

Deer Regulation Recommendations



Chad Stewart, Deer, Elk, and Moose Management Specialist
Michigan Natural Resources Commission
May 11, 2023

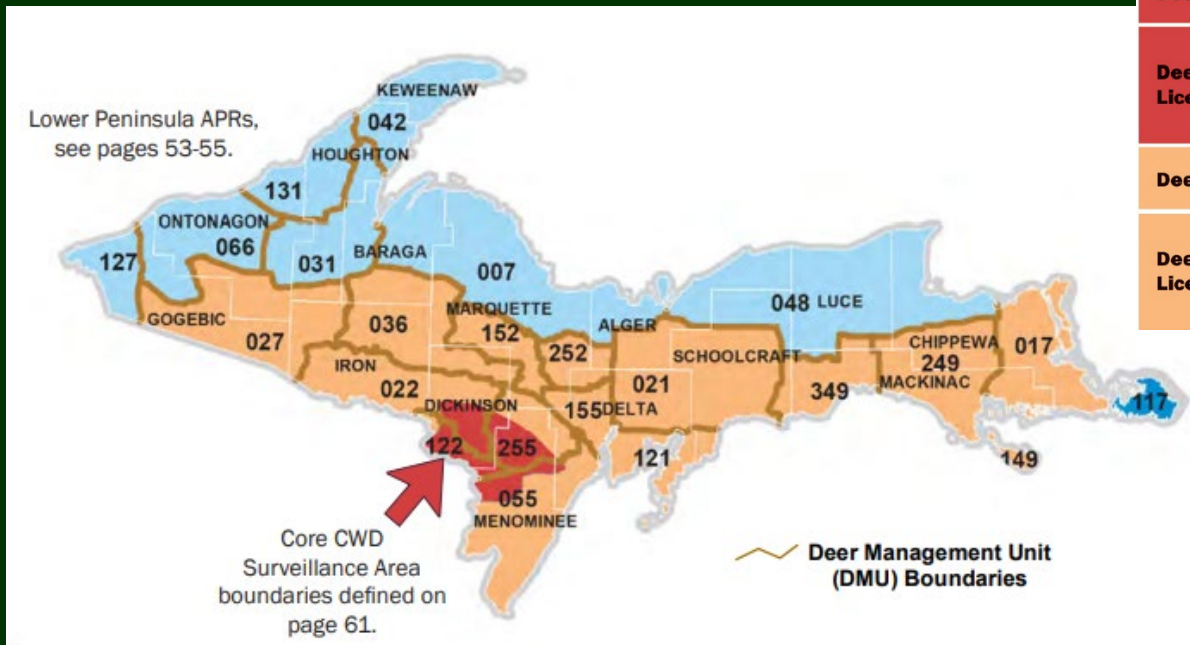


Upper Peninsula Deer Regulations



Upper Peninsula CWD Regulations

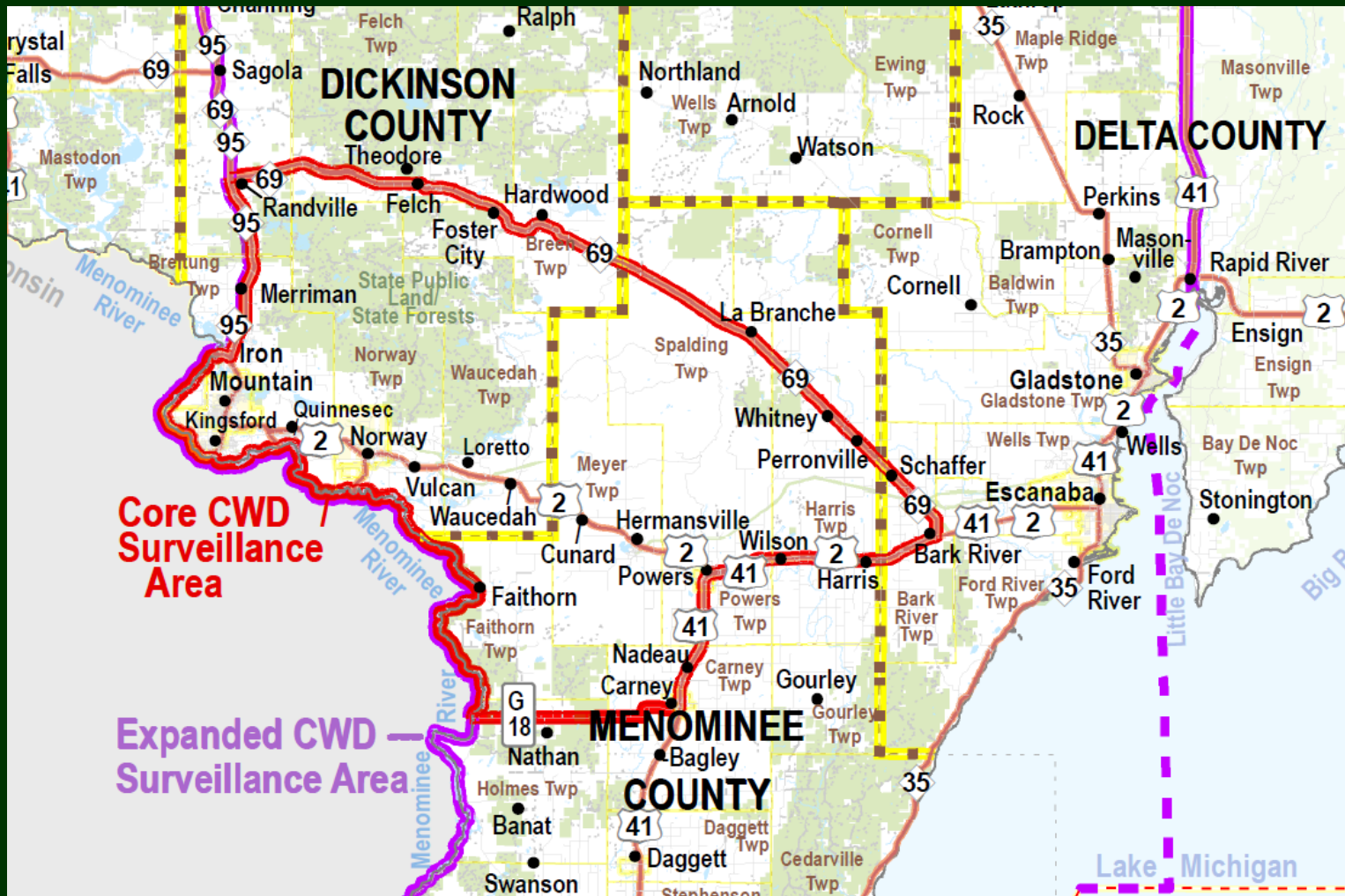
- Review of CWD Surveillance Zone and associated regulations established in 2019
 - Baiting and feeding regulations
 - Antler point restrictions/hunter's choice
 - Crossbow allowance in late season



		Seasons		
		Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader
Deer License				
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag			
	Restricted Tag			
Deer License		or		
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag	or		
	Restricted Tag	or		
Deer License		or		
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag	or		
	Restricted Tag	or		



CWD Surveillance Zone



Removal of CWD

Baiting/Feeding Ban in UP

CWD Surveillance Zone

- CWD detected in 1 deer in 2018 in Southern Dickinson County
- Per CWD Response/Surveillance Plan, recommended removal of baiting/feeding
 - Also recommended by UP CWD Working Group



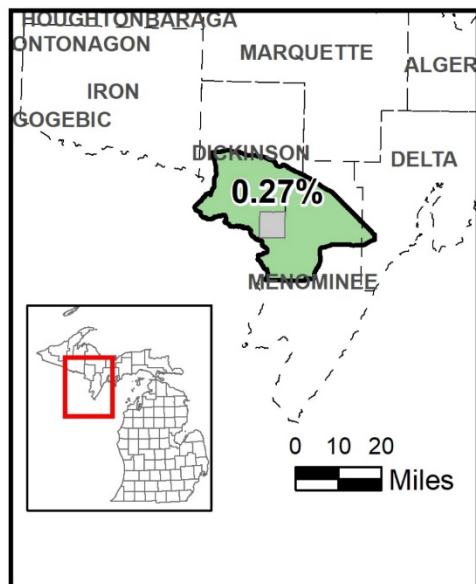
CWD Surveillance since 2018

Year	Deer tested in UP Surveillance Zone
2018	668
2019	579
2020	331
2021	286
2022	234
Total:	2,098

