

# **Forest Resources Division Land Use Order of the Director**

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**LUOD No. 3 of 2024**

# The Site



Stoddard's Landing is located on the Rifle River in Omer, Arenac County. The site is utilized as a carry down launch site under permits issued by Parks and Recreation Division. The site is also highly utilized for dispersed camping.



# Resource Damage



Natural River 150' vegetation buffer  
requirement as identified by pink lines

Rifle River is a designated Natural River. Natural Rivers have a 150' vegetation buffer. Camping use and livery operations have caused significant damage to this Natural River vegetation zone, which is a direct violation of statute.





# Law Enforcement Issues

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- Law Enforcement Issues
  - Routine displacement of boulders set by the Department to deter motorized entry to the river
  - Illegal dumping
  - Violence and disorderly conduct
  - Unattended fires
  - Illegal drug use



# Recommendation

- This LUOD is being recommended by Forest Resources Division, with the support and concurrence of Parks and Recreation Division, Fisheries Division, and Law Enforcement Division.
- It is proposed that dispersed camping be prohibited in the area known as, and surrounding, Stoddard's Landing.



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# Questions

# Thank you!



# Managing the Cormorant-Fisheries Conflict in Michigan

Updates on state permit implementation - spring 2024

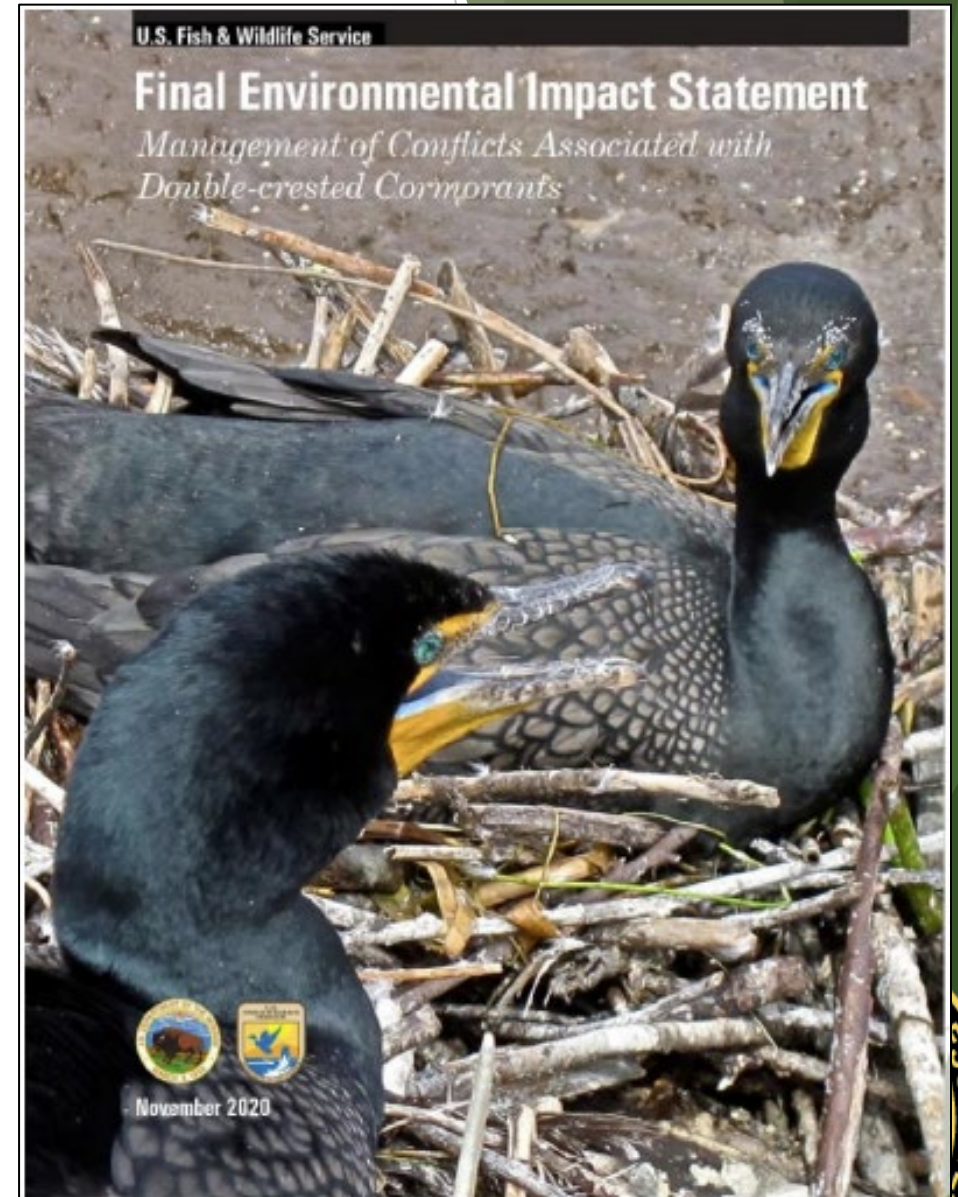
Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions





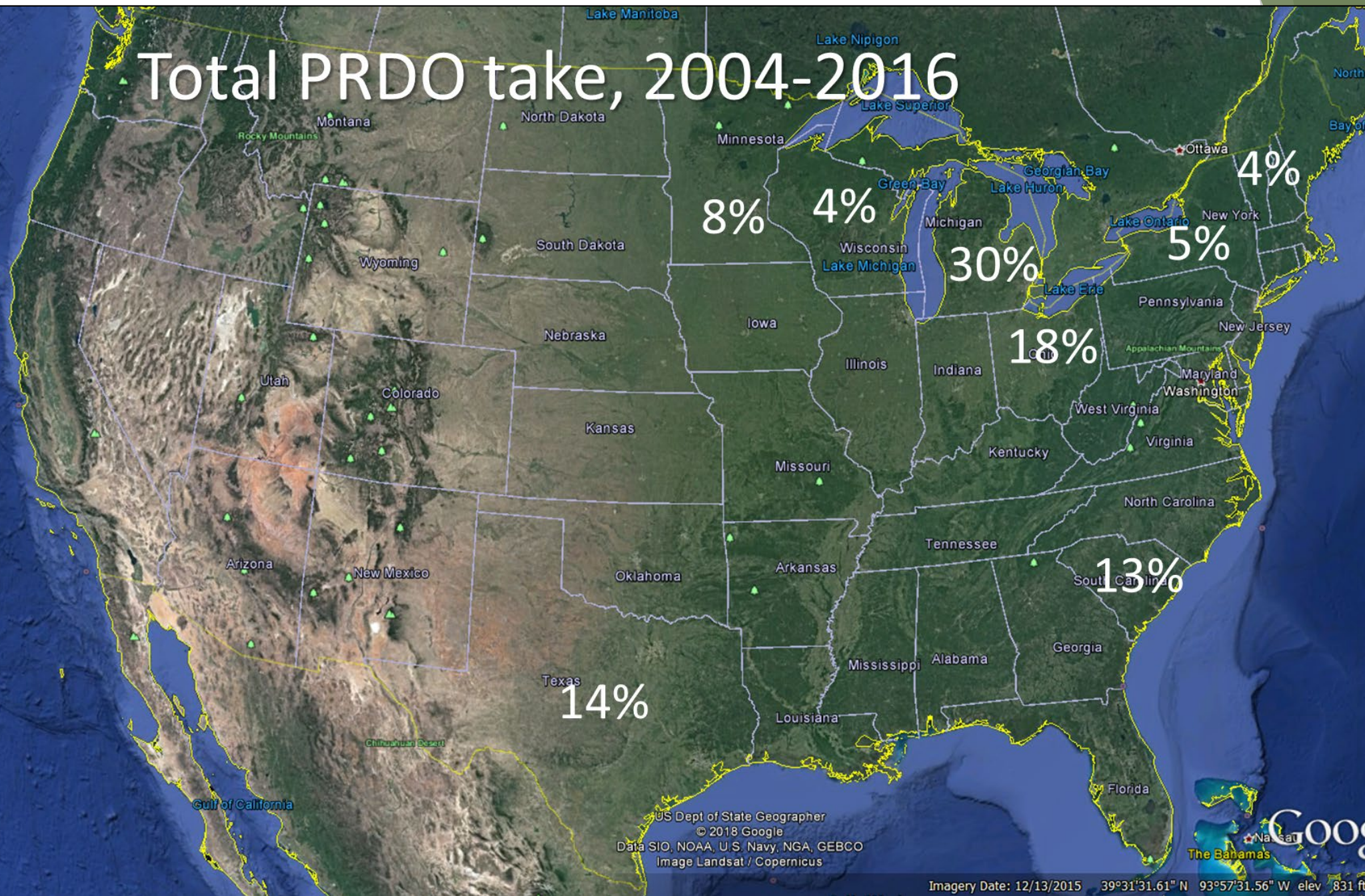
# Timelines

- ▶ Public Resource Depredation Order (PRDO) 2003-2016- “free-swimming fish”
- ▶ The PRDO vacated in 2016
- ▶ **Environmental Impact Statement 2018** - aquaculture, human health/safety, private property; NOT managed fisheries
- ▶ **Environmental Impact Statement 2020** - “wild & publicly stocked” fish populations
- ▶ **Special Double-crested Cormorant permit system** established in **March 2021** for State or Tribal fish and wildlife agencies.





# Total PRDO take, 2004-2016

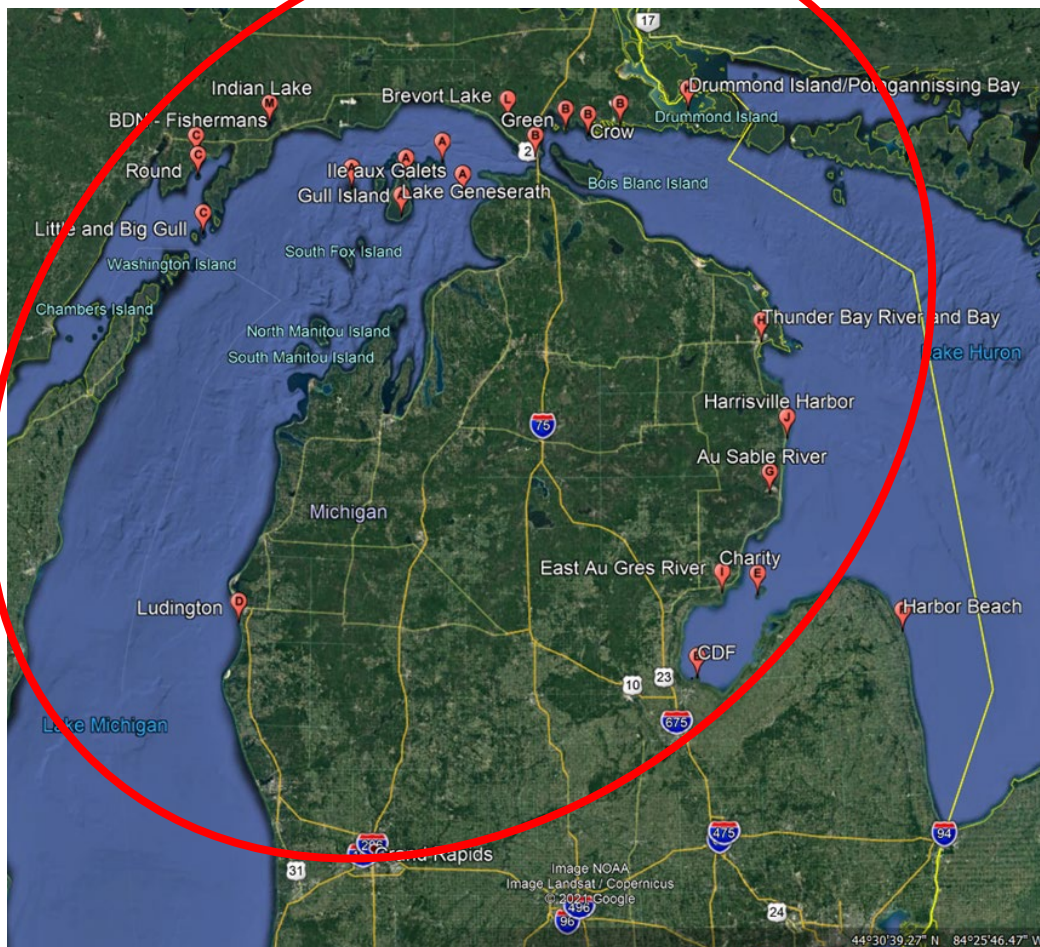


US Dept of State Geographer  
© 2018 Google  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Imagery Date: 12/13/2015 39°31'31.61" N 93°57'31.56" W elev 831 ft



