
2014	210,496	41,815	19.9%
2015	208,250	40,975	19.7%

# Fall Turkey Harvest Report 2015

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## **Abstract**

The 2015 fall turkey season ran for 69 days, from 12 September through 19 November. A second period fall hunt occurred from 30 November - 31 December in Turkey Management Zones (TMZ) 1-5. Statewide, the number of permits available (100,700) was up from the 96,700 available in 2014. Total permits issued through a random drawing process and over-the-counter sales were 65,705. Permitted hunters harvested 4,864 turkeys for a success rate uncorrected for nonparticipation of 7.4%. This success rate was higher than the 6.7% recorded last year. Turkey brood production can affect the number of birds available to harvest in fall; brood production varied across the state and may have resulted in turkey numbers varying across the state. While turkey numbers vary among regions, turkeys are doing well statewide with strong numbers into the fall hunting season.

## **Methods**

Harvest information was obtained through mandatory registration of harvested turkeys. Starting in the fall of 2011, hunters were no longer required to take a harvested bird to a registration station, but instead register their bird over the phone or on the DNR website. Information collected at the time of registration was the same as in the past with hunters required to inform the WDNR of the zone, county, date of kill, sex and age of each turkey killed. Registration records were summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

## **Results**

The whole state was open to fall turkey hunting from 12 September – 19 November in 2015 (Figure 1). The fall hunting season structure was changed in 2009, with a second period added after the close of the 9-day gun deer season (in 2015 the second season ran from 30 November - 31 December) in the southern Turkey Management Zones 1-5. This allowed most fall turkey hunters 101 days afield to pursue turkeys. This was done to allow hunters to enjoy an extended season and increase their chances of bagging a bird. Past modern fall hunts have ranged from 7-100 days.

### **Permit Levels**

Permit levels vary depending on the spring hunting success, amount of timber, hunter interference, hunter demand, and turkey population densities and distributions within zones. With turkey brood production average to above for parts of the state in 2015, spring success increasing, and a high demand for permits in TMZ 2, the WDNR Wild Turkey Committee did increase the permit level for the 2015 fall season in TMZ 2 (Table 1).

### **Permit Selection**

All applicants were required to pay a \$3 fee for an application to enter the preference drawing. Preference for permits was given first to landowners (up to 30% of permits available in each zone), followed by residents who applied for but did not receive a permit in the fall of 2014, other residents, and finally non-residents. Applications were randomly selected, but first choice zones of all applicants within each preference category were issued available permits before second, third, fourth, etc. choices were filled.

Like in the spring, leftover permits were sold (\$10 for resident, \$15 for non-residents) over-the-counter at DNR license sales locations on a first-come, first-served basis at a rate of one permit per day. This continued until all permits available for a zone were issued or the season closed.

A total of 53,271 permits were issued through the drawing process and another 12,434 over-the-counter for a total of 65,705. This was more than the 62,708 issued in the fall of 2014.

#### Harvest and Success Rates

Fall turkey hunters registered 4,864 turkeys in the fall of 2015. This is an increase from the 4,228 registered in the fall of 2014. Data on the historical fall turkey harvests are summarized in Table 2 and Figure 2.

Beginning in 2007, the start of the fall turkey season was moved up from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October to open concurrent with the archery season in mid-September. This was done to give hunters more opportunity to hunt fall turkeys. The fall turkey season overlapped a statewide 2-day youth deer hunt, all hunters are required to wear blaze orange during this deer season. This blaze orange requirement probably had the effect of eliminating days of fall turkey hunting.

After a successful three year trial period, the use of dogs for fall turkey hunting was allowed statewide. It was legal to fall turkey hunt with the aid of dogs for the entire fall season.