No additional CWD positive animals detected



**Estimated Potential Undetected Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
Prevalence/Positive Deer* in the CWD Surveillance Areas, Michigan
*Based on 2008-2022 Testing***

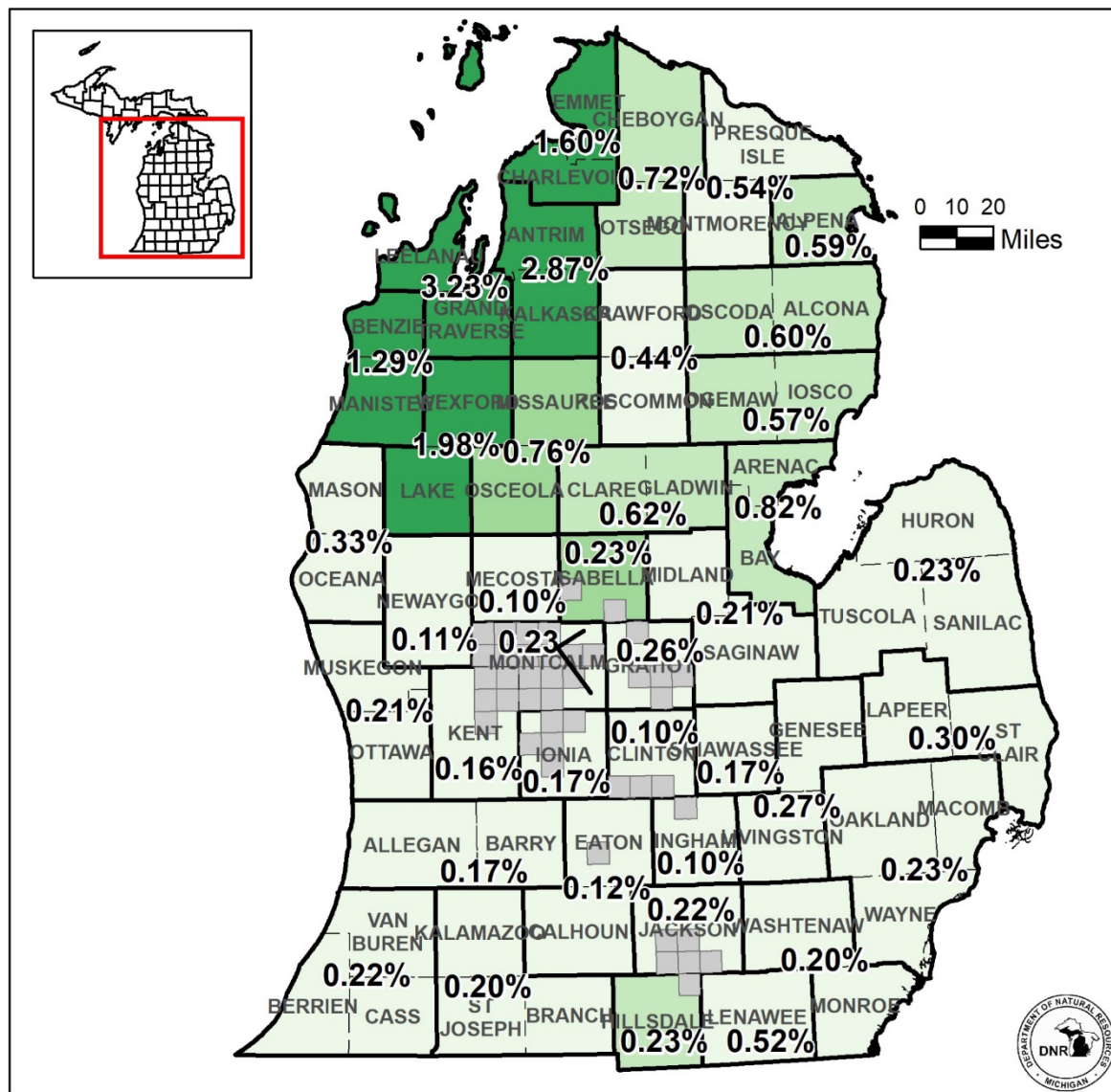


Legend

-  CWD Positive Township
 CWD Surveillance Population
 County Line

Numbers represent the upper 95% credible limit for undetected prevalence and the corresponding maximum number of positive deer.

*To the extent that CWD is clustered on the landscape and/or the deer tested are not representative of the underlying population, prevalence/number of positive deer could be higher.



CWD Surveillance since 2018

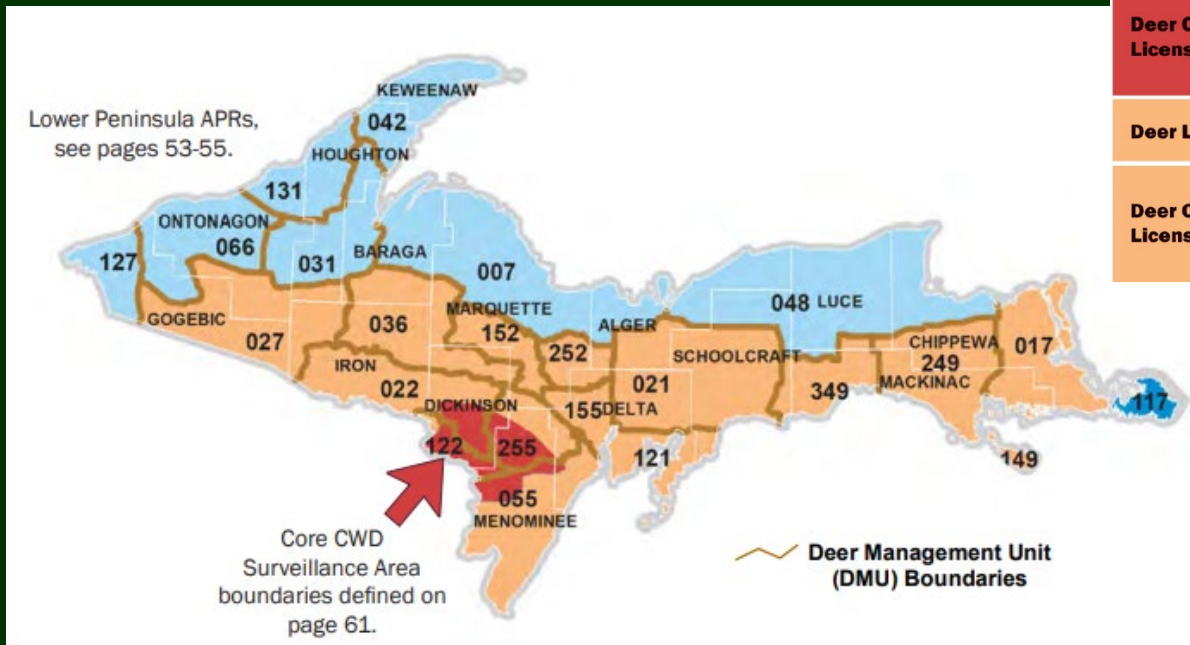
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While we did not reach our surveillance goals, our estimated potential CWD is low enough where we are recommending removing the baiting/feeding ban in the Core CWD surveillance zone.



APRs within the CWD Surveillance Zone

- Recommendation to make entire area consistent with Hunter's Choice regulations (orange)
 - APRs for combination license buyers, but not deer license buyers