# 2021-2023 State Permitted Take

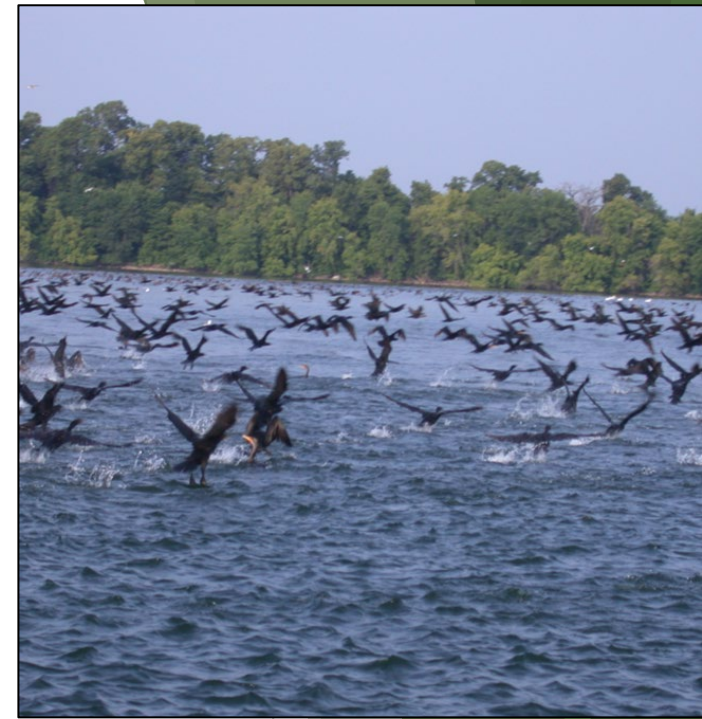


- ▶ Local input on site selection
- ▶ Three categories:
  - ▶ GLs Colonies
  - ▶ Fish stocking sites
  - ▶ Inland waterbodies
- ▶ Justification(s) provided in permit
- ▶ 9,667 birds taken from 5 Great Lakes colonies
  - ▶ Plus nest destruction, Saginaw Bay
- ▶ 2023: a reduction from peak



# 2024 Conflict Management Plans

- ▶ Colony depredation at 7 Great Lakes sites
  - ▶ USDA-Wildlife Services, GLRI-funded
  - ▶ Beaver Is, Les Cheneaux Is, Bays de Noc, Ludington, Thunder Bay to Au Sable, Saginaw Bay
  - ▶ **NEW:** included Big Manistique (new inland nesting colony)
- ▶ **NEW:** added capacity for lethal reinforcement of hazing at 22 stocking sites and 4 inland lakes
  - ▶ Internally funded
  - ▶ Coordinating with Wildlife Division
  - ▶ Firearm use limited by proximity to buildings (<500 ft), city limits
- ▶ 2024 Permit total: 7,946 birds, 2,000 nests & eggs







# Successes and Challenges, 2021 & beyond

## ► Successes

- Wildlife-Fisheries coordination
- Permit system meets needs requested
- Ability to amend permit
- USDA-Wildlife Services able to control largest colonies as our sub-permittee
- Relatively straightforward reporting
- Good communication with stakeholders

## ► Challenges

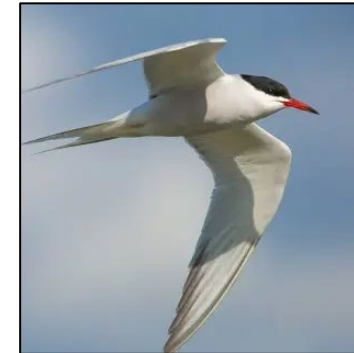
- No funding to implement management at all conflict locations or types
- Actual take has been below the permitted allowance
- Hazing is volunteer-dependent, many are ageing out
- Many stocking sites limited by firearm discharge rules
- DCCO patterns vary annually
- Inland lake use varies seasonally and annually





# Conflict Management Considerations

- ▶ GL depredation & non-lethal efforts are critical
- ▶ DCCO uses of inland waters
  - ▶ New nesting colonies
  - ▶ Seasonal movement, use & behavior
  - ▶ Adaptable & flexible
  - ▶ Requires dedicated effort & funding
- ▶ Co-nesting species & status where present
- ▶ Science-based & data-driven
- ▶ Continue to explore new methods & techniques for management applications



# Questions?







# 2023 DEER HARVEST SURVEY

Brian Frawley  
May 9, 2024



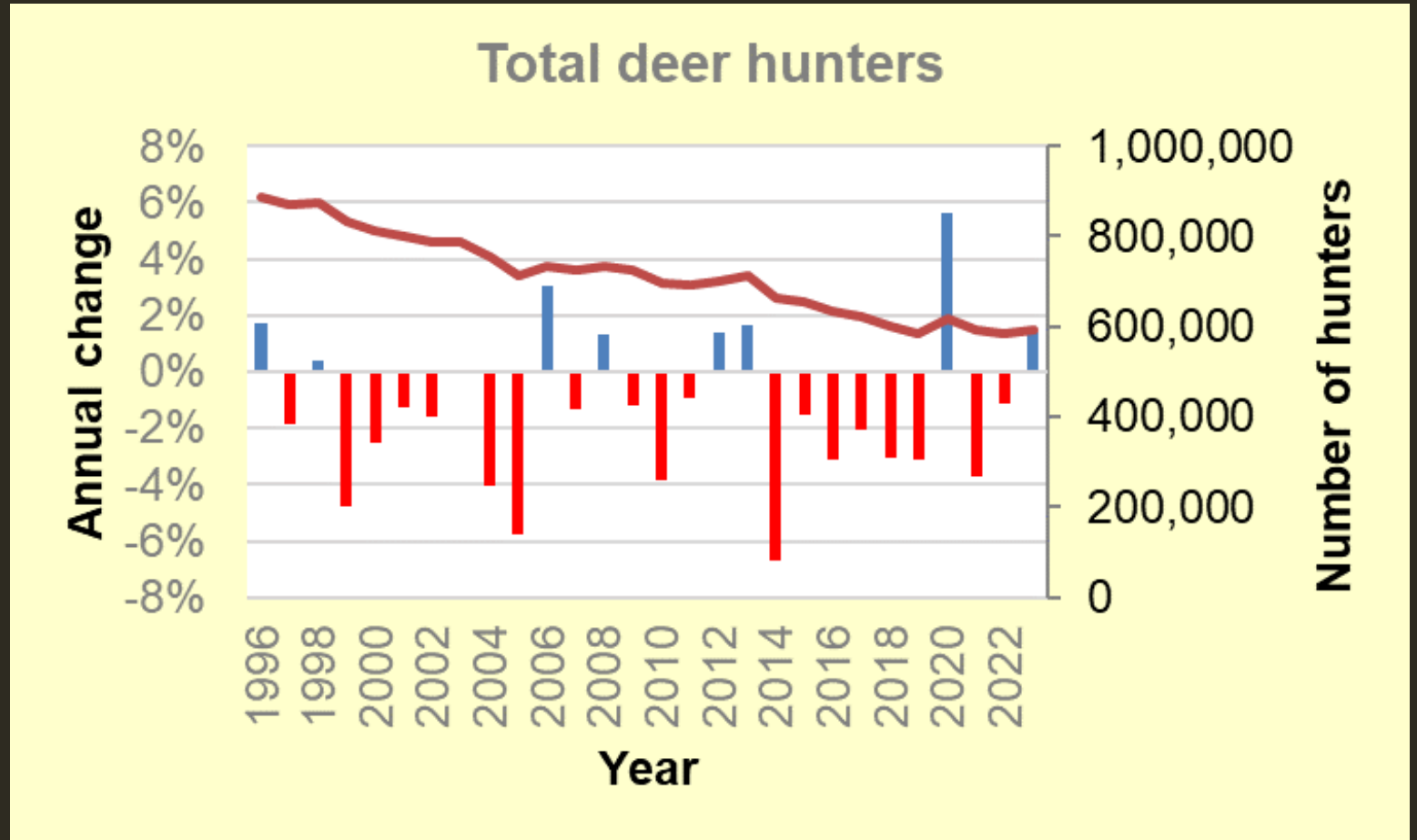
# 2023 DEER HARVEST SURVEY

- 594,348 people purchased a license (1.4% increase)
- 18,562 of 58,400 questionnaires returned (32% response)
- Estimates standardized to be comparable with estimates from previous years



# TOTAL DEER HUNTERS

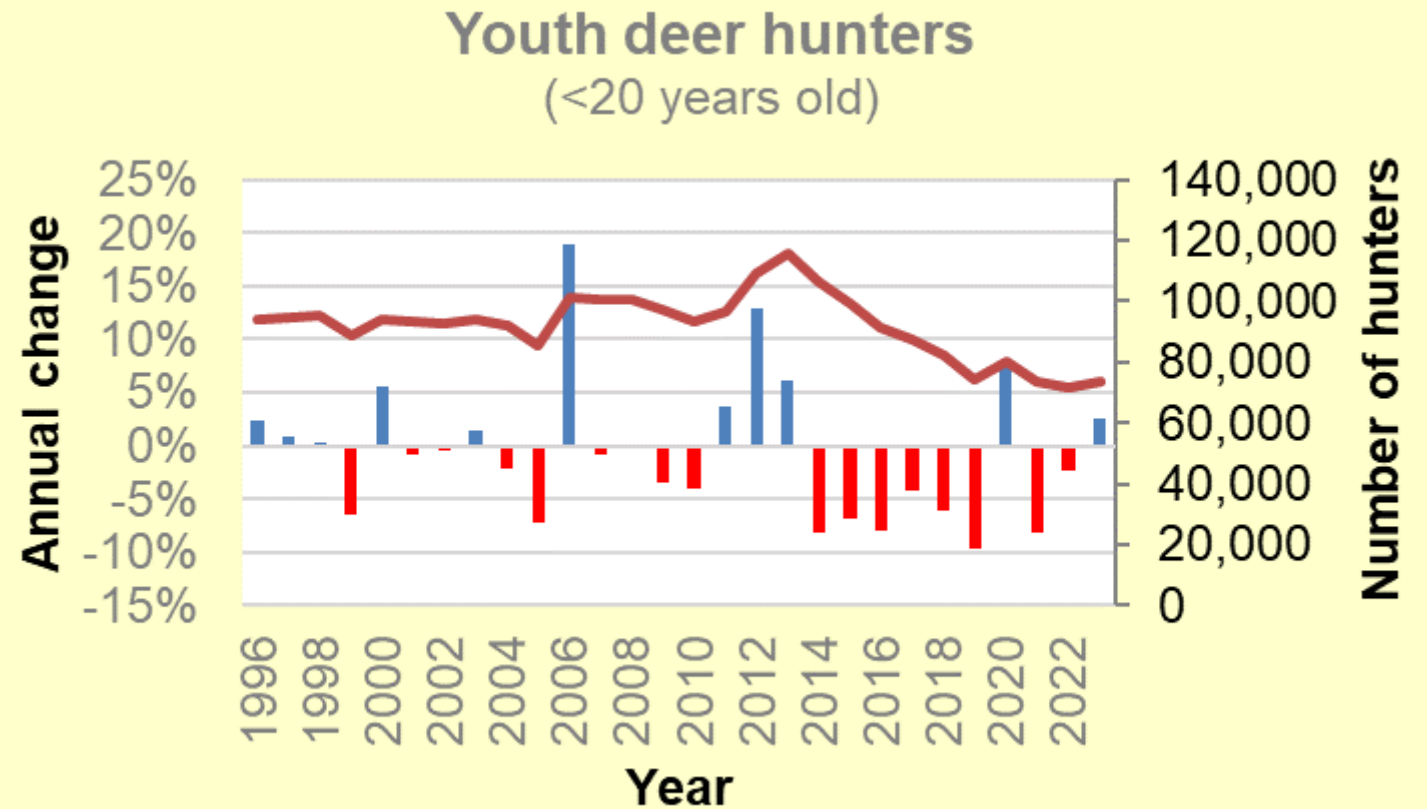
- 594,348 hunters in 2023.
- 32% decline since 1995.
- 1.4% average annual decline





