

Deer Population Estimates, Hunting, and Harvest Trends in Northeast Michigan



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Overview



- Review deer management policy
- Summarize TB management strategy
- Compile 10+ years of deer population, harvest, and hunting participation estimates
- Evaluate population management components of TB management strategy

Deer Management Policy



Natural Resources Commission Policy 2007

The Department's goal is to manage the deer herd using management practices based on scientific research to:

- **Maintain healthy animals**
- **Keep populations with limits dictated by carrying capacity of the range**
- **Consider effects on native plant communities, agricultural, horticultural, and silvicultural crops, and public safety**

Deer Management Policy



Natural Resources Commission Policy 2007

The Department's goal is to manage the deer herd using management practices based on scientific research to:

- **Maintain an active public information program**
- **Acquaint the public with the methods of deer management and the conditions needed to maintain a healthy, vigorous herd**

TB Management Strategy



- Remove conditions that concentrate deer
 - Eliminate feeding and baiting
- Increase harvest of deer: reduce population and TB transmission rate
 - Hunting during fall and winter is best implementation of strategy
- Evaluation
 - Hunting participation and harvest trends
 - Deer population estimates and trend

Deer Management Units



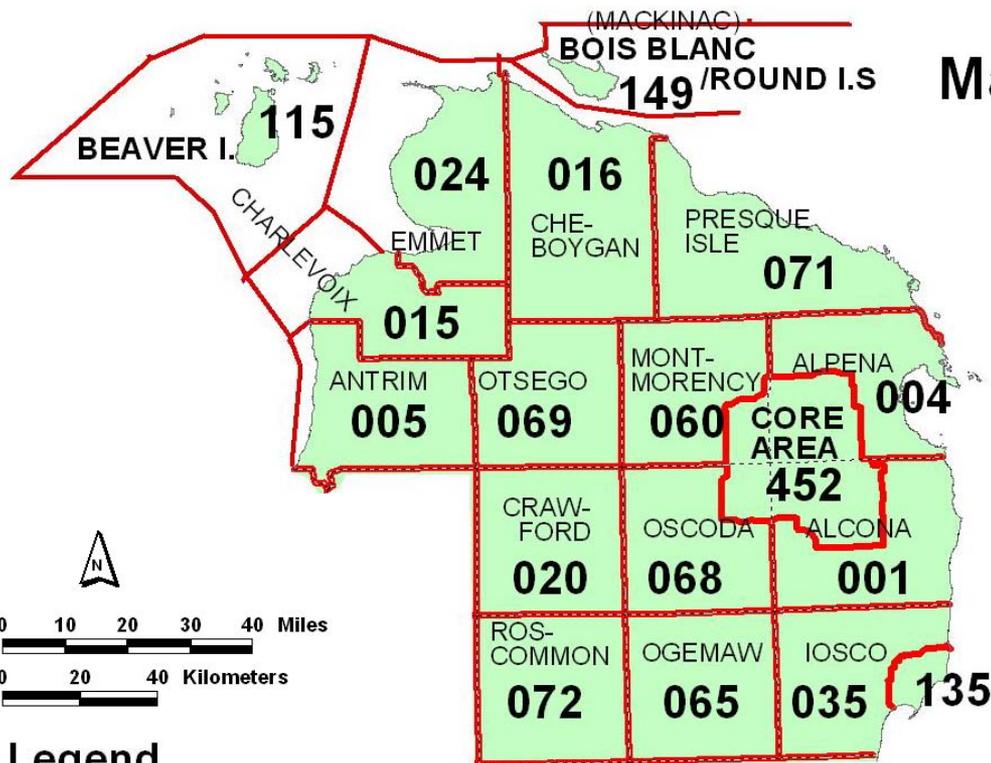
Deer Management Units (DMUs)

**98 DMUs
8 Management Units**



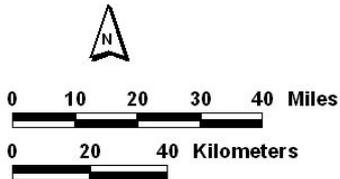
Michigan DNR
Wildlife Division
(2006 may 04 -mls).