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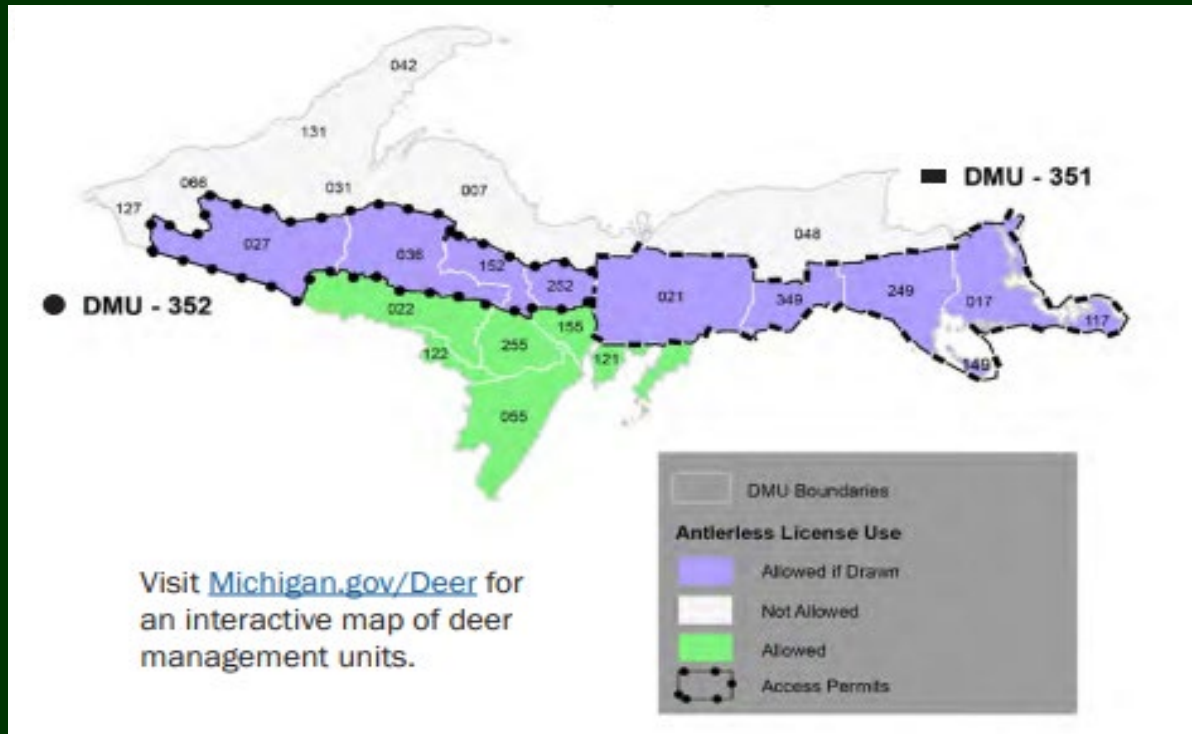
Antler Point Restrictions w/in the CWD Surveillance Zone

- APRs removed by Amendment 7 (July 2019), which included Hunter's Choice in parts of DMU's 022, 055, and 255, and APRs in most of DMU 122
- 63% of hunters support antler point restrictions in the Upper Peninsula (2014 Deer Hunter Survey)
 - Very little feedback after removal of APRs or requests to reinstate APRs in DMU 122
- Institute Hunter's Choice throughout CWD Surveillance Zone to maintain consistency with regulations across the UP



Upper Peninsula Deer Regulations

- Review of recent deer regulation changes
- Revisit previous topics of discussion
 - Allowance of crossbow in late antlerless season
 - Antlerless harvest with archery equipment in select units



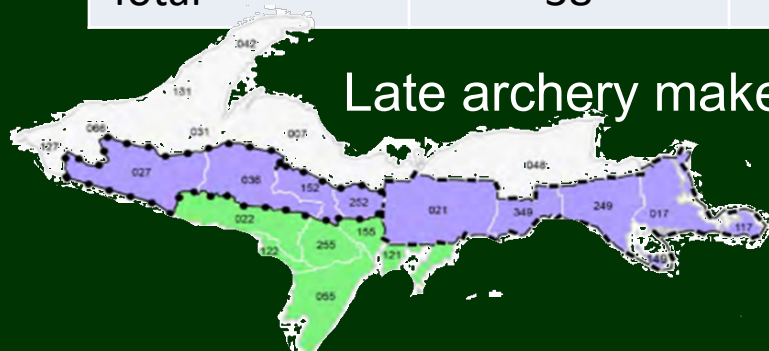
Crossbows in late archery season

- Historically, prohibited throughout the Upper Peninsula's late archery season since crossbows became legal in Michigan archery season in 2009
- Was allowed in CWD surveillance zone as part of Amendment 7 of July, 2019
- Proposed to be included throughout the UP in November 2020
 - Rejected
- Needs addressed with regulations surrounding surveillance zone proposed to be removed



2022 Late Archery Harvest by DMU (High Snowfall)

DMU	Late Archery Harvest	Total Archery Harvest	Total Harvest	Square Miles
007	12	314	1,554	1,788
031	14	143	931	818
042	4	36	345	798
048	6	91	580	2,023
066	1	70	484	866
127	0	44	203	328
131	1	46	343	538
Total	38	744	4,440	7,159

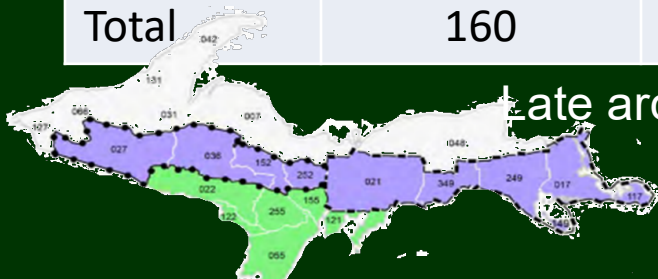


Late archery makes up: 5.1% of total archery harvest
 0.86% of total harvest
 1 deer for every 188 square miles



2022 Late Archery Harvest by DMU (Mid Snowfall)

DMU	Late Archery Harvest	Total Archery Harvest	Total Harvest	Square Miles
027	11	127	768	1,237
036	6	108	615	987
152	10	142	588	386
252	4	84	418	297
021	40	314	1,313	1,464
349	37	111	402	468
249	17	100	427	859
017	25	216	811	792
117	10	89	233	135
Total	160	1,291	5,575	6,625



Late archery makes up:

12.4% of total archery harvest
 2.9% of total harvest
 1 deer every 41 square miles



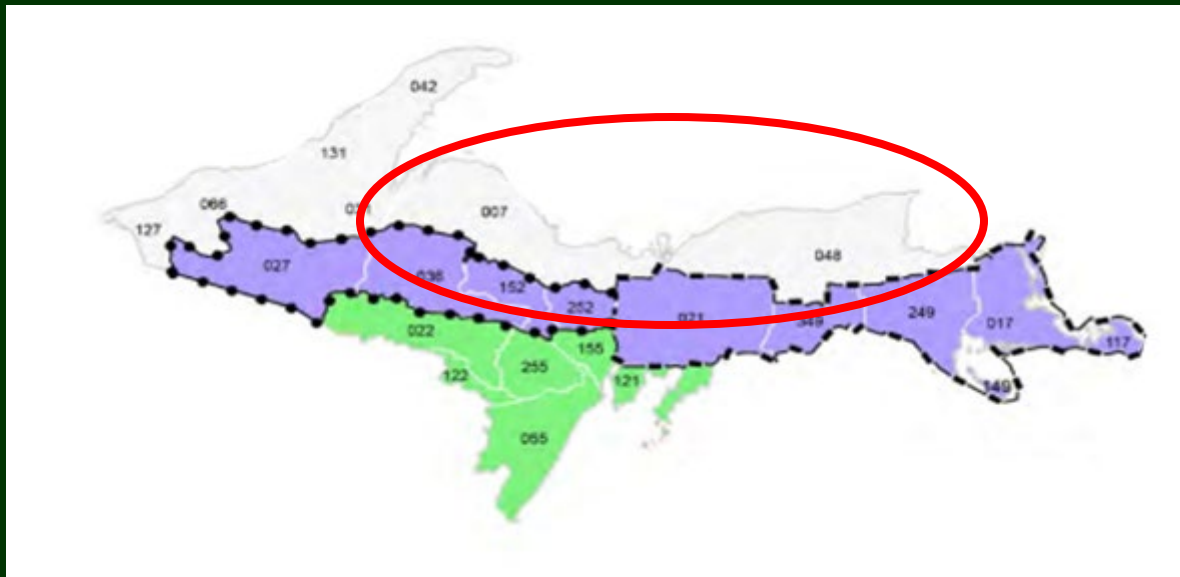
High Snowfall Area Closed to Antlerless Archery Harvest

- Historically have had no or minimal antlerless quotas
- In 2015, opportunity to take antlerless deer during archery season was removed after several successive severe winters.
 - Closed area totals 7,159 square miles
 - Average (2012-2014) of 1,275 antlerless deer taken during archery season in current area closed to antlerless harvest
 - 0.17 antlerless deer per square mile taken during archery season prior to closure
 - 2022 deer harvest: 4,193 antlered deer, 247 antlerless deer (94.4% antlered)
 - 23% of camps in 2022 UP Deer Camp Survey supportive of antlerless harvest opportunities in this zone