# YOUTH HUNTERS

- 73,758 youth hunters in 2023.
- 20% decline since 1995.
- 0.8% average annual decline



# HARVEST TAGS SOLD, 2021-2023.

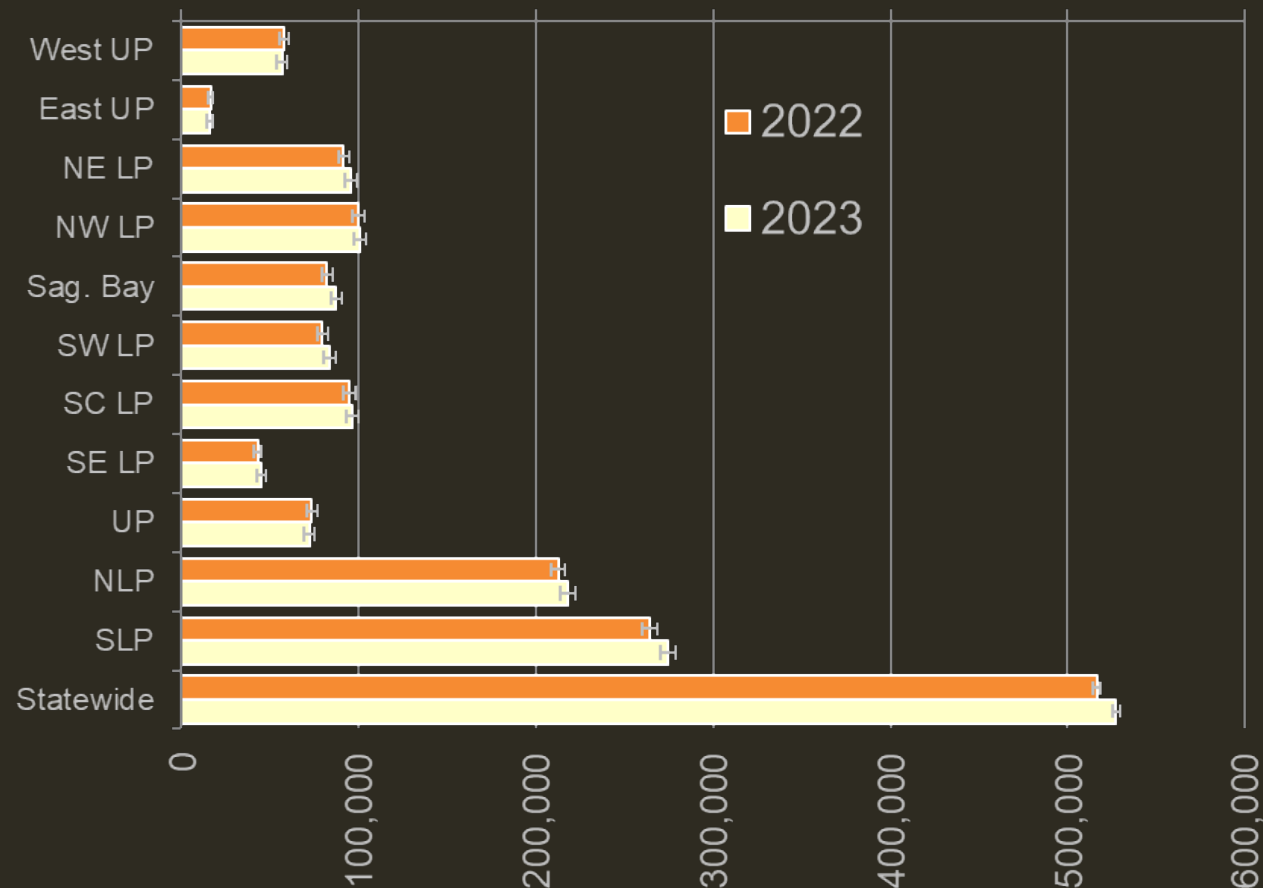
The number of harvest tags sold increased by 2.3%.



| Harvest Tags Issued | Number sold in 2021 | Number sold in 2022 | Number sold in 2023 | Change Between 2022 and 2023 (%) |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Deer                | 140,124             | 133,124             | 129,646             | -2.6%                            |
| Combination         | 861,580             | 863,890             | 884,784             | 2.4%                             |
| Antlerless          | 309,835             | 305,480             | 317,853             | 4.1%                             |
| Mentored Youth      | 11,014              | 10,824              | 11,650              | 7.6%                             |
| Total               | 1,322,553           | 1,313,318           | 1,343,933           | <b>2.3%</b>                      |

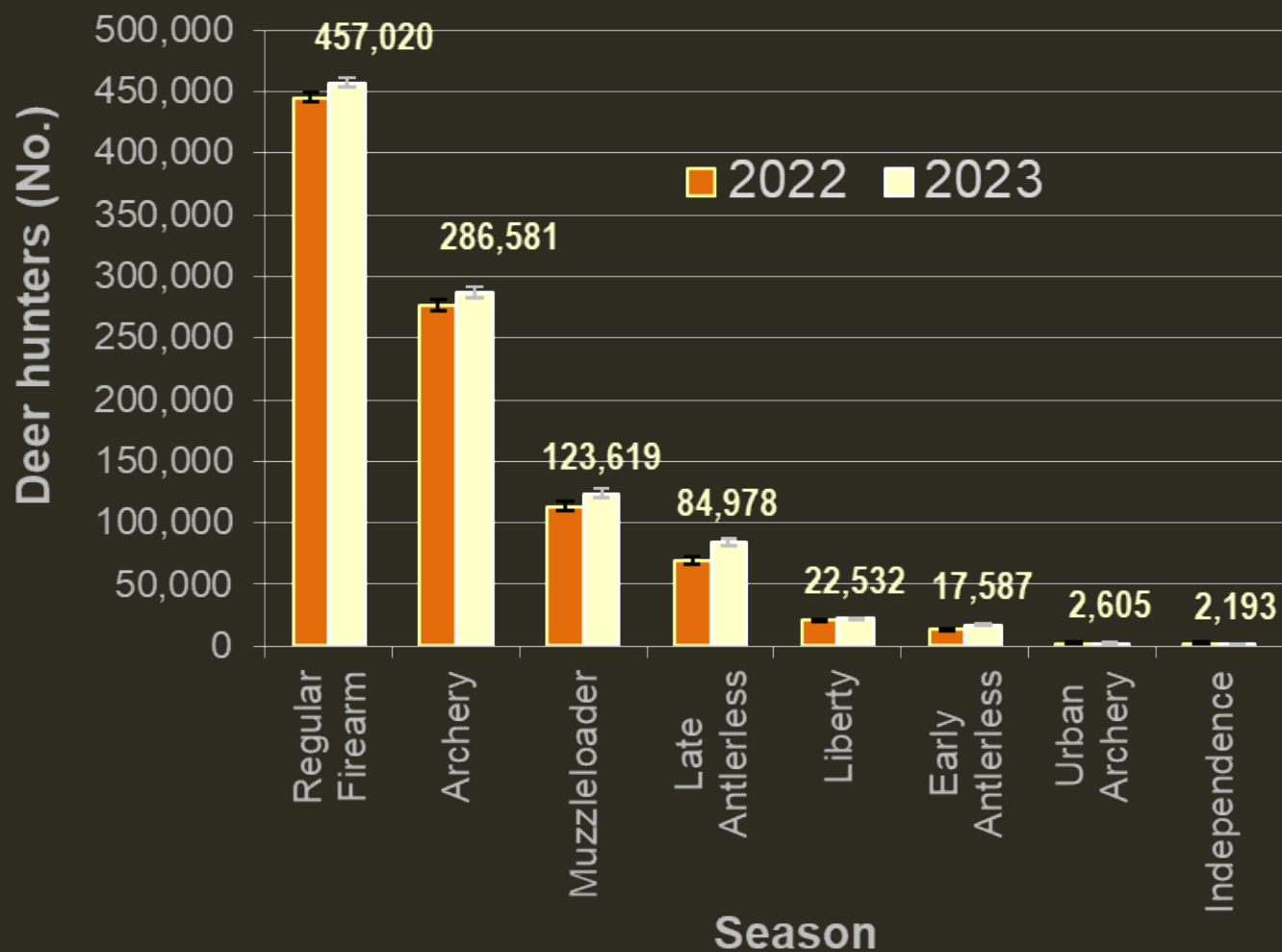
# 2023 DEER HUNTERS

- For all seasons combined, 527,292 people hunted deer, which was 2% greater than last year.
- Hunter numbers increased significantly in SLP (2%).



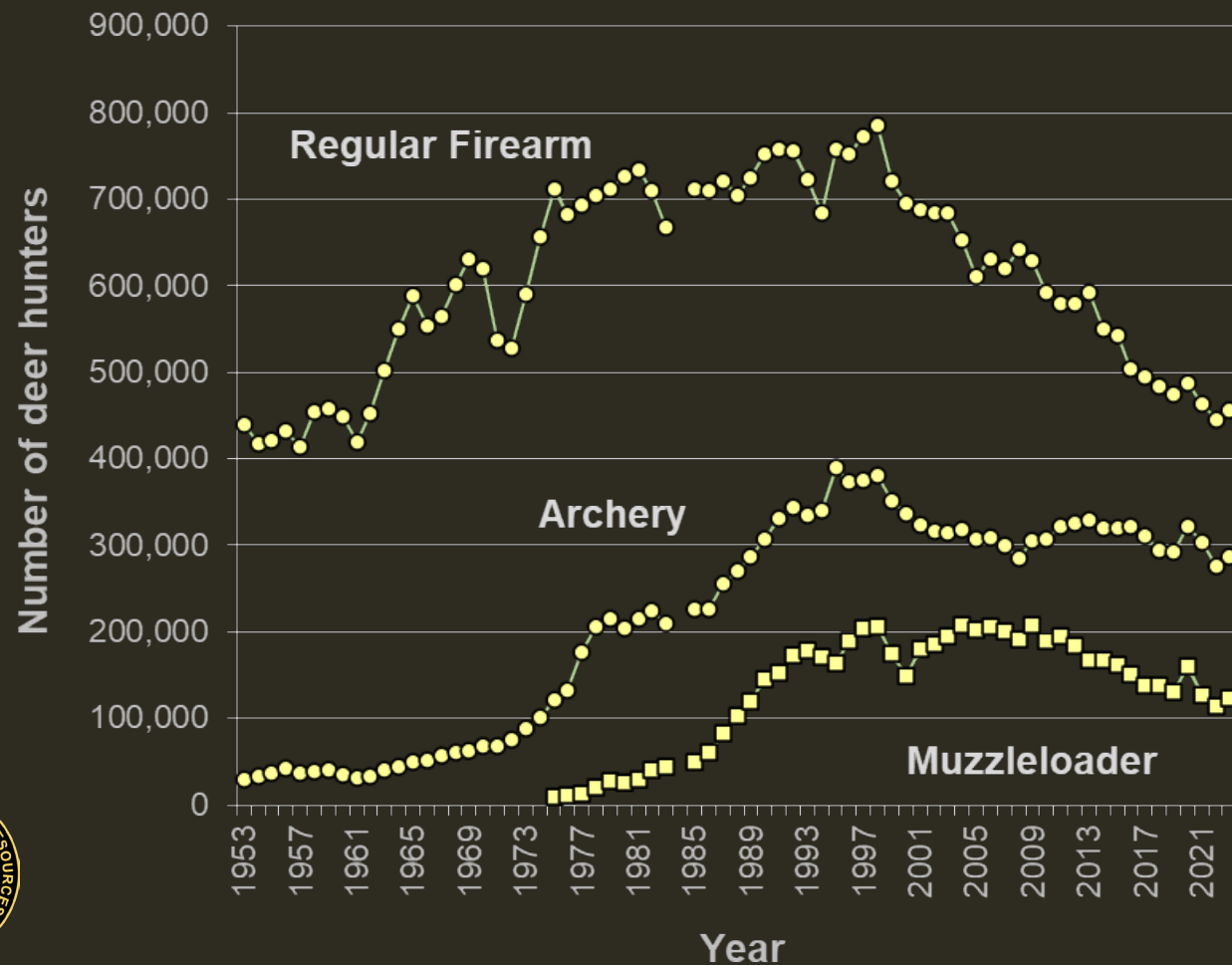
# 2023 DEER HUNTERS

Hunter numbers increased significantly in all seasons except the Liberty, Independence, and late urban archery seasons.