Deer Management Units



Deer Management Units (DMUs)

Northeast Management Unit



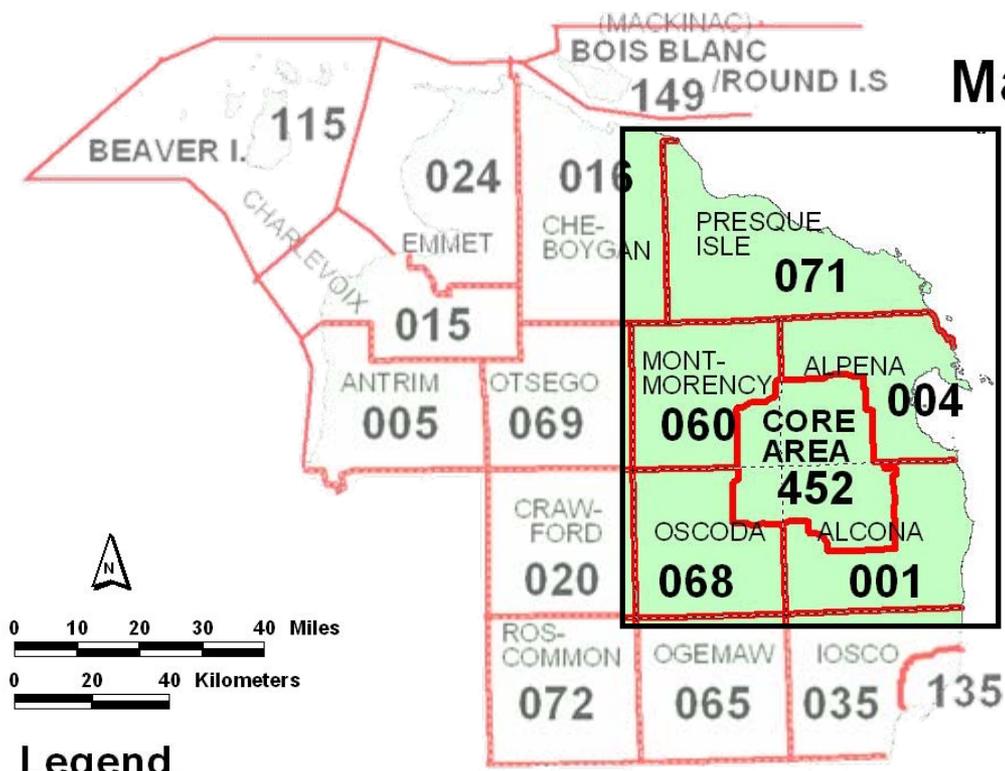
Legend

- DMU
- ### DMU Number
- DMU Boundary Line
- County Line



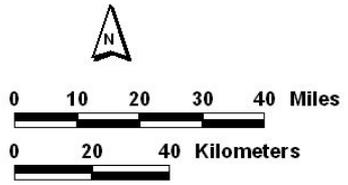
Michigan DNR
Wildlife Division
(2006 may 04 -mls).

Deer Management Units



Deer Management Units (DMUs)