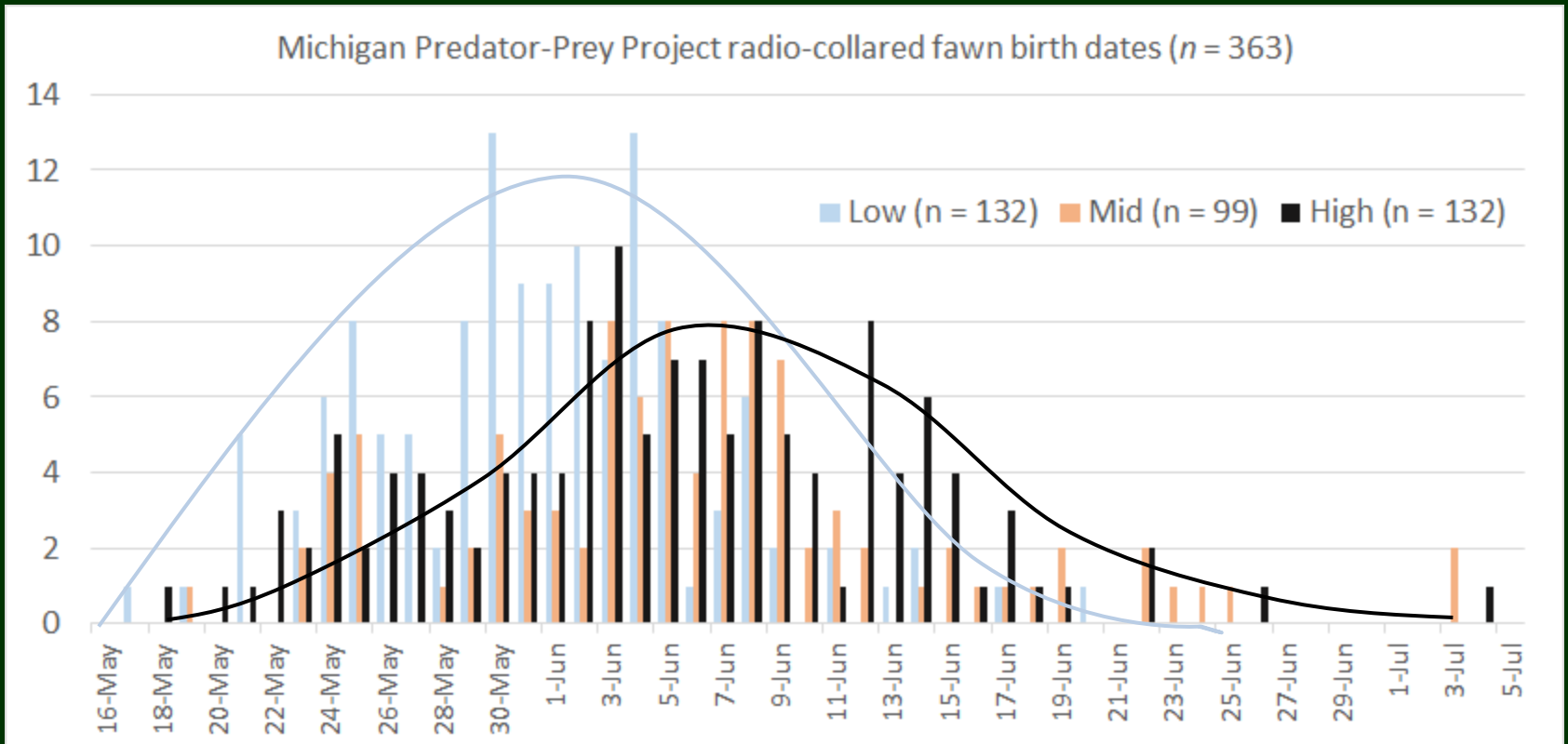


2020 Season (DMU's 007 and 048)

- Antlerless opportunities with archery reinstated for 1 year
- Estimated 315 antlerless deer harvested this year
 - 3,811 square miles across both units
 - 0.8 deer per 10 square miles

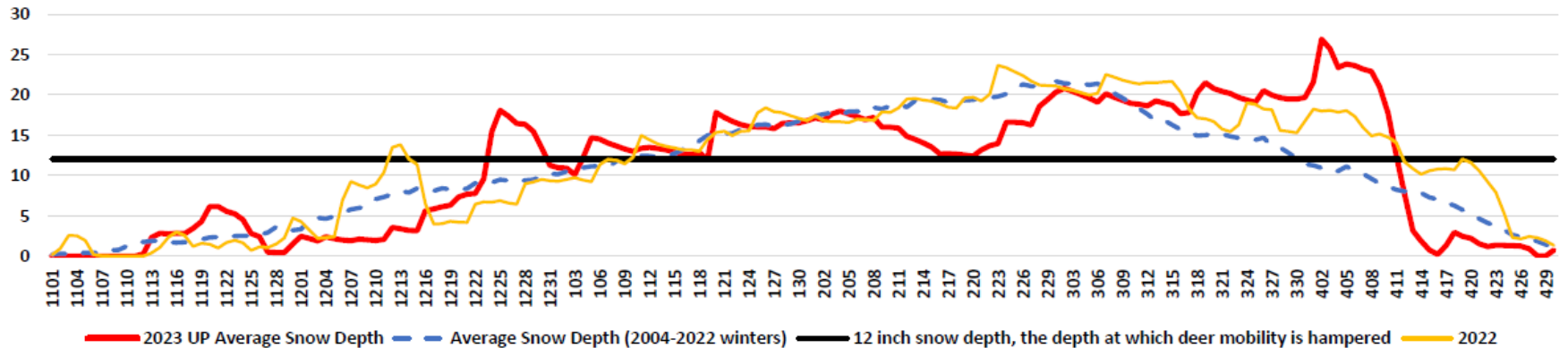


Radio-collared fawn births

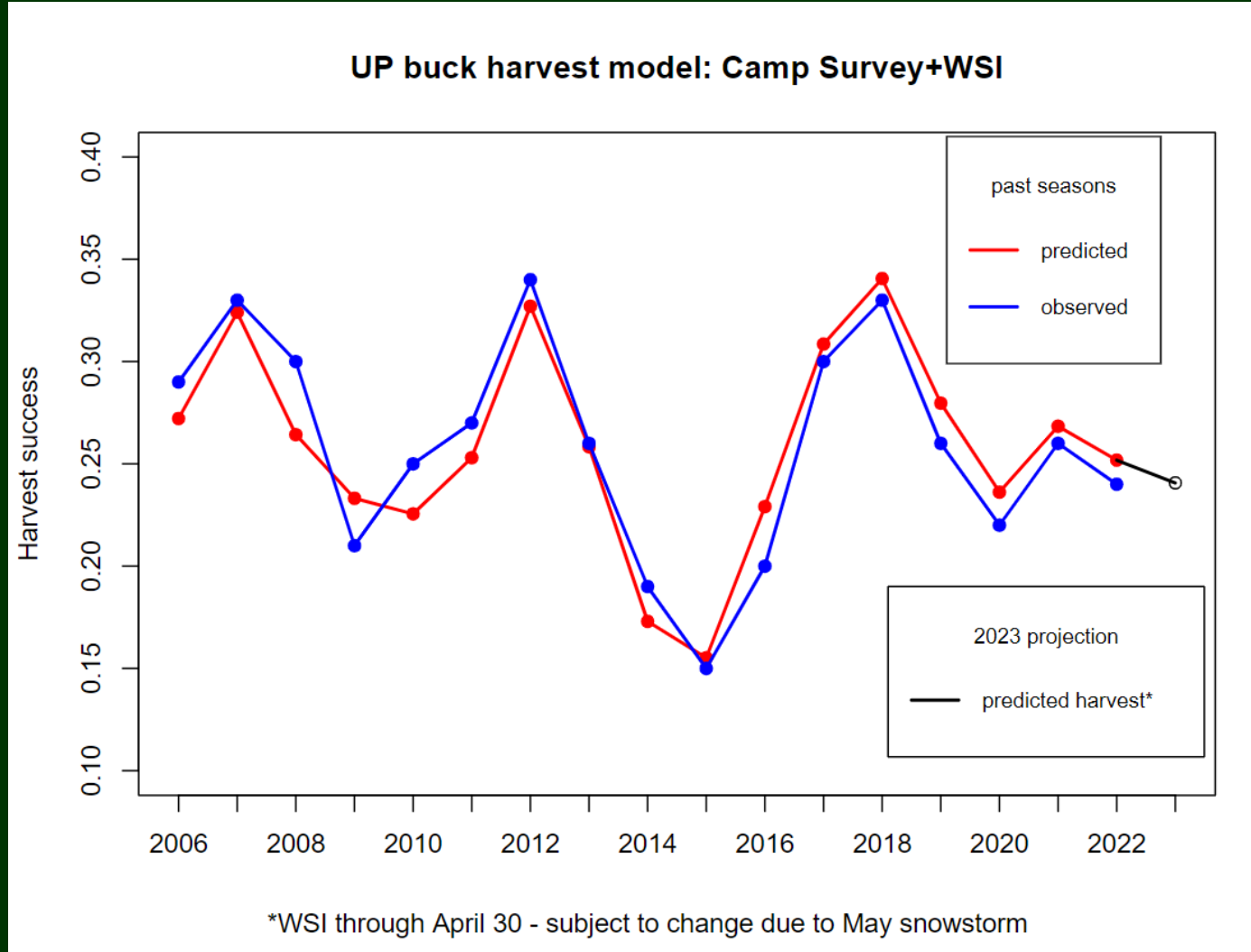


Winter Severity 2022-23

UP SNODAS Average Snow Depths in inches from Nov-April



2023 UP Harvest Prediction



**Antlerless Quotas
in mid-snowfall zone
(No changes recommended)**



Mid Snowfall Zone (DMU 351 and 352)