The fall hunter's success rate (percent of permits that harvested a turkey) was 7.4%, up from 6.7% in 2014, and close to the previous 3 years. Fall success rates varied by zone from 5.8% to 9.1%, with the highest success rate occurring in Zone 7 (Figure 1, Table1). There are a number of factors that affect turkey success rates: turkey abundance, weather, other concurrent hunting seasons, permit levels and hunting techniques. As permits become more common, they may fall into the hands of the less devoted turkey hunter, primarily bow hunters who may apply for a turkey permit on the off chance that one might walk under their tree stand while bow hunting, for example. These less dedicated hunters may never go out with the sole purpose of hunting turkeys. Data from the Fall Turkey Hunter Survey indicates that approximately 30% of hunters purchasing a fall turkey permit only hunt turkeys "opportunistically" when hunting other game. Lastly, the sale of second tags to hunters could have an effect on success rates, as they may feel more "invested" in harvesting a turkey as they had to pay some amount for the permit as opposed to getting it free through the drawing process from the DNR. Fall Turkey Hunter surveys show that hunter participation in 2015 was 64%, 2014 was 65%, but lower than the average between 1989 and 2014 of 73%. Hunter success rates are uncorrected for non-active hunters and noncompliance, actual success rates are higher.

#### Age and Sex Ratios

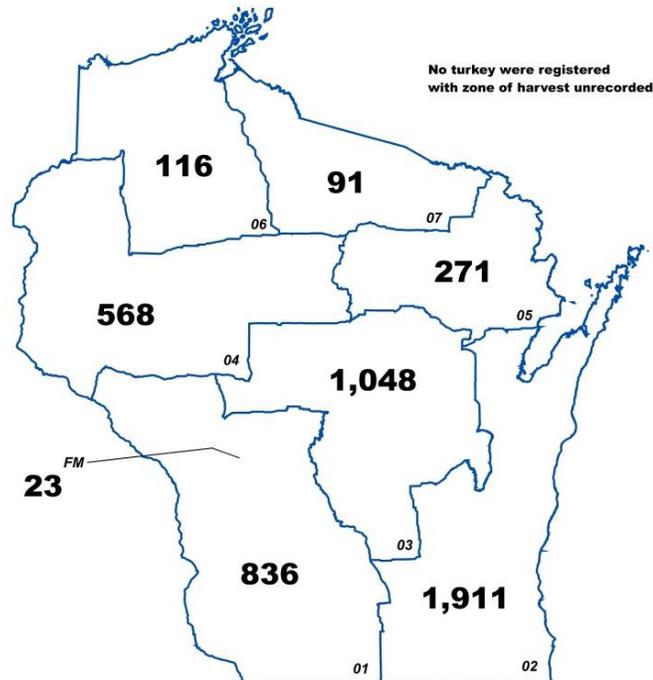
The percentage of the harvest composed of adult turkeys (69%) was higher than in 2014 (66%). Females comprised 50.5% of the harvest while males accounted for 49.5%. Adult females comprised 32.6% of the fall harvest, juvenile hens 17.9%, gobblers 36.5%, jakes 12.9%. The percentage of adult males in the harvest was higher than in 2014 (31% gobblers). Adults are generally believed to be less vulnerable to fall hunting than juveniles, particularly for hens. There are probable prestige biases at work also, where hunters are reluctant to admit to killing a juvenile bird. Hunters could also be confusing jakes and juvenile hens as adult hens, or using hunting methods and selectivity toward adults. These all could be factors affecting adult to juvenile ratios.

Accidents

There were no fall accidents during the 2015 hunting season. There have been no accidents in fall turkey hunting for seven of the last nine years. Since fall hunting of turkeys began in 1989, there have been one fatal, and 27 non-fatal hunting accidents with an average of 1.1 per year.