5-County Area and DMU 452



Legend

- DMU
- ### DMU Number
- DMU Boundary Line
- County Line

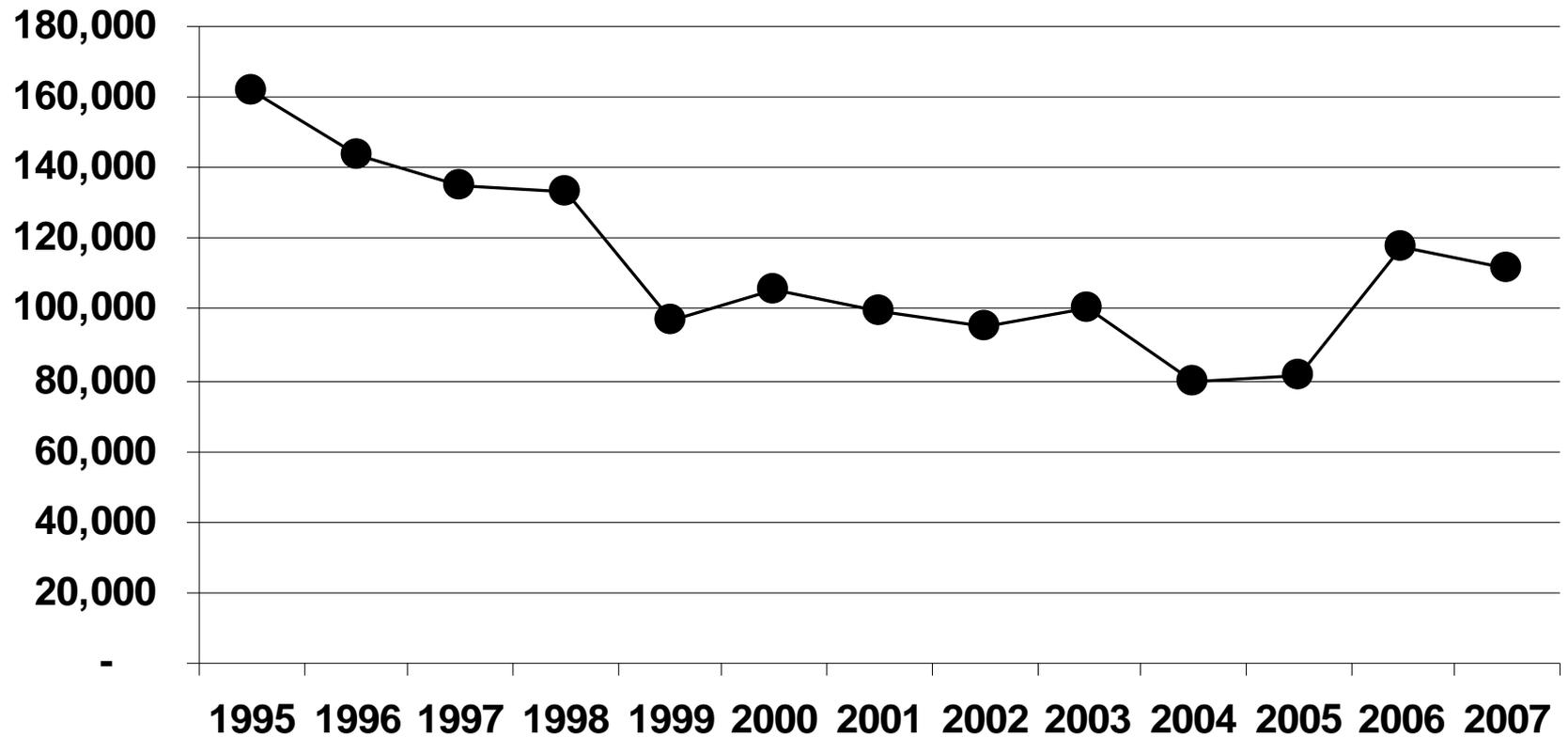


Michigan DNR
Wildlife Division
(2006 may 04 -mls).