- Antlerless quota of 1,000 across each unit established in 2021, distributed through lottery
 - DMU 351 (East) has 3,752 square miles
 - DMU 352 (West) has 2,907 square miles
- First year antlerless harvest estimates (2021)
 - DMU 351 decreased by 159
 - -0.04 antlerless deer/sq. mile
 - DMU 352 increased by 599
 - +0.21 antlerless deer/sq. mile



Mid Snowfall Zone (DMU 351 and 352)

- In 2022, there were 2,000 successful applicants.
 - 713 individuals failed to claim their access permit
 - 107 additional individuals did not purchase an antlerless license
 - 1,180 valid license holders
 - 360 antlerless deer reported harvested with antlerless licenses
 - 30.5% success rate for valid hunters
 - 18% success rate for total quota



Antler Point Restrictions



Recent Survey History of APRs in Michigan

- 2008 Leelanau County
 - 72% of landowners and 72% of deer hunters supported maintaining APRs
- 2012 North West Michigan
 - 69% of hunters supported APRs; recommended trial period for 3 point APR in 12 counties
 - Resurveyed in 2017 with 77% support; recommended sunset to be removed
- 2013 North Central Michigan
 - 62% of hunters support APRs (proposal rejected under current policy)
- 2013 Southern Lower Michigan
 - 55% of hunter support APRs (proposal rejected under current policy)



Recent History of APRs in Michigan

- 2019 Thumb APR proposal
 - 55% of hunters support APRs (proposal rejected under current policy)
- 2019 CWD study
 - 63% of hunters supported APRs and 68% supported conducting a study
- 2019 Guidelines Revision
 - Originally developed in 1998, updated in 2010
 - Youth exempt from APRs
 - Threshold for support reduced from 66% to 60%
- 2020 Deer Harvest Survey
 - 51% support for regional APRs vs. 35% opposed



Do APRs increase Hunter Satisfaction?

	2015 Statewide Hunters		2015 APR Hunters	
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Number of deer seen	33%	52%	34%	50%
Number of bucks seen	24%	59%	26%	57%
Number of deer harvested	30%	35%	28%	34%
Overall experience	45%	34%	46%	31%



Previous APR research

Evaluating the effectiveness of antler point restrictions to achieve various white-tailed deer management goals



Rebecca L. Cain

Brent A. Rudolph

William F. Porter

David M. Williams

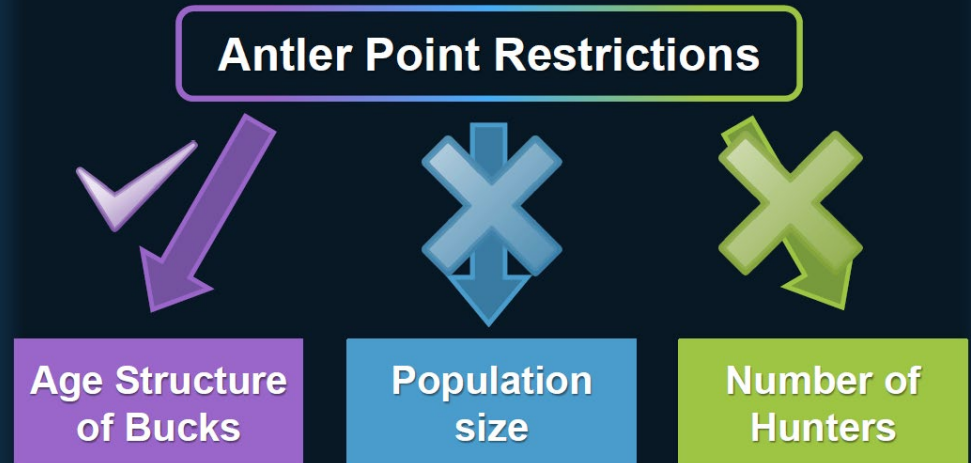


Previous APR Research

HYPOTHESES

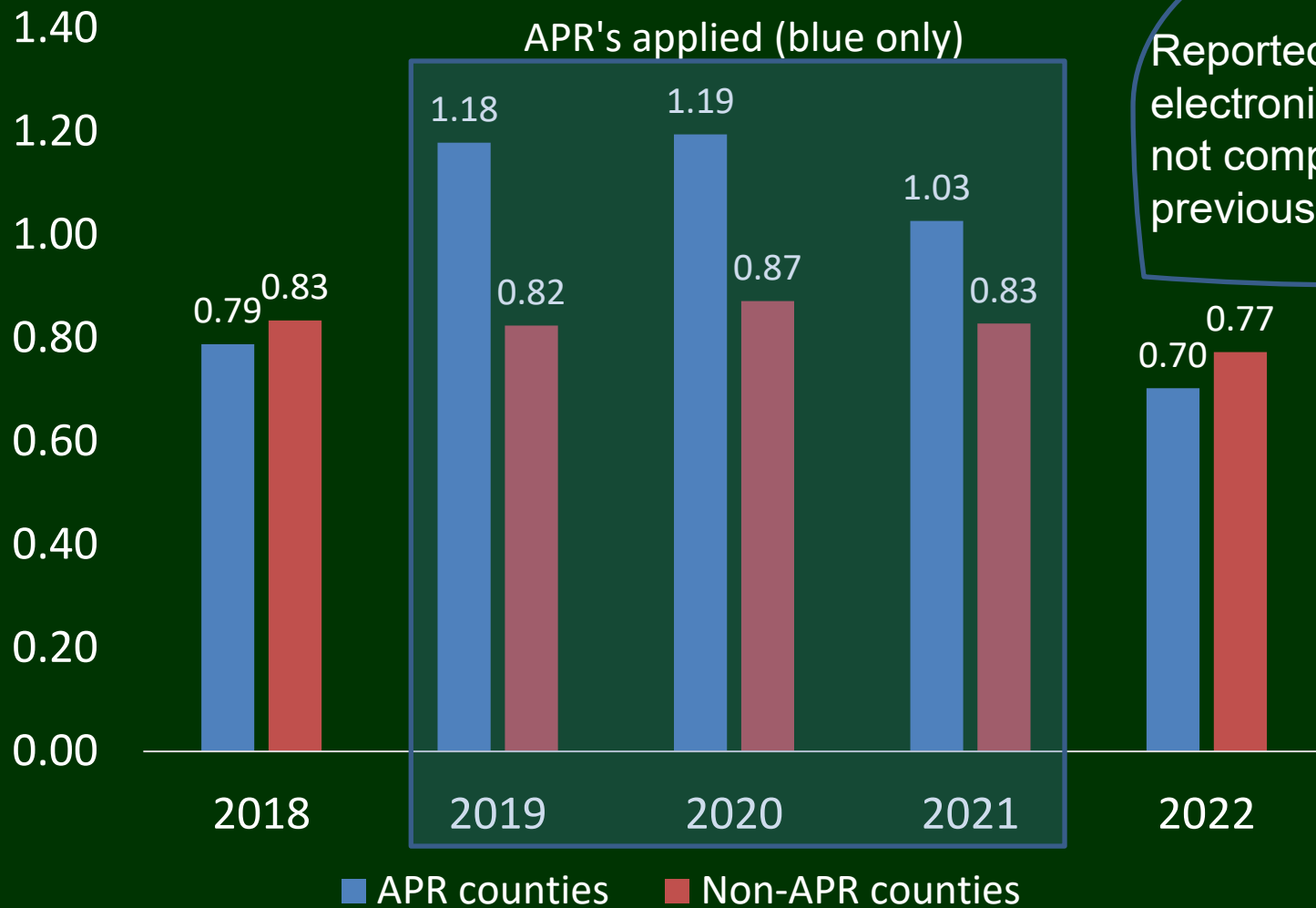
1. APRs lead to a decrease in harvest of male yearlings.
2. APRs lead to an increase in antlerless harvest.
3. APRs lead to an increase in hunter numbers.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS



Antlerless/Antlered Harvest Ratio

(>1 indicates Antlerless Harvest >Antlered Harvest)

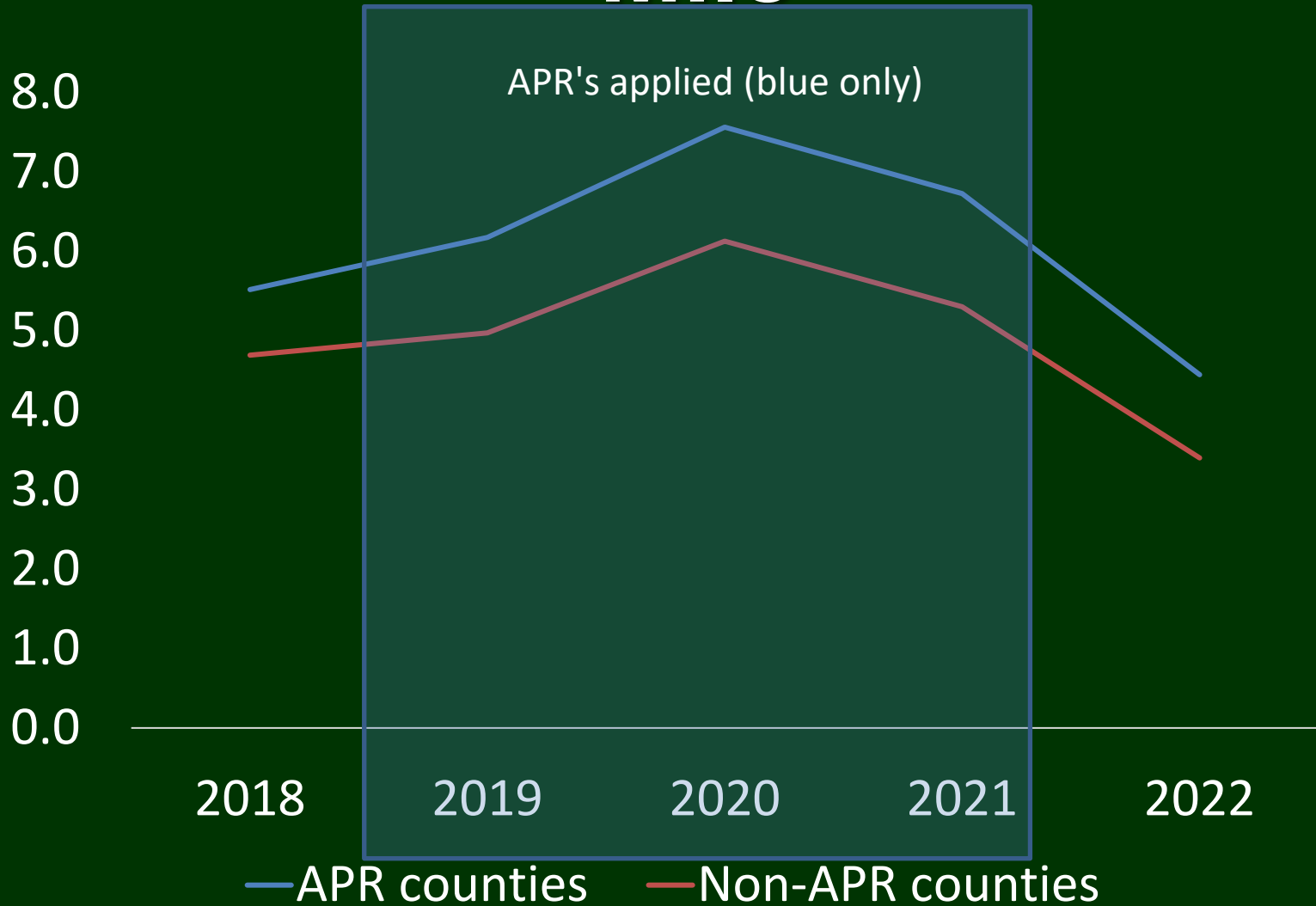


Counties Ranked 1-10 in 2022 Antlerless Harvest Ratio

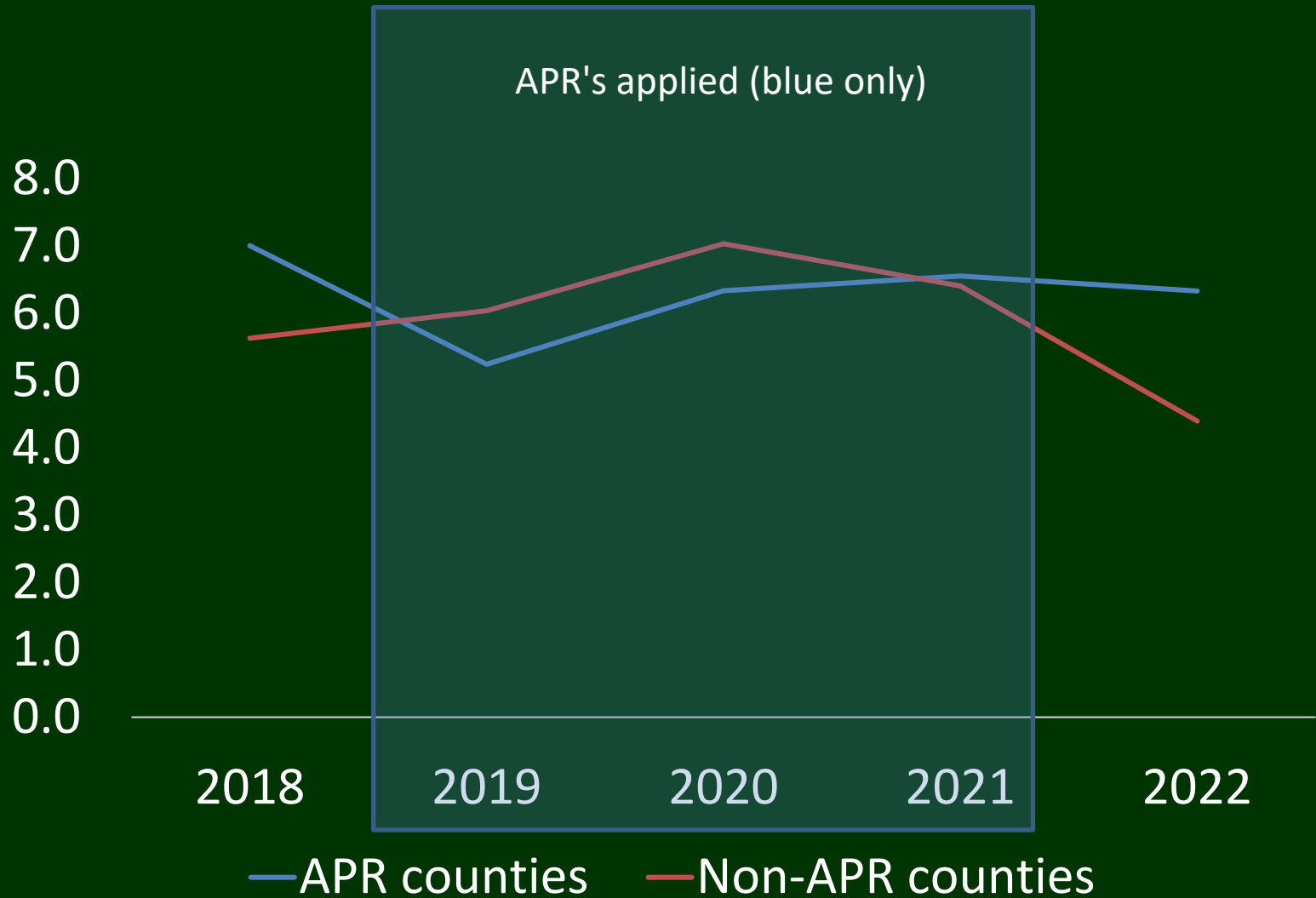
Counties Ranked 11-20 in 2022 Antlerless Harvest Ratio