# LONG-TERM DEER HUNTER TRENDS

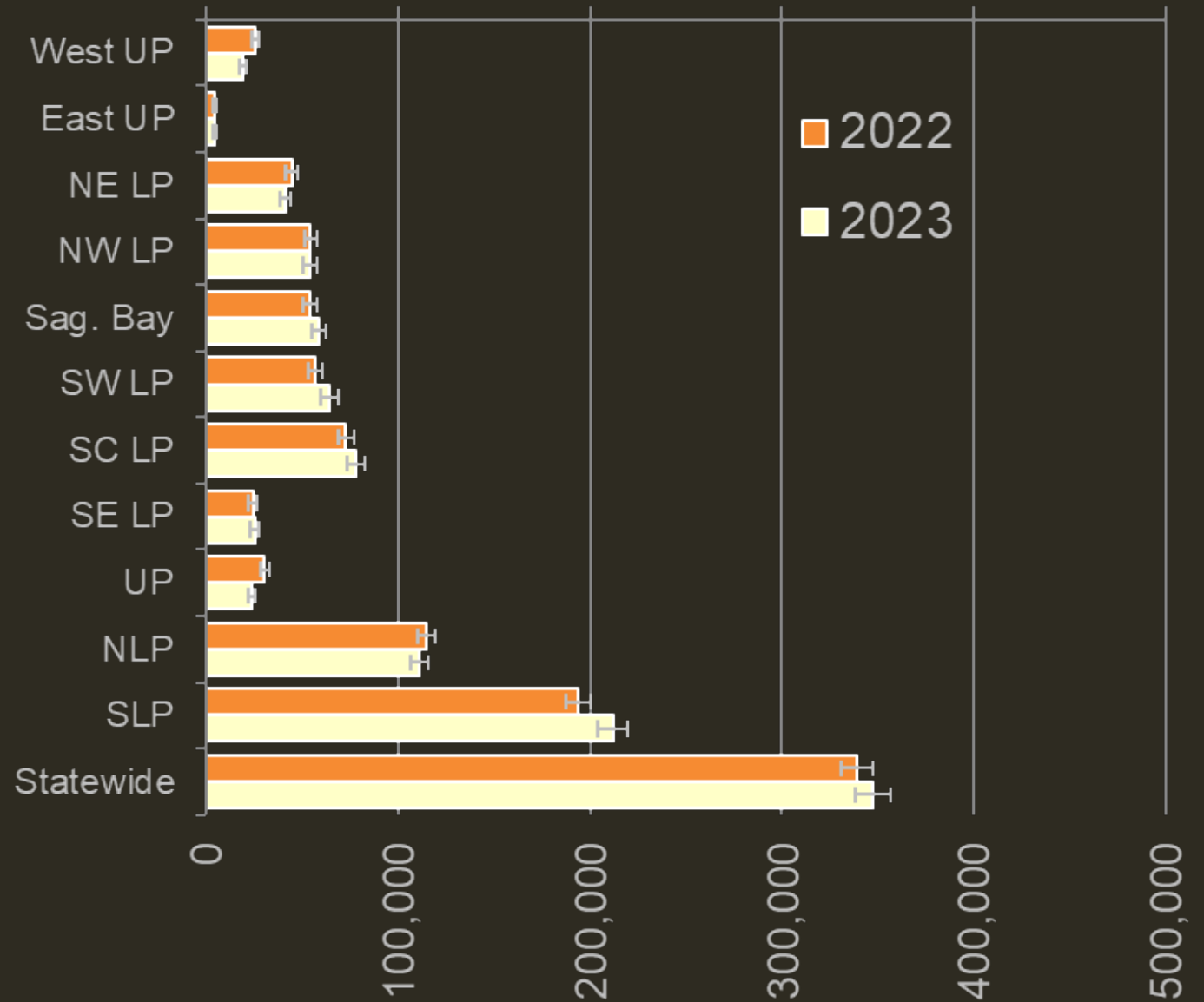


Fewer people hunting during our primary seasons.



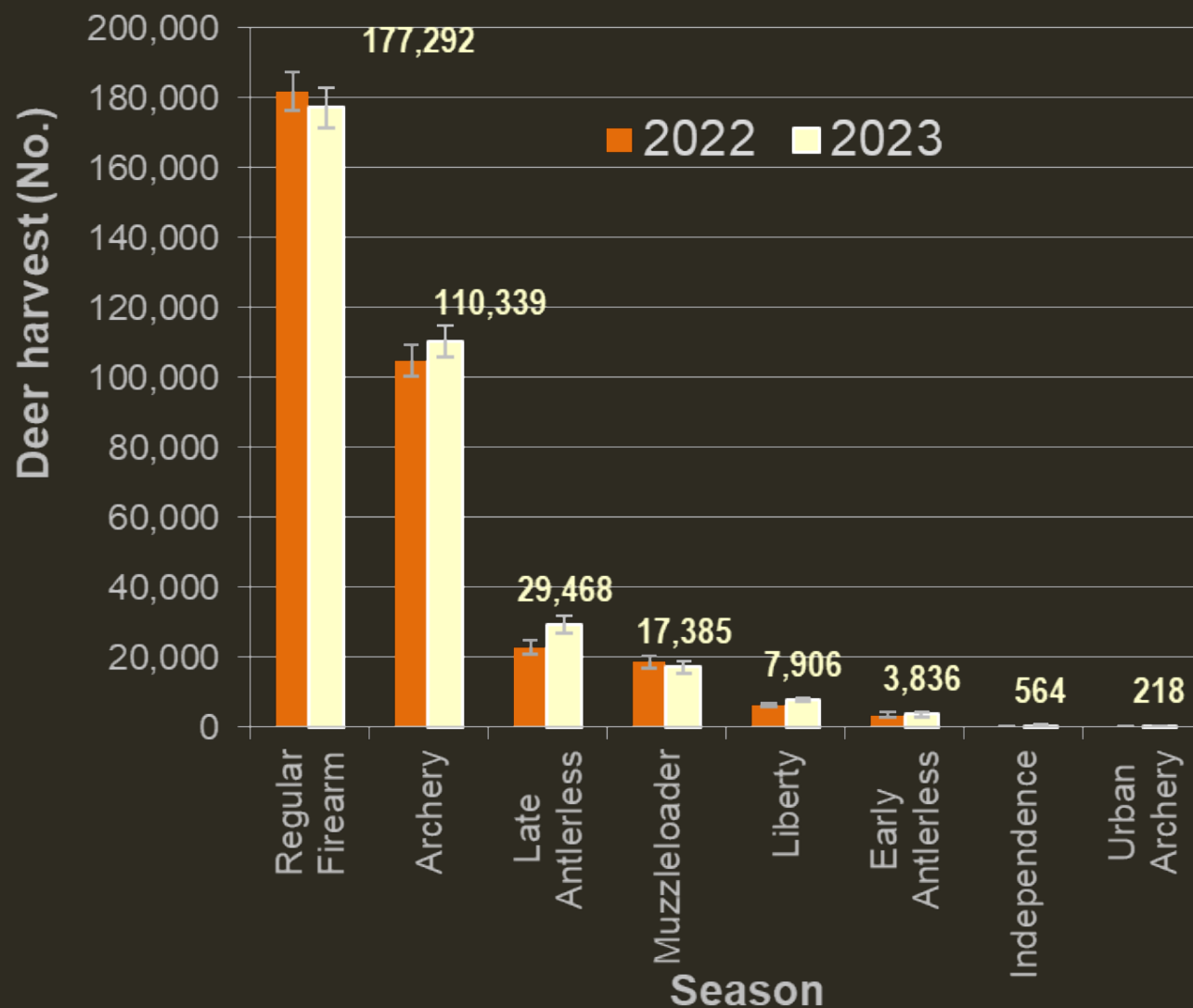
# 2023 DEER HARVEST

- In all seasons combined, 347,008 deer were harvested, which was 2% greater than last year (339,189).
- Buck harvest increased by 2% and antlerless harvest increased by 3%.
- Harvest increased in the SLP (10%) but declined in the UP (-22%).



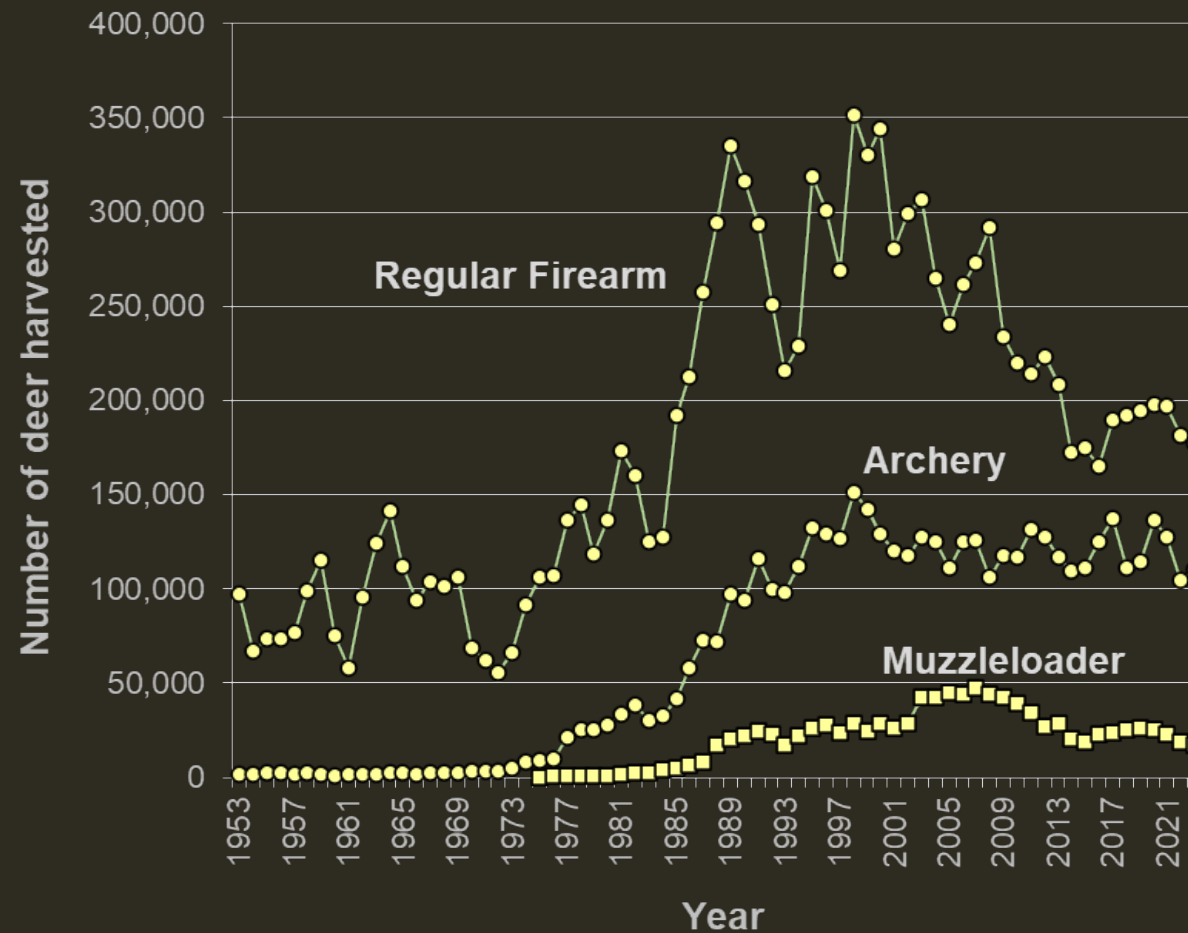
# 2023 DEER HARVEST

Harvest similar in most seasons except in the late antlerless (28%) and Liberty (19%) seasons.



# LONG-TERM DEER HARVEST TRENDS

Fewer deer taken in our primary seasons.





# HARVEST REPORTS VERSUS ESTIMATES

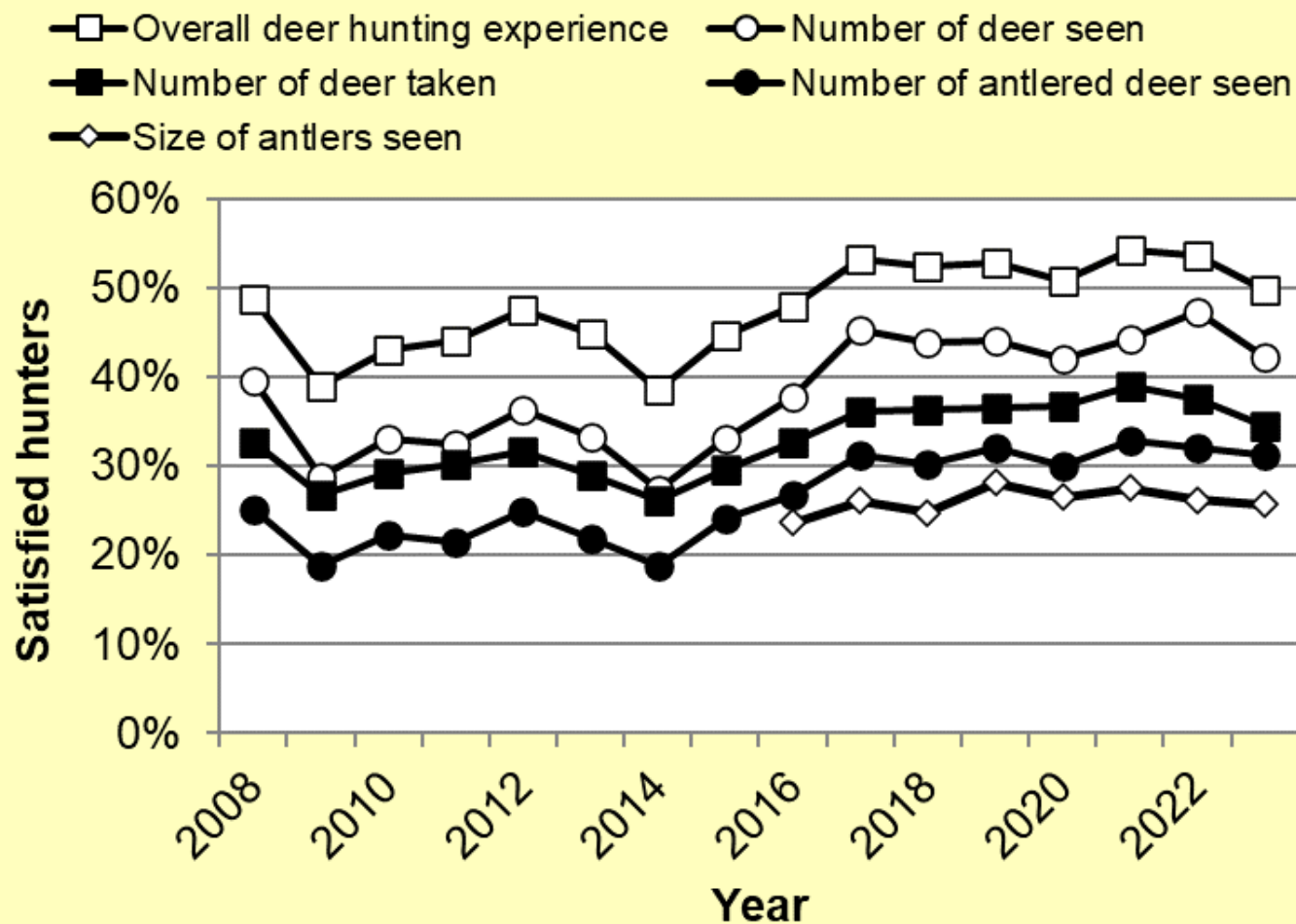
Declines greatest in the northern areas.

| Region | Change in reports submitted between 2022-2023 | Change in harvest estimates between 2022-2023 |
|--------|---|---|
| UP     | -26%  | -22%  |
| NLP    | -15%  | -3%   |
| SLP    | -5%   | 10%   |
| Total  | -10%  | 2%  |



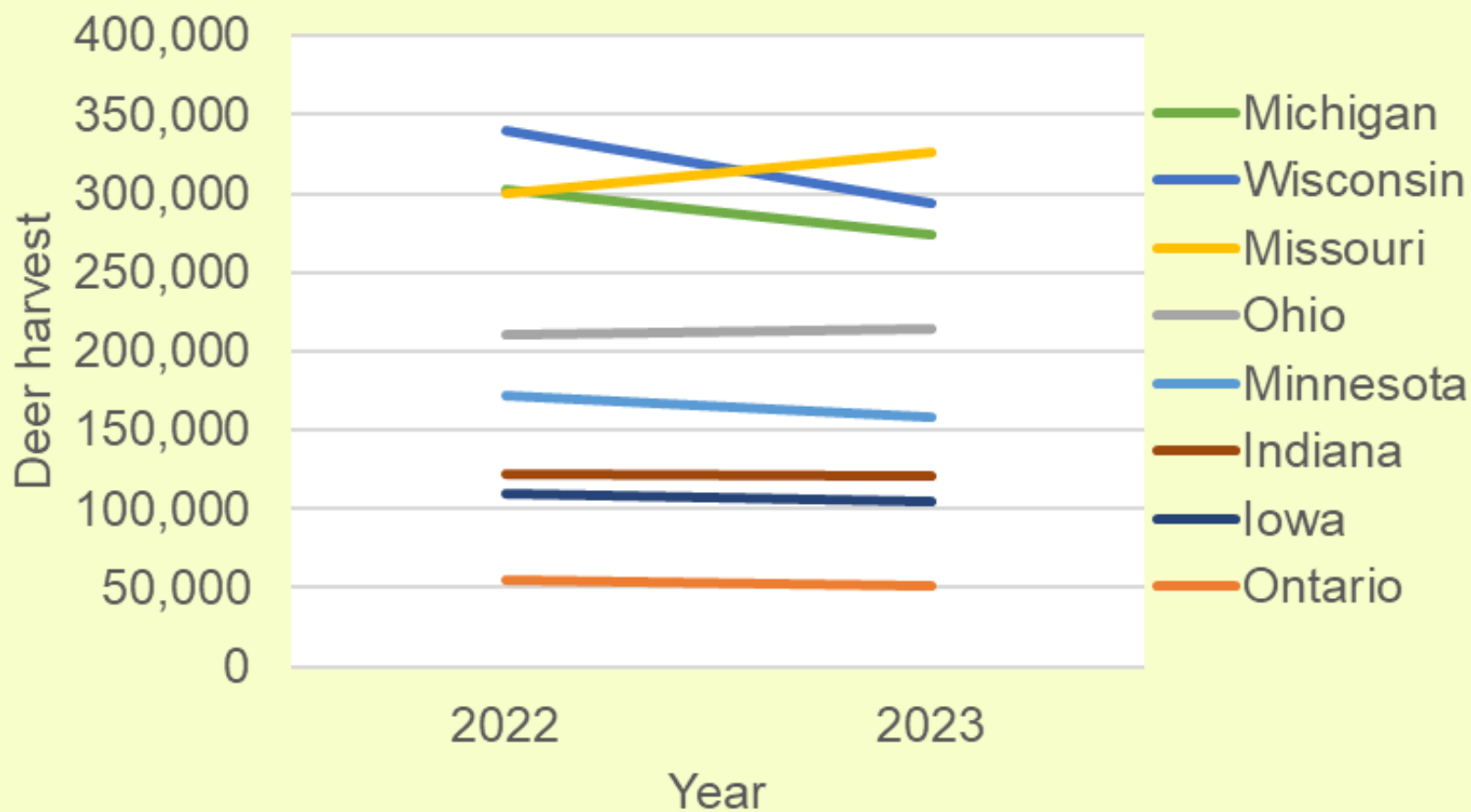
# CHANGES IN HUNTER SATISFACTION

- Changes generally follow changes in harvest.



# REGIONAL DEER HARVEST CHANGES

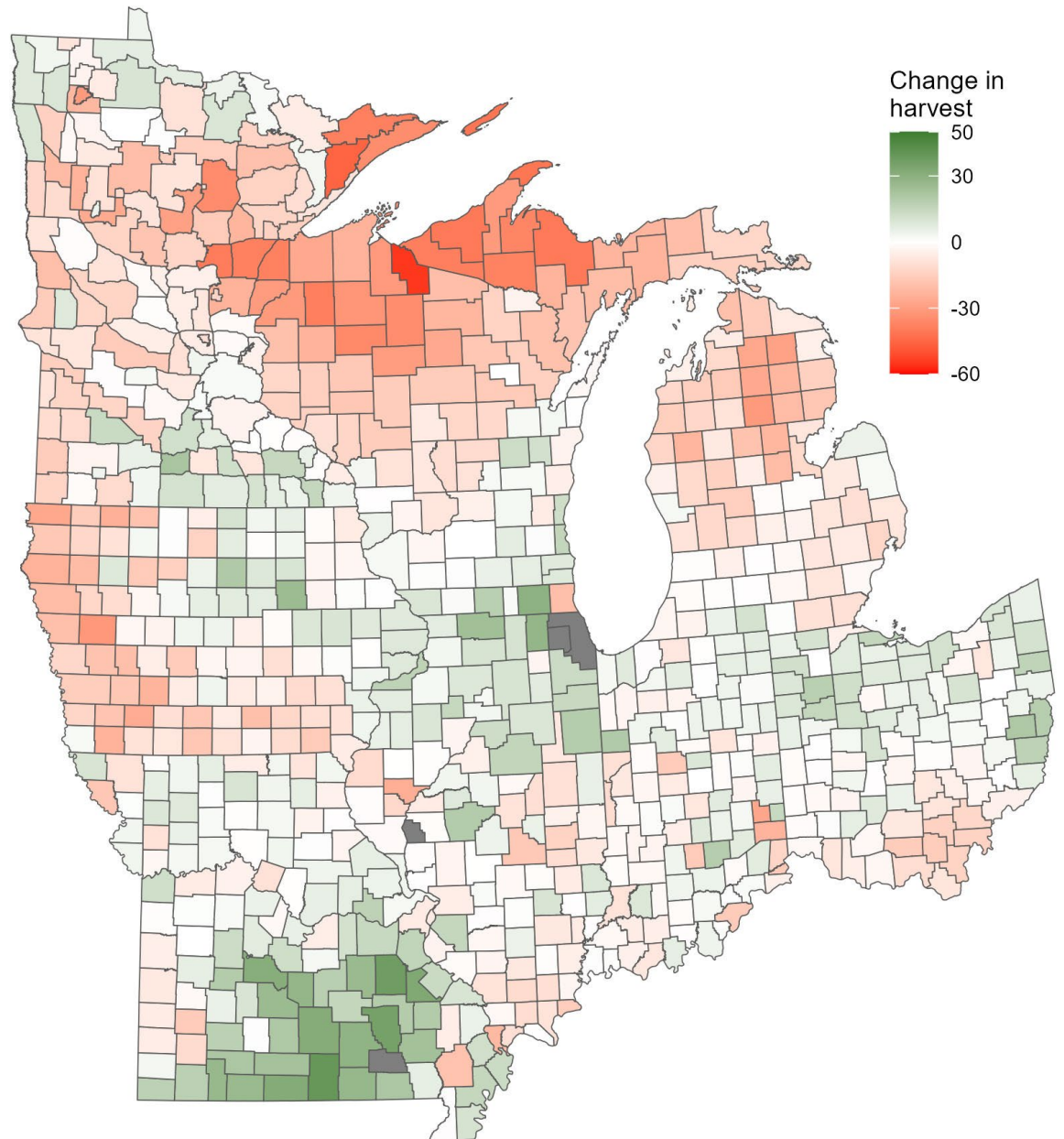
Declines were greatest in the northern states (Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota).





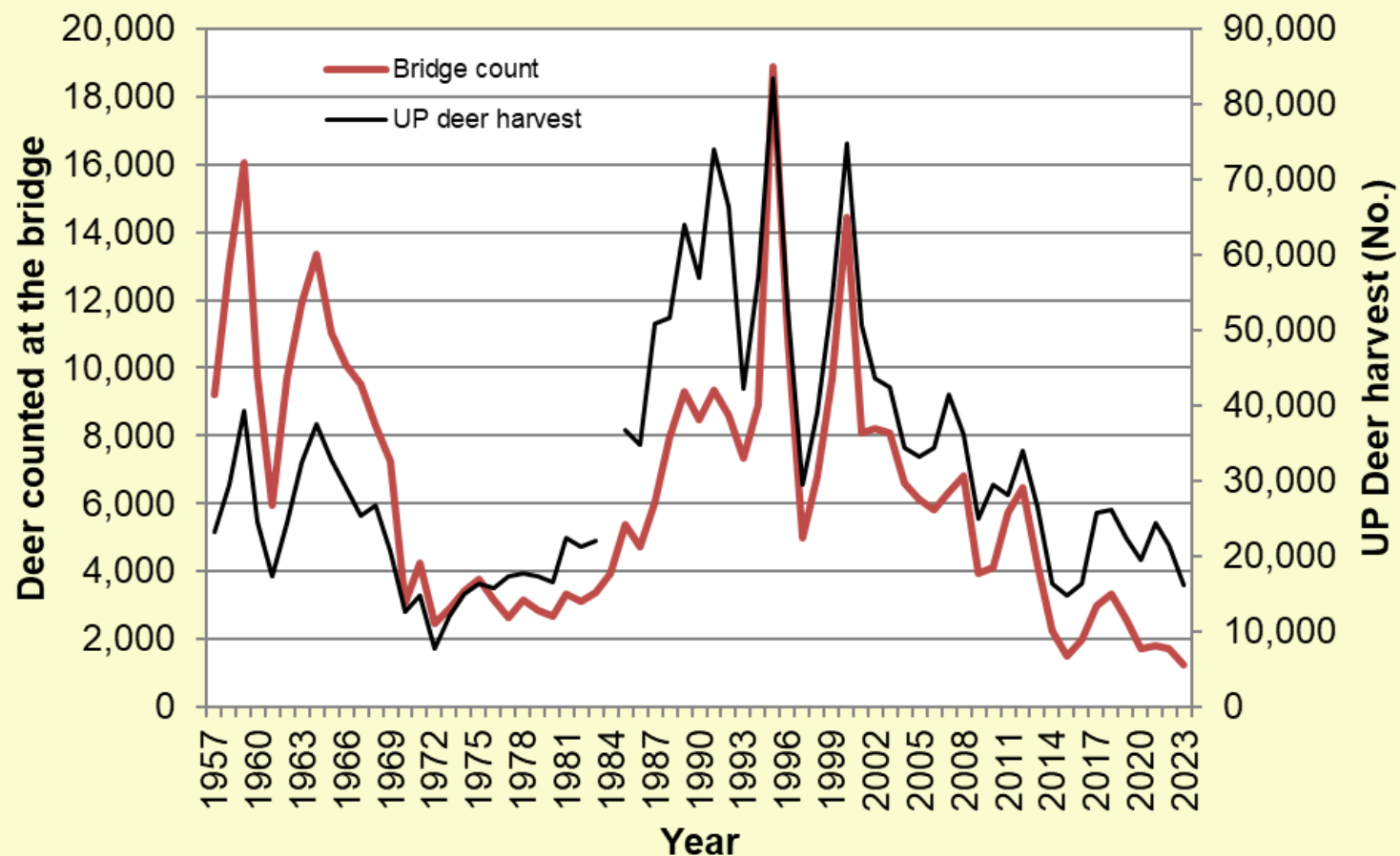
# REGIONAL DEER HARVEST CHANGES

Declines were greatest  
in the northern areas.



# CHANGES IN 2023 DEER HARVEST IN THE UP

Mackinac Bridge deer count declined by 27% in 2023. In contrast, we estimated total UP harvest in the regular firearm season declined by 25%.



# HARVEST REPORTS VERSUS ESTIMATES

The number of harvest reports submitted was 23% less than our harvest estimate.

| Season                   | 2023<br>Reports<br>Submitted | 2023<br>Harvest<br>Estimate | Difference<br>Between<br>Reports and<br>Estimate |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Archery                  | 82,881                       | 110,339                     | -25%   |
| Early Antlerless Firearm | 3,597                        | 3,836                       | -6%  |
| Independence Hunt        | 416                          | 564                         | -26%   |
| Late Antlerless Firearm  | 23,579                       | 29,468                      | -20%   |
| Late Urban Archery       | 261                          | 218                         | 20%  |
| Liberty/Youth Hunt       | 6,145                        | 7,906                       | -22%   |
| Muzzleloader             | 16,126                       | 17,385                      | -7%  |
| Regular Firearm          | 134,388                      | 177,292                     | -24%   |
| Total                    | 267,393                      | 347,008                     | -23%   |



# HARVEST REPORTS VERSUS ESTIMATES

In Michigan, our estimate was 30% greater than the number of harvest reports submitted (two-year average = 22%). Our difference was smaller than observed in most states.



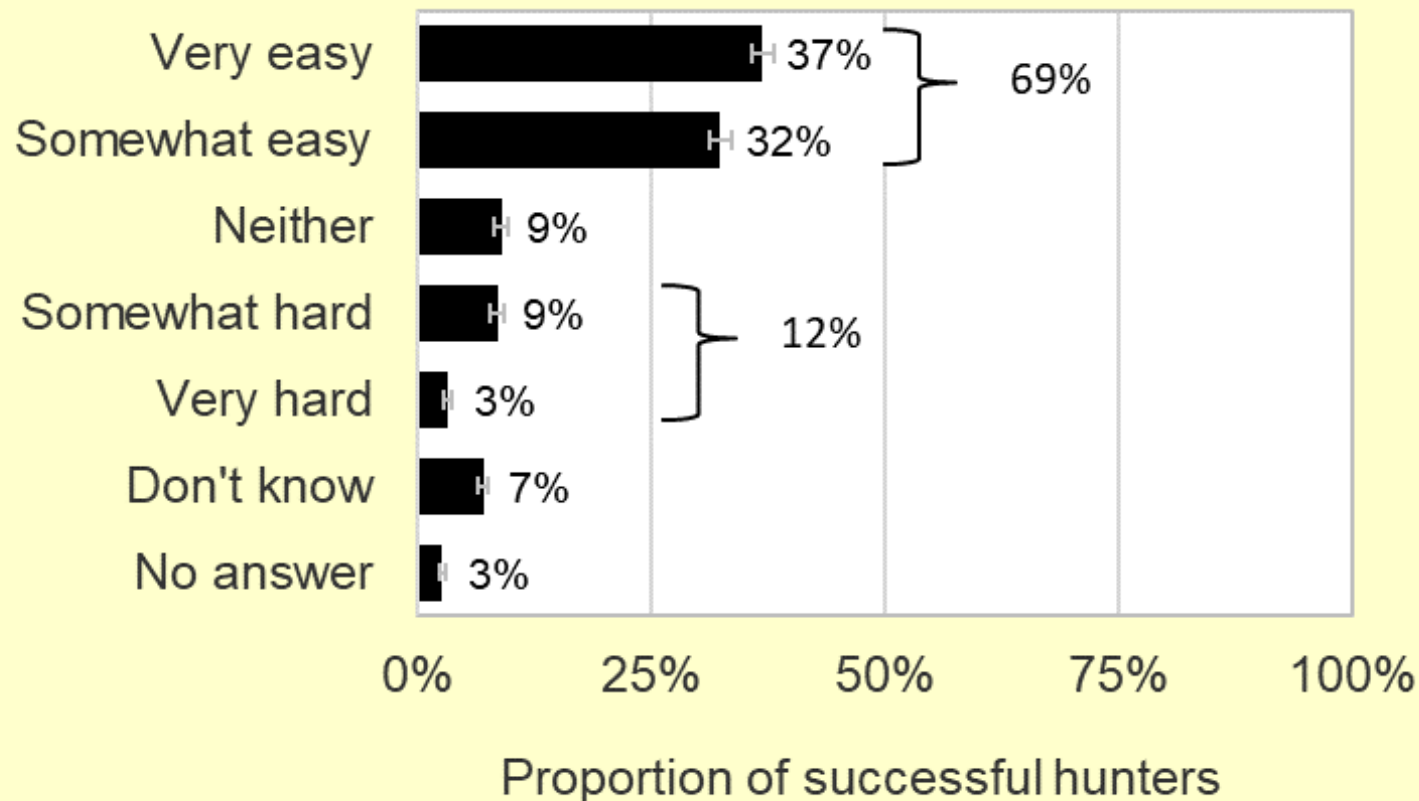
| State          | Period    | Years | Average Difference |
|----------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|
| Alabama        | 2020-2021 | 3     | 52%                |
| Florida        | 2019-2020 | 2     | 72%                |
| Illinois       | 2001-2011 | 11    | 22%                |
| Indiana        | 2010      | 1     | 16%                |
| Louisiana      | 2008-2011 | 4     | 48%                |
| Louisiana      | 2012-2021 | 10    | 132%               |
| North Carolina | 2010-2021 | 13    | 27%                |
| Oklahoma       | 2001-2014 | 14    | 46%                |
| Average        |           |       | 51%                |



# HARVEST REPORTING

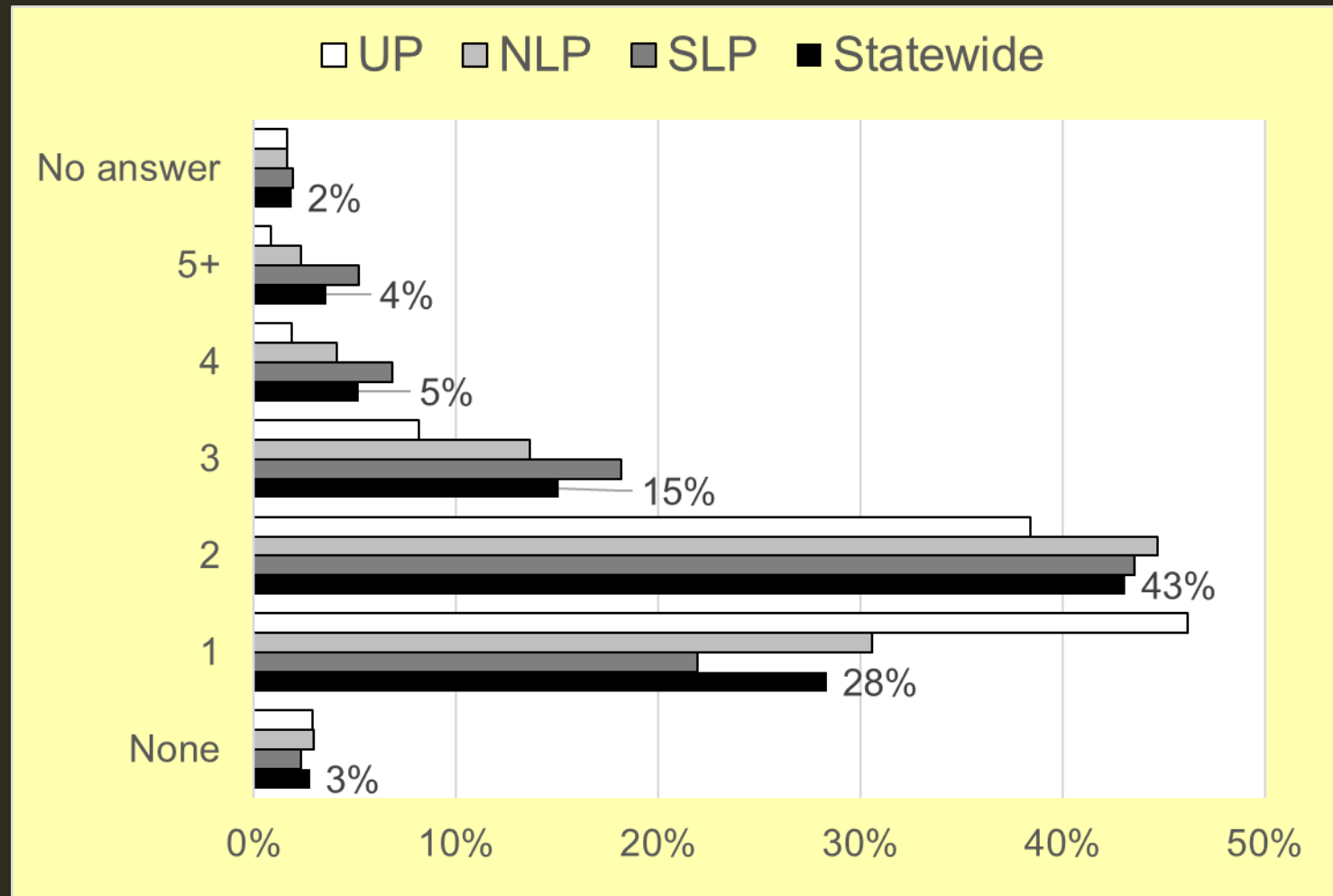
69% of successful hunters reported that the harvest reporting app was easy to use (65% last year).

12% indicated that it was hard to use (17% last year).



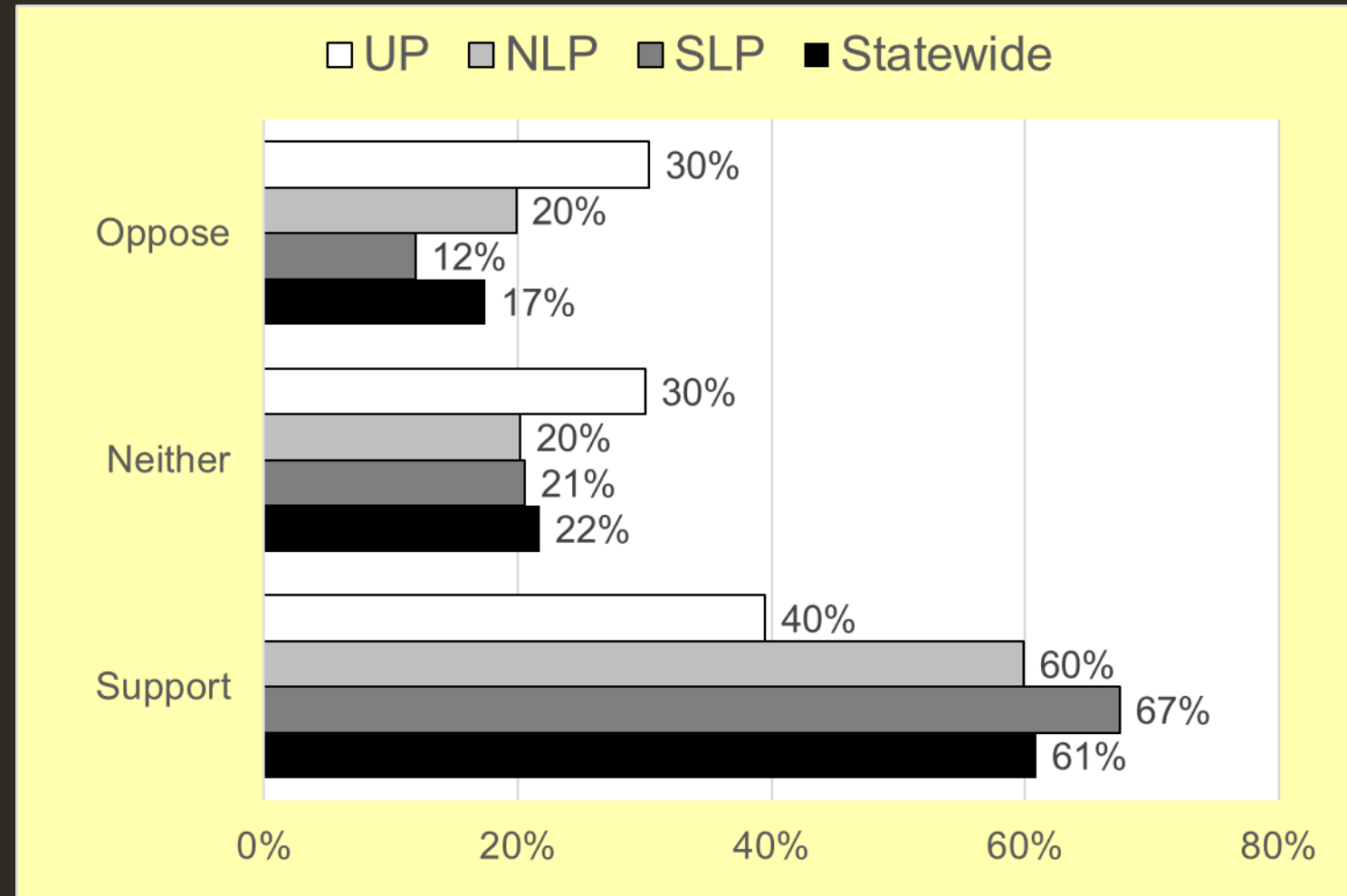
# MAXIMUM HARVEST

- 28% of hunters statewide wanted to take one deer.
- 24% of hunters statewide would take 3 or more deer.
- 46% of UP hunters wanted one deer.



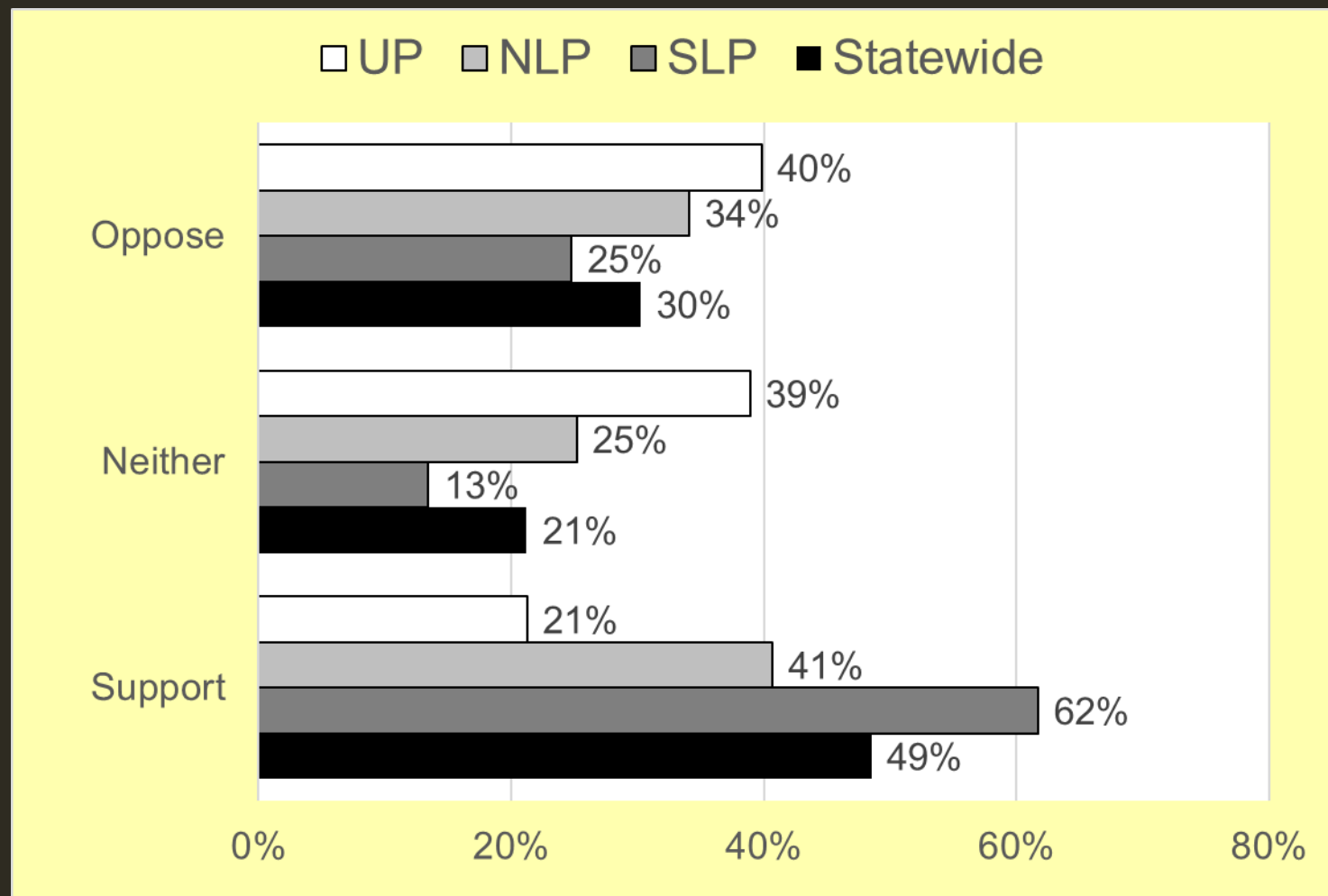
# UNIVERSAL ANTLERLESS LICENSES THE LP

- 61% of hunters statewide support the universal license.
- 17% oppose.
- Support lowest in the UP (40%).



# HUNTING DEVICES IN THE SLP MUZZLELOADER

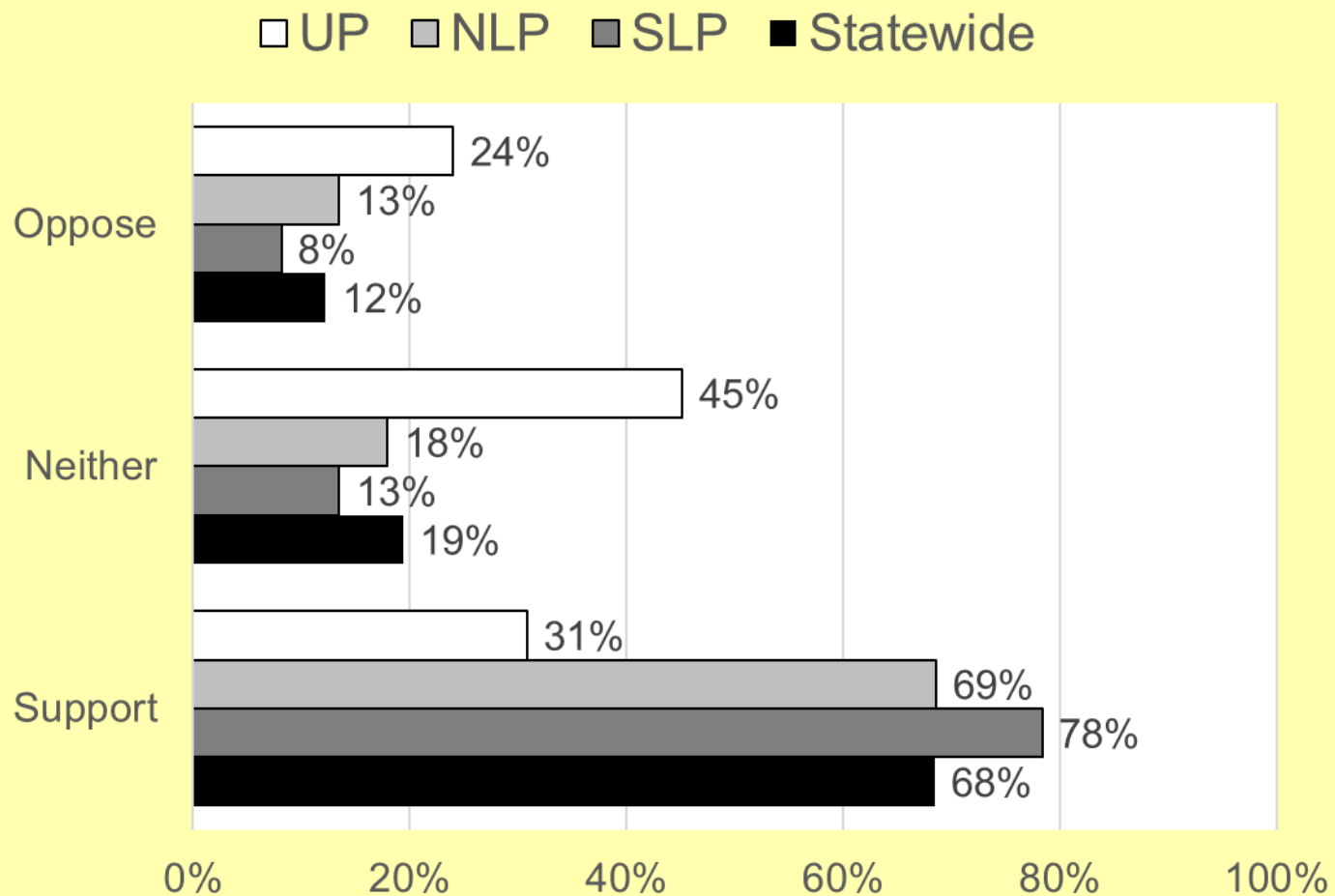
- 49% of hunters support the use of any legal firearm in the muzzleloader season.
- 30% oppose.
- Support lowest in the UP (21%).





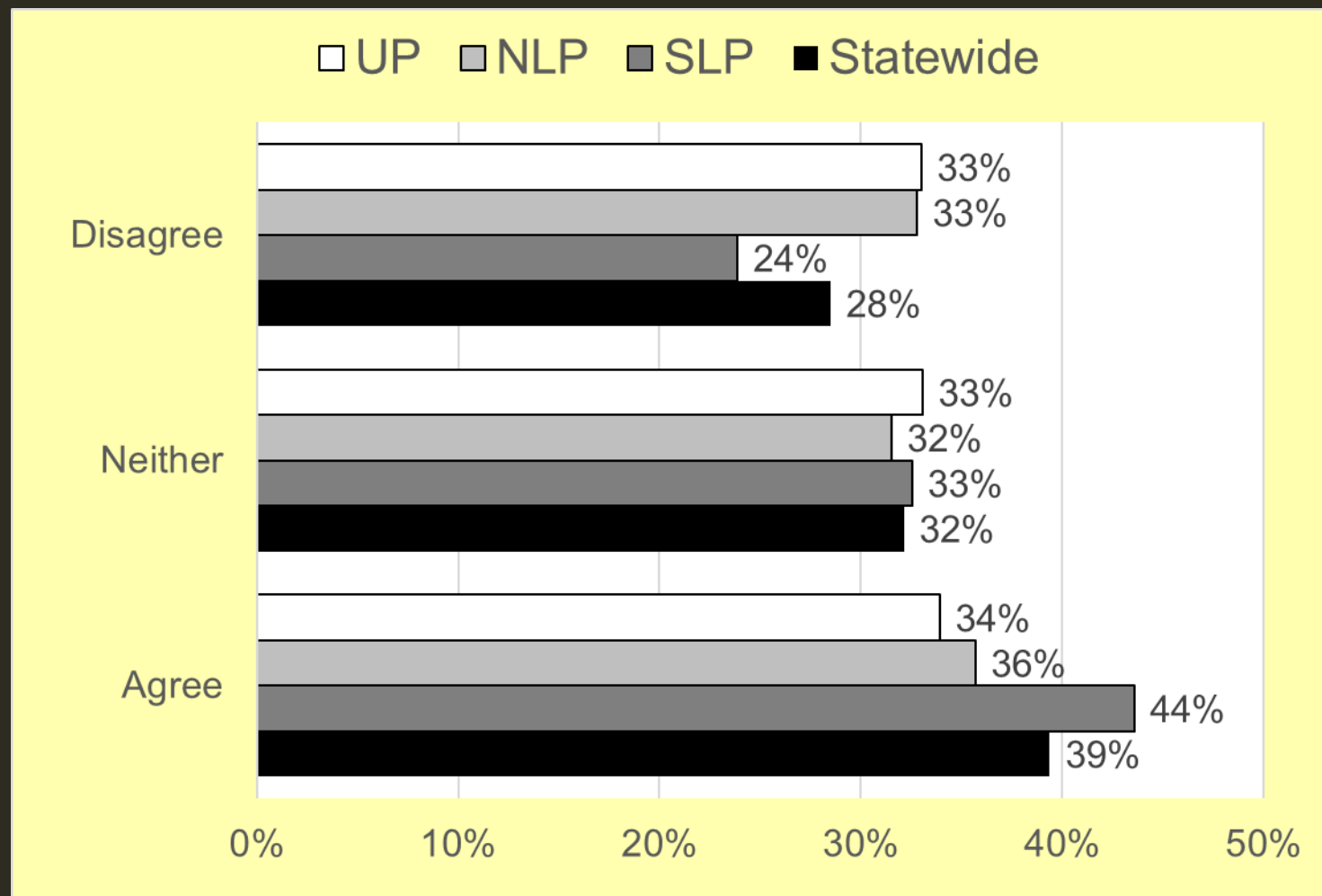
# TAKING ANY DEER WITH COMBO AND DEER LICENSES IN THE LP FIREARM SEASONS

- 68% of hunters support.
- 12% oppose.
- Support lowest in the UP (31%).



# 2023 YOUTH HUNTING SEASON REGULATIONS

- Youth could harvest multiple antlerless deer (one per kill tag) and only ONE antlered deer.
- 39% of hunters agreed.
- 25% disagreed.



# 2023 YOUTH HUNTING SEASON REGULATIONS

- Extend youth season length:
  - 26% agreed.
  - 50% disagreed.
- Restrict take to antlerless deer:
  - 43% agreed
  - 33% disagreed





# SUMMARY

- 1.4% increase in the number of license buyers.
- 2% increase in the number of people that went afield.
- 2% increase in the total number of deer harvested (buck harvest increased by 2% and antlerless harvest increased by 3%).
- 69% of successful hunters reported that the harvest reporting app was easy to use.





# SUMMARY

- 28% of hunters wanted to take one deer, while 24% of hunters would take 3 or more deer.
- 61% of hunters supported the universal antlerless license.
- 49% of hunters supported the use of any legal firearm in the SLP muzzleloader season.
- 68% of hunters supported taking any deer with combo and deer licenses in the LP in the firearm seasons.
- 39% of hunters agreed with the 2023 youth hunting season regulations.



# THANK YOU



# DMI Update and Evaluation



Chad Stewart  
Deer and Elk Management Specialist  
Wildlife Division  
May 9, 2024



# Timeline

- Individual reports due May 24
- Actionable recommendations to NRC at June NRC meeting
- June 26 work group meeting
  - location TBD
- Decisions for deer season finalized at July meeting





# Presentations Online

- [www.Michigan.gov/deer](http://www.Michigan.gov/deer)
  - Deer Management Initiative link



# Lower Peninsula Views

| Lower Peninsula                                      | 1                 | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5              |     |             |
|--|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|-----|-------------|
|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Sum | Average     |
| The purpose of the DMI was clear to me.              | 0                 | 1        | 3       | 9     | 11             | 24  | 4.25        |
| I felt listened to by other DMI participants.        | 0                 | 0        | 0       | 11    | 13             | 24  | 4.54        |
| <b>I felt listened to by the DNR staff involved.</b> | 0                 | 0        | 0       | 4     | 20             | 24  | <b>4.83</b> |
| <b>I heard perspectives different from my own.</b>   | 0                 | 0        | 0       | 4     | 20             | 24  | <b>4.83</b> |
| I found value in the in-person sessions.             | 1                 | 0        | 0       | 5     | 18             | 24  | 4.63        |
| The overall process used was fair.                   | 1                 | 2        | 5       | 8     | 8              | 24  | 3.83        |
| I support the DMI recommendations.                   | 1                 | 1        | 4       | 11    | 7              | 24  | 3.92        |



# Upper Peninsula Views

| Upper Peninsula                               | 1                 | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5              |     |             |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|-----|-------------|
|   | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Sum | Average     |
| The purpose of the DMI was clear to me.       | 1                 | 0        | 0       | 8     | 12             | 21  | 4.43        |
| I felt listened to by other DMI participants. | 1                 | 0        | 1       | 10    | 8              | 20  | 4.20        |
| I felt listened to by the DNR staff involved. | 1                 | 0        | 0       | 5     | 14             | 20  | <b>4.55</b> |
| I heard perspectives different from my own.   | 1                 | 0        | 1       | 7     | 12             | 21  | 4.38        |
| I found value in the in-person sessions.      | 1                 | 0        | 0       | 7     | 13             | 21  | 4.48        |
| The overall process used was fair.            | 1                 | 0        | 2       | 13    | 5              | 21  | 4.00        |
| I support the DMI recommendations.            | 1                 | 0        | 5       | 7     | 8              | 21  | 4.00        |



# Evaluation: Knowledge Gained

| Lower Peninsula  | 1          | 2        | 3          | 4    | 5         |     |         |
|--|------------|----------|------------|------|-----------|-----|---------|
|  | Not at all | Somewhat | Moderately | Very | Extremely | Sum | Average |
| <b><u>BEFORE</u></b> the DMI, how <b>knowledgeable</b> would you say you were about deer management in Michigan? | 2          | 3        | 7          | 7    | 5         | 24  | 3.42    |
| <b><u>AFTER</u></b> the DMI, how <b>knowledgeable</b> would you say you are about deer management in Michigan?   | 0          | 0        | 2          | 10   | 12        | 24  | 4.42    |

| Upper Peninsula  | 1          | 2        | 3          | 4    | 5         |     |         |
|--|------------|----------|------------|------|-----------|-----|---------|
|  | Not at all | Somewhat | Moderately | Very | Extremely | Sum | Average |
| <b><u>BEFORE</u></b> the DMI, how <b>knowledgeable</b> would you say you were about deer management in Michigan? | 0          | 0        | 9          | 7    | 5         | 21  | 3.81    |
| <b><u>AFTER</u></b> the DMI, how <b>knowledgeable</b> would you say you are about deer management in Michigan?   | 0          | 0        | 0          | 14   | 7         | 21  | 4.33    |



# Evaluation: Views of DNR

| Lower Peninsula   | 1                 | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5              |     |         |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|-----|---------|
|   | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Sum | Average |
| <b>My involvement in the DMI ...</b>  |                   |          |         |       |                |     |         |
| ...helped me gain a better appreciation for the work the MDNR does for deer management. | 0                 | 1        | 0       | 6     | 17             | 24  | 4.63    |
| ...improved my confidence in the deer management expertise of Michigan DNR staff.       | 0                 | 0        | 3       | 9     | 12             | 24  | 4.38    |
| ...improved my trust in the Michigan DNR to do a good job managing Michigan's deer.     | 0                 | 1        | 4       | 8     | 11             | 24  | 4.21    |

| Upper Peninsula   | 1                 | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5              |     |         |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|-----|---------|
|   | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Sum | Average |
| <b>My involvement in the DMI ...</b>  |                   |          |         |       |                |     |         |
| ...helped me gain a better appreciation for the work the MDNR does for deer management. | 0                 | 1        | 0       | 12    | 8              | 21  | 4.29    |
| ...improved my confidence in the deer management expertise of Michigan DNR staff.       | 0                 | 1        | 5       | 8     | 7              | 21  | 4.00    |
| ...improved my trust in the Michigan DNR to do a good job managing Michigan's deer.     | 0                 | 1        | 3       | 11    | 6              | 21  | 4.05    |





# Virtual Sessions

| Lower Peninsula  | 1                 | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5              |     |         |
|--|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|-----|---------|
|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Sum | Average |
| <b>Considering <u>all the virtual speaker sessions</u></b> |                   |          |         |       |                |     |         |
| The pace of content delivery was appropriate.              | 5                 | 2        | 3       | 9     | 4              | 23  | 3.22    |
| The content provided met my expectations.                  | 0                 | 2        | 5       | 5     | 12             | 24  | 4.13    |
| Attending was a good use of my time.                       | 0                 | 2        | 2       | 8     | 12             | 24  | 4.25    |
| I had adequate opportunity to ask questions.               | 1                 | 2        | 1       | 5     | 15             | 24  | 4.29    |

| Upper Peninsula  | 1                 | 2        | 3       | 4     | 5              |     |         |
|--|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|-----|---------|
|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Sum | Average |
| <b>Considering <u>all the virtual speaker sessions</u></b> |                   |          |         |       |                |     |         |
| The pace of content delivery was appropriate.              | 0                 | 2        | 5       | 11    | 3              | 21  | 3.71    |
| The content provided met my expectations.                  | 0                 | 0        | 4       | 11    | 6              | 21  | 4.10    |
| Attending was a good use of my time.                       | 0                 | 1        | 1       | 8     | 11             | 21  | 4.38    |
| I had adequate opportunity to ask questions.               | 0                 | 1        | 0       | 6     | 14             | 21  | 4.57    |



# Virtual Sessions

|                                      | Avg  |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Deer Population Dynamics             | 4.33 |
| Harvest Estimation & Reporting       | 4.42 |
| Northern Hardwoods                   | 4.30 |
| Wisconsin Deer Management            | 4.48 |
| Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation | 3.98 |
| Privately Owned Cervidae             | 3.30 |
| Self-organized meetings              | 3.48 |
| Climate and Weather                  | 3.98 |
| Sportsmen Against Hunger             | 3.98 |

|                                   | Avg  |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Impacts on Natural Communities    | 4.02 |
| Impacts on Agriculture            | 4.10 |
| Deer Winter Complex               | 3.98 |
| UP Predator/Prey & Deer Migration | 4.18 |
| Wolf Management                   | 3.73 |
| CWD & TB                          | 4.00 |
| Bear, Coyote, & Bobcat Management | 4.02 |
| Deer Regulations                  | 4.62 |



# Thank You

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[www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer)