Deer Population Estimates



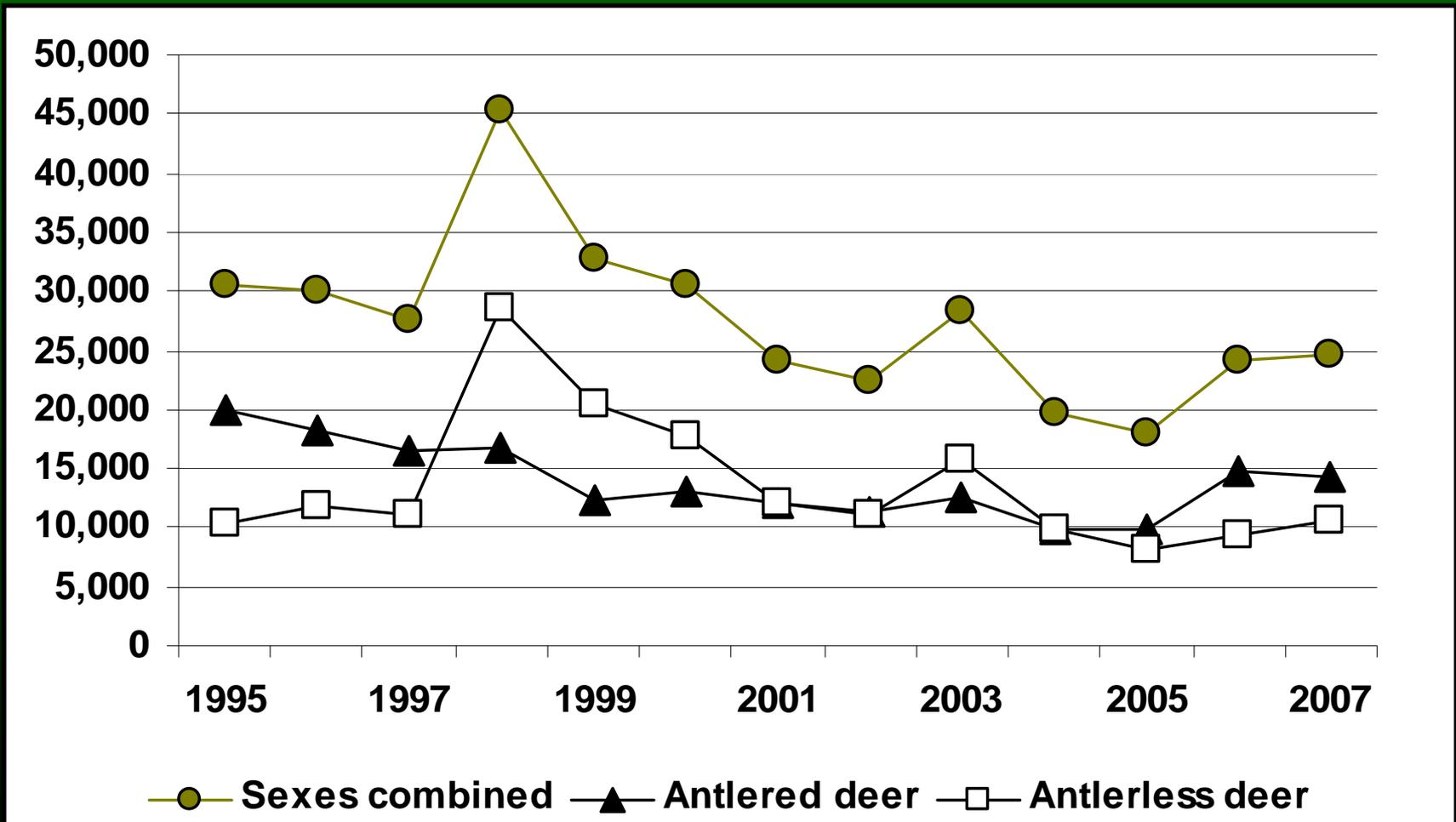
1995-2007, 5-County Area



Deer Harvest Estimates