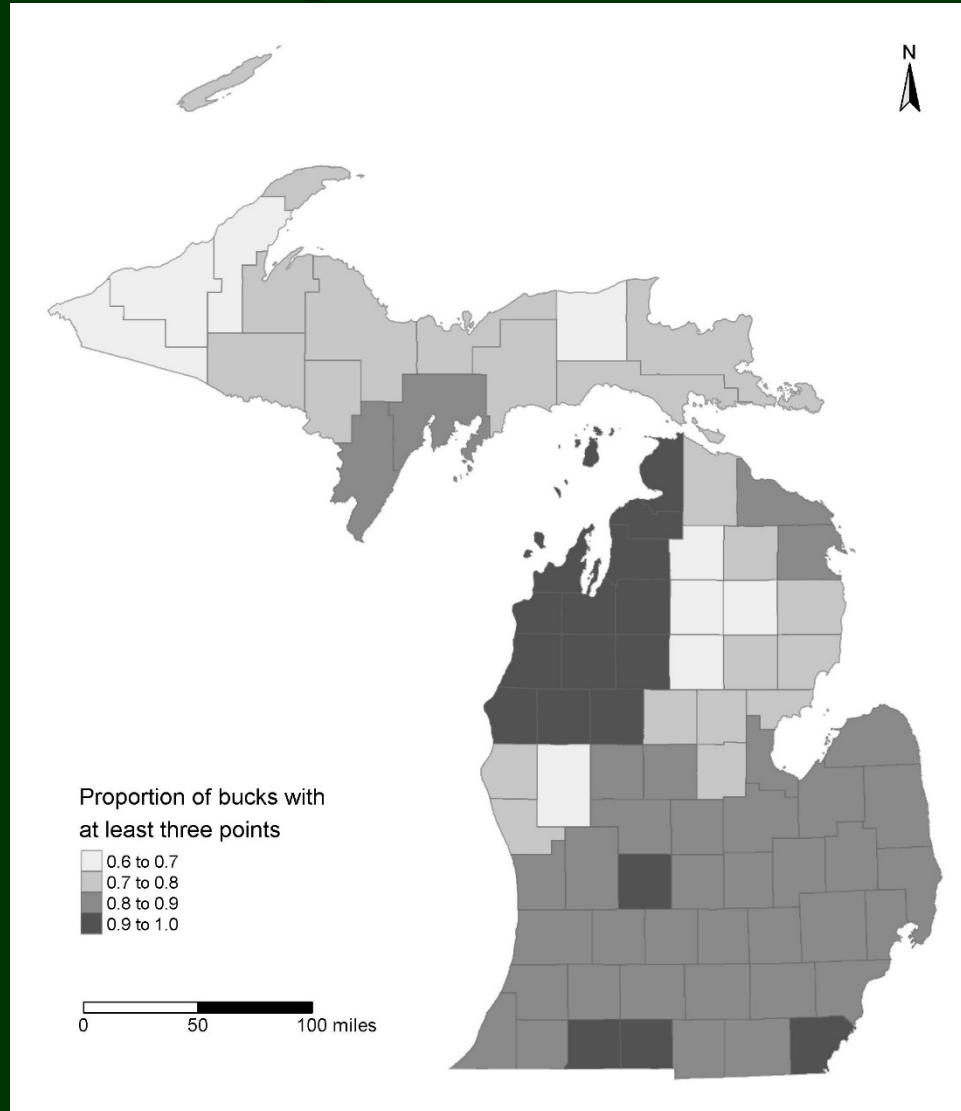
Antlerless Harvest/Square Mile



Antlered Harvest/Square Mile



Proportion of Bucks with 3 points per side, 2022

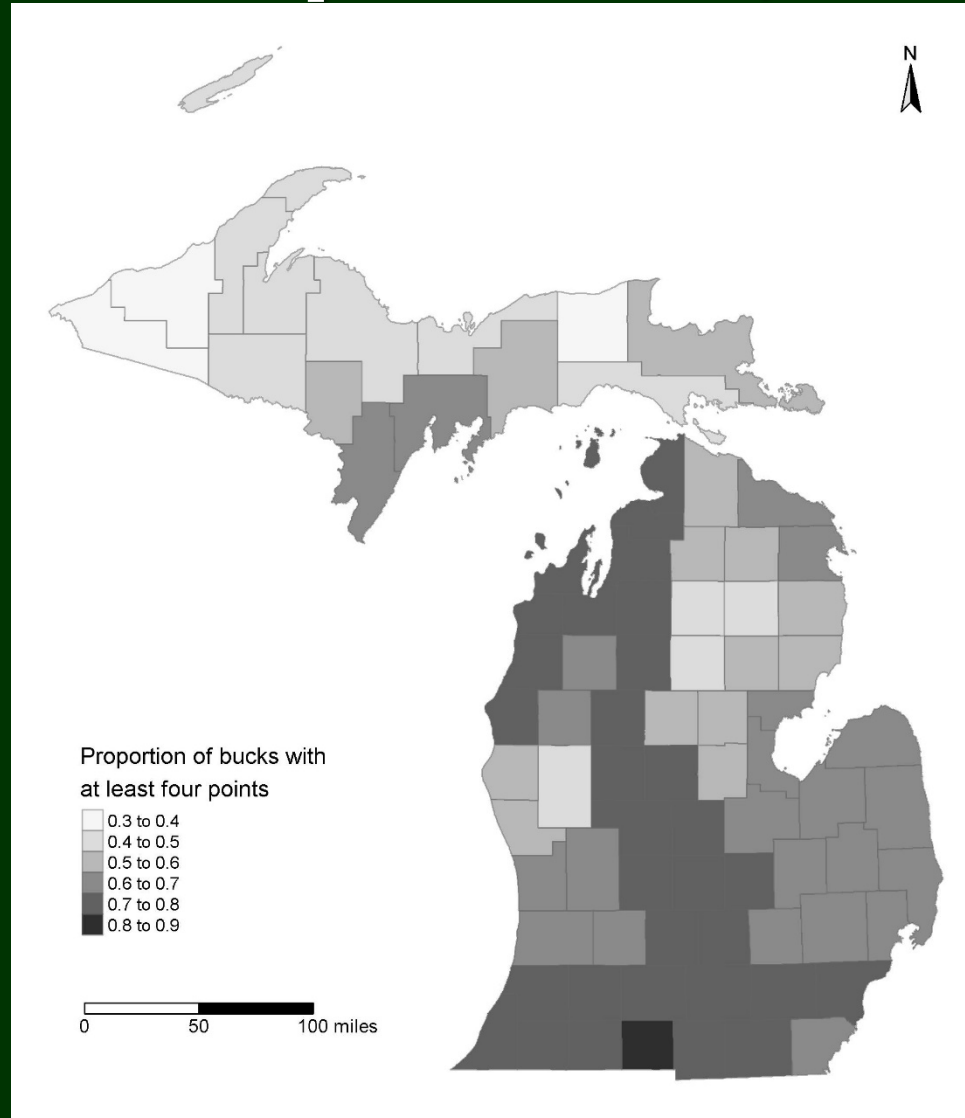


Northwest 13 had 96.6% of bucks reported with at least 3 points per side

Remaining NLP had 74.7% of bucks reported with at least 3 points per side



Proportion of Bucks with 4 points per side, 2022



Harvest by Antler Points, 2022



3 points on a side:

UP total-75.9%

NLP total-83.4%

SLP total-85.4%

Statewide total-84.0%



4 points on a side:

UP total-51.4%

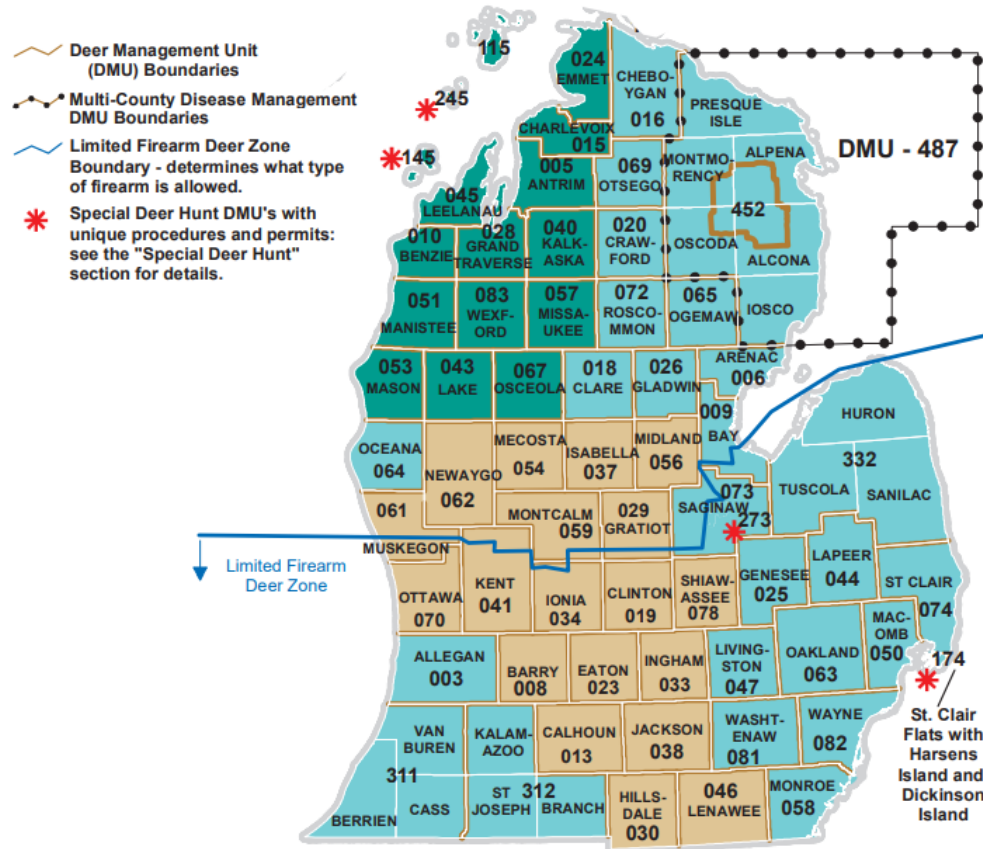
NLP total-62.6%

SLP total-68.8%

Statewide total-65.6%



Returning the 4 Pt Restriction back to the Restricted Tag



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Deer License		or	or	or
Deer Combo License	Regular Tag	or	or	or
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19 County No-APR area—
69.4% have 4 points

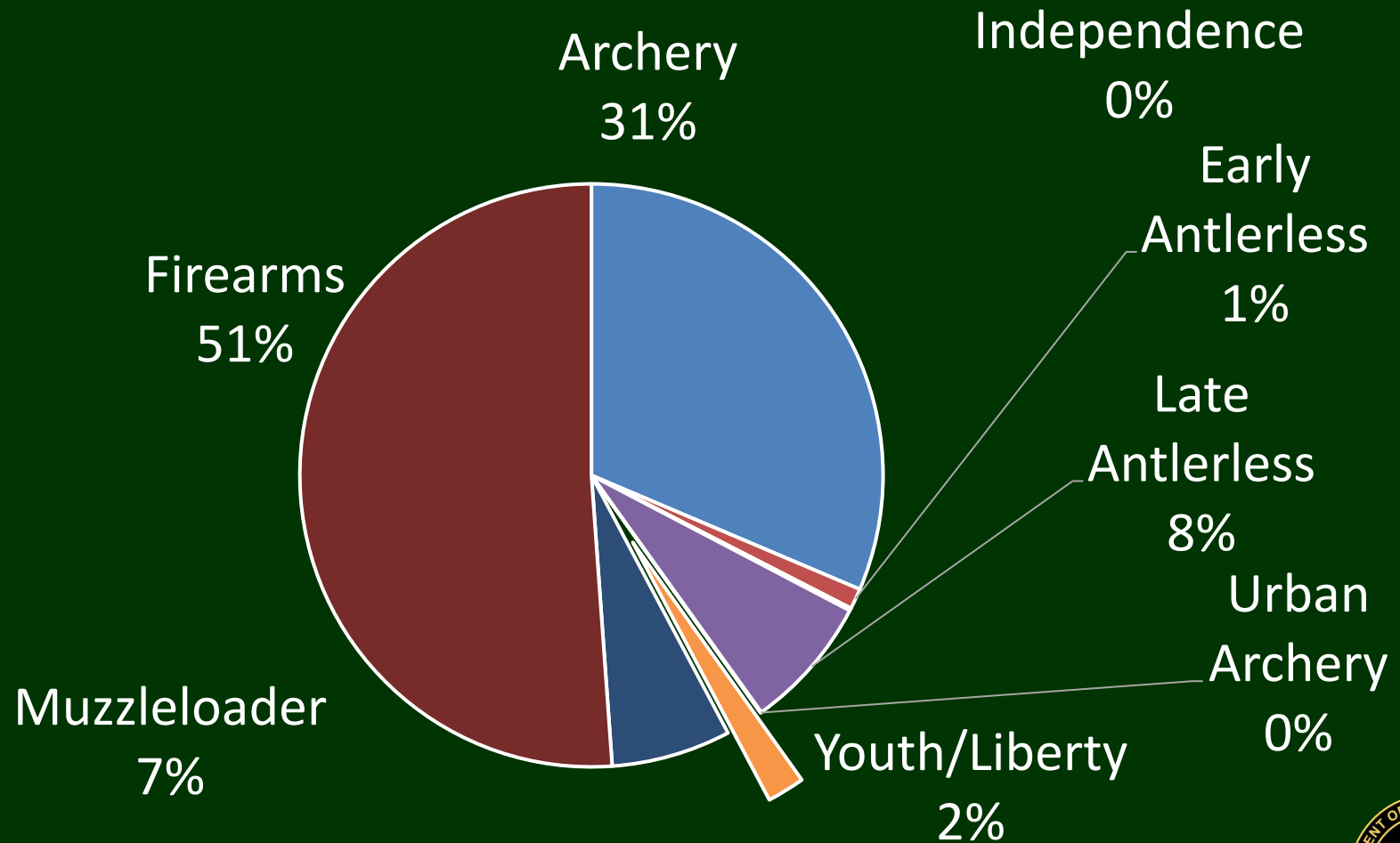
Remaining SLP area—68.1%
have 4 points



Liberty Hunt

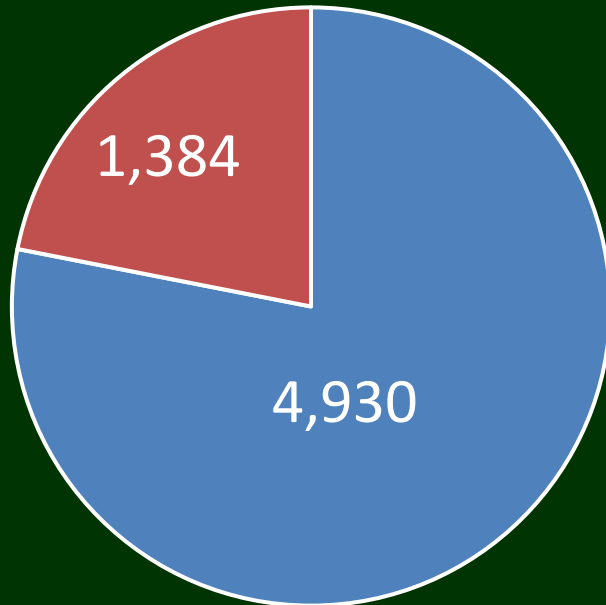


Reported Deer Harvest, 2022



Liberty Hunt Harvest Composition, 2022

Liberty Harvest



■ Antlered ■ Antlerless

78.1% Antlered Harvest
21.9% Antlerless Harvest

Worst ratio of any of
our either sex seasons



Additional Items

- Removal of “free” permit reference from North Manitou Island unit
 - Requested by National Park Service (NPS)
 - NPS has a service fee that is charged to process and issue permits for the hunt. This has caused confusion with applicants.
- Change language regarding reporting of harvest
 - Requested by Law Enforcement
 - Existing language lead some hunters who process their own deer to think the harvest need not be reported if they never transfer possession of the deer
 - “A person shall report their deer harvest as instructed by the Department within 72 hours after retrieval of a deer or before transfer of possession, whichever comes first.”



Additional Items

- Reporting timeframes for harvested deer
 - Requires deer to be reported within 72 hours of harvest.
Includes:
 - Deer Management Assistance Permits (consistent with deer season regulations)
 - Damage Shooting Permits (increases time frame)
 - Disease Control Permits (no change)
- Remove requirement for end-of-year report by DMAP holders



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/deer