**Table 1.** Turkey kill by zone, age and sex, permits issued, and permit success rate for 2015.

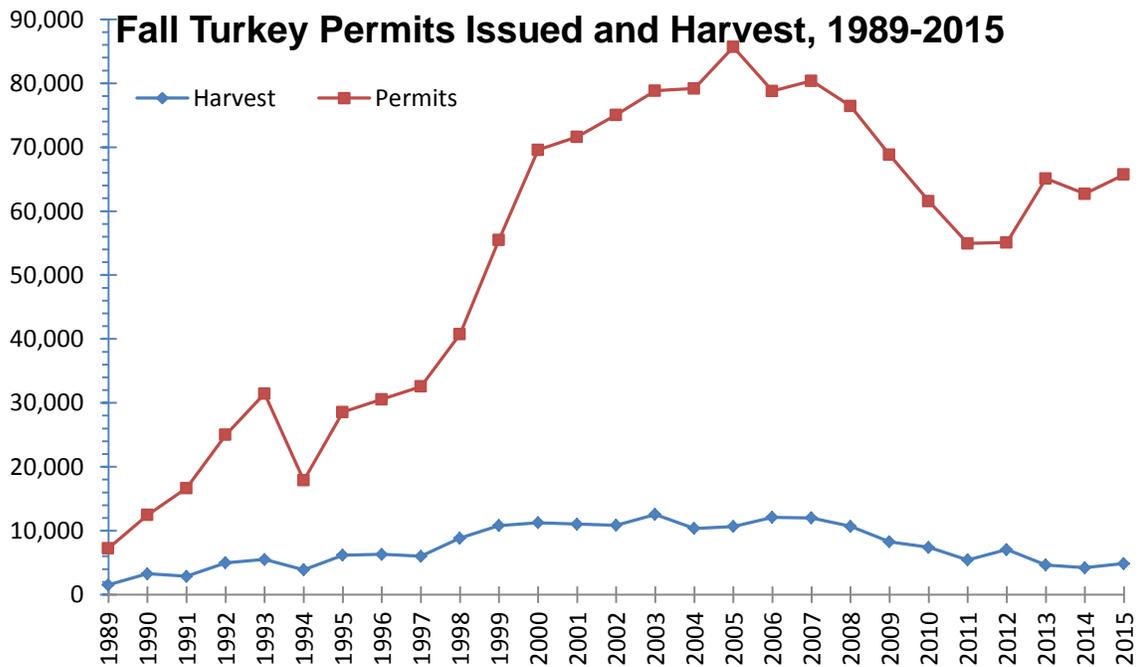
Zone	Hens	Juv. Hens	Toms	Jakes	Unks	Total Harvest	Permits Issued	% Success
1	254	196	290	96	0	836	14,392	5.8%
2	624	300	724	263	0	1,911	21,873	8.7%
3	354	185	376	133	0	1,048	14,631	7.2%
4	187	108	208	65	0	568	8,185	6.9%
5	91	41	99	40	0	271	3,800	7.1%
6	35	16	48	17	0	116	1,400	8.3%
7	35	21	26	9	0	91	1,000	9.1%
FM	6	5	6	6	0	23	424	5.4%
UNK						0		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>1,777</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>65,705</b>	<b>7.4%</b>



**Figure 1.** Fall turkey harvest by zone, 2015.

**Table 2.** Historical number of permits issued, harvest, and permit success for fall turkey hunting, 1989-2015.

Year	Permits Issued	Harvest	Permit Success
1989	7,260	1,570	21.6%
1990	12,465	3,433	27.5%
1991	16,668	2,904	17.4%
1992	24,997	5,024	20.1%
1993	31,449	5,625	17.9%
1994	17,889	3,896	21.8%
1995	28,555	6,241	21.9%
1996	30,779	6,305	20.5%
1997	32,569	6,004	18.4%
1998	41,131	8,845	21.5%
1999	55,479	10,825	19.5%
2000	69,566	11,263	16.2%
2001	71,601	11,029	15.4%
2002	75,040	10,860	14.5%
2003	78,831	12,554	15.9%
2004	79,178	10,362	13.1%
2005	85,678	10,650	12.4%
2006	78,782	12,108	15.4%
2007	80,382	12,010	14.9%
2008	76,448	10,698	14.0%
2009	68,796	8,281	12.0%
2010	61,567	7,394	12.0%
2011	54,949	5,433	9.9%
2012	55,099	7,054	12.8%
2013	65,101	4,631	7.1%
2014	62,708	4,228	6.7%
2015	65,705	4,864	7.4%



**Figure 2.** Fall turkey permits issued, and harvest, 1989-2015.

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