1995-2007, 5-County Area



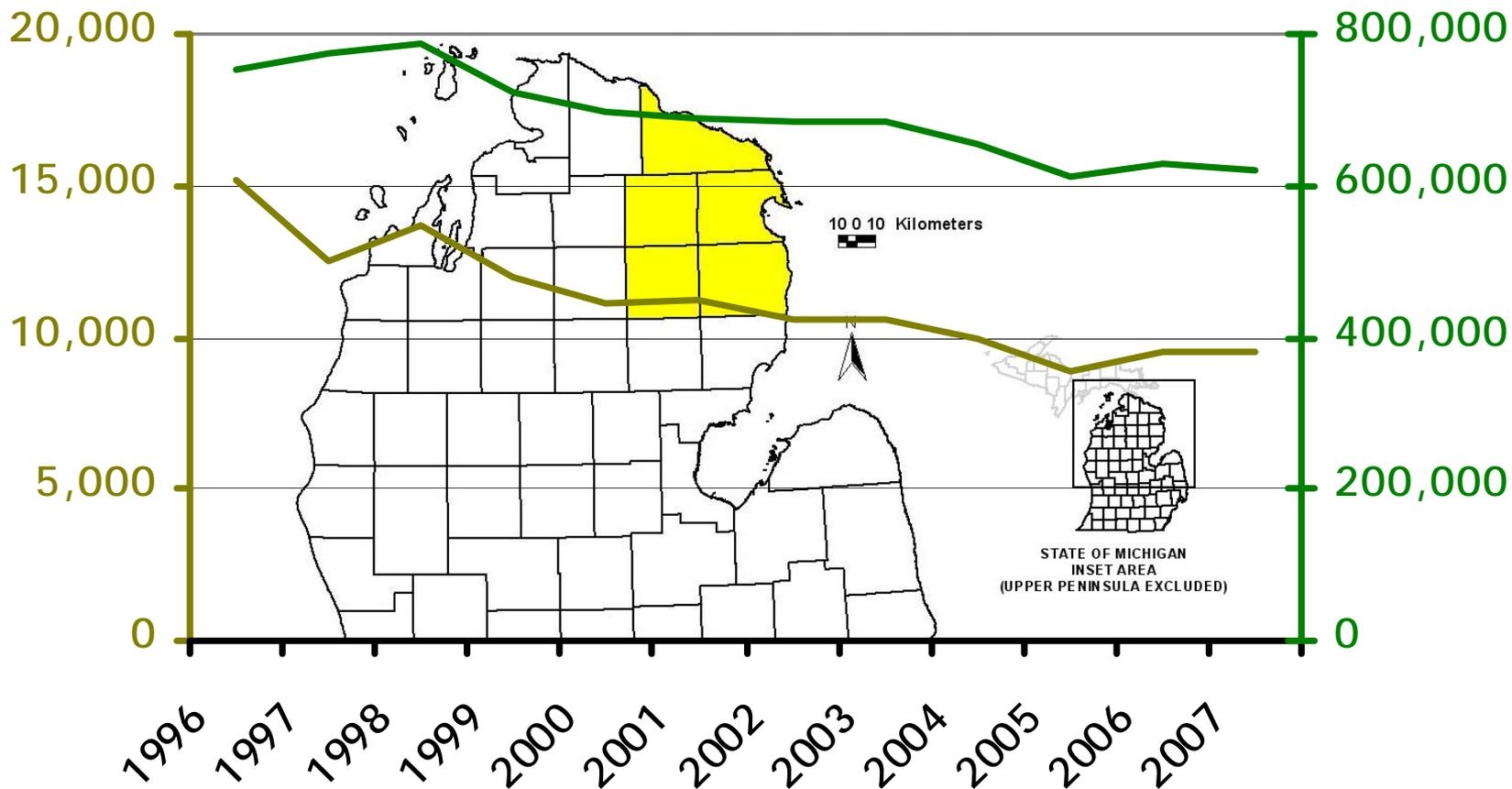
Firearm Hunting Trends



Participation (Number of Hunters)

5-County Average

Statewide



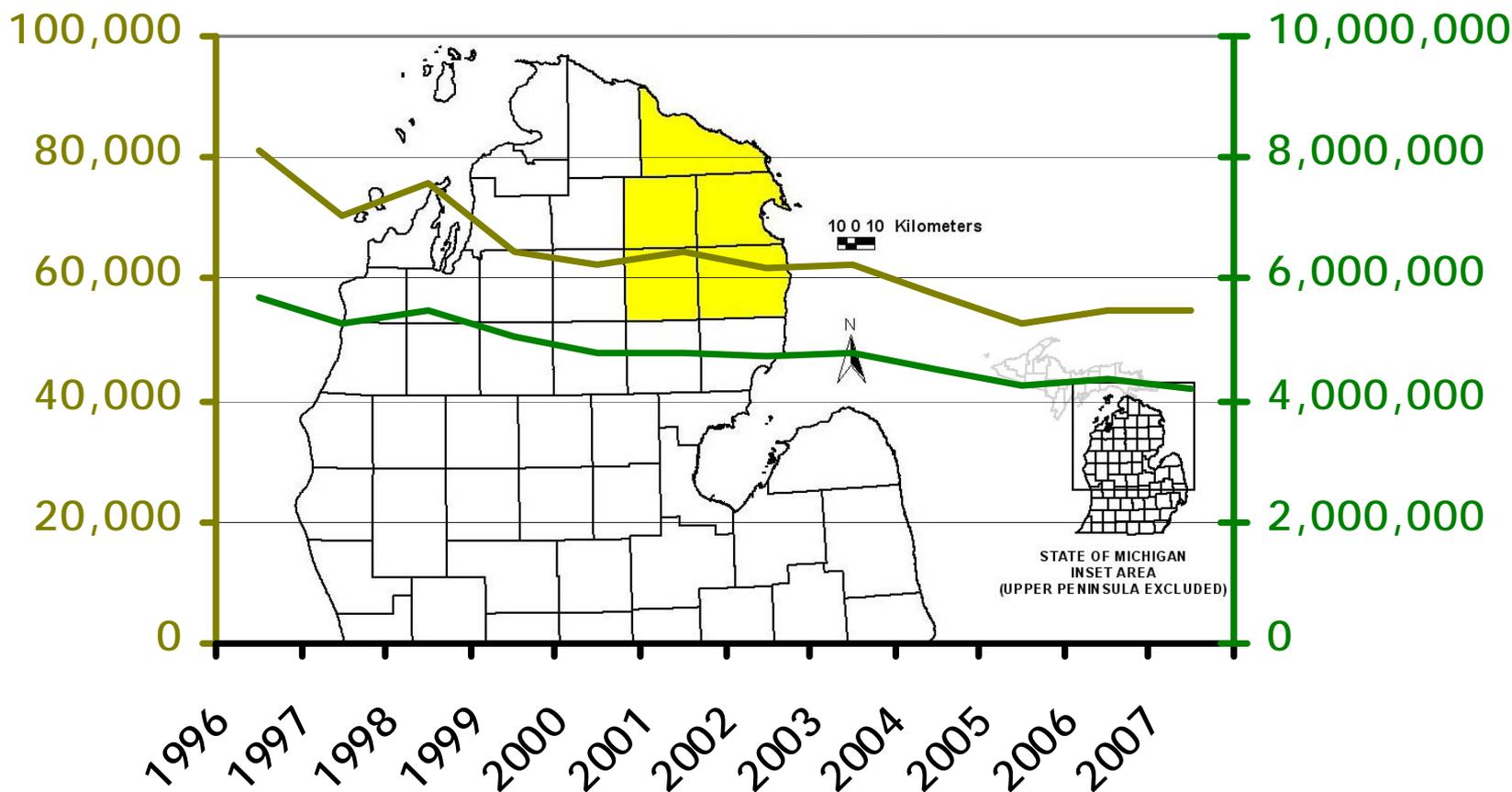
Firearm Hunting Trends



Effort (Hunter Days)

5-County Average

Statewide



5-County Area Trends



- Declining 10+ year population trend
 - Stabilized below mid-1990s levels
 - Recent estimates at or above early 2000s levels
- Antlerless harvest peaked in 1998
 - Has remained stable at pre-1998 levels for several years
- Decline in hunter participation similar to statewide trends

Summary



- Further deer reductions will be challenging
 - Surveys and other input clearly indicate the hunting public is not supportive
 - Overall hunting participation and effort continue to decline
- Increased public awareness is needed regarding overall benefits of reduced deer densities

QUESTIONS?



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Thank You



